

WRSE

WYLIE RETIRED SCHOOL

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NOVEMBER

From the President's Pen - Carolyn Dale

Thanksgiving Day is different for each of us. You may be planning the biggest feast you have had in two years which could mean bringing out the crisp white tablecloth, linen napkins, your fine china, and silver with a gorgeous centerpiece. Or, for you and the family, bringing out the folding card tables, sturdy paper plates, TV trays and adjourning to the den or backyard to stream Hallmark movies or sports games is the way to go. One thing we can all agree on is the best time of the day is when you finally sit down at the table with the family and thankfulness builds in your heart as you see the people gathered at your table.



I am thankful for each of you and your decision to join TRTA/WRSE to work for all TRS annuitants. I am thankful that you stuck it out during the Covid days when we had to meet via our "beloved" zoom and came back in person when the coast was clear, somewhat. I am thankful for our "noise makers" who send the emails, make the phone calls, and send the letters (even with Elvis stamps) when there is an action alert. I am thankful for our out-of-towners who still choose to collaborate with us even from a distance and are some of our biggest noise makers. I am thankful for those of you who are quietly but steadily recruiting friends and former colleagues to join our unit. I am thankful for your supporting Wylie RSE by continuing to rejoin each spring, for supporting our volunteer projects, bringing books for the little ones, taking part in a drive thru to donate hygiene products for WISD students in need, and giving to TRTF to support our colleagues who sometimes need a little financial assist. I am thankful for our members who call or just visit a colleague who they have heard might need company. I am thankful for our hardworking WRSE Executive Board that often goes beyond for us.

I am thankful for all of you. Happy Thanksgiving, Wylie RSE family.

*Not what we
say about our
blessings,
but how we use
them,
is the true
measure of our
Thanksgiving.*

-- W. T. Purkiser

DECEMBER 8th Meeting Is Filled With Music and . . .

Can We Say Ugly Sweater Contest?



Christmas, Christmas time is near
Time for toys and time for cheer
We've been good but we can't last . . .



You are not going to want to miss our December 8 meeting when the Wylie High School strings class comes to perform. Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, I mean Dr. Vinson, will drop by with Season's Greetings and may even take a selfie with us. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater for a little fun, and we will have a prize for the one you all select as "the best ugliest."

Yes, we may sing and even revive Alice the Camel. Don't forget you prepaid for a boxed lunch following the meeting so don't rush out the door. We will chat, eat, chat and just have fun before we break for the Christmas holidays.

As usual, muffins and coffee will be ready at 9:30, and the meeting will begin at 10. See you real soon!

MEMBERSHIP



New Members

HELP WANTED

Enthusiastic, excited WRSE members to help Wylie RSE/TRTA grow by bringing in new members.

Invite retired school employees, current school employees, and anyone interested in education to our meetings and to join our group!

*Prizes awarded.



Jann Trice



Patricia Bahn

The mission of the Texas Retired Teachers Association is to advocate improved benefits for all education retirees and promote the well-being of its members. Welcome aboard, Pat and Jann. We are glad you have joined us.

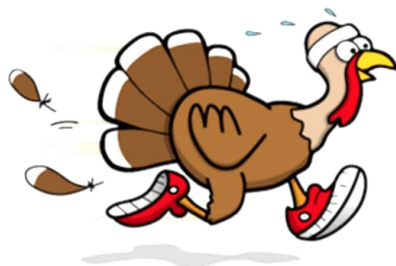


WALK ACROSS TEXAS

Get Ready for the “Walk Across Texas” Challenge 2022!

Mary Flowers and Macklyn Henderson

Dig through the closet; shake the dust from those walking shoes (or consider investing in a new pair); call your walking buddies; decide on a name for your team, -- it is almost time to Walk Across Texas. Yes, 832 miles to El Paso.



We are seeking volunteers to serve as team captains. Our goal is 100% participation this year. We would love to have 4-5 teams. The journey across Texas STARTS January 23, 2022.

Please contact, Macklyn Henderson or Mary Flowers if you would like to serve as a Team Leader.

RETIREMENT ED

Kristie Sanders, Chair

Wylie ISD and Wylie RSE hosted a retirement education seminar Nov. 3 for WISD employees interested in learning more from TRS about retiring now or in the future. Twenty-one potential retirees attended the in-person meeting along with twenty-five tuned in via zoom.

WRSE supplied refreshments, door prizes, and information about WRSE and TRTA.

WRSE membership will reach out to those retiring in the spring to offer congratulations and more information about the benefits of TRTA/WRSE.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Belinda Beuerlein

Reminders: Our service project for December will be the “Wylie Way Gives at Christmas” sorting and packaging gifts for qualifying students and siblings. A link will be emailed the first week of December. You will sign up on that link. Please mark your calendars for these dates and times.



Tuesday, December 7th @ Draper Intermediate

9:00 a.m. – Noon

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8th @ Draper Intermediate

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (following our December 8th meeting)

As always, I appreciate all the hours each of you spend volunteering in our community. Thank you, also, for sending your hours at the end of each month to my e-mail address, belinda.beuerlein@gmail.com, or recording on the spreadsheet at our monthly meetings.

LEGISLATIVE Notes

Judy Brewster, Chair

Just a few tidbits of information gained at the Fall 2021 District Conference:

- **Sunset Bill** passed in the last Legislative session will help to make TRS operate with more transparency so look for some changes in their communication with members.
- TRS has embarked on **renovating and building new office areas** on the East side of Austin within the old airport complex. The investment portion will move first and then other offices will follow in the coming years. This is good for us as it will save money and give them the space they need with the growing number of retirees.
- The **“Golden Ticket” Bill** will allow retirees who left TRS Care during the period when they changed the insurance to return with the closing date set for **12/2023**.
- Also good news for those who are currently with TRS Care. As a result of the Legislature sending funds to TRS Care to offset the Covid medical payouts over the last year, the current members' premiums will decrease for the next year. TRS is planning to provide a **“premium holiday”** so that members will receive lower premiums in one or two months next year.
- Last but not least, retirees will receive their **13th check** during January 2022 and taxes will be withheld this time.

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION (TRTF)

Linda Treadaway-Martin, Liaison

The next TRTA member that needs financial aid could be YOU!

November is Foundation Month for TRTF, its annual fundraiser month.



Feed the Pig!

Donations can be managed in three effortless ways:

- 1) "Feed the Pig" with your loose change at the meetings. The pig collected \$42.16 at the November meeting. Way to go, Wylie RSE.
- 2) Complete the form on the back cover of The Voice magazine and use the self-addressed, postage-free envelope inside the magazine for mailing your tax-deductible donation.
- 3) Donate online at www.trtf.org.

JUST THINK! If every TRTA member donates \$1.00, TRTF would raise \$85,000!!!!

FALL SERVICE PROJECT

Mary Flowers, Coordinator

WRSE is still collecting hygiene items needed for WISD students and families. Purchase as many items as you wish and then bring them to a WRSE meeting either on Dec 8 or Jan 12.

Items needed:

- Deodorant (male and female)
- Shampoo (with or without conditioner)
- Body wash or Bar soap
- Toothpaste (small or regular size)
- Hairbrushes or combs
- Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash (small size)
- Laundry soap (small or individual size)
- Feminine hygiene products

We got off to a great start in collecting products at the November meeting. Let's fill the wagon again.



EVERY CHILD HAVING OWNERSHIP (ECHO)

Kathy Wilbanks, 2nd VP and Chair



Do you love to see kids get excited? That is what happens when we deliver books to kindergarten students. We have seen this scene often (minus the hat). The kids love to get a new book they can keep.

Watch for books for beginning readers that you can purchase for these excited students. We need about 1300 more books. We will use brag bucket money to purchase from Scholastic when we can. So, bring books and/or brags to support this worthy activity. We will be distributing the books in May.



INFORMATIVE AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

From your TRTA State Informative & Protective Services Committee

Scammers are expected to steal over \$2 billion in 2021. Their efforts can be thwarted with three golden rules:

- 1) **Slow it down**—Scammers often create a sense of urgency so that they can bypass your better instincts. Take your time and ask questions to avoid being rushed into a bad situation. What a scammer might say: “You need to act fast. If you don’t make a payment now, we’ll be forced to take legal action against you.”
- 2) **Spot check**—Do your research to double check the details you are getting. If you get an unexpected phone call, hang up. Then look up the bank, agency or organization that is supposedly calling and get in touch with them directly. What a scammer might say: “This is the IRS calling. We haven’t received your tax payments for four years. That’s a federal crime.”
- 3) **Stop! Do not send**—No reputable person or agency will ever demand payment on the spot. Often scammers tell you to go buy gift cards—which are meant only to be given as gifts—not as payment under threat. So, if you think the payment feels fishy, then it probably is. What a scammer might say: “Please send us EnormaoMart Gift Cards of \$100 or \$200 face value. I need 20 of each card.”



So, -- be Scammer Alert! as we begin this holiday season.

Memorial Tribute



Dr. Bruce Edward Curran, retired educator and TRTA/Wylie RSE member died January 5, 2020, of complications related to Covid-19.

A memorial tribute in Dr. Curran’s honor was presented at the November 10, 2021, Wylie RSE meeting. WRSE board members did readings, candles were lighted in his memory, the obituary was read, and Linda Pease rang the bell to indicate the passing of a member. Kathy Wilbanks and Dr. Curran’s wife and TRTA/Wylie RSE member Pam Curran uncovered the memorial plaque. Kathy then read the inscription on the nameplate: Dr. Bruce Curran, 24 Years of Service.

The memorial plaque was rehung in the foyer of the Wylie ISD ESC where it remains in honor of our deceased members.

HEALTHY LIVING Tips

Mary Flowers

Have you ever felt like this?

My day starts backwards. I wake up tired, and I go to bed wide awake. We all have. The key is getting a good night's sleep!

Ten Tips on Getting a Good Night's Sleep

Being older does not mean you have to be tired all the time. You can do many things to help you get a good night's sleep. Here are some ideas:

- **Follow a regular sleep schedule.** Go to sleep and get up at the same time each day, even on weekends or when you are traveling.
- **Avoid napping in the late afternoon or evening if you can.** Naps may keep you awake at night.
- **Develop a bedtime routine.** Take time to relax before bedtime each night. Some people read a book, listen to soothing music, or soak in a warm bath.
- **Try not to watch television or use your computer, cell phone, or tablet in the bedroom.** The light from these devices may make it difficult for you to fall asleep. And alarming or unsettling shows or movies, like horror movies, may keep you awake.
- **Keep your bedroom at a comfortable temperature,** not too hot or too cold, and as quiet as possible.
- **Use low lighting in the evenings** and as you prepare for bed.
- **Exercise at regular times each day** but not within 3 hours of your bedtime.
- **Avoid eating large meals close to bedtime**—they can keep you awake.
- **Stay away from caffeine late in the day.** Caffeine (found in coffee, tea, soda, and chocolate) can keep you awake.
- **Remember—alcohol will not help you sleep.** Even small amounts make it harder to stay asleep.



REMINDER

UHC Essentials

Carolyn Dale

If you are a TRS-Care UHC participant, don't forget to use your Essentials+ account bucks before Dec 31. I have \$160 to spend—oh, the pressure is building to use it.

Choose how you shop

- Fill out the form inside the Catalog sent to you (dig through that mail—it's there somewhere).
- Call 1-866-868-2491 to place your order by phone.
- Online. Anytime—midnight in your jammies. Anywhere. www.ShopFirstLineBenefits.TRS-CareMa.com
- Download the FirstLineBenefits app



2021 Essentials+ Catalog

Shop products with your UnitedHealthcare® over-the-counter (OTC) credits

Find more products online at www.ShopFirstLineBenefits.TRS-CareMa.com or on the FirstLine Benefits app

Delivered by FirstLine BENEFITS

Don't forget, BENEFITS EXPIRE AT THE END OF THE YEAR!



SUN, DEC 5 AT 1:30 PM
Annual Christmas
concert – free
Wylie High School

Wylie Community Band

Directed by Ross Grant

How about a Sunday afternoon filled with Christmas music? The Wylie Community Band's Christmas Concert is in the Wylie High School Auditorium on Dec 5, 1:30 p.m., and **IT'S FREE**. Mark it on your December calendar and make it a part of your Christmas 2021.

Who's Having a Birthday Celebration?



November Birthdays

<i>Liz Garrett</i>	1	<i>Rockey Crews</i>	23
<i>Linda Nelson</i>	1	<i>Suzanne Mingea</i> ..	25
<i>Carolyn Dale</i>	2	<i>Suzanne Holcomb</i>	27
<i>Kyle Craighead</i>	17	<i>Linda Pease</i>	28



PHOTO GALLERY

November Meeting



Sandy Mulkey, Kristie Sanders & Belinda Beuerlein handle name tags, sign in and reporting of hours



Opal Bigham, Rosie Hochstein, Cinda Crews & Judy Brewster

Enjoying Friendships,



Lois Jones greets Steve Boatman & Opal Bigham



Macklyn Henderson & Pamela Baker



Judy Brewster, Linda Martin & Belinda Beuerlein

PHOTO GALLERY



**Mary Hammond & Susana
Milhoan**

Chatting and Muffins.



Nancy Butler & Kay Magar



Tami Nauyokas & Pam Curran



Remembering Our Veterans



**Carolyn Dale calls
the meeting to order**



**Rosie Hochstein -
inspirational reading**



**Linda Pease introduces Col. Frankie Delgado,
veteran and Marine Corps reservist.**



**Members listen to Col. Delgado tell of what service to country means to him and his heartfelt
memories of comrades and camaraderie.**



Andy

Get Up and Move!



Lilly



Terry Griner, Nancy Butler, Beth Griner, Kay Magar and Janet McMillen.



Rockey Crews, Opal Bigham and Patricia Bahn.



Ruby

Alice the Camel



Go Alice, Go!

Has One Hump



Sally



Terry Griner, Beth Griner, Pamela Baker, Opal Bigham & Judy Brewster



Sandy Mulkey, Linda Martin & Belinda Beuerlein



Pamela Baker and Judy Brewster.



Felix



Larry

Next Meeting December 8, 2021 at the WISD ESC. See You There!

