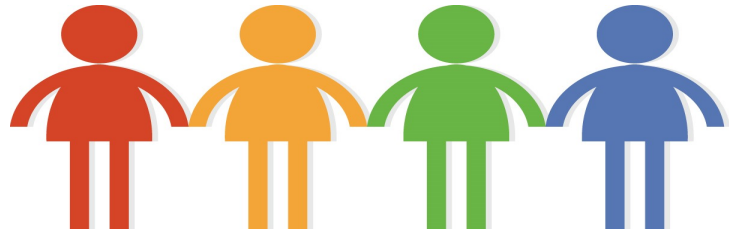




# THE LOUNGE



From Linda Parsons: We were so happy some of you took Membership Forms to share with friends. Remember to turn them in at the April 18th meeting. We look forward to everyone renewing and gaining new members for the 2022-2023 year.



**Healthy Living April is : Cut major sources of stress out of your life.**



**Eat well balanced meals, exercise and visit with friends and family.**

**April Meeting at the Dietert Center, 9:30 for fellowship and 10:00 for the meeting, will feature Irene Dubberly-Rodriguez, District 20 President. We will honor the HCRSEA members who have passed away in the last year.**

**Reservation for the May Luncheon will be available at the April 18th Meeting.**



**1. Local and Constitutional Amendment Election- Early Voting begins on April 25-May 3 and Election Day is May 7, 2022 This Election will include local elections (school bonds, school boards and the Texas Constitutional Amendments. WE need to get out and VOTE!!!! They are watching who votes and that information is used in the next Primary Run-off Election and we need to be a BIG part of that Conversation and VOTE.**

Texans will have the opportunity to approve the following amendments with a majority vote:

**Proposition 1 (SJR 2 - 87th Legislature, 2nd Special Session)**

*“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead.”*

**Proposition 2 (SJR 2 - 87th Legislature, 3rd Special Session)**

*“The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.”*

The explanatory statements for each proposed amendment are below:

**Proposition Number 1**

SJR 2 (87th Legislature, 2nd Special Session) proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the person’s homestead from the preceding tax year.

**Proposition Number 2**

SJR 2 (87th Legislature, 3rd Special Session) proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

For more information and resources for voting in Texas, please visit [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov).

**2. Primary Runoff ELECTION- May 24, 2022- Early Voting is May 16-May 20 This is the election for those candidates that are in runoffs from the March Election.**

**3. WEP and GPO update from Federal Government- I will type up the list of bills and the number of co-sponsors presently with each bill. I keep waiting for a bill to go before Committee and make a move towards a vote, but not happening as of yet. Just wanted to be sure you have the information available and I will let you know if there is something TRTA wants our members to do.**

Richard Herbst  
District 20 Legislative Chair

## In the Spotlight: Pat Burns's Story

Roots of chaos and abuse ran deep in Pat's family. Her mom had been abandoned by her mom at thirteen. Living with her dad, this thirteen year old dropped out of eighth grade to raise her three siblings. Pat's mom was set up for failure. At seventeen, she married a boy who was already abusing alcohol. Memories of Pat's childhood could be described as chaotic. She recalls leaving a house in the middle of the night to escape an abusive stepdad. Her mom seemed to continue to make bad choices for a total of three bad marriages. Sometimes Pat left her clothes, toys, and other belongings behind. This was Pat's normal. She changed schools almost every year because education wasn't a priority in her family. Pat feels her mom suffered from extreme depression. Susan, Pat's six year old sister, became the caretaker of her little sister. When Susan arrived home from school, she would find Pat still in her crib. Susan would get Pat out and feed a bottle to her. The memory that Pat had shared with me years ago stuck with me. Her stepdad drove the family out to a place one Sunday afternoon where he would tell them this story. When he was just a kid he encountered Bonnie and Clyde who arranged for him to buy them bullets and cigarettes. Pat, at age 10, had heard her stepdad tell this story numerous times, so this time she made a sassy comment. Suddenly, the car stopped, and he yelled loudly, "GET OUT!" She did, and the car drove off leaving her abandoned and sobbing on the side of the road. He did return after a long time. This story is one of extreme neglect. That could have been Pat's story, but as a young mom, her story changed. Pat was working at a hospital in Rock Springs. A pharmacist named Andy Burns was the speaker at an inservice at the hospital. One of Pat's friends arranged a date for Pat with Andy. After dating for only eight weeks, they were married. While living in Rock Springs, Pat was offered a job in an elementary school with three children who were in a Severe Profoundly Disabled Unit. Pat asked, "Who is the teacher of this class?" The principal replied, "You will be the teacher!" For two years Pat worked with these seven and eight year old boys. There was no aide! Just Pat! She received help from the physical therapist and occupational therapist. Then Pat knew exactly what she wanted to do. Her young family moved to San Angelo where Pat enrolled in college, raised her three children and got her degree. Pat's first teaching job was here in Kerrville at Tivy Upper Elementary School where she was a Math Resource teacher for 5th and 6th graders. Then, she moved to Tally Elementary where she continued teaching Resource and finally did Inclusion. She retired after twenty-three years. Pat is a survivor! She has raised her three children and loves doting on her five grandchildren. Pat stopped the legacy of abuse. She didn't have a nurturing set of parents or grandparents. Her sister, Susan, protected her and showed her love. Pat still lives with many emotional scars from her childhood. It has taken over six years of therapy to heal deep wounds. One comment Pat said to me in our interview was that she wished someone would have noticed her situation. I have volunteered at Christian Women's Job Corp and have learned Pat's story is actually a common tale. The Bureau of Justice Statistics claims a person is abused every nine (9) seconds in the United States. As educators, some of you witnessed children who didn't seem very happy to leave school at Christmas or summer vacation because their classrooms were their safe havens. I hope teachers of the future will be better equipped to spot children who are neglected and abused.

Linda Parsons