

Legislative News Cover-3

Secretary/Treasurer Update 4

2022 Convention News 5-6

Local Unit Anniversaries 7

Caring for the Caregiver 8

Honoring Martha Kallus 9

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

Thank you for Giving to Causes that Matter 11

TRTF Welcomes New Trustee Mollye J. Long 12



The VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR TRTA MEMBERSHIP

By Tim Lee
Executive Director

In less than a month, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) will send out 400,000 supplemental payments totaling more than \$701 million. Tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of TRS retirees who receive the supplemental payment will NOT know the why and how of that extra check.

This is a payment that YOU, though your membership, phone calls, emails, and personal grassroots advocacy, helped win!

What would we say to these potential members if they were all paying attention at one moment in time?

I would say, "Dear TRS retiree, The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) fought for and helped secure the supplemental check that more than 400,000 TRS retirees received in January 2022! If you received that supplemental check and agree that hard work pays off and more needs to be done to help retirees, please join TRTA today!"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR TRTA MEMBERSHIP

It is my firm belief that in mid-January, when thousands of people receive their check, they will want to know how and why it happened. I believe that we, the members of TRTA, need to tell them! We also need to let them know we are still working for more!

This article recaps the major wins for TRTA this year. It will provide the necessary scope of accomplishments for any non-member to understand what we do and why it matters.

After you read through this article, I am asking you for two big favors: Please give this publication to someone who is not a member of TRTA, and please post a message to your social media and let your friends know that belonging to TRTA improved your retirement!

We are not trying to brag or seek adulation from other TRS retirees. We are asking everyone to acknowledge that so much more can and should be accomplished, but we need EVERYONE to “jersey-up” and get in the game!

This is TRTA’s special moment. Our membership message will be amplified by nearly four times its normal strength in January 2022. Let’s make our message as big and as loud as possible: Together, we can achieve more through TRTA!

I am challenging our entire membership to post a message on their Facebook, Twitter, or other social media account in January 2022. Let’s make sure that all TRS retirees are listening and know we are here to help them. If you are not on social media, please share your bulletin with someone who is not a member. You may also phone a friend and ask if they received their supplemental payment. Then, please consider asking if they will join TRTA to help us continue our push to win a cost-of-living increase and fix the unfair WEP and GPO!

The message is simple: TRTA wants to achieve more for all TRS retirees, but all TRS retirees need to be involved.

We can do this! We can tell our story and show people the proof that membership matters!

87th Regular Legislative Session and Special Session Accomplishments

TRTA worked to pass several meaningful pieces of legislation during the regular and special legislative sessions. These successes include a bill that adds state funding to the pension trust fund, the TRS Sunset bill, a TRS-Care “golden ticket” bill, two return-to-work bills, two tutoring bills, and a Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) reform resolution.

REGULAR SESSION RECAP

SB 1 – The State Finance Bill

The state finance bill was the most important piece of legislation that TRTA worked to pass this session. It was critical for the state to keep its promise from the previous 86th Legislative Session to increase its contribution to TRS. This year, the state appropriation to the TRS pension fund is \$5 billion. Nearly \$1 billion of this total appropriation is new funding from general revenue to cover increased state contributions and keep the fund actuarially sound.

Senate Bill 12, passed in 2019, requires the state to increase its contributions to TRS until they reach 8.5% in 2025. The state has made a commitment to increase funding again in the 2023 session to meet this obligation and keep the fund sound.

HB 1585 – The Sunset Bill

The TRS Sunset bill made several important changes to the state agency, including mandating TRS to be more responsive to member needs, creating an ombudsman position at TRS to assist members with agency issues, requiring TRS to report publicly financial bonuses made to its investment managers, and increasing customer service in health care appeals.

The bill changes the exemption date for

full-time work restrictions and penalties to allow for any current retiree who retired before January 1, 2021 to return to work full-time with no restrictions or penalties. TRTA members have been working on these issues since 2019, and we are proud of the Legislature’s responsiveness to ALL the issues raised during the sunset process.

HB 2022 – Golden Ticket Bill

The “golden ticket” bill allows certain Medicare age-eligible TRS retirees to return to TRS-Care. After the changes made to TRS-Care in 2017, thousands of retirees left the health care program. Once out of the program, retirees could not return. The golden ticket bill will allow those retirees who left between 2017 through 2019 a one-time opportunity to rejoin TRS-Care. TRS retirees interested in this matter or other TRS-Care issues should speak with a TRS counselor before making any decisions relating to their health care insurance.

SB 288 – Return-to-Work Bill

For many years, retirees who returned to work in the classroom faced losing an entire monthly pension check as a penalty for working over their allotted time period by even a small amount, defined as half-time by TRS. SB 288 reforms the penalty structure to require warnings before any financial penalties are incurred.

When combined with the return-to-work exemption date change in HB 1585, the new warning system will impact only TRS members who retired after January 1, 2021. TRS members who retired before that date are exempt from all work limits.

SB 1356 – The Tutoring Bill

SB 1356 allows organizations, such as the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) and TRTA, to offer tutoring services to school districts. This is a significant step forward to help school districts by offering tutoring services through retired educators. You may learn more about TRTF’s tutoring program at www.trtf.org/tutor.

The pandemic created many difficult hardships on our active school educators, schools, parents, and especially our students. Often during the session, we heard stories about “learning loss” that were occurring due to COVID-19. The focus in schools this past semester has shifted to “learning recovery.”

Our students, teachers, parents, and schools need help, and the work of TRTF and TRTA along with SB 1356 provides a unique path for retirees to be a source of help while also earning some extra income.

SB 202 – TRS Contributions

SB 202 changes the current practice allowing TRS surcharges to be shared by the employer (the school district) and the employee (the TRS retiree). The employer is now responsible for all surcharges for the pension fund and TRS-Care for employees who have returned to work more than half-time.

SCR 17 – WEP Reform

SCR 17 is a request from the Texas Legislature to the federal government to repeal and reform the harmful Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

SPECIAL SESSIONS RECAP

SB 7 (Second Special Session)

SB 7 authorizes a supplemental payment to retired educators equal to the lesser of a retiree’s current monthly annuity or \$2,400 dollars. For example, if you receive \$1,000 per month in your annuity, you will receive \$1,000. If you receive more than \$2,400 per month in your annuity, the payment will be capped at \$2,400. The payment will be made to eligible TRS retirees in January 2022, no later than January 31.

HB 5 (Second Special Session)

House Bill 5, the supplemental appropriations bill filed during the second session, included the \$701.1 million from general revenue needed to pay for the supplemental check.

NEW WEP BILL FILED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL!

At the federal level, Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX) recently introduced a new bill to replace the unfair and arbitrary WEP formula with a new proportional formula that puts public servants and other American workers on equal footing.

The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2021, HR 5834, makes sure that teachers, firefighters, and police officers will receive a Social Security benefit that reflects their actual work history. HR 5834 would provide immediate financial relief to retirees currently impacted by the WEP. Future retirees will also see the WEP reduced. Any increase in retirees’ fixed incomes greatly bolsters their retirement security!

TRTA and its retired and active members encourage full congressional support of HR 5834. If you have not contacted your congressional members about supporting this bill, please do so today! Visit www.TRTA.org/HR-5834 to learn more and to find contact information for your Senator and Representative.

SB 8 (Third Special Session)

SB 8 authorizes \$286 million in funding for TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare, the state-run health care programs for retired and active educators. These programs were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which received additional funding to prevent premium increases for members.

Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year!

2021 started off with so much uncertainty, but I truly believe TRTA and its members can embrace hope for the future. The TRS pension fund is in the best financial shape it has been in since 2007.

As our members know, TRTA will continue the fight for a COLA for TRS retirees. We believe passing a COLA for TRS retirees is the right thing to do, and we will keep working towards that goal until we accomplish it. The support for retired public educators is still there, and we must harness it.

Additional legislative action cannot be taken to pursue a COLA until the next regular session that begins in January 2023. Only the Legislature can approve a COLA or other benefit enhancement.

Many legislators who served during the past year are not returning, and TRTA expects to see a very busy primary election season. Now is our perfect opportunity to meet with candidates and educate them about the importance of maintaining the TRS pension fund and providing TRS retirees with the COLA they need and deserve!

Stay tuned to the first quarter issue of *The VOICE* as we focus on preparing for the primary election. We will provide you with some talking points and resources to guide you. In the meantime, research the candidates filing for State Senator and Representative in your district. You can learn more on the Texas Secretary of State website (www.sos.texas.gov).

Please don’t forget to give your copy of *The VOICE* to a fellow retiree and post on social media about TRTA’s work for the supplemental check. Let’s make this TRTA’s special membership moment! Have folks visit www.trta.org/join or call 1.800.880.1650 to learn more. ★

★ SECRETARY/TREASURER UPDATE

Frana Patterson, TRTA Secretary/Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair



TRTA members, what an amazing group of people you are! It has been quite a ride to serve as an officer during the restructuring of our lives, world, and association. I can barely comprehend the changes our lives have undergone, and yet TRTA is as strong and dependable as ever.

It is inspiring to know our treasurers have continued to balance the budgets of TRTA's districts and local units. New precedents and procedures have been implemented and the treasurers have managed it all with dignity. What a resilient group! Even during the pandemic, dues were paid, books were distributed, and scholarships were awarded. All TRTA programs continued with ease during the craziness of the last year and a half.

Secretaries have done a superb job of determining what to include in notes taken during Zoom meetings. It is challenging to get the words exactly right when you cannot be in the room with the people that are making motions.

I encourage each of you to brag on TRTA to your family, friends, and other retirees. A lady that cut my fabric in Hobby Lobby recently is a new retiree. A friend and I told her about TRTA and asked her to join!

The more involved you become, the more rewards you receive! As you become more involved, you discover how much work continually is being done. A holiday meal doesn't miraculously appear on the table. Lots of planning, shopping, and preparation happen before the Grinch can carve the roast beast! With lots of members contributing, no one has too much to do. Each person brings their contribution to the table. Each of us can share our unique talents, time, and interests.

The story of a lap quilt is an example of everyone contributing. A friend went to a quilting group. There was a stack of squares that had been hand cut by a lady residing in a nursing home. The older lady loved quilting and still wanted to contribute. My friend brought the squares to me because they were pink! I pieced them together but needed a few more. I had a larger block I made one day while teaching another friend the technique of paper-piecing. It was perfect for the center of the lap quilt. I used some fabric I already had to complete the quilt. Now it can be passed along to help someone in the future.

I share that story simply to say that TRTA Treasurers, Secretaries, and Members can all use the time and talents they have. Every task, volunteer hour, and new member makes a difference!

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve TRTA. A huge thank you to the Treasurers and Secretaries that have kept the TRTA Express running on the right track. The members of the Finance Committee who have contributed their time and knowledge are Carol Pilgrim, Ron Leiman, Irwin Mathews, Carolyn Pfeiffer, and Judy Kennedy. Thank you all for the thought and consideration required to serve on this committee.

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for the 2022–2023 Beginning Teacher Scholarship program and Classroom Assistance Grant program are available on the TRTF website at www.trtf.org for download. The scholarship program has been updated so that applicants no longer need to be related to a TRTA member. Rather, a referral from a current TRTA member is now accepted. TRTF will be awarding 20 Beginning Teacher Scholarships and 30 Classroom Assistance Grants (at \$750 each), for 2022–2023. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, February 25, 2022 at 5 p.m. and winners will be announced in April.



All Aboard the TRTA Express to Convention 2022!

Registration is now open for the 68th TRTA Convention to be held in Dallas, Texas April 11-13, 2022! This year's theme is All Aboard the TRTA Express. We know members of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) are thrilled to hop on the train and enjoy fellowship with one another as we reunite for the first time since 2019.

The convention will be held April 11-13, 2022 at the Hilton Anatole, located at 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway in Dallas. The hotel is taking reservations and the limit is two rooms per person, but rooms are filling quickly! Most attendees are encouraged to make reservations for April 11 through April 13. For online reservations, please visit the TRTA home page (www.trta.org). The group rate is \$189 per night (excluding tax). Parking is offered at a discounted rate of \$5 per night for hotel guests only.

This year TRTA is offering its first-ever bundle-and-save package for attendees! TRTA members may purchase their convention registration and tickets to the two available meal functions at a discounted price of \$150. Register now and save \$30! This is the most cost-effective way to attend all events at convention.

TRTA expects the bundle-and-save option to sell quickly, so secure your seat at both convention luncheons by registering online today at www.TRTA.org/2022convention. Please note that seating at the luncheons is limited due to social distancing

guidelines. The cost of a ticket to attend only one meal function is \$65.

TRTA has released a tentative schedule of events to help you plan your travel. Please note this schedule is subject to change and updates will be sent via electronic communications.

Convention activities will begin in the afternoon on Monday, April 11, allowing members to travel in the morning and still arrive in time for registration check-in. A come-and-go Informational Fair will take the place of the exhibits on the first day. Attendees will be able to visit with state committee members and receive valuable information about changes for respective district and local roles. On Monday evening, TRTA will host a delightful complimentary event for all attendees to join together and mingle (be sure to RSVP so TRTA can secure a headcount). Dinner will be on your own.

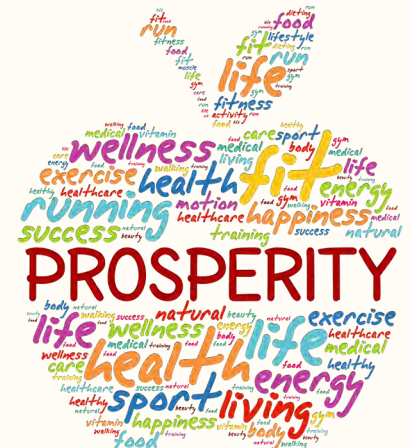
Day two (April 12) begins with Opening Ceremonies, with district caucus meetings to follow. An Awards Luncheon is scheduled where TRTA will honor the E.L. Galyean Service Award recipients for the past three years (Bill Barnes, 2019; Aubrey Cherry, 2020; and Martha Kallus, 2021), followed by an afternoon of educational and information sessions. Dinner will be on your own.

The House of Delegates and a Legislative Luncheon fill the final day on April 13. At the conclusion of the afternoon House of Delegates meeting, attendees will be able to depart.



We hope you will join us in April as we board the TRTA Express to Dallas! Look for the registration form for all events on page 6. ★

Join us for a complimentary
Informational Fair on
Monday, April 11, 2022, from
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in
the Atrium Lobby.



**YOU WON'T WANT
TO MISS THIS
VERY SPECIAL LIVE
VIDEO EVENT!**

LIVESTREAM EVENT:
January 7, 2022, at 3 p.m. CDT
TOPIC: FORTHCOMING SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT
SPEAKER: TIM LEE, TRTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WHERE TO WATCH: YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK



Learn more about this very special event at www.trta.org/13checkevent!

68TH TRTA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Express

www.trta.org/2022convention

Go online and complete your registration
and secure your seat at the luncheons!

Dallas Hilton Anatole

April 11–13, 2022

Registration deadline: March 1, 2022



REGISTRANT INFORMATION

First and Last Name		TRTA ID	
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Phone	Email for Confirmation		
In Case of On-Site Emergency Contact		Cell Phone	

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Register online at www.trta.org/2022convention or mail this completed form and payment to TRTA, Attention: 2022 Convention, 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701. A confirmation letter will be emailed prior to convention. One registrant per form. Please check all boxes that apply. Attendees must pay the \$50 registration fee or \$60 on-site registration (late) fee.

Convention Cancellation Policy: Should you need to cancel your registration, refund requests must be submitted in writing to membership@trta.org. Refunds will be processed after the convention takes place. A \$10 service charge will apply to all cancelled registrations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Registration \$50 per person (Deadline: March 1, 2022)	\$ 50.00
Meal Bundle \$100 per person	
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 & Legislative Luncheon on Wednesday, April 13, 2022	\$ _____
Individual Meal Function \$65 per person—please select <u>ONE</u> meal function.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, April 12, 2022	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Luncheon on Wednesday, April 13, 2022	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I will be attending the complimentary evening event on Monday, April 11, 2022	

PAYMENT INFORMATION

To register using a credit card visit www.trta.org/2022convention.

☐ Check or money order enclosed payable to TRTA. Mail completed registration form and payment to:
TRTA, Attention: 2022 Convention
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 • Austin, TX 78701

TOTAL REMITTANCE

\$ _____



Let's Celebrate!

TRTA Honors Local Units' Historic Anniversaries

Did you know that the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) has nearly 250 local units statewide? One of the main reasons TRTA is the largest association in the nation for retired teachers with a history of active involvement in the well-being of their communities is because of our dedicated locals!

TRTA turned 68 in 2021, but our roots stretch back even further. There were six local retired teacher association units organized in Texas by the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA): El Paso in 1945; Dallas in 1949; Fort Worth in 1950; Houston in 1951; San Antonio in 1952; and Austin in 1952.

Sixty-five of the 200 members of these six local units attended the NRTA convention in Miami Beach, Florida. With their guidance, they planned a state organization to be known as the Texas Retired Teachers Association. Officers were nominated and a meeting was scheduled for November 17, 1953. At the November 27, 1953 meeting in Dallas, the nominated officers were elected, a constitution and bylaws adopted, and the first convention was in November of 1954!

We'd like to take the time to thank our locals for everything that they do to help our organization succeed. Our locals make grassroots advocacy—the core of our communication strategies and achievements—possible!

The state office only needs 16 more local unit establishment dates to know the founding dates for all TRTA's locals! How can your local unit discover its foundation date? Besides checking president, secretary, and historian records, you may look into district records, local newspapers, and museums for information. For those that cannot find their date, consider forming a committee to explore and research. When all avenues have been exhausted, the committee should provide a best guess and then have that date recognized, accepted, and documented in their minutes.

TRTA continues to thrive because of this strong network of units and their enthusiastic members. We rely on our locals to rally our members and engage with them about important pension fund and health care issues. TRTA thanks our locals for their continued support, compassion, and perseverance through these extraordinary times.

We'd like to congratulate several of our local units for reaching milestone anniversaries this year! TRTA will share news about landmark anniversaries in the TRTA mobile app. Units may contact the State Public Relations Committee to submit their formation dates. 📧

Houston ART, 70 years
Houston-Harris County RTA, 70 years
Wichita Falls Area ARSP, 60 years
Erath CARSE, 60 years
Navarro County RTA, 60 years
Hardeman County RSP, 55 years
Kingsville-Tri City RTA, 50 years
Fort Bend County REA, 50 years
Orange County RTA, 50 years
Brazos County RSP, 50 years
Anderson County RTA, 50 years
Kaufman County RSP, 50 years
Arlington RSEA, 50 years
Johnson-Somervell RSEA, 50 years
Freestone County RTA, 50 years
Mills County RTA, 50 years
San Marcos ARTS, 50 years
Williamson County RTA, 50 years
Victoria RTA, 50 years
Mt. Pleasant-Titus County RSPA, 50 years
Vernon Regional RSEA, 50 years
Colorado County RTA, 50 years
Huajilla Unit RTA, 50 years
Calhoun County RTA, 45 years
La Porte RSEA, 40 years
Canyon Lake ARTSP, 40 years
Fayette County RTA, 40 years
Polk County RSP, 40 years
Upshur County RSEA, 40 years
Clear Creek ART, 35 years
Hurst-Eules-Bedford RSE, 35 years
Coke County RTA, 35 years
Live Oak County RTA, 30 years
San Patricio County RTA, 30 years
Ennis RSPA, 30 years
Terry County RTA, 30 years
Perryton Area RSPA, 30 years
Franklin County RSEA, 30 years
Edinburg RTA, 25 years
Galveston RTA, 25 years
Falls County RTA, 25 years
Gonzales County RTA, 25 years
Refugio County RSP, 25 years
Baylor County ARSP, 25 years
Fort Bend/Harris RE, 20 years
Allen REA, 20 years
Burkburnett Area RTA, 20 years
Donley County RSPA, 20 years

Age Well Live Well

BE INFORMED.

"Understanding what options are available helps me make the right decisions."



Find the services and programs you need at www.AgeWellLiveWell.org



Caring for the Caregiver

Written by: Holly Riley, Director of Aging Services Coordination

"Take care," is something automatically said as a form of compassion. It's a way of letting people know that as we move through life, we may need to take a little time to be aware of and care for ourselves. While "take care" might be something routinely said, giving care is something caregivers do every day with great intention.

One in four people are family or informal caregivers, helping their loved ones with activities of daily living (bathing, cooking, cleaning, paying bills) and, in some cases, with more advanced medical care (administering medications, wound care).

The support caregivers provide is essential to their loved one's well-being. It takes time as well as mental and physical effort, all of which can lead to caregiver burnout. Stress, exhaustion, body aches, depression and self-isolation are all aspects of caregiver burnout. Respite services—a short break from something—can provide caregivers with a much-needed breather from their caregiving responsibilities. There are several respite programs and providers in Texas, with most available at no charge. Texas caregivers can search for local respite services through the Health and Human Services Commission Take Time Texas website.

Other things caregivers can do for their own self-care include:

- Asking for help. Many caregivers spend most of their time caring for others while their own health and personal needs take a back seat. Feelings of guilt can lead caregivers to quiet their inner self-care voice and not ask others for help. When asked, family members and a caregiver's community (e.g., friends, faith groups, neighbors) can provide a caregiver with support and a break.
- Talking with someone. Sharing feelings and thoughts with a trusted ally can help create clarity of the situation. Along with friends and family members, caregiver support groups can provide the understanding of others in the same situation. For thoughts and feelings that are a little more sensitive, enlist a trained professional for guidance.
- Putting personal health first. Exercising, eating well and getting plenty of sleep can help improve mood, stamina and mental health. Maintaining health also means getting annual check-ups, screenings and vaccinations.

- Connecting with local service providers. Texas' area agencies on aging provide a variety of services and supports for adults 60 and older and their caregivers. From transportation services and benefits counseling to home-delivered meals, AAAs have supports that can help ease caregivers' responsibilities. Texas caregivers can call 1-800-252-9240 to connect with the nearest AAA.

Each November, the services and benefits caregivers provide is recognized during National Family Caregivers Month. Governor Greg Abbott signed on October 15, 2021 a proclamation declaring November National Family Caregiver Month in Texas. The 2021 theme "Caregiving Around the Clock" underscores the daily efforts and responsibilities caregivers have. HHSC sincerely encourages Texans who generously give care around the clock to take care of themselves every month of the year.

TRTA UPCOMING DEADLINES

Reports for the Children's Book Project, Volunteer Hours, Scholarships and Grants: Due February 15 and March 1

Local unit reports are due to the District Committee Chair by February 15, 2022. District reports are due to the State Committee Representative (District Children's Book Project report due to the State Committee Chair) by March 1, 2022.

TRTA & TRTF Honor the Life of Martha Kallus

TRTA and TRTF honor the life of Martha Kallus, who passed away at the age of 84 on November 18. Martha had the heart and soul of a servant. She worked steadfastly in positions of service in every aspect of her life, including and particularly TRTA.

Martha joined her local unit, Midland RTA (now Midland ARSP), as soon as she retired and immediately served on a number of committees. When requested, she served as the unit's president. Soon, she served as District 18 President and began eleven years of service at the state level for TRTA.



Some of her many volunteer positions within TRTA include Committee Chair for Local Unit Support. She initiated training materials for best practices in leadership, communication, planning, and participation for local units. She also supported units needing assistance through phone calls, emails, and personal on-site visits.

She was the Chair of Organizational Affairs Committee for two years and Chair of the Retirement Education Committee for four. She turned an unorganized series of scattered retirement education events into an organized, uniform program by educating pre-retirees of their options, obligations, and opportunities for retirement. She was one of the first TRTA committee chairs to introduce skits, PowerPoint presentations, and team identity to her training sessions at the District Presidents' Leadership Conference and state convention.

Following years of valuable service to TRTA, Martha accepted an appointment to the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. She served as a trustee for seven years and was Chair of the Classroom Assistance Grants committee.

Martha was recently chosen by the TRTA Board of Directors to be this year's E.L. Galyean Service Award recipient. The E.L. Galyean Award is designed to recognize outstanding service to TRTA at the state level. Martha epitomized the character of E.L. Galyean and the award TRTA has named in his honor.

Martha also contributed tirelessly to her community in Midland, participating in the Rotary Club, serving as a Salvation Army bell ringer, packing senior boxes for the West Texas Food Bank, serving as Recording Secretary for the Aaron Estes Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and volunteering with the George W. Bush Childhood Home as a docent guide. She was very active in St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Martha was preceded in death by her husband Daniel Kallus and is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth Kallus of Arlington, TX and Mary Kallus of Portales, NM. Our hearts go out to Martha's family.

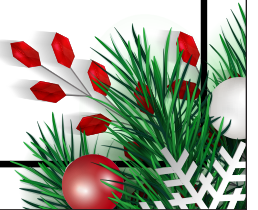
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Happy Holidays to our dear members and friends!

We wish you joy, peace, and comfort this holiday season. Thank you for your dedication to TRTA's legislative efforts this year and the care you demonstrate for fellow retirees and current educators through our charitable partner, TRTF.



Interested in Running for TRTA State Office?

Complete the form below and mail to the TRTA office by January 15, 2022 to have your application considered. Also, attach a color photo of yourself which will be included in the first quarter 2022 issue of *The VOICE*. Mail to TRTA, Attention: Officer Candidate Form, 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701.

Name _____

Address _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

Local Unit _____

I am filing for: ☐ TRTA President ☐ TRTA 1st Vice-President ☐ TRTA 2nd Vice-President ☐ TRTA Secretary/Treasurer

☐ I understand that a candidate for this office shall have been a participating member of TRTA and of a Local Unit for at least three (3) years, and shall have served as an elected officer of a District or Local Unit, but need not have served as a statewide officer.

My credentials are: _____

OUTLOOK



LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

GIVING TO CAUSES THAT MATTER

Supporting TRTF's Charitable Programs

11

TRTF WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE

Newest Member Mollye J. Long

12

DONATE TODAY!

Donation card on the back of *The VOICE*

12

THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO CAUSES THAT MATTER!

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) believes educators matter! The work they do changes lives, and every day is an opportunity to impact the future. TRTF helps educators of every generation do just that, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the members of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA).

Donations made to TRTF's charitable programs have genuine, tangible impacts on the lives of retirees, current educators, and first-year teachers.

"A Helping Hand" assists public education retirees with emergency financial assistance for a short-term hardship, such as home or auto repairs, medical or dental bills, utility bills, groceries, and much more.

Classroom Assistance Grants impact not only the lives of the educators, but the many students that they influence every day, by supporting the cost of classroom projects.

Beginning Teacher Scholarships offer funds to first-year teachers to support the cost of certification tests and test results, as well as for purchasing resources for their first classroom.

The TRTF Disaster Relief Fund assists public education employees and retirees who require emergency financial assistance for a short-term hardship due to an unforeseen and widespread disaster. In February 2021, TRTF distributed \$165,000 in aid to retired school personnel in Texas who were negatively affected by winter storm Uri. TRTF assisted them by providing funds for home repairs due to flood damage and burst pipes, to replace spoiled food lost when the electricity went out, and to help with expenses accrued when they were displaced from their homes.

November was Foundation Month, a time designated by the TRTA Board of Directors to honor the Foundation through district and local unit meetings and to promote TRTF's annual appeal for donations. The appeal can be found in the third quarter issue of *The VOICE*.

TRTA members have donated \$74,000 to TRTF since November 1, nearly reaching our \$100,000 fundraising goal! If you want to donate to a valuable cause that has a direct impact on educators and education in Texas, please consider making your year-end, tax-deductible contribution to TRTF today!

You may donate using the card found on the back of *The VOICE* or by visiting www.trtf.org/donate to make an online contribution. You may also call 1.800.880.1650 (ask for Sarah) to donate over the phone. Thank you for considering TRTF this holiday season and for supporting educators of the past, present, and future!



The VOICE

Send address changes to:
Texas Retired Teachers Association
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78701-1957
1.800.880.1650 | www.trta.org

TRTF WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is pleased to welcome its newest member to the Board of Trustees, Mollye J. Long.

Mollye grew up in Dallas, attending Highland Park ISD through ninth grade. Her family then moved to Corpus Christi, where she completed her public-school education. The day after graduation, she began the journey to fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming a teacher by attending Southern Methodist University.



Receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation with a minor in Music and Mathematics, Mollye began her teaching career in Dallas ISD. After four years as a Physical Education teacher, she married and became a stay-at-home mom.

In 1981, Mollye re-entered the teaching profession as a Geometry/Algebra teacher at Highland Park High School. She also began pursuing a master's degree, receiving a Master of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1985. At Highland Park, she was the cheerleader coach for eight years and a JV tennis coach for four. During the summer, she was a camp counselor at Camp Nakanawa in Crossville, Tennessee, where she was Head Tennis Instructor for 19 years.

After 21 years of service, Mollye retired from Highland Park ISD in 1998 and moved to Fredericksburg shortly thereafter. She joined the Gillespie County RTA and the Beta Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Mollye continues to serve both organizations in leadership positions. She has served TRTA District 13 as Secretary, 2nd Vice-President, 1st Vice-President, President, and currently represents the district on the State Legislative Committee.

She volunteers for the Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance (Oktoberfest), Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library Board, Vereins Quilt Guild, and Fredericksburg Dulcimer Society, among other activities. In addition to enjoying hobbies such as quilting, reading, and swimming, she is the proud mom of son Michael and daughter Michelle, and loving grandmother to Caroline and Abbey.

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

OUTLOOK

LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION



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