
ERATH COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES
Since 1961 Erath County, Texas TRTA District 15



Next meeting ...

Join us on **Tuesday, March 1, at 2:00 P.M.** when our program will be Janette Maxwell from Restorative Advocates. We are going to **meet in person** at the Graham Street Family Center starting at 1:15. Bring your own lunch, dessert, snack, favorite beverage or just yourself so we can visit before the meeting. It's been a long time!



Scholarship & Book Project Funds Needed

Since we were not able to have our silent auction and do not want to interfere with school fundraisers, we are requesting donations for our scholarship and our book project. (\$500 to a student teacher; the other scholarship to an education student is endowed with TSU &



therefore already paid through the endowment, plus \$1,000: \$500 to each of two Erath school libraries) Members usually spend \$10, \$20, or more at the auction and purchase the meal. We could donate that amount to these obligations, or any amount you feel you can.

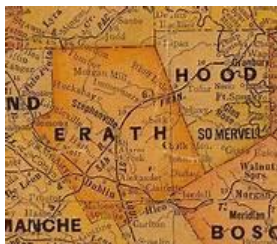
Send your donations to our treasurer:

Jean Rucker, ECARSE Treasurer
118 Ben Hogan
Stephenville, Texas 76401



**Please include a note to say it is a donation to our scholarship and/or book*

project.



ECARSE Programs for 2021-2022

March 1: Janette Maxwell, Restorative Advocates

April 5: Dr. Ann Calahan, SISD updates

May 3: Woodrow Horner, "The Art of Bee-Keeping"

Committee Reports...

Community Volunteer Services: Mary Waters

ECARSE members counted 18,806 hours of community service in 2021. Way to go!!! These hours were reported to the District 15 CVS chair, who reported it to the TRTA state CVS chair; those hours will be reported to the Texas state legislature to show that our group is still active and offering our time and talents to volunteer unpaid hours to our community.

Informative & Protective Services: Kathy Hyde

Use caution with pop-up Covid testing sites! Across the country, there have been reports of fake Covid testing sites where scammers are asking for credit card and social security numbers. The Texas Attorney General's office recommends that you seek health care, including testing, at providers you are familiar with. If you are looking for a testing site, seek a referral and check the source. Local police or sheriff's departments should know about fake sites in their area. Knowledge is power over scams!!!

Healthy Living: Laree Blagg

Hopefully, you received your catalog for \$40 of health supplies if you are part of TRS Care United Insurance. The catalog is also online. Choose your supplies for this quarter, make your order, send it in, and watch for the delivery. Also, order your free at-home Covid tests from www.covidtests.gov

Legislative: Judith Meador

March 1 is the last day to vote this round, so if you have not already voted please take time to do so either before or after our meeting! Also, we have talked about the freeze on local taxes for those over 65; keep in mind that is a freeze on the rate, but the amount can still change!

Membership: Vicki Cook

We currently have 130 on the TRTA state roll; however, not all of these state members are ECARSE members and have not paid local ECARSE dues. Therefore, local dues we need for books and a scholarship are running short! Official 2021 membership numbers will come out in March. The new 2022-23 membership year (March 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023) begins March 1, 2022!

Retirement Education: Judith Meador

Some TRS staff members are still working from home; therefore, most retirement sessions are online. Check the TRS website or the TRTA app for these sessions.

Member Benefits: Vickie Walker

Check out the many money-saving member benefits at trta.org/memberbenefits.

Scholarships: Kathy Hyde

Our scholarship winners have been named. Emelie Hernandez is our endowed scholarship winner for a student teacher. Blair Landes received our student teacher scholarship.

Technology/Historian: Jan Vaughn

Keep up-to-date at trta.org, TRTA and ECARSE on their Facebook pages, and the TRTA app.

TRTFoundation: Kathy Hyde

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is now accepting applications for its Classroom Assistance Grant and Beginning Teacher Scholarship programs for the 2022-2023 year! The TRTF Board of Trustees has determined that it will award 30 Classroom Assistance Grants in the amount of \$750.00 each, and 20 Beginning Teacher Scholarships in the amount of \$750.00 each for the 2022-2023 year. Please visit the initiatives page on the TRTF website to learn more. The submission deadline for the grants and scholarships is Friday, February 25, 2022 at 5 p.m. Please direct any application questions to Sarah Richardson at Sarah@trta.org.

Pensions & "Special" Funds

Hopefully, you have received a letter from TRS by now, updating your monthly pension amount, taxes, and insurance as it should be for this year. The extra "13th check" we received in January created quite a stir when we saw the taxes pulled out of it and our pension check at the end of the month. I hope that has been cleared up now. This last letter should be the way it will stay!

That said, those of us on the TRS Care insurance are scheduled to get some money back ...

February 17, 2022

Per the TRS Board of Trustees meeting held today (Feb. 17): "Eligible TRS-Care retirees and surviving spouses may receive a one-time payment of \$448.12 from the TRS-Care health care fund. This is separate from the one-time supplemental payment retirees may have received in January. You do not need to use the TRS-Care payment on health care costs. Once you have it, you may use the money however you like."

*Learn more: <https://www.trs.texas.gov/Pages/trs-care-payment.aspx>

You can also call TRS Health & Insurance Benefits at the dedicated phone number for the one-time TRS-Care payment at 1-833-223-4967, Monday - Friday, 7:00 am - 6:00 pm for more information.

The 87th Texas Legislature gave TRS \$286M in federal funding to reimburse COVID-19 expenses. TRS covered many out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 at 100 percent. Without the funding from the legislature, there would have been an increase in health care premiums.

The cost savings from the additional funds allowed TRS-Care policyholders to receive a one-time payment of \$448.12.

This payment will be issued in March 2022 in the form of a one-time check or direct deposit.

This is in addition to retirees' monthly TRS annuity and the supplemental payment from the pension fund from January 2022.

To be eligible, the policyholder must be actively enrolled in TRS-Care as of January 1, 2022. They must still be enrolled when funds are distributed in March 2022.

If you are the surviving spouse and enrolled as of January 1, 2022, you may also be eligible to receive this one-time payment.

TRS will inform eligible recipients by mail starting in late February through March 2022.

This payment will have no effect on your pension nor your insurance premiums.

This payment will be delivered the same way you receive your pension, either by direct deposit or a check in the mail.

The payment will be distributed in March 2022.

TRS will not withhold federal income tax. Consult a tax professional about your individual taxes.

* This information was taken from the TRS website. Please check the website or call for clarification.

VOTE! VOTE!! VOTE!!!

**If you have not already had the opportunity to vote,
Tuesday, March 1, is the last day for this joint primary election.
Get out and vote before or after our meeting on Tuesday!**

MARCH 1, 2022 JOINT PRIMARY ELECTION

ELECTION DAY VOTING LOCATIONS 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

****VOTE CENTERS (Erath County voters can vote at any one of the following locations on Election Day, regardless of where you reside in Erath County)****

ERATH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

100 W. Washington St.
Stephenville, TX 76401

LINGLEVILLE SCHOOL BUILDING

21261 N FM 219
Lingleville, TX 76461

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH &
EXTENSION CENTER**

1229 N. U.S. Hwy 281
Stephenville, TX 76401

MORGAN MILL COMMUNITY CENTER

406 CR 156
Stephenville, TX 76401

TEXAS BANK

988 Wolfe Nursery Rd.
Stephenville, TX 76401

SELDEN COMMUNITY CENTER

4142 FM 913
Stephenville, TX 76401

UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

1200 Glen Rose Highway
Stephenville, TX 76401

BLUFF DALE COMMUNITY CENTER

175 Holt
Bluff Dale, TX 76433

PATRICK ST CHURCH OF CHRIST

630 N Patrick St.
Dublin, TX 76446

HUCKABAY COMMUNITY CENTER

42346 North FM 219
Stephenville, TX 76401