



TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

TRTA: The Voice For All Public Education Retirees

SECOND VICE–PRESIDENT/ PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

RESOURCE GUIDE 2020–2022

Documents and forms are available online at www.trta.org/publicrelations

LOCAL UNIT SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Please respond to monthly contacts from District Second Vice-President (2nd VP)
Work with Technology Contact to maintain and update webpage, newsletters and social media

Monthly Reminders

July

- Provide District 2nd VP the local unit names and contact information for Children's Book Project (CBP), webpage, programs, publicity and social media
- Plan and choose committee for CBP, webpage and publicity

August

- Publicize local unit events and participation in state and district events
- Continue to collect books, update webpage and social media

September/October

- Communicate CBP plan to local unit membership
- **Attend the District Fall Conference**

November/December

- Publicize events in local media, webpage and social media
- Order book plates and continue to collect books
- Complete distribution of books and publicize events with media outlets

January/February

- Start compiling books for the new year, continue ongoing CBP plan, update webpage and social media
- **Compile book totals for previous year and submit report totals online to TRTA by February 15**

March/April/May

- Announce district and local unit book totals to membership
- **District 2nd VP finalizes CBP online local unit reports by March 1**
- Finalize plans to attend 2nd VP training session at the TRTA Convention
- **Plan to attend the District Spring Leadership Development Conference (2nd VP session)**
- Continue ongoing CBP plan, update webpage, newsletters, social media and publicize events



The following items are available at www.trta.org/publicrelations

- 2nd VP/Public Relations Resource Guide (suggested activities)
- Children's Book Project Guidelines
- Children's Book Project Bookplate Request Form
- Children's Book Project Online Reporting Form
- Local Unit Meeting Programs
- TRTA Style Guide
- Building Media Relationships
- Newsletter Sample & Recruitment Posters
- Tips for Successful Newspaper Style Writing
- Calling into a Talk Radio Program
- Writing Letters to the Editor of a Local Newspaper
- Effective Utilization of Print Media
- Press release samples of the Children's Book Project, Community Volunteer Service, Student Award Scholarships, District Spring Leadership Development Conference, and District Fall Conference
- Facebook page guide for Local Units

CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

The Children's Book Project is a service activity initiated by local units of the TRTA. The purpose is to put books into the hands of children who otherwise would not have books of their own. The guidelines for the Children's Book Project involves using membership donations, money from fundraising efforts, or contributions from local businesses to purchase books. Another option is the Student to Student Book Project whereby an older group of selected students gives books to a younger group of children.



1. Determine which group(s) of children are to be targeted which might include schools, shelters, or Head Start program. Books may also be given to children who visit community clinics, receive toys from toy drives or food from food banks, or who are in juvenile justice centers, etc.
2. Contact the appropriate person for permission to distribute books and determine delivery date.
3. Order book plates for the number of books collected for the project from the TRTA office to be placed inside the books.
4. Place book plates in the books noting the local unit.
5. Present books personally to the group of students or entity.
6. Publicize efforts with photos and information to local media, local unit, district and Public Relations Facebook page.
7. Send images and information to info@trta.org for inclusion in the CBP album on the TRTA Facebook page. When submitting images, please include the following: local unit name, number of books distributed, who received the books, why were the recipients of the books selected, grade or ages of the recipients. No images of children allowed.

WE ARE THE MESSENGERS OF TRTA!

The TRTA Public Relations Committee shall promote and publicize TRTA state, district and local unit activities to the public, all active and retired educational employees and elected officials. The committee shall promote the use of district and local unit webpages, newsletters, and coordinate the Children's Book Project. The committee shall publicize local units recognizing fifty years of formation. The committee shall collaborate with other standing and special committees as appropriate to further the mission of TRTA.

Visit www.trta.org/publicrelations to view the Second Vice-President/Public Relations resource guide (suggested activities).

My District 2nd VP _____ Contact info _____

My State Cluster Representative _____ Contact info _____

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SECOND VICE–PRESIDENT/ PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR RESOURCE GUIDE

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The following documents and forms are available online at www.trta.org/publicrelations.

- District and Local Unit Second Vice–Presidents Month to Month Reminders
- The Children’s Book Project Guidelines, Bookplate Request Form, and Online Reporting
- Local Unit Meeting Programs
- TRTA Style Guide
- Building Media Relationships
- Newsletter Sample & Recruitment Posters
- Tips for Successful Newspaper Style Writing
- Calling in to a Talk Radio Program
- Writing Letters to the Editor of your Local Newspaper
- Effective Utilization of Print Media
- Sample Press Release on the Children’s Book Project
- Sample Letter on Community Volunteer Service, Student Award Scholarships, District Spring Leadership Development Conference, and Sample Letter on District Fall Conference
- Facebook page guide to create and maintain for Districts and Local Units

SECOND VICE–PRESIDENT

The TRTA State Second Vice–President:

1. Preside at appropriate TRTA meetings in the absence of both the president and first vice-president, or at the request of the president;
2. Serve as the chair of the TRTA Public Relations Committee;
3. Coordinate and promote the Children’s Book Project;
4. Promote TRTA public relations and publicity, and collaborate with other committees and officers;
5. Serve as a public relations resource to assist districts and local units;
6. Review and confirm applications for the E.L. Galyean Service Award, collecting additional information if necessary, then present applications at the January Board of Directors meeting; and
7. Perform other assigned duties to fulfill the objectives of TRTA.

The TRTA District Second Vice–Presidents:

1. Preside at district meetings in the absence of, or at the request of, the district president and first vice–president;
2. Serve as chair of the district public relations committee and appoint its members;
3. Serve as district Children’s Book Project coordinator;
4. Distribute TRTA public relations materials to local units; and
5. Perform other assigned duties to fulfill the objectives of TRTA.
- *6. Serve as presenter to train local unit second vice–presidents/public relations at the Spring Leadership Development Conference.
- *7. Promote or work with the technology contact to maintain district webpage, newsletters and social media.
- *8. Attend the TRTA Convention second vice–president leadership training session if possible.

The TRTA Local Unit Second Vice–Presidents:

1. Preside at local unit meetings in the absence of, or at the request of, the local unit president and the first vice–president;
2. Serve as chair of the public relations committee for the local unit and appoint its members;
3. Promote the Children’s Book Project and serve as coordinator or work with the assigned Children’s Book Project coordinator;
4. Promote local unit public relations and publicity; and
5. Perform other assigned duties to fulfill the objectives of TRTA.
- *6. Respond to the monthly contact from the district second vice–president via email.
- *7. Promote or work with the technology contact to maintain district webpage, newsletters and social media.
- *8. Attend the second vice–president/public relations training session at the TRTA Convention and, if possible, attend the second vice–president session at the Spring Leadership Development Conference.

*Suggested activities

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The TRTA Public Relations Committee shall promote and publicize TRTA state, district and local unit activities to the general public, all active and retired educational employees and elected officials. The committee shall promote the use of district and local web pages, newsletters, social media and coordinate the Children’s Book Project. The committee shall publicize local units recognizing fifty years of formation. The committee shall collaborate with other standing and special committees as appropriate to further the mission of TRTA.

Suggested Activities

The TRTA State Public Relations Committee Chair:

1. Direct TRTA state public relations committee members to disseminate information to the district second vice–president/public relations chairs on a regular basis;
2. Coordinate the Children’s Book Project;
3. Promote or work with the technology contact to maintain district and local unit webpages, newsletters and social media;
4. Work with TRTA staff to prepare sample news releases for districts to use for their District Fall Conferences and Spring Leadership Development Conferences; and
5. Serve as presenter to train district and local unit second vice–presidents/public relations at the TRTA Convention.

The TRTA District Public Relations Committee Chairs:

1. Send information received from the TRTA Public Relations Chair to the local unit public relations committee chairs in the district;
2. Prepare press releases covering district and TRTA events;
3. Promote or work with the technology contact to maintain district and local unit webpages, newsletters and social media;
4. Promote and coordinate the Children’s Book Project including the collection of local unit report and sending the district count results to the state committee representative by March 1;
5. Attend the TRTA Convention second vice–presidents/public relations training session if possible; and
6. Serve as presenter of the local unit second vice–president/public relations training at the Spring Leadership Development Conference.

The TRTA Local Unit Public Relations Committee Chairs:

1. Publicize TRTA state, district, and local unit activities and projects to the general public, all active and retired school employees, and elected officials;
2. Promote TRTA and its accomplishments in the local community;
3. Promote effective media coverage of meetings and activities;
4. Establish working relationships with the local press and media through personal visits and/or contacts;
5. Coordinate the publication of timely newsletters and promote or work with the technology contact to maintain local unit webpage, newsletters and social media;
6. Promote the TRTA website including the *Inside Line*;
7. Promote, coordinate or work with the Children’s Book Project chair and submit local unit count to the district second vice–president by February 15; and
8. Attend the second vice–president/public relations training session at the TRTA Convention and, if possible, attend the second vice–president/public relations training session at the Spring Leadership Development Conference.

DISTRICT SECOND VICE–PRESIDENT MONTH TO MONTH REMINDERS

July

- Establish contact with each local unit second vice–president and verify that contact information is current.
- Determine person responsible in each local unit for the Children’s Book Project (page 5*), programs, publicity and social media.

August

- ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH YOUR ASSIGNED STATE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE.
- Verify that your contact information is current.
- Continue to make monthly contact with local unit second vice–president.
- Plan a publicity campaign for district Fall Conference.

September/October

- Renew enthusiasm with local unit second vice-presidents and create unique themes or other means to promote the Children’s Book Project (page 5*).
- Assist the district president as needed in planning and executing the district Fall Conference.
- Announce and promote the use of banners (page 8*) and other public relations items available.
- Meet your local unit second vice–president at the district Fall Conference.

November

- Work with technology contact to monitor local unit webpages and social media. Check for updated content and appeal.
- Work with technology contact to contact local units which do not have web pages or social media pages and offer assistance. See page 7* for Facebook instructions on how to get started.
- Remind local unit second vice–presidents to order book plates (page 6*).
- Monthly contact with local unit second vice–presidents with focus on webpages, social media and books distribution.

December

- Communicate with the local unit book chairs/second vice–presidents to complete the collection and distribution of books.

January

- Check the progress of the Children’s Book Project, district web pages and social media.

February

- Monitor district online book report totals from the local units by February 15.
- Finalize the final online district book report to TRTA by March 1 (page 7*).
- Assist with the publicity for any district retirement education event.

March

- Make monthly contact and thank local units for reporting book totals.
- Communicate with local units the final book total and thank local units for reporting.
- Finalize plans to attend the annual convention and attend the second vice-president training session.
- Plan with your district president to assist setting up and updating local unit webpages and social media.
- Identify newly elected local unit second vice–presidents and verify contact information to attend the Spring Leadership Development Conference.
- Encourage new local second vice–presidents to attend the Spring Leadership Development Conference.

April

- Attend the TRTA Convention and the second vice-president training session.
- Plan your second vice-president training session for the Spring Leadership Development Conference.
- Contact local unit second vice-presidents to attend the Spring Leadership Development Conference.

May

- Attend the Spring Leadership Development Conference and conduct second vice–president training.
- Encourage local units to collect books, update webpages and social media.

*Page numbers reference this resource guide.

LOCAL UNIT SECOND VICE–PRESIDENT MONTH TO MONTH REMINDERS

July

- Provide the district second vice–president local unit names and contact information for the Children’s Book Project (page 5*), programs, publicity and social media.
- Make a plan and, if needed, choose a committee for the Children’s Book Project, webpages, publicity and social media.
- Work with technology contact to maintain and update the local unit webpage, newsletters and social media.

August

- Make a plan for publicity of local unit events and participation in state and district events.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice-president.
- Continue to collect books, update local unit webpage and social media.

September/October

- Communicate to local unit membership the plan for the Children’s Book Project (page 5*) and develop enthusiasm for the project.
- Attend the district Fall Conference.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.
- Promote or work with the technology contact to maintain and update the local unit webpage, newsletters and social media.

November

- Work with technology contact to maintain and update the local unit webpage, newsletters and social media.
- Take pictures and publicize events.
- Order book plates (page 6*), if needed, and continue to collect and distribute books.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.
- Communicate with your district second vice–president or district public relations committee chair.

December

- Complete distribution of books and publicize events with media outlets, local unit webpage and social media.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.

January

- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.
- Start compiling books for the new year.

February

- Compile book totals and submit online report totals to TRTA (page 7*) by February 15.
- Continue the ongoing Children’s Book Project plan and update the local unit web page and social media.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.

March

- Announce district and local unit book totals.
- Finalize plans to attend the annual convention and the second vice-president training session.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.

April

- Attend the TRTA Convention and participate in the second vice-president training session.
- Plan to attend the Spring Leadership Development Conference.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.
- Continue to work with the technology contact to maintain and update the local unit webpage, newsletters and social media.

May

- Attend the Spring Leadership Development Conference and the second vice-president training session.
- Continue the ongoing Children’s Book Project plan, update the local unit webpage, publicity and social media.
- Respond to monthly contact from district second vice–president.

*Page numbers reference this resource guide.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT GUIDELINES

The Children's Book Project (CBP) is a service activity initiated by local units of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. The purpose is to put books into the hands of children who otherwise would not have books of their own. There are a variety of creative ways to give back to your community by meeting the distinct needs of your children, as well as achieving this goal. This suggested plan of action has been prepared to encourage **all local units** to take part in this worthwhile project whether it is a small number of books or a great amount of books to be distributed.

Implementing the Project

- ❖ ***Make an official decision as to how the book project will be implemented.*** The President, Second Vice–President, the project chair (if there is one) and CBP committee members should be promoters of this endeavor. The project may be implemented in the following ways:
 - The traditional CBP whereby books are purchased using membership donations, money from events, or contributions from local businesses.
 - The “Student to Student” Book Project whereby an older group of selected students gives books to a younger group of children, e.g., a scout group gives to a pre–k group.
- The “Student to Student” Book Project participants should follow these steps:
 - Approach the participants in the volunteering middle or junior high school or other organizations of older students and ask those who are willing to donate a used book of their own to give to a younger child to keep.
 - After a designated length of time, collect books and screen them carefully.
 - If the response of books is insufficient, the local unit may solicit donations of children's used books.
 - Meet with a school librarian and teacher(s) to determine the most suitable recipients.
- ❖ ***Determine which group(s) of children to be targeted.*** Suggestions include children in schools, shelters, or Head Start. Books may be given to children who visit community clinics, who receive toys from toy drives, who receive food from food banks, or who are in juvenile justice centers, etc.
- ❖ ***Decide how you will obtain the books.*** The books might be donated to the local unit by community or student service organizations such as Lions Club or Girl Scouts of America, for distribution by the unit. Also, the unit might purchase books from free or discount sources with funds raised or contributed. Examples include Scholastic Books (www.scholastic.com/bookfairs), Half–Price Books and online sites at www.rif.org, www.wilbooks.com/freebooks, www.literacyempowerment.org, www.bookcloseouts.com, and www.kidsurplus.com. Even dollar stores have appropriate books for some groups of children. Additionally, the local unit might decide to give a cash donation to purchase books to a pre–school, a class, a community clinic, etc. You may also apply for a Thrivent Financial grant if you are a policy holder with the company (www.thrivent.com or call 1.800.847.4836).
- ❖ ***Contact appropriate administrative personnel*** for permission to distribute books to chosen children.
- ❖ ***Determine delivery date and who will be involved.***
- ❖ ***Obtain books.***
- ❖ ***Have the Local Unit Second Vice–President order book plates*** for the number of books collected for the project from the TRTA office to be placed on the inside of the books.
- ❖ ***Allow the CBP committee members or others place book plates in the books*** noting the local unit providing the books.
- ❖ ***Present books personally to the group of students or entity.***
- ❖ ***Use the presentation as a media event*** for the local news media, providing pictures and articles for publication.
- ❖ ***Report the actual number of distributed books by the Local Unit Second Vice–President online*** to TRTA by February 15. Combine any traditional CBP and “Student to Student” Book Project when reporting. Report the actual number of books distributed during the period of January 1 through December 31 of the previous year. **Cash donations that have been collected for the Children's Book Project must be used for purchasing books that are distributed to children.**
- ❖ ***The District Second Vice–President will finalize the district annual online book report*** to TRTA by March 1.
- ❖ Send images and information to info@trta.org for inclusion in the CBP album on the TRTA Facebook page. When submitting images, please include the following: local unit name, number of books distributed, who received the books, why were the recipients of the books selected, grade or ages of the recipients. No images of children allowed.



TRTA Public Relations Committee



TRTA Children's Book Project
BOOK PLATES REQUEST FORM

Mail request form to: (or email to info@trta.org)	Texas Retired Teachers Association 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 Austin, TX 78701-1957
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DATE _____

NUMBER OF BOOK PLATES NEEDED _____

LOCAL UNIT _____

PERSON TO RECEIVE BOOK PLATES _____

OFFICER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

TRTA Office Use

Date Order Filled: _____

By: _____

NEW ONLINE FORM AVAILABLE TO SUBMIT LOCAL CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT NUMBERS

Local Unit Reporting Instructions

TRTA has created an online local unit reporting form to submit your book total. As a local unit second vice-president/public relations committee chair, you will be responsible for submitting your total online **ONLY ONCE** by February 15. If you do not serve as chair of the Children's Book Project, please pass this information to your chair.

Instructions:

1. Go to: www.trta.org/cbpreport to begin the online reporting.
2. Select your district.
3. Select your local unit.
4. Enter your total number of books distributed.
5. Submit **ONLY ONCE**. If you have an issue, contact your District Second Vice-President.

District Monitoring Instructions

TRTA has created an online reporting form for local units in your district to submit their book totals. Local unit counterparts will receive instructions on how to submit their totals. For your information, you will be copied on the email with instructions on how a local unit will submit their totals. If you do not serve as chair of the Children's Book Project, please pass this information to your chair.

As a district second vice-president/public relations committee chair, your responsibilities include:

- Go to: www.trta.org/cbpmonitor to monitor the submissions.
- Ensuring each local unit enters their submission only once by February 15.
- Communicating with local units about the online reporting form.

To monitor the submissions, use the bottom tabs of the spreadsheet to find your district and review the submissions from the local units within your district. After March 1, the State Public Relations Committee will tally the submissions.

Please feel free to contact State Second Vice-President/Public Relations Committee Chair if you have any questions or issues. Thank you for participating in this new process!

TRTA LOCAL UNIT FACEBOOK PAGE

Second Vice-Presidents/Public Relations Committee Chairs share the information with your District and Local Unit Technology Contact.

Local Unit Facebook Pages

Why should my Local Unit have a Facebook page?

Facebook pages allow you to reach your members in an instantaneous fashion. They help you connect to your members without having to friend them on Facebook. Pages are a core component to growing your local audience and creating an identity for your local unit.

More and more new retirees will have experience interacting with organizations via Facebook, so as time goes on, the need for your Local Unit to have an active, well-maintained Facebook page will only increase.

www.trta.org/FBsetup



PUBLICIZE YOUR LOCAL UNIT WITH A BANNER

- ❖ Banners can be made in a variety of sizes, but even a small banner that can be attached to a table or above a dais can attract attention to your local unit.
- ❖ Consider purchasing a banner that includes the name of your local unit, your local unit web site, and contact information.
- ❖ Make it easy for new or future retirees to identify who you are and let them know that they can join your group.
- ❖ Display the banner during your local unit meetings or at retirement education events. If your unit participates in other activities within the community, ask if you can hang your banner at the event.
- ❖ For a relatively low cost, you can have a permanent, portable marketing tool!

To purchase a banner, you may contact a local vendor.
The price range for a 30 X 60 banner at Office Depot/Max and Staples Office Supply is \$45 - \$60.



Texas Retired Teachers Association
(Insert District or Local Unit)