



HARTA

**Humble Area Retired Teachers Association
Local Unit of Texas Retired Teachers Association
(TRTA) - District 4**

Open to all retired school personnel

HARTA OFFICERS

- President.....Marian Mannix
- 1ST VP Membership.....Brenda Pearson
- 2nd VP Books & PRJan Resell
- 3rd VP ProgramsCathy Sheppard
- SecretarySandra Fountain
- Treasurer.....Marjo Stach
- ParliamentarianPat Kahak
- Newsletter EditorMarjorie Isgitt



HARTA MEETING DATES 2021-2022

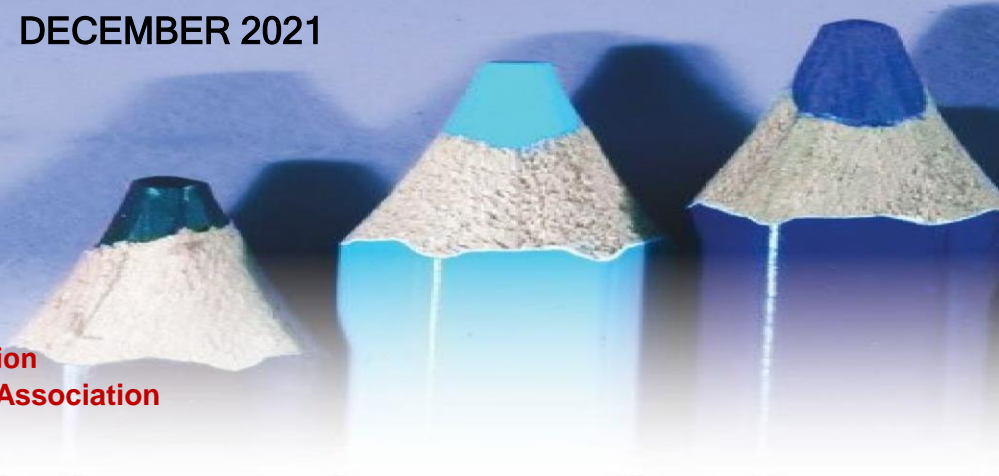
- August 16, 2021.....Awards Presentation
- September 27, 2021Health Presentation
- October 25, 2021 ...Holocaust Remembrance Association
- December 6, 2021 Kingwood Park HS Orchestra
- February 14, 2022Legislation Update
- April 18, 2022 Professional Organizer Ellen Delap
- May 16, 2022.....Officer Installation

Social time—9:30 a.m.; Meeting—10:00 a.m.
Eggers ISC, 4810 Magnolia Cove Dr., Kingwood, TX 77345

HARTA Facebook & webpage can be reached at:
<https://trta.org/humble/>
Need to contact us?
hartamembersemail@gmail.com



**The Voice of all Public
Education Retirees**



MUSINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARIAN



Hello HARTA Family,

This year has moved along quickly; can't believe that we are approaching Thanksgiving and the December Holidays! Perhaps in your family, Thanksgiving and/or Christmas

is the one time all of your family is together. Thinking about family... have you begun your Holiday shopping? I always enjoy the shops decorated for the Holidays and the music. Of course, I do shop!

It's that time of the year when many of us reminisce about the "old days." Favorite family recipes, family special gatherings, and the happy faces of the little ones, all bring joy in our hearts! One of my favorite things to do is to gather the old Christmas pictures of my daughters. We laugh and tell each other what we specifically remember. Family events etched in our memories are very precious.

BTW: Look for your 13th TRS check in January. Thank you Dr. Mary Widmier for your hard work and diligence keeping in touch with the legislators.

Have a HAPPY THANKSGIVING and a MERRY CHRISTMAS! PEACE and LOVE in the NEW YEAR!

OUR NEXT HARTA HOLIDAY FUN GATHERING IS ON DECEMBER 6TH, ISC CENTER, 9:30 SOCIAL, 10:00 MEETING. **[SEE DETAILS on Page 6.]**

Look for the next NEWSLETTER on FEBRUARY 1ST.



HOLIDAY BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER			DECEMBER			JANUARY		
Nov-01	Sandra	Eleby	Dec-06	Jacqueline	Navarro	Jan-01	Peggy	Hanks
Nov-01	Karen	Thurman	Dec-06	Joseph (Joe)	Weir	Jan-02	Barbara	Moynier
Nov-02	Sylvia	Hale	Dec-07	Annette (Toni)	Gentili	Jan-02	Terri	Parker
Nov-02	Linda	Rhodes	Dec-08	Autumn	Hawes	Jan-04	Susan	LeMaster
Nov-03	Marlys	Lackey	Dec-09	Beverly	Silloway	Jan-04	Katherine	Signorelli
Nov-03	James	Nerad	Dec-11	Linda	Chow	Jan-04	Gloria	Vallejo
Nov-04	Mark	Babich	Dec-11	Dorma	Kindle	Jan-07	Diann	Millstid
Nov-04	Patricia (Sunny)	Smith	Dec-12	Marian	Mannix	Jan-08	Nancy	Schettler
Nov-05	Lynda	Young	Dec-13	Catherine (Cathy)	Reading	Jan-09	Nancy	Rogers
Nov-07	Linda	Avina	Dec-14	James	Ellis	Jan-11	Elizabeth (Libby)	Sievertson
Nov-07	Susan	Burroughs	Dec-14	Susan	Lastrapes	Jan-12	Mary	Sanders
Nov-07	Sondra	Pate	Dec-14	Angela (Angie)	Shepherd	Jan-13	Virginia	Cowen
Nov-09	Paula	Almond	Dec-15	Katherine	Bash	Jan-13	Janet	Orth
Nov-09	Alice	Braine	Dec-16	John Charles (J C)	Evans	Jan-14	Cathy	Shepard
Nov-11	Sally	Johnson	Dec-18	Carrie	Shipley-Lopez	Jan-15	Carolyn	Austin
Nov-11	Cynthia	Piggott	Dec-19	Betty	Austin	Jan-15	Cynthia	Jones
Nov-12	RaDonna	Gideon	Dec-21	Irmgard	Davis	Jan-17	Emelyn	Stalnaker
Nov-13	Daisy	Hall	Dec-22	Mimi	Monks	Jan-19	Donna	Belger
Nov-13	Kendra	Wetuski	Dec-24	Bette	Guillo	Jan-19	Juanita	Jordan
Nov-15	Kathleen (Kathy)	Sexton	Dec-24	Brenda	Pearson	Jan-19	Rebecca	Galey
Nov-16	Kristin (Tina)	Bivin	Dec-24	Dolly	Smith	Jan-20	C G (Charles)	Cezeaux
Nov-17	Jeanette	Guidry	Dec-26	Dwight	Meyer	Jan-22	Janine	Nerad
Nov-17	Patricia (Patsy)	Mancivalano	Dec-28	Danielle	Coulanges	Jan-23	Beverly (Gayle)	Noll
Nov-18	Karen	Hooper	Dec-29	Kathleen (Kathy)	Johnson	Jan-23	Janet (Jan)	Sherrill
Nov-18	Melvyn	Reading	Dec-29	Lois	Wellborn	Jan-24	Eugenia (Genie)	Pearce
Nov-18	Carla	Campbell	Dec-31	Artie	DeHart	Jan-25	Linda	Freeman
Nov-19	Marilyn	Ballard	Dec-31	Dennis	Flim	Jan-25	Lois	Ventura
Nov-20	Euline	Roberts	Dec-31	Laura, Dr	Wilson	Jan-26	Marcy	Keating
Nov-21	Carol	Atwood				Jan-26	Paula	McKinley
Nov-21	Betty	Graham				Jan-27	Gayle	Sampley
Nov-21	Beverly	Joyce				Jan-27	Veronica	Vickery
Nov-21	Sandra	Thomas				Jan-30	Bill	Beard
Nov-22	Mary Ann	Dos Santos						
Nov-22	Cheryl	Moore						
Nov-24	Patricia	Buttermore						
Nov-24	Paula	Hall						
Nov-24	Mary	Peterson						
Nov-24	Brenda	Storey						
Nov-25	Linda (Lynn)	Fair						
Nov-25	Patsy	Holden						
Nov-25	Elaine	Kimzey						
Nov-25	Ruby	Wells						
Nov-26	Marjo	Stach						
Nov-29	Lynette	Calfee						
Nov-29	Mark	Clapp						
Nov-29	Hilda	Meyer						
Nov-30	Elena	Massey						





DECEMBER'S PROGRAM

- Cathy Sheppard

Greetings HARTA members,

Hope all are well and looking forward to the holiday season! Our Christmas meeting is approaching quickly. We have a very special musical treat this year as a section of the Kingwood Park orchestra will ring in the season for us performing beautiful Christmas music. Please join us for all the Christmas festivities on December 6th!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

- Brenda Pearson

Currently we have 361 members and 48 donors. Last week I sent out reminder emails to all former members who have not yet paid HARTA dues this year. The directory will be printed the Monday after Thanksgiving, and everyone who has paid dues at that time will be included. Meanwhile, please do not pay dues to TRTA without first checking with Marjo or Brenda to be sure that you actually do owe. Several of our members have paid twice because TRTA is erroneously sending out letters to our members who have paid and whose dues have been sent in to them. This causes extra work for Treasurer Marjo and some members are paying extra.



HEALTHY LIVING

- Linda Rhodes

4 Benefits of Walking Even Just a Mile a Day

1. You help strengthen your muscles.
2. You help boost bone health.
3. You set a healthy routine.
4. You improve cardiorespiratory health.

Texercise will begin on January 10. Once again Kingwood First Baptist Church (corner of Woodland Hills and Tree Lane) is letting us use their facility. We begin exercising at 10:00 and end around 10:35. These exercises are low impact and concentrate on endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. The dates are January 10, 24, 31; February 21, 28; and March 7, 21, 28. Please let me know if you are interested. Thank you.

Healthy Recipe

Pumpkin Fluff / Weight Watchers

Submitted by Carolyn Mashburn - Prep Time 10 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 (15 oz) can pumpkin
- 4 Tbsp skimmed milk
- 1 (1 oz) packet sugar free Jello-O vanilla pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz) tub fat free, sugar free Cool Whip (defrosted)
- 1/2 - 1 Tbsp pumpkin spice mix

Instructions

Spoon the pumpkin purée into a large bowl and mix in the skimmed milk, vanilla pudding mix and pumpkin spice. Mix until smooth.
 Fold in the defrosted Cool Whip until fully combined.
 Chill until time to serve.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICES (CVS)

-Margaret Fahrenthold

CVS COUNTDOWN

Your volunteer hours (Community Volunteer Service) are counted from January through December—only a few weeks remain to submit your hours. After December all hours are totaled and sent in to the state.

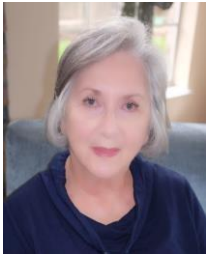
HARTA is an active group! Please help HARTA shine by sending your hours to me: Margaret Fahrenthold at margaret46@suddenlink.net or call/text: 832.594.3894



TREASURER'S CORNER

-Marjo Stach

A reminder to those of you who have \$2.92 taken out of your monthly pension: Would you please send me your membership form and \$5.00 HARTA membership fee if you have not done so already. Thank you if you have already done that. Our new year for HARTA memberships starts on March 1, 2022.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS
- Carolyn Monroe

What is happening with reform for Social Security WEP and GPO?

✓ TRTA is working with an alliance of other employee groups across the nation to call attention to the need for Congressional action on this topic. We are closely following two pieces of legislation that would bring reforms to WEP.

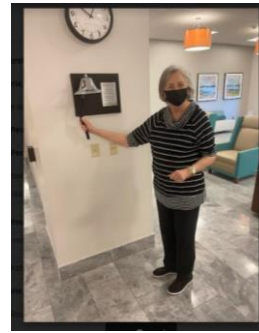
✓ On April 1, 2021, Congressman Richard Neal (D) from Massachusetts introduced HR 2337, The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021. The bill currently has 180 cosponsors. Among them from the Greater Houston area are Representatives Al Green, Sylvia Garcia, and Lizzie Fletcher.

✓ On November 3, 2021, Congressman Kevin Brady (R) from Texas introduced HR 5834, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2021. The bill currently has 31 cosponsors. Cosponsors from the Greater Houston Area include Representatives Brian Babin, **Dan Crenshaw**, Michael McCaul, and Randy Weber.

✓ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee and Rep. Troy Nehls to support one or both of these bills. Also, continue to contact all members of Congress to keep the discussion going, urging all cosponsors.



HARTA members James Ellis, Carolyn Monroe, and Janie Branham met with Representative Dan Crenshaw's staff members Kaaren Cambio and Cameron Chottiner on September 16th to express our thanks to Rep. Crenshaw for the work he has done to provide relief for our area impacted by Hurricane Harvey. We also urged his support for HR 2337 WEO/GPO, Social Security Reform introduced by Rep. Kevin Neal (D-Massachusetts). Rep. Crenshaw's staff assured us that our concerns will be presented to him.



Carolyn is cancer free due to early detection. GET YOUR MAMMOGRAM!



FOUNDATION NEWS!
- Glenda Laney

My thanks to those of you who contributed to the "envelope" that was passed around at the last meeting. It was my error that it was not mentioned in the previous newsletter. We collected--on the spur of the moment--\$65. Marjo will send a check to the Foundation as November is Foundation Month.

In your November issue of *The Voice*, you will find an envelope and a form on the back page to send an additional (or maybe your first!) donation to the Foundation. There are several areas where help is available, including scholarships and grants. We've discussed "The Helping Hand" in previous articles.

Remember the winter storm of February 2021? The TRTF Disaster Relief Fund raised more than \$165,000 to assist 660 retired school employees with recovering from this natural disaster. The TRTF provided grants to help repair flood damage caused by broken pipes, replace food that was spoiled when the electricity went out, and pay for unexpected costs incurred when retirees were displaced from their homes.

Just so you know, this is a non-profit organization, so your donations are tax deductible. Thank you.

Learn more about TRTF via its website, www.trtf.org, and please consider making your tax-deductible donation to help educators of the past, present and future TODAY at www.trtf.org/donate!



BOOK PROJECT
- Jan Resell

As part of our “Readers Love Teachers” project, Pat Kahak, Cathy Sheppard, and I gave out books

to the students at Pine Forest Elementary during their Trunk or Treat on October 29. The students enjoyed choosing a book and getting a candy treat!

Also, we will be giving books to the students of Maplebrook Elementary at their Literacy Family Night in December.

More books are always needed--new or gently used. Chapter books for grades 3-5 are particularly needed.



MEMBER BENEFITS
- Beckye Hendricks

Please use up your \$160 benefits from First Line Benefits, the mail order for incidental OTC products, before the end of the calendar year.

John Bernzen, Region IV Members Benefits Chairman, had a Trident Benefits Representative come to a local meeting in November.

The lawsuit between AMBA and Trident was supposed to be settled by the end of November. TRTA will be letting us know the outcome.



Karen Seay's mother, Floy Russell Sutherland passed away November 15, 2021, in San Antonio.

Cards can be sent to:

**Karen Seay
3510 Spruce Park Cir
Kingwood, TX 77345**



INFORMATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES
- Virginia Cowen

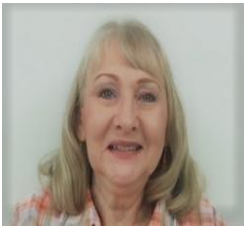
IF YOU PAID A SCAMMER...

- 1) Did you pay with a credit card or debit card? Contact the company or bank that issued the credit card or debit card. Tell them it was a fraudulent charge. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.
- 2) Did a scammer make an unauthorized transfer from your bank account? Contact your bank and tell them it was an unauthorized debit or withdrawal. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.
- 3) Did you pay with a gift card? Contact the company that issued the gift card. Tell them it was used in a scam and ask if they can refund your money. Keep the gift card itself, and the gift card receipt.
- 4) Did you send cash? If you sent it by U.S. mail, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 and ask them to intercept the package. To learn more visit [USPS Package Intercept: The Basics](#).
- 5) Did you send money through a money transfer app? Report the fraudulent transaction to the company behind the money transfer app and ask if they can reverse the payment. If you linked the app to a credit card or debit card, report the fraud to your credit card company or bank. Ask if they can reverse the charge.
- 6) Did you send a wire transfer through your bank? Contact your bank and report the fraudulent transfer. Ask if they can reverse the wire transfer and give you your money back.

From the Federal Trade Commission website



[Visit to Texas A&M Gardens](#)



RETIREMENT EDUCATION

- Pat Kahak

If you know someone who is thinking about retirement, please share this information with them.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TRS RETIREMENT BENEFITS

We invite you to attend a VIRTUAL retirement seminar hosted by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS)!

Whatever your years of school experience, you are invited to attend! Click the button below to register today.

COME LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- General review of TRS benefits available
- Focus on retirement information
- Eligibility, tiers and calculation of benefits
- Retirement plans and death benefits
- Employment after retirement and insurance

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Rosa Espinosa, 972.351.4813
rdcespinosa73@gmail.com

Texas Retired Teachers Association hosts TRS Virtual Retirement Seminar Saturday, January 8, 2022 10:00 am - 11:30 am There will be a Q&A session after the presentation

Visit www.trta.org/retirementseminars to register.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The HARTA Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of officers at the February meeting. The officers are: President (presides over meetings), 1st VP (membership and directory), 2nd VP (publicity and children’s books), 3rd VP (programs), Treasurer (needs to know tax codes), and Secretary (records and post minutes). If you are interested in being an officer or know of a good candidate, please let any of the members on the nominating committee know. Linda Rhodes - chairman, Carolyn Mashburn, Risa McCann, Cathy Reading, or Linda Spiro.



Margaret, Mary, Mary Lou, Cathy

DETAILS for LUNCH at DECEMBER 6 Meeting:

1. Box Lunches from Jason's Deli - \$8.00. Choice of Ham OR Turkey Sandwiches on White OR Wheat bread, with pickle, Chocolate Chip Cookie, and bag of Chips. You will pay \$8 at the meeting. Please bring exact change.
2. Hostess Table: Hospitality will provide bottled water and prepackaged goodies.
3. Donation Fundraiser: Everyone is to bring a Wrapped gift up to \$15 value.
Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each OR 6 for \$5.00. Money will go into our Scholarship Fund.

Please join us on December 6th and bring a friend. We have a fun meeting planned complete with Christmas Music by HISD students.

Reminder: Social time starts at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting follows at 10:00 a.m. at the ISC on Magnolia Cove Dr.

The following people signed up to bring:

DRINKS

- Dottie Willner
- Mary Widmier
- Bev Germann
- Linda Rhodes

SNACKS

- Marjorie Isgitt
- Carolyn Farley
- Risa McCann
- Pat Kahak



Carole and Jan



Faith and Marian



TRIPS AND TOURS

- Carolyn Mashburn

All trips sponsored by Carolyn Mashburn

Text, email or sign up at the meeting to participate.

281-460-8255 carolynmashburn44@gmail.com

We have an interesting (?) situation that will impact our upcoming HARTA trips. We have been moved from Precinct 4 to Precinct 3. I called their director of transportation, a friendly man who recognized the panic in my voice and calmly assured me that all our planned trips would be honored by them. Whew! He also stated that Precinct 3 senior trip rules are different from Precinct 4, but they DO have a bus program and he will send me the documents I need to become a certified trip leader. Carolyn Monroe, Pat Kahak, and Brenda Pearson are also certified trip leaders with Precinct 4, and I hope Precinct 3 will allow us to have multiple leaders, too. So, we know our December trips are going to happen; we will find out about 2022 soon, and I will let you know what I know as soon as I know it.



Circque du Soleil Thursday, December 9th. This trip leaves the ISC at 4 PM and begins with a festive dinner at the original Ninfa's on Navigation. It concludes with the Circque performance in the big top at Sam Houston Raceway Park. Cost for this trip is \$60 + whatever you spend at dinner, and payment needs to be made at the December meeting or via a check mailed to me; I have already bought the tickets.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Christmas Catechism at Stages' new Gordy Theater

Saturday, December 18th. This trip leaves the ISC at 1:00 PM and begins with a matinee performance of the hilarious mystery as the Sisters search for the missing gold from the manger. Afterwards, we will have dinner at Cleberne Cafeteria. Audience participation is always part of the fun! Cost for this trip is \$30 + whatever you spend at dinner, and payment needs to be made at the December meeting via a check mailed to me; I have already bought the tickets.

Carolyn Mashburn, 3307 Village Oaks Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339

**LET'S GO PLACES WITH FRIENDS
AND ROAD SCHOLAR EDUCATIONAL TRIPS
ANYTIME IN 2023**



**THE FOLLOWING TRIP OPTIONS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED
ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

1. Cruise the Greek Islands
2. Vancouver and Victoria
3. Nashville
4. Washington D.C.
5. Iceland
6. Scotland

WHAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?
TELL ME WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.

Carolynmonroe36@gmail.com



JOIN THESE HAPPY HARTA MEMBERS TODAY! FILL OUT AND MAIL IN THE MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Humble Area Retired Teachers Association & Texas Retired Teachers Association
Membership Enrollment Form**

TRTA DUES \$35.00 PER YEAR / HARTA DUES \$5.00 PER YEAR/TOTAL DUES \$40.00

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____ **AMOUNT PAID** _____

STREET: _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE TX ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL:** _____

From which school/dept./district did you retire? _____ Your Birthday (mo. & day) _____

Referred by _____

Make checks payable to HARTA. Mail to: HARTA, PO BOX 5102, Humble, TX 77325, Attn: Marjo Stach

HARTA SCHOLARSHIP DONATION:

"In Memory or In Celebration"

Your Name _____ Amount _____

Check one: _____ In Memory _____ In Celebration Of (name) _____

Name and Address for Acknowledgement Letter:

Make checks to HARTA & indicate SCHOLARSHIP DONATION on the memo line. Mail to HARTA, PO Box 5102, Kingwood, TX 77325