

DISTRICT 20 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2018

The TRTA District 20 Executive Board meeting was held February 1, 2018, at the Triple C Steak House in Divine, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 10:00A.M. by President Barbara Soto. All board members and guests were welcomed. The invocation titled "A Call to Prayer" was given by Frances Rodriguez, Historian. The pledges to the flags were led by Bill Gleeson, Health Care Chair.

President Soto thanked everyone for their continued support, cooperation and participation during her 2 - year term. She shared the "Famous Man Story" with the group. She announced that all units were present. Madam President introduced Betty Weeks as the representative from Hill Country RSE, and Jesse Soto.

Loretta Carter, Secretary, explained that the minutes had been reviewed, edited and approved by committee. Minutes had been emailed to all executive board members and all local unit presidents. Hard copies were available on the tables. Loretta thanked Linda Retzloff for taking the minutes at the August meeting due to her absence.

Carolyn Pfeiffer, Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Hard copies were available on the tables. There were no questions concerning the report.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Soto stated that the focus for TRTA in the upcoming year would be about protecting our defined benefits. A Legislator from Houston is working on our behalf to make WEP fairer to those TRTA members who had also paid into social security. She also shared that 50% of TRTA members do not belong to a local unit. Membership needs to be encouraged. President Soto has visited almost all the units this year. She also stressed that local units should be certain to turn in all volunteer hours so that the legislators of Texas know that we are alive and active. She also added that all premium letters concerning TRS Care have been sent out. President Soto also prepared a packet of forms for each local unit president.

Dr. Charlotte Travis, Immediate Past President – No report.

Suann Agold, 1st V.P., thanked President Soto for including the membership of each local in her packet. She encouraged each local to be certain that the Bring One/Each One forms be turned in before the convention. The drawing will be held during the District 20 Caucus. She also reminded each local to check their delegate count and turn in the delegate names by the end of February. The membership drive for 2018-19 begins March 1 through June 30. Locals with the most increased membership during that time will receive a monetary prize from the state TRTA. Suann also shared her address with the group as: 37J Williams Rd. Boerne, Texas 78006.

Linda Retzloff, 2nd V.P., reminded all locals that book report forms are due to her now. She also encouraged each local to set up a website to share publicity for their local. Face book is a good way to share information about the local units but it must be separate from a personal account. That is the only way that TRTA will recognize it. Linda also shared that each volunteer hour is equivalent to \$24.14.

Carolyn Pfeiffer, Treasurer, gave each local unit \$200.00 for membership recruitment with another \$100.00 to be disbursed at the Spring Conference in Floresville in June. If your local is not present, they will not receive the additional \$100.00. Mileage is also available for anyone who drives over 70 miles one way to the meetings. Mileage is now calculated at \$0.545 per mile.

Gayle Gleeson, Parliamentarian – No report due to absence.

Frances Rodriguez, District 20 Historian, gave everyone her new email address: refrodriguez@gmail.com. She reminded all locals to turn in slides of activities for the convention to her. If you need help with this, contact Frances or Harold Black, District 20 Technology Chair. Also, memory books (scrapbooks) can be brought again to the convention.

DISTRICT 20 CHAIRS REPORTS:

Ken Hanson, Legislative Chair: Presented the locals with a handout of duties for the District Legislative Chairs for 2018 to be shared with the local legislative chairs. Ken shared that there is a new study concerning defined benefits vs. defined contribution benefits. The Empower Texans Group and others like it are pushing again for defined contributions. He also reminded everyone to check on your death benefit beneficiary through TRS. All TRS-Care alerts are through TRS not TRTA. Ken shared three questions to ask legislators when contacting them about healthcare and defined benefits. March 6 is the primary election. Chances are that the winners of the primaries will also be the elected officials in the general election. Read about the candidates to make an educated decision. Strauss who was a supporter of retirees and all active teachers is going out of office this term. New Speaker will be determined by the legislators who are elected. Ken was recognized by the group for all his endeavors to keep us informed about what is happening in Austin.

Jay Zapata, Informative and Protective Services Chair, stated that he will continue to forward the BLIPS to local I and P Services Chairs.

Alba Barrera, Community Volunteer Services Chair, thanked everyone who had already sent in volunteer hours. Local reports are due to her now. She also gave the group a new email address: alba.barrera@sbcglobal.net.

Sheerie Keese, Member Benefits Chair – No report due to absence.

Bill Gleeson, Health Care Chair, reminded all locals to send in health forms. He also stated that if you live in a small community to check with the health care providers in that area for information or presentations.

Kay Below, Retirement Education Chair, also reminded everyone to turn in events for education retirement now.

Harold Black, Technology Chair, asked that locals contact him if need help with web pages, etc. Roy Varney at TRTA is also a point of contact for technology assistance.

Robert Trampota, Foundation Liaison, stated that locals should consider donating to Helping Hands for those retirees that need special assistance and to the Retired Teacher Foundation. TRTA did collect for Hurricane Harvey assistance.

Dr. Amy Jo Baker, Local Unit Support Liaison, reminded every one that if electing a new president for 2018-20, that person needs to appoint local unit chairs by June for training in Floresville at the Spring Conference. She reminded all locals to complete the data collection form found in the packet the President Soto gave us by May 1.

LOCAL UNIT PRESIDENT REPORTS:

Highlights from each local unit were presented by unit Presidents or a representative from that local. All local units were present. A highlight from each local is listed as follows:

Atascosa-McMullen - 18,000 volunteer hours were turned in.

Wilson Co. – Have established positive relationship with the superintendents of districts in Wilson Co.

Huajilla – Held themed meetings such as the college/university that you attended.

Bandera Co. – Gift wrapped boxes for the Spirit of Christmas program.

Uvalde – Collected 700 books for 1st. graders.

Hill Country – Prepared a float for the Thanksgiving Day parade.

San Antonio Area – Conducted a silent auction with gift cards only as a fund raiser.

Kendall Co. – Hosted a retirement luncheon for the area.

Brush Co, - Membership is up and holding steady.

Randolph Area – 2 first year teacher grants will be presented this Spring.

Harlandale – Participated in the cultural festival at Harlandale ISD.

Del Rio – Filled Christmas baskets for area needy.

North San Antonio – Tim Lee was a guest at one of the monthly meetings.

Maverick Co, - A bowl-a-thon for educational scholarships was held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A revised copy of the District 20 bylaws was sent electronically to each local unit president and board member. A hard copy was available on the tables. New state wording was incorporated. Any suggestions for changes, contact Irene Dubberly by August 1. Carolyn Pfeiffer and Sheerie Keese can also be contacted.

NEW BUSINESS:

The State TRTA Convention is April 8-10 at La Cantera Resort. Each committee reported on progress. President Soto announced that money is available for any needed items such as centerpieces, favors, honorariums, etc. Fun sessions such as Tri-Centennial San Antonio and Master Gardeners have been obtained by District 20. A High School Mariachi Band will be playing at the President's Welcome event on Sunday evening.

Decorations – Atascosa and Randolph – No volunteers needed to take tickets at the doors for meals.

Gala dinner table favors are in progress of being finalized. Plants for stage area are being rented.

Greeters/volunteers – Wilson Co., Harlandale and Brush Country – Greeters are needed. Contact either local unit president.

Information - Bandera, Hill Country, Del Rio – Volunteers for the information booth will be scheduled. Information pamphlets from the San Antonio visitors Bureau will be donated. Coupons will be available for shuttling to the shops of La Cantera.

Publicity – Kendall Co and Huajilla – The golf tournament sponsored by TRF was discussed. Locals can purchase a hole or T-box for \$150.00. Waiting on more information from Cindy Sharp at TRTA.

Registration/Goodie bags - Northside and Uvalde - Bags will be filled on Saturday morning at La Cantera, 9-12 A.M. Any items for bags must be turned in to Paul Cwiklik by April. Volunteers are needed to fill bags.

Facilitatorss/Seminars - San Antonio and Maverick Co. – Need at least 2 facilitators per seminar.

Attire to distinguish volunteers was discussed. It was decided that red and blue handkerchiefs would be worn. Let Carolyn Pfeiffer know how many are needed from your unit.

Attire for the gala evening meal (Monday) is formal. Big band music will be available from 8 -10 P.M. that evening also.

Names of local unit delegates to the convention must be turned in to TRTA by March 1, 2018.

District delegates will be the President, 1st. V.P., 2nd. V p., Secretary and Treasurer. The 2 district alternates will be Dr. Amy Jo Baker and Dr. Charlotte Travis. The District 20 caucus meeting is April 8, 4:45 P.M.

All local unit reports are due to the District 20 Chair by February 15, 2018. The local unit Data Form is to be completed by incoming presidents by May 1, 2018, and returned to TRTA.

The Audit Committee chair will be Paul Cwiklik with Richard Herbst and Robert Trampota serving on the committee. This committee will meet in June.

Membership kick-off is March 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018.

The Spring Leadership Development Conference with be held at the Floresville Event Center, June 7, 2018 at 9:30 A.M. Nancy Bylar, TRTA President, will be the guest speaker. Registration will be manned by Northside. Huajilla members will serve as greeters. Hospitality treats will be furnished by Hill Country. Atascosa-McMullen volunteered to decorate the tables.

Carolyn Pfeiffer read two thank-you cards. One was from Wilson Co. for the Sutherland Springs donation and one from TRTF to confirm the donation made in memory of Margaret Winn. President Soto reminded those units that had not signed up for a visit from her to do so before they left for the day.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Loretta Carter, Secretary District 20, _____

Approved by:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

