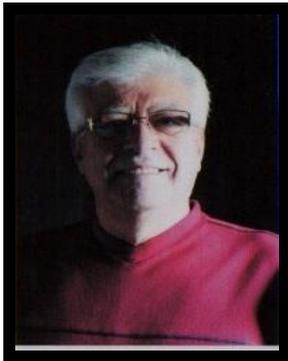




The Hearts of NSARTA

NSARTA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2017



Frank Gonzales, Ph.D.



Paul Cwiklik



Deanna Van Pelt

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



My desk calendar has flipped to its final page of the year, reminding me to buy a new one for 2018.

As the remaining days of 2017 count their way toward the holidays of December and the coming of the new year, I believe it appropriate to look back in true thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received, both individually and jointly, as members of the Texas Retired Teachers Association, and NSARTA particularly.

NSARTA began a strong year in the enduring challenge to safeguard the integrity of our defined benefit pension and TRS-Care. With reassuring confidence in September, Tim Lee validated our efforts to continue our pursuit of due diligence for these two critical cornerstones of our retirement.

We reinforced that forward movement in October and November by actively entering into a productive dialogue with some of our state legislators. We will continue to keep that dialogue open in the hope that both our pension program and health benefits will gain the positive attention they deserve.

This month NSARTA members will take time to gather in joyful preparation for the coming holidays. As individual families, we may observe those blessed days in many different ways, but collectively we will come together as NSARTA's own special family to enjoy good fellowship, good food, and heart-lifting music all intermingled with a host of surprising door prizes. I hope to see many of you at our annual Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 13.

(President continued)

As I did last year, let me once again share with you a Hallmark greeting.

*“Let **Christmas** come into our world
and bring us warmth and cheer,
Bring us **Faith** in place of doubt
and strength in place of fear,
Bring us **Hope** and bring us **Love**
to guide our hearts forever...
Let **Christmas** come
into our world
and bring us all together.”*

More than ever, in today’s fractured world, we have a desperate need for that Faith, Hope, and Love that is the embodiment of the true meaning of Christmas.

“God bless us one and all!”

NSARTA HEARTS FOR DECEMBER

Michelle Bibb



Our December “Hearts of NSARTA” are Deanna Van Pelt and her husband, Dr. Frank Gonzales. These “newlyweds” lived 30 miles from each other while growing up but never met until 1996. And when they finally found each other, it was almost love at first sight.

Frank Gonzales was born in Amhurst, Texas located in the panhandle. His father was a farmer and owner of a slaughter house while his mom was a housewife who also worked in a dry goods store. After graduating from Amhurst High School, he attended Texas Tech and left after one semester. Frank said that at 19 years old, he really wasn’t thinking about school and learning. He married in 1957 and enrolled at Wayland Baptist College receiving a BA in Education. They moved to Lockney, Texas where he was the first Hispanic teacher hired in that district. The couple heard that Morenci, Arizona was hiring teachers at double the salary they were making in Texas. They moved to Arizona where Frank taught Spanish in this small mining community. He began taking summer classes through Appalachian State College and earned his master’s degree in Spanish Literature. In 1967 they moved back to Texas and Frank began teaching Spanish at South Plains College in Levelland. He began writing grants for high school Hispanic students, recruiting them for college. He would speak at high schools trying to convince these students they could and should be going to college. In 1975 they moved to Austin where he was awarded a Title 7 Educational Language Grant Scholarship to encourage Hispanic students to go into higher education. He was awarded his PhD from UT Austin in Curriculum/Instruction. Frank has trained many teachers in Texas, on how to set up an ESL program in their districts. He also trained teachers at Texas Tech, UT, and SWT on how to set up ESL programs and strategies of writing effective grants for additional funding. He later worked for Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA), a non-profit organization that strives to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child. He retired in 1999 with a total of 38 years in education.

(NSARTA Hearts -continued)

Deanna Van Pelt was born in Gorman, Texas, also known as “The Peanut Capital of the World”. Her parents met while attending Baylor University. Her dad was a born salesman, selling “real silk hosiery” while a student and was named outstanding hosiery salesman of the year, selling to area residents. After graduating from Baylor, her mom started teaching and in those days you couldn’t be married and teach. Her parents secretly eloped and were married for a year before telling anyone. In 1938 they married in a church and several years later moved to Morton, Texas in the Panhandle where Deanna’s dad bought a Western Auto Store and her mother continued teaching. Her mother later became the first woman superintendent of Morton ISD. Deanna’s first job was working side by side with her dad when she was 11 years old. On Saturdays after work, she and her boyfriend would go to the movies.

She graduated from Morton High School and attended Texas Tech for a year, later transferring to North Texas State. She said she and a friend moved all their belongings in a T Bird car and added when her daughter went to college, she moved her things using a U Haul to accommodate all her “stuff”. Deanna graduated with a BS in Elementary Ed and a minor in Music. In March before graduation, she attended a fraternity party with a blind date who became very drunk. She gave him another chance and on their second date they went to church. She knew after this date, this would be the man she would marry. Five months later, Deanna married Don Van Pelt.

They lived in Denton as Don completed his Masters degree in English and Deanna commuted to Dallas to teach 3rd grade. They moved to Wellington, Texas where Don owned several farms. He worked the farms, taught English in high school and became the County Counselor of Collingsworth County. Deanna continued teaching and began raising their children. In 1983, Don was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. As the disease progressed, he was unable to work and Deanna became the sole provider for the family. Doctors told her that Don needed to be moved to the VA Big Springs Hospital where he lived for several years. Sadly, Don passed away in 1996. In 1975, Deanna received her Masters of Curriculum and Administration from West Texas State University. Realizing she couldn’t support her family on a teachers’ salary, she was offered a job in administration in Staton, Texas, as K-12 Curriculum Director. Later she moved to Madisonville as Special Education Director and finally to NISD as Elementary Social Studies/Language Arts Supervisor. She said she has worked with kids from 3 months to 21 years of age. She retired in 1999 with 30 years in the educational field.

Deanna and Frank met in 1996 at a grief support group. Both Frank and Deanna had lost their spouses and neither wanted to get into another relationship at this time. Deanna said she saw this “good looking man” who was new to the group sitting across from her. She invited him for coffee after the meeting and found him to be very easy to talk to. They went to the movies on their second date and realized they had a lot in common. Frank had met Deanna’s mom years earlier when her mother was Superintendent of Morton ISD. Deanna knew after this second date she was going to marry Frank. She later took him home to become reacquainted with her mom. They married on March 15, 1997 and have been married for 20 years. They have a combined total of 6 children, 17 grandkids and 3 great grandkids ranging in age from 24 to 2 years. Deanna started the Girl Scout and Cub Scout programs while living in Wellington. She was a scout leader and a den mother while working full time. Her oldest son was an Eagle Scout. Her daughter, who taught in NISD, was named Texas Home Economics Teacher of the Year. Frank is equally proud of his children and also has a daughter in the education

(NSARTA Hearts -continued)

field who is Principal of Briscoe Elementary in SAISD. He proudly added, one granddaughter is a Veterinarian in Pflugerville, Texas.

Deanna and Frank love to travel and have been to every continent except Antarctica. They are working on Frank's bucket list checking off as many places to travel as they possibility can. He is an accomplished artist in his "spare" time becoming interested in painting after taking an undergraduate art class. Each student was asked to sell the work they produced that semester and he asked \$50 for his piece thinking no one would spend that large an amount of money for his work. A lady purchased his work and wanted more of his art. He says Deanna will check out his finished pieces and might comment "That's really pretty" which translates into..."Can I have it." He is part of the Little Studio Gallery Coop at La Villita and shows his work there. Frank enjoys working with watercolor, oil, pastel, and mixed media. His son-in-law owns Benjis Munch Truck and now has opened a restaurant, Benjis Munch, located at 1218 Bitters where he proudly displays many of Frank's pieces. Deanna says his son takes ordinary food and makes it extraordinary.

Both of our "hearts" say life has been extremely good to them. They hope they have made a difference in their students' lives. Deanna stated this so beautifully, "Take each opportunity offered to you because God has a plan for you." Thank you to Deanna and Frank for sharing your lives with us. You are both inspirations to all whose lives you have touched. We wish you many more years of travelling and painting and loving everyone.

LEGISLATIVE/FOUNDATION Carlos Ortiz



Merry Christmas/Hanukkah and a Happy New Year!

Thanks to everyone who made a donation to the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. So far the Foundation has awarded about \$130,000 to hurricane Harvey victims who are associated with the Texas Teacher Retirement System.

News From Peggy Peggy Peterson rpete4321@satx.rr.com 210.373.3961

NSARTA HOLIDAY MEET-UP HAPPY HOUR! All NSARTA members and friends are invited to meet-up for a bit of holiday fellowship on **Wednesday, Dec. 6th from 3:30 to 5:30 at Tribeca Restaurant (4331 McCullough Ave. in Olmos Park)**. Tribeca offers a variety of happy hour specials as well as a lovely setting and I hear that our NSARTA President has a generous surprise for all who arrive before 3:45! Don't miss the fun!

HELPING ELF LOUISE...Elf Louise reached out to NSARTA for help organizing family gift packets. Special thanks to Betty Moseley and her daughter Melissa, Barb Rothe, Carolyn Pfeiffer, Kay Kelley, Eddy English, Janet Pennock, Glennie Lecoche, Dolores Ramon, Michele Bibb, Karin Stanley, Dixie Gholson, Lynn East, Sue Sim and Harold Black for answering the call for volunteers. NSARTA is clearly making our presence known in the community for positive, efficient, and jolly helping hands!

ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY.... NSARTA elves will select, wrap and organize gifts on Thursday, Dec. 7th from Noon - 2:00. Thanks to Sherilyn Valentin, Carolyn Pfeiffer, Lynn East, Pat Lowe, Eddy English, Lorey Meredith, Cindy Nobles, Micki Ussery, Betty Moseley, Phyllis McMillan and Georgia Couch, who have already volunteered. We have room for about **10 more elves** so call or text me to join the fun! I can provide simple directions to facility at Port San Antonio (former Kelly AFB).

PROGRAM

Peggy Peterson NSARTA 2nd VP/Program Chair



Happy Holidays to All! Tis the season for giving thanks and sharing good cheer with friends and family! Our Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 13th, will again be catered by Heavenly Gourmet and looks to be another yummy event! I look forward to sharing the time with all, as we ring in the holidays with the beautiful voices of the Vineyard Ranch Elementary School Choir! Thanks to all that reserved their seat early as reservations closed on Nov. 27th.

Looking ahead...Our January meeting will focus on wellness.....financial, physical and emotional wellness. Don't miss our yearbook sponsor, Jake Yetterberg as he kicks off 2018 with advice on staying fiscally fit! We will also tap into new ways to engage our minds and bodies in the new year!

Best Wishes to All for a joyful holiday season!

TREASURER'S REPORT Carolyn Pfeiffer 210-372-434 carolynpfeiffer48@gmail.com



As of: 11-28-2017, In our checking account, we have: \$3,313.13

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!!!

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Barbara Yates 494-6444

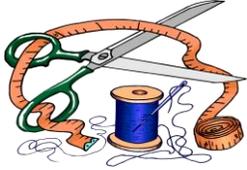


Notes were sent to state representatives Diego Bernal and Ina Minjarez, thanking them for coming to speak with us, and for their support. A get-well card was sent to Wanda Keller, who is battling cancer.

Merry Christmas



STITCHERY *Ledru Barker*



So far this year we have delivered 240 pillows and 8 knitted afghans to the VA hospital. Please join us to stuff pillows.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOSPITALITY *Barbara Rothe 380-8150, Linda Nolder 490-1035*



Many thanks to **Cindy Nobles, Pat Unruh, Barb Rothe, Karin Stanley, Mary Jane Bellos, and Linda Nolder** for providing refreshments at our November meeting. No refreshments will be needed for our December meeting because it's our Christmas Luncheon. If you have not brought refreshments yet, PLEASE volunteer to bring them one month in the new year. We will still need refreshment volunteers for January-April. Our last meeting in May will be our "pot-luck" lunch where everyone will bring something delicious to share. **Michele Bibb 494-8197**

CHILDRENS' BOOK DRIVE

Sherlyn Valentin, Nancy Dooley, Pat Loewe



Due to the Christmas luncheon, The Children's Book Project donation basket will only be on the sign-in table in the foyer. So far this year, the members of NSARTA have donated \$107.07 to the book project. Thank you again for your book and cash donations. Happy Holidays!

VOLUNTEERING *Janet Pennock japennock57@yahoo.com., 979-417-3876*

Please remember to record your volunteer hours. You can also email your hours to me and I will record them for you. Many things that you do could count as volunteer hours such as; attending NSRТА meetings, visiting or calling a sick or disabled friend, teaching (Bible, Sunday School, special interest or educational courses), being a docent, grandchildren (babysitting, shopping for, taking care of them when they are sick), assisting neighbors, church family, and friends, jury duty, anything related to schools, education, learning and caring. Don't forget to include your travel time to and from!



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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Judy Lynn, Immediate Past President

The Nominating Committee was elected at the November 15, 2017, NSARTA meeting. The members of the committee are: Judy Lynn, Chairman, Kay Kelley, Diana Sarfin, Pat Unruh, and Eddy English. They will meet before the January meeting and select a slate of officers for 2018-2020. The slate will be presented to the membership at the January meeting. Elections will be at the February meeting at which time nominations will be accepted from the floor. If a nomination is made from the floor, prior consent from the nominee must have been received. If nominations are made from the floor, a written ballot is required..

REGISTRATION *Pat Loewe & Eddy English*



The registration desk keeps a record of each person who attends. They also distribute name tags and furnish every attendee with a raffle ticket for a drawing at the end of meetings. Be sure to stop by the registration desk and sign in, as you enter each meeting.

INFORMATIVE/PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Elise Townsend

submitted by John Oehler



Protect Yourself from Google Wallet Scams:

- **Understand how Google Wallet works.** A legitimate Google Payments transaction requires that you sign in to your Google Account and complete the payment using the Google Payments interface. Google Payments never accepts wire transfers or bank transfers.
- **Don't send money using Google Wallet to someone you don't know.** If you don't know the seller and are asked to pay outside of a reputable purchasing platform, it's best to pay in person and only after you've received the product or service.
- **Review BBB online shopping tips.** The type of payment requested may vary, but most online purchase scammers use similar tactics. See BBB.org/shoppingonline/ for more advice.

MEMBERSHIP *Harold Black*



Everyone who had renewed or become new members by September 13th, should have received your copy of the NSARTA directory for 2017-2018.

We will be printing an update page on new members we have gotten since the yearbook went out. Please add this to your book.



HEALTH Eddy English

Consumer Reports: Looking into long-term care insurance for you and your loved ones.

Hygiene SAN FRANCISCO (KGO) -- Some people are turning to long-term care insurance to cover bills for older people. In a partnership with Consumer Reports, Seven on Your Side's Michael Finney checks to see if the insurance is worth it.



Here's something to think about: the median cost for a year in a nursing home is about \$82,000, according to an industry survey.

By [Michael Finney](#)

Tuesday, November 07, 2017 07:18PM

SAN FRANCISCO (KGO) --

Some people are turning to long-term care insurance to cover bills for older people. In a partnership with Consumer Reports, Seven on Your Side's Michael Finney checks to see if the insurance is worth it.

Here's something to think about: the median cost for a year in a nursing home is about \$82,000, according to an industry survey. Most Americans over 65 will need some type of long-term care. Long-term care insurance can pay for the help you may need, whether in a facility or from a home attendant. But it's getting more expensive. Consumer Reports has some creative solutions to paying for such care.

Micki Fernandez takes care of her mother in her home but wonders what would happen if she were not able to. She says there's no way she or her mom could pay for long-term care. "I'm very concerned about that, and the more I think about it, the more it scares me. It's a scary feeling," said Fernandez. She has no children, so she also worries about her own care down the road. She is considering buying a long-term care insurance policy. Penny Wang, a Consumer Reports money editor, says, long-term care insurance can help cover a wide variety of things you may need help with. "Things like bathing or preparing meals in nursing and assisted living facilities and even in your home," she notes.

The average cost of such policies is about \$2,700 a year. However, the older you are, the more you'll pay. You'll also pay more depending on your health. With some serious conditions like Alzheimer's or Metastatic cancer, an insurer might refuse to offer a policy at all. "An alternative is a short-term care policy, which is generally about a third the cost of long-term insurance," says Wang. "It can be less than \$1,000 a year, but it covers a lot less." You'll only get about a year in a nursing home, she explains, and it may not cover an assisted living facility or home health aides.

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**NSARTA
14219 Turtle Rock St.
San Antonio, Texas 78232**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2017

