



# HOUSTON-HARRIS COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

UNIT NEWSLETTER -OCTOBER 2021 (ISSUE 1)



## *70 YEARS*

Houston Harris County Retired Teachers Association celebrated seventy years of uninterrupted service on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at MacGregor Park. H-HCRTA was founded in January of 1951 by Mr. William Davis and six retired teachers. Seventy years later the organization has grown and has approx. 280 members with the same mission to “Promote community, civic and religious activities within a unified structure.”

Valresa White chaired the celebration. During the celebration, members enjoyed a 1951 trivia game and members donated books to our annual Children’s Book Project.

Special thanks to Etta Hill, a H-HCRTA member, for securing bottled hand sanitizer from Texas Southern University that was distributed at our 70th Anniversary Celebration at McGregor Park on Thursday, October 7.

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## **LEGISLATIVE**

Lue Williams, Chair

IT IS A DONE DEAL. ALL TRS retirees will receive a 13<sup>th</sup> check in January 2022. We sent RED LETTERS to our Texas Legislators

asking for a permanent raise. But that didn’t happen. However, we are thankful for a 13<sup>th</sup> check. TRTA will continue to petition for a permanent raise. Please send a THANK YOU note to your representative and senator.

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## **GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT – FAYE MOSELEY**

Hello H-HCRTA members. It is good to make plans, but we should always have a PLAN B. Several months ago, we thought the COVID-19 virus was under control, and maybe we could meet in person. But another strand roared into our atmosphere. To give us another layer of protection, our Board of Directors decided our Unit meetings will continue to meet via Zoom and Teleconference. We have done well because our outstanding committees have continued to function, and our members have mailed in their dues. We will try to keep our members updated on vital issues through the Phone Tree. Stay safe and well.

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## **HISTORY OF HOUSTON- HARRIS COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

The inception of Houston-Harris County Retired Teachers Association began with Mr. William L. Davis. He was the president of the Colored Teachers State Association, retired principal of Francis Harper Junior High School and a prominent civic and religious worker in both the city and state of Texas.

In January of 1951, he invited six retired teachers to meet with him in the home of Mrs. A. B. Edwards Dotson. Because of segregation the purpose of the meeting was to formulate plans, organize, and assist retired African American teachers.

The six teachers who met with Davis were: Azores O. Dotson, W.L. D. Johnson, Sr., Mattie Ellen McCall Martin, Melissa A. Hunt Price, Pearl W. Sanders and W. J. Smith, Sr. These six teachers had been dedicated teachers in the classroom. They desired to continue to share their expertise in promoting community, civic and religious activities within a unified structure.

After deliberation and discussion at the meeting, the Houston-Harris County Retired Teachers Association was formed. It became active under the strong presidential leadership of Davis' administration.

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## MEMBERSHIP

Una Topps, Chair



Thanks to our members who paid their dues by June 30. Your promptness made it possible for us to get a \$300.00 bonus from TRTA. We have over 239 memberships renewed with ten new members.

Special thanks to the Membership Committee for their commitment.

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## TRTF

Debra McDonald, Chair

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is a non-profit 501(c)3 dedicated to helping active and retired educators with their financial needs. This program is called, A HELPING HAND.

The Foundation provides financial assistance for a variety of needs including but not limited to medical and dental bills, car and home repairs, energy bills, food and more. All applications are reviewed independently and remain confidential. For a complete application packet including guidelines and instructions, please contact Debra McDonald or Faye Moseley. Each year our unit contributes \$100 to the Foundation. Individual contributions are accepted.

## NECROLOGY/COURTESY

Willie Burgs. Chair

H-HCRTA's new policy is that in the event there is a death of a member or spouse, a \$50.00 check and card can be given to the family. The family might choose to donate the \$50.00 to our Scholarship Fund in memory of the loved one.

A card will be sent to the members on the passing of other relatives.

## CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

Linda Nesmith, Chair

Thanks to all members who donated books to our Children's Book Project on October 7. If you have more books on hand, that need to be picked up now, please contact Linda Nesmith or Margaret Foy. We are looking forward to a monthly pick up from Bayland Community Center. Dates and times are pending. Let's make an impact on learning for deserving girls and boys in the community.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

Linda Luster, Chair

(Directions for Submitting CVS Hours)

Due to Pandemic times, the total number of Community Volunteer Services hours collected for this 2021-2022 year should be sent to ([trshoustoncvs@gmail.com](mailto:trshoustoncvs@gmail.com)).

If you do not have access or use a computer, you can mail your total hours for the year to my home address listed in the yearbook.

All CVS hours will be accepted on or before January 31, 2022. If you need more information or forms, please go to the TRTA Community Volunteer Service Resource Guide at [www.trta.org/cvs](http://www.trta.org/cvs).

## HEALTHY LIVING COMMITTEE

Patricia Grant, Chair

### BRAIN AND BODY

Healthy brain foods, what's the cost?

Those that avoid, their memory is lost

We need more than nutrients essential,

Our human brains have so much potential.

Assorted berries, a memory boost,

Apples protect us, cancers reduced.

Cherries will fight inflammation,

Dark chocolate boosts, our circulation.

Oysters provide us with plenty of zinc,

Aging and healing, there is a link.

Eggs and fish will build our brains,

All these foods have countless gains.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Moseley