

2022-2023 Highlights

July 2022

- In-person meetings on the state, district, and local levels continued throughout 2022, while many chapters continued to use virtual meetings as an optional way to meet and conduct business.
- The District Presidents Leadership Conference was held in Pflugerville.
- Standing committees met in Austin to update goals and objectives for the coming year.
- Special Committee Health and Safety was formed.

August 2022

- The TRTA Membership Department launched TRTAPortal for local chapters, replacing TRTAConnect.

September 2022

- The State Legislative Committee created COLA Talking Points for use by chapters and districts ahead of the November election to promote the need for financial relief for TRS retirees.
- The Board of Directors held an in-person meeting in Austin.
- Districts began hosting their fall conferences across the state.

October 2022

- Districts continued hosting their fall conferences across the state.
- TRTA launched a statewide campaign to encourage member participation in the November election.

November 2022

- TRTF promoted its charitable programs to fundraise for Foundation Month.
- TRTA began a campaign to promote the reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

December 2022

- Tim Lee and members of the TRTA Board of Directors visited Washington, D.C. to promote the reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), hosting a press conference on the South Steps of the U.S. Capitol on December 14.

January 2023

- The 88th Legislative Session began on January 10.
- Tim Lee began hosting Facebook/YouTube Live events every Thursday to discuss the latest news and updates during the legislative session (January through May).
- The TRTA Legislative Committee members began making visits to the Capitol to meet with every Senator and Representative to promote TRTA's legislative priorities.
- Registration opened for TRTA Day at the Capitol.
- The Board of Directors held an in-person meeting in Austin.
- The E.L. Galyean Service Award Recipient was named: Mary Ann Dolezal, District 4.

February 2023

- The TRTA and TRTF audit reports were approved.
- The TRTA Legislative Committee continued its Capitol visits throughout the month.

March 2023

- House Bill 600 and Senate Bill 10 were filed in the Texas Legislature, two bills that proposed providing TRS retirees with both a COLA and a supplemental payment.
- Tim Lee and legislative leaders testified at numerous House and Senate hearings.
- TRTF announced its 2023-24 Beginning Teacher Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant recipients, providing 22 \$750 scholarships and 30 \$750 grants.

April 2023

- TRTA launched its newly redesigned website, www.trta.org, on April 4.

- TRTA hosted its largest ever attended Day at the Capitol on the East Lawn of the Texas Capitol on April 12, preceded by a special event with guest speaker Ray Perryman on April 11 at the Austin Hilton downtown.
- TRTA announced its state membership awards: At the local chapter level, Beaumont ART in District 6 obtained the highest increase in membership and Collingsworth County RSPA in District 16 achieved the highest percentage increase in membership during this time. At the district level, District 5 grew by the highest number as well as the highest percentage, earning both awards.
- TRTF began its spring Virtual Walk fundraising campaign.
- The Board of Directors held an in-person meeting in Austin.

May 2023

- As the 88th Legislative Session entered its final month, Senate Bill 10 and House Joint Resolution 2 became the vehicles selected by the Legislature to provide a COLA and supplemental payment for hundreds of thousands of TRS annuitants.
- Due to TRTA's strong advocacy efforts, the Texas Legislature appropriated approximately \$5 billion in general revenue designated for COLAs and supplemental payments for eligible TRS annuitants, the largest amount ever appropriated from the state using only general revenue funds for a TRS benefit enhancement.
- TRS annuitants aged 75 and older will receive a one-time supplemental payment in the amount of \$7,500 and TRS annuitants aged 70 to 74 will receive a payment of \$2,400 in September 2023. The \$7,500 stipend will impact approximately 186,000 TRS retirees and the \$2,400 stipend would impact approximately 104,000 TRS retirees.
- Pending the passage of a constitutional amendment in the November 2023 election, TRS annuitants retired September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2020 will receive a 2 percent COLA, TRS annuitants retired September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2013 will receive a 4 percent COLA, and TRS annuitants retired on or before August 31, 2001 will receive a 6 percent COLA. The 2% COLA would impact approximately 150,000 TRS retirees, the 4% COLA would impact approximately 195,000 TRS retirees, and the 6% COLA would impact approximately 75,000 TRS retirees.

In addition:

- The TRTA BOD met seven times in person and virtually sixteen (16) times since July 2022.
- *The VOICE*, the TRTA news bulletin, was published four (4) times.
- The rebate of \$3.00 per member was paid in May 2023 to the 20 Districts in the total amount of \$269,175 for the 2022-2023 membership year.
- 67 local chapters received a total of \$7,110, which represented an increase of 711 members over the previous year. Dues revenue increased by a total of \$24,885 because of these additional numbers.
- TRTA membership as of February 28, 2023 was 95,745 members (at-large members 53,903, local members 41,919). TRTA's goal is to reach 100,000 members. This coming year's local membership incentive is The Magic of Membership.
- Contributions by TRTA members for 2022:
 - a) Contributed 5,047,644 hours of community service, valued at \$151 million
 - b) As part of the Children's Book Project and the Student to Student Book Program, 135,963 books were distributed to schools.
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- The 2022-2023 "Highest Membership Percentage Gain" was awarded to Collingsworth County RSPA.
- The 2022-2023 "Highest Membership Gain" was awarded to Beaumont ART.
- In 2022, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) awarded 18 Beginning Teacher Scholarships in the amount of \$750 each. TRTF has awarded \$138,750 in scholarships since 2008. In April 2023, TRTF awarded 22 \$750 Beginning Teacher Scholarships.
- In 2022, TRTF awarded 30 Classroom Assistance Grants in the amount of \$750 each. TRTF has awarded \$154,500 in grants since 2008. In April 2023, TRTF awarded 30 \$750 Classroom Assistance Grants.
- In 2023, TRTF's charitable program "A Helping Hand" distributed more than \$24,000 to retirees to assist with medical and dental bills, home and auto repairs, and utility bills. Since its inception in 2010, TRTF has awarded over \$271,000 in aid to more than 259 recipients.