



PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Judy Lynn

Jingle Bells and sleigh bells are silent, Valentine Candy has replaced Candy Canes, and houses are no longer displaying beautifully decorated Christmas trees in their front windows. Martin Luther King, Jr. is being remembered with parades and marches--it must be January.

Kudos to the NSARTA Hospitality Group, for the fantastic Christmas Luncheon on December 16, 2015. It was well attended and very much enjoyed by all those who were able to be there. The decorations were outstanding, the menu very delectable, the entertainment "over-the top", and the Fellowship very appreciated by those in attendance. Ladies, you are truly AWESOME. Thanks again.

At our January 6, 2016 Board Meeting, recommendations for Delegates to the State Convention in April, 2016 and a full slate of Officers for 2016-2018 were made. These will be brought forward to the membership at the January meeting. Our membership is still at 253 and we can always use new members. Bring them along to be a guest at our meeting so they can learn what we are about.

Thank you for the wonderful gift card to James Avery which I received at the Christmas Luncheon. It was quite a surprise and very much appreciated. I will let you know how I use it as soon as I decide what I want from there. You guys are so good to me. I am so fortunate to be President of such a fine organization. I couldn't be more proud.

Please keep Margaret Winn and her family in your prayers. Margaret is Treasurer for District 20. Her husband, Ray, passed away on December 28th and Margaret had a massive heart attack the next day. She has a long road ahead for recovery and needs lots of prayers. I will give you an update on her condition at our January 20th meeting. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy New Year to each of you, and to your loved ones. Kenneth and I pray for a healthy year for each and every one of you. May God Bless You and Yours.





In the last 2 months, our Texas Governor has made two appointments which are important to all of us. First, the Governor appointed Josh McGee as Chairman of the Texas Pension Review Board. Mr. McGee works for the Jon & Laura Foundation, and Jon, Laura, and Josh were on TRTA’s Ten Most Wanted List. Josh, as well as the Arnolds were opposed to the Defined Benefit and also wanted to eliminate the Texas Teacher Retirement system. The Pension Review Board oversees Texas public pension systems, both state and local, for actuarial soundness and compliance with state law. This Board may have influence with our Texas Legislators. Let’s hope that the other six Board members keep Mr. McGee in line.

Secondly, the Governor appointed Mike Morath, a Dallas ISD Board Member, as Commissioner of Education replacing Michael Williams. Mr. Morath, a school choice proponent, pushed for a controversial, and for now scrapped “home-rule” policy that would have allowed Dallas ISD to escape state control. Mr. Morath, an investor and change agent, has some strange ideas for the 1200 school districts in Texas. Let’s keep our Region 20 State Board Members—Ken Mercer (Dist 5), Marisa Perez (Dist 3), and Martha Dominguez (Dist 1)—informed about our wishes for the Texas Education Agency. (These 3 SBOE Members represent the counties in Region20.)

As many of you all know, SB 1940 established a Study Group to find solutions to the TRS-Care. Health-Care will be our next big hurdle in the upcoming Legislative Session. The Health Care Committee is composed of: Senators Joan Huffman (R-Houston), Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), and Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls); Representatives Dan Flynn (R-Canton), Trent Asby (R-Lufkin), and Justin Rodriguez (D-San Antonio). The Health Care Committee will hold several study sessions between now the next Legislative Session. **PLEASE READ TIM LEE’S INSIDE LINE AND STAY TUNED.**

TREASURER’S REPORT

Carolyn Pfeiffer 210-372-0434, carolynpfeiffer48@gmail.com

As of today (1-15-16) we have \$1875.12 in our checking account. More details at our regular meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

MEMBERSHIP

Harold Black



We begin our membership drive for 2016-2017 next month. Please renew and recruit friends.

TRTA is still encouraging members to use the Monthly Payroll Deduction. This is a continuing deduction and TRTA will issue these members permanent ID cards. THE TRTA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM and the TRS form 593 only need to be filled out if you want Monthly Payroll Deduction or to use a Monthly Bank draft. Local membership forms will be available at the January meeting and in the February Newsletter.

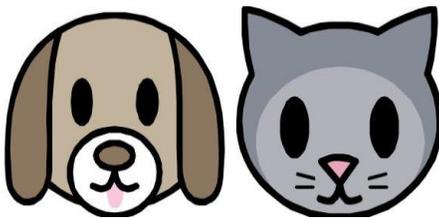
NEWSLETTER

Betty Moseley

Deadline for articles for the FEBRUARY Newsletter will be FEBRUARY 5, 2016. This Newsletter is mailed so I have to have it to the printer in time to mail it out before the meeting.

PROGRAM

Michele Bibb



WELCOME BACK NSARTA MEMBERS. Our guest speakers this month are from the San Antonio Humane Society. The humane society is a nonprofit, no-kill organization that has served Bexar County and its surrounding areas since 1952. Its mission is to protect and improve the lives of dogs and cats by providing shelter, care, adoption, rescue, spay and neuter programs, and to educate the public about the responsibility of animal ownership. Many people believe the SAHS is affiliated with and receives funds from the Humane Society of the United States. That is NOT the case. The local humane society accepts donations of food or money to help solve our local problem. Every year, the SAHS shelters medically treat and rehabilitate more than 4,000 animals. If you are considering adding a new pet to your family, check out the Humane Society and see all the wonderful animals that are awaiting a new “forever” home. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if in the future, San Antonio did not have a need for this type of organization?



Shirley Rice, a long time NSARTA member and now a sponsor of our directory, will also be speaking with us at our January meeting. Have you been thinking of downsizing, renting, or even moving up to a larger home? Ask Shirley for her advice, she’s here to answer our questions about our local real estate concerns.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Janet James, Past President

Members of the nominating committee met Monday, December 13, 2015, at 9:30 a. m. The meeting was held in the conference room at First Mark Credit Union on Gold Canyon. The suggested slate of officers for 2016-17 will be shared at the February meeting and nominations from the floor will be available.



[MEMBER'S PASSING](#) I am so sorry I did not have this information in time to alert everyone for the funeral.

Life Tributes

Tuesday, December 29, 2015 | PAGE B4 | SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

Thaxton volunteered during retirement

By Priscilla Aguirre
STAFF WRITER

While most people would rest and relax upon retiring, Rebecca "Becky" Peterson Thaxton spent most of her time volunteering at different organizations.

"Becky was such a generous person," her husband, Dean Thaxton, said. "She would always say, 'When my knees give out that's when I'll officially retire, but if my knees are still good then I can work.'"

Thaxton, a long time educator, died Dec. 21 from a sudden stroke. Just a week later, she would have turned 60.

She was also a breast cancer survivor, diagnosed in 1999. She went through treatment and surgery for half a year. The cancer did not come back and she remained cancer-free for 16 years.

"She had to take time off of work so that was a tough time," her husband said. "But every year she attended the Susan G. Komen Race For A Cure and loved to be a part of that."



Rebecca "Becky" Peterson Thaxton was a teacher for 30 years.

Thaxton graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1974. She received her bachelor's degree in education, with a concentration in grades four and under, from Texas State University and her master's degree in special education from Our Lady of the Lake University.

Right out of college, Thaxton scored her first teaching job at Judson Middle School and was there for eight years. For 22 years, she taught at J.B. Passmore Elementary School. She also taught English as a Second Language classes. Thaxton retired in 2010.

That year was also special because that's when she married her husband. They met on an online dating service and were engaged for a year.

Rebecca Peterson Thaxton

Born: Dec. 28, 1955, San Antonio

Died: Dec. 21, 2015, San Antonio

Preceded by: Parents Marjorie Jackson Peterson and James Lawrence Peterson.

Survived by: Husband, Dean Thaxton; brother, Paul (Dawn) Peterson; niece Tiffani (Andrew) Sanford; nephew, James Pe-

tersen; stepsons, Ron Thaxton and Worth Feuerbacher; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services: Funeral at 10 a.m. on Tuesday at Oxford United Methodist Church, 9739 Huebner Road, interment to follow at Mission Burial Park South, 1700 South East Military Drive.

"My first impression of her was that she was such a happy person and I also loved her eyes," her husband said.

In retirement, Thaxton stayed true to her word by always keeping busy as long as her knees were in good health.

She was a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, an organization for educators. And she volunteered to answer phones for the San Antonio Police Department twice a month, talked to battered women at a local organization and worked with Trinity and Oxford United Methodist

Churches often.

"She took care of a lot of homeless people and would go buy them food," Thaxton said. "She was always giving away stuff and was just real generous."

Thaxton loved to play with her pets, be with her family, watch the San Antonio Spurs games and attend San Antonio events, such as NIOSA, he said.

"She was ... a real kind person," Thaxton said. "It's tough losing her because she had such a big heart."

paguirre@express-news.net

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Sue Sim

New benefit=VETERINARY PET INSURANCE. Go on line to TRTA.org and click on MEMBER BENEFITS to find out more info about this benefit.

HOSPITALITY

Michele Bibb

A BIG thank you to the Hospitality Committee for all the planning, tasting, and decorating they did to make our Christmas Luncheon a HUGE success. AND another big thank you to our treasurer, Carolyn Pfeiffer, who is so organized and does a wonderful job of collecting money and paying the bills for all events. Finally, a big thank you to Leigh Ann Roeber and the Las Lomas Choir, for performing at our luncheon. If you missed the luncheon, you missed a fantastic performance by 97 elementary students, a DELICIOUS meal, and just a fun time! It was a great way to usher-in the holiday spirit.



VOLUNTEERING

Sue Winebrenner, suehwine@sbcglobal.net 695-2629



The January meeting will be the last time to record your volunteer hours so that the legislature will know how much retired teachers are still giving back to the community. Thanks !

NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE



Our Notification Committee calls members each month who do NOT have an email address to keep them informed of meetings and NSARTA information. Are you a member without an email address, and want to receive monthly NSARTA reminder calls; or do you know of a member that would like a monthly reminder? If so, please call Michele Bibb, 494-8197, and we will be happy to include you on our caller list. Michele Bibb 494-8197



ENJOY WINTER!

(Committees continued)

STITCHERY

Ledru Barker & Josie Broekhove

The stitchery group is always looking for new members to complete the wonderful items that are given to Veterans, children's shelter and hospitals. If you would like to join this group, they meet on the **first Thursday of the month, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 210 Roletto Dr. at Loop 410, 78213.** This is right behind Castle Hills Elementary School. If you find that you have a Thursday morning free, they welcome "drop-ins" so feel free to drop by and help.

CHILDRENS' BOOK DRIVE

Nancy Dooley, Pat Loewe, Carolyn Varian



A very special thank you to everyone who donated books, and/or money to NSARTA's 2015 Children's Book Project. It is your generosity that makes this project so successful. 525 books were donated to children who otherwise might not have a book to call their own. This number will be reported to TRTA so NSARTA will be recognized for our participation in this statewide project. Harold Black took pictures

during our distribution at Wilshire Elementary School and put them on our web page; books were also donated to The Children's Shelter.

Please take the opportunity to participate in this project and bring your book (new or very gently used) or cash donations to the meeting on Wednesday, January 20th. Baskets for donations will be at each table and at the Registrar's table. Each donated book will have a bookplate identifying it as a gift from TRTA and NSARTA. If you would like to participate in this project but cannot attend the meetings and/or would like more information, please contact us. Thank you in advance.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Health

Betty Moseley

JANUARY

National Glaucoma Awareness Month

Prevent Blindness

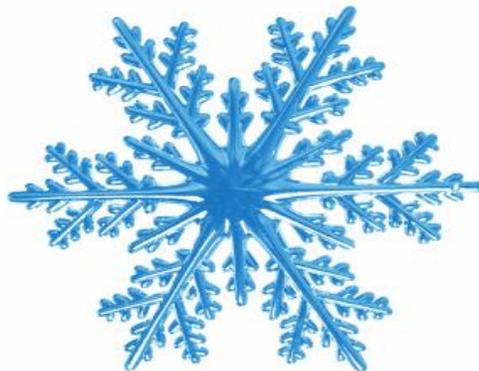
(800) 331-2020 www.preventblindness.org

ABOUT GLAUCOMA, THE GLAUCOMA FOUNDATION

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases which in most cases produce increased pressure within the eye. This elevated pressure is caused by a backup of fluid in the eye. Over time, it causes damage to the optic nerve. Through early detection, diagnosis and treatment, you and your doctor can help to preserve your vision. Everyone should be concerned about glaucoma and its effects. It is important for each of us, from infants to senior citizens, to have our eyes checked regularly, because early detection and treatment of glaucoma are the only way to prevent vision impairment and blindness. Your eye doctor has a variety of diagnostic tools which aid in determining whether or not you have glaucoma -- even before you have any symptoms. Everyone 40 years or older should have a comprehensive eye examination **every one and a half to two years**.

Glaucoma can be treated with eye drops, pills, laser surgery, traditional surgery or a combination of these methods. The goal of any treatment is to prevent loss of vision, as vision loss from glaucoma is irreversible. The good news is that glaucoma can be managed if detected early, and that with medical and/or surgical treatment, most people with glaucoma will not lose their sight.

Taking medications regularly, as prescribed, is crucial to preventing vision-threatening damage. That is why it is important for you to discuss side effects with your doctor. While every drug has some potential side effects, it is important to note that many patients experience no side effects at all. You and your doctor need to work as a team in the battle against glaucoma.



JANUARY 2016