



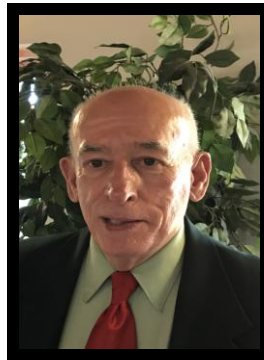
THE HEARTS of NSARTA

NSARTA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2018



Patti Evans



Paul Cwiklik



Kaye Kelley



PRESIDENT'S CORNER, As I struggled with the thought of getting out of my comfortable bed, secure from the raging thunder, lightning, and torrential rains of last Monday morning, I suddenly realized that September was finally here. After all, the neighborhood kids were back in school, our three oldest of six grandchildren had already left for college in three different states, and the newspaper was replete with taxing entities divulging their tax rates for the coming year! "*Sic transit Gloria mundi.*"

My only alternative was to get up and get going – quit staring at the calendar on my desk, turn on the computer, and get to work!

September is an important month for NSARTA. It's the start of our new year of serving the needs of more than 250 of our own local TRTA/NSARTA members. That said – please understand that your local Executive Committee and Board of Governors were busy during the summer months as well.

We are both honored and pleased to start off our first monthly program with an always welcome return visit by **TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee** as our top-notch and highly energetic guest speaker on **the third Wednesday of the month, September 19**. My best advice to all who are planning not to miss this event is to **arrive not later than 9:30-9:45 AM to secure a seat and enjoy some morning refreshments**.

Our opening ceremonies will include the posting of the colors by the Junior ROTC unit from Madison High School (NEISD) with a reprise of their appearance at TRTA's 65th Annual Convention at the La Cantera Resort and Spa, last April.

When Tim arrives in the hall, we will hand over the reins to him to talk about the current status of the TRS pension fund, TRS -Care, and what his expectations are for support and action by the legislature when it convenes in 2019. Please come prepared with your questions, to which he will respond with forthright candor.

As I finalize this message for you, the following from TRTA "The Inside Line" has just flashed across my screen:

(President's message continued)

The Texas House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Article III met today to discuss funding for TRS-Care and the implementation of last session's changes to the retiree health care program. The committee invited testimony from both the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS), as well as stakeholder groups, including the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA)

To learn more, join us on Wednesday, September 19 at 9:45 AM.

HEARTS OF NSARTA



*"We are continuing our monthly **Hearts of NSARTA**, a tradition that assists our large organization in becoming better acquainted. We are making an effort this year to spotlight a new member, along with a long time member. It was decided last year that each person would write their own biography this year, with a closing paragraph by one of the Newsletter Editors, Betty Moseley and Michelle Bibb.*

*To begin our 2018-2019 year, we are recognizing **Patti Evans and Kay Kelley**. Patti joined NSARTA in 2017-18 and became an active, participating member immediately. Kaye Kelley was a Past President of NSARTA, (2006-2008), and has continued to work tirelessly for the goals of NSARTA.*

Kay entitled her bio, "A Life of Interruptions".

Patti Evans *was born and grew up in Huntington, West Virginia. In her own words, "I received my undergraduate elementary education degree and graduate degree in Reading Education at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Yes, that is the **We are Marshall** school that the movie was based on. I was a freshman the year of the plane crash and my husband played on the freshman football squad that year. Fortunately, the freshman team did not travel with the varsity back in those days. At Marshall, I was a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority.*

I met my husband, Mark, at Marshall and we were married in 1977 in WV. We lived there for a few years before moving to Bartlesville, OK where my husband was working in the oil and gas business with Phillips Petroleum. After living there for 11 years we moved to Clear Lake, TX with my husband's company. Then we were moved back to Oklahoma after a few years and remained there another 7 years. In January 2001 we moved to San Antonio with my husband's job.

Mark and I were blessed to have one daughter, Kathleen, but sadly we lost her in 2009 at the age of 22 in a car accident in Colorado, where she was going to college. We have many great memories that we cherish of her and our house is filled with her art work which was her passion and what she was studying in college.

Our extended family lives back east. I have one sister that lives in Raleigh, NC and Mark has 2 brothers, one that lives in Ohio and the other lives in Georgia right outside Atlanta.

I am still adjusting to retirement and getting involved in other activities. I volunteer one day a week at the Canyon Ridge Library and last school year, I tutored a couple of hours a week working with some Kindergarteners and First Graders at the same school. I am also starting to do some scrapbooking with all my pictures. I am enjoying taking part in the NSARTA Book Club. This fall, I am joining a Bible Study at our church. Mark and I are members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

I joined NSARTA last fall after retiring, having taught for 43 years. The last 15 years I taught in NEISD at Roan Forest and Canyon Ridge Elementarys. Prior to moving to San Antonio, I taught in Huntington West Virginia, Bartlesville Oklahoma and in Clear Lake, Texas. I have enjoyed becoming a part of the NSARTA group and meeting many new people this past year."

Hearts OF NSARTA (continued)

Patti, it is our good fortune to have you as one of our new members. We need more members like you who get involved right away. Thank you so much for sharing a piece of your life with us. The more we know about one another, the closer we become as a unit. Our hearts definitely go out to you at the loss of your precious daughter.

Klarita Kay Kelley was born in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma on May 22, 1937. In her own words, “ My mother, Bertha Forehand Keltner, taught school in a one room school building (grades 1-12) in the small community of Lone Hill. The family moved to the small town of Lexington, Oklahoma but when I was 10, my mother decided to move to Texas. In those days teachers in Oklahoma only were paid 9 months of the year and students were required to buy their textbooks. What a great move it was. Today teachers in Oklahoma are the second lowest paid in the U.S. Of course, by age 10 I had already decided I would never be a teacher. We moved to Flour Bluff just outside of Corpus Christi where we lived in a teacheridge on the school campus so I was surrounded by educators and educator’s children. My resolve: NEVER become a teacher.

After graduating from High School, I attended East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, Texas. My best memory of that year is the when we girls went to Shreveport to the Louisiana Hay Ride. There we heard a young man just starting out in country music. We agreed he was a good singer but he was going to have to change that weird name. He did not change his name and girls everywhere went crazy over him. Elvis Presley!

INTERRUPTION: At the end of year my brother graduated from High School. I returned home to work and go to night school. In those days if a family did not have the money to support two college tuitions, the money for full time needed to go to the son so he could support a family. I then met a University of Corpus Christi football player. Within a couple of months we devised our own plan. I would work until he graduated and then I would get my degree. This three year plan turned into a 6 year plan. Since it was before the PILL, he received his degree witnessed by his wife and two children with another on the way. His first job, teaching History and coaching, took us to Sinton, Texas. Here we stayed for 22 years. We lived in the country, raised chickens, hogs, and sheep for the county show. Had horses and belonged to the Texas Youth Rodeo Association, participating in youth rodeo across the state. I had returned to school and gotten my degree in the early years, graduating from A&I Kingsville. I taught American History, Speech and Drama. I substituted for 6 years before getting my degree and during that time I learned to love teaching, especially at the Junior High level.

INTERRUPTION: I am now 53. Children are all married and I have 4 grandchildren. I became a grandmother at age 40. I was 20 when I had my first child and my first child (Cindy) had her first at 20. I had a bumper sticker that said “If I knew Grandchildren were this much fun, I would have had them first”. After 33 years of marriage my husband and I parted ways. I found myself on 150 acres in a small town. I don’t like to play bridge, go to showers, or local athletic events. For the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to chart my own course. I decided to trade rodeos, country music, and country dances for cities with classical music, ballroom dancing, art exhibits, and shopping 15 minutes away. I just had to become more marketable in my career. I enrolled at Southwest Texas University full time and got my Masters as a Special Education Diagnostician. College was so much more fun at 53 then it was at 18. I began working at Edgewood ISD. Another unique experience to learn about different cultural norms in yet another environment.

*INTERRUPTION: Retirement. Yes retirement. Since I started my education career later in life, I needed to finish my 40 quarters of Social Security. I could do this by contracting back to a school in need of Diagnostician services. This took me to Del Rio, Uvalde, Cuero, and the Coastal Bend. Another awakening experience to see the vast differences in ISD services delivered. When I stop to muse over my INTERRUPTIONS large and small I would not change a thing. Every unique interruption opened the door to a new experience. God must have had a plan. He just did not follow the timeline I originally planned. **Thank you God. I love my life!**”*

Hearts of NSARTA (continued)

Kay, What an inspirational autobiography! NSARTA is so honored to have such a dedicated educator, who remains active and influential. We count it a blessing to know you and serve alongside you.

LEGISLATIVE/FOUNDATION *Carlos Ortiz*



As we prepare for the new NSARTA year and November election, we must become informed on the issues that apply to us.

First, we need to focus on the TRS Pension Fund. Many of us have not received an annuity increase since the 90's. A 13th check was given in 2008/09 to some retirees. Our TRS Pension Fund must be actuarially sound. The State's contribution must be increased or else your buying power will continue to weaken.

Secondly, The TRS Board left Aetna for Humana last January. For many this has been a nightmare. Humana makes it very difficult on the members, as well as the doctor's business office. Hopefully in another year the TRS Board will make a better choice in our health insurance.

Finally. We must support funding for public education. Many charter schools are being created and one of our school district's enrollment was affected. We must vote for those candidates that support our issues. Our letter writing will begin once we know who has been elected.

PROGRAM *Peggy Peterson NSARTA 2nd VP/Program Chair* rpete4321@satx.rr.com
210.373.3961



SEPTEMBER HAS ARRIVED and the children are back in school. I have always loved the idea that fall was "right around the corner" but in reality, we often see terribly hot weather in September. Nonetheless, I remain hopeful that soon there will be a chill in the air and folks will call the season by decorating front porches with pumpkins, scarecrows, and fake fall leaves! So let's get this new season started!

As Paul mentioned, we will again kick-off our program year by hearing from the dynamic Tim Lee, Executive Director of TRTA. In keeping with the season, we will collect school supplies for our adopted elementary school and the wonderful NSARTA Board will supply a feast of treats for our fellowship time before the 10:00 call to order. Heed Paul's words and arrive early enough to find a seat as this meeting is always our largest gathering.

Mark your calendars and watch for emails and newsletter announcements for NSARTA Programs and Meet-Ups over the next months, starting with these:

NSARTA Big Read Book Club continues to meet every other month (Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May & July) on the second Wednesday in members' homes.

Our September Big Read, *The Story Keeper* by Lisa Wingate is excellent. I would highly recommend it along with the two other books in the author's trilogy, *The Prayer Box* and *The Sea Keeper's Daughter*, which ties all three books together.

Contact me at 210.373.3961 by phone or text if you are interested in joining this lively group.

MEET-UPS

NSARTA Food Bank Team - Interested in joining a group to volunteer once a month on a designated day? Sign-up at the meeting for more information.

October Fall Social - NSARTA will host an afternoon social. This is a great opportunity to relax with friends and to introduce our organization to fellow retirees! Watch the newsletter for time and place.

Elf Louise Events coming in October & November

Do you have ideas for other Meet-ups? I'd love to hear from you.

(Program continued)

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM - NSARTA is inviting candidates for Texas State Senate District 25 as well as Texas House of Representatives Districts 121 and 122. Each candidate will be given time to address the group as well as to take questions from the floor.

Catered CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON-Wednesday, December 19, 2018. Watch for sign-up information coming in October.

As always, it is a pleasure to work with our great NSARTA board to bring you opportunities to stay informed, learn new things and grow friendships. Feel free to contact me at any time. Happy Fall!

TREASURER'S REPORT *Carolyn Pfeiffer 210-372-0434 carolynpfeiffer48@gmail.com*

Treasurer's Report as of: 9-4-2018



_____ In our checking account we have:

\$2,069.62)

More details at our regular meeting on September 19

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY *Barbara Yates 494-6444*



Thinking of you cards were sent to Eddy English, who was having cancer treatments, Margie White, who was having some health problems and Betty Moseley, who had a stomach infection. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Sharon Munke, who passed away in May and June O'Banion, who passed away in July. Sympathy cards were also sent to Sharon Steele, whose husband passed away, Joe Harber, whose wife passed away, and Janet James, whose husband passed away. Our prayers are with all of these members and their families.

A TALENTED MEMBER'S INVITATION



DIANA SARFIN will be performing in the Golden Age of Radio on Sept.14 at 7 and Sept.15 at 2, on the UIW campus at Seddon Hall, which is the music building facing Broadway. Reservations are not necessary. \$10 for senior citizens. We will be performing 2 Fibber McGee and Molly episodes, a Sam Spade episode, a My Friend Irma episode and a Father Knows Best episode. Hope to see you there.

STITCHERY

Ledru Barker



Please join us at 10 AM on the first Thursday of every month at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Park in the 410 access road parking lot. Our classroom is at far left entrance from Sanctuary entrance. At the meeting, we stuff pillowcases with polyfil. Anyone can do this. Join us for food and conversation while we work. These are delivered to the VA Hospital. Some of us also make quilts, afghans, wheelchair bags, and stuffed toys for VA Hospital and Children's Shelter.

BRIDGE- *Sarah Villareal 210-494-6552*



Our bridge group meets monthly during the year, except for November and December. They meet at 10:30 a.m. on the 4th Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in joining this bridge group, call Sarah Villareal. You can also sign up to be a substitute if you don't want to commit to every month.

SAD NEWS

Mary Ann Freymuth, a former long time member of NSARTA, passed away Saturday, August 18, 2018, at the age of 82. Mary Ann had moved to Austin a couple of years ago to be close to her family. She had always said how much she missed NSARTA and had not totally adjusted to her new home. She had been a music teacher and loved it when Paul sang and would always sing along. The obituary didn't mention a service. Barbara Yates, who was Mary Ann's neighbor in San Antonio, called Mary Ann's son to express condolences, since she had no current address.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOSPITALITY

Barbara Rothe 210-380-8150 Linda Nolder 210-219-4749



The NSARTA Hospitality Committee welcomes everyone back for the 2018-2019 year. Our committee, chaired by Barbara Rothe and Linda Nolder, is NSARTA's largest committee. We are fortunate to have a total of 13 hardworking members (Barbara Rothe, Linda Nolder, Michele Bibb, Sue Blom, Kathy Cooke, Teresa Flansberg, Gayle Goodwin, Glennie Lecoche, Cindy Nobles, Peggy Peterson, Dolores Ramon, Karin Stanley, and Pat Unruh) who meet the week before each meeting to select a "theme" for that month. Once the theme has been chosen, we then decide what table decorations are needed. Most of our decorations come from our own personal items we have stored in attics, closets, or already on display in our homes. On

NSARTA meeting days, we arrive at the church at least an hour early to decorate tables and get everything ready for our members. After each meeting, everything is taken down, packed away, tables are cleaned, and the church kitchen is left spotless.

Refreshments for the September and January meetings are provided by NSARTA Board Members. All other members are asked to provide refreshments for October, November, February, March, and April. We NEED 5-6 members each month to volunteer to provide refreshments. There will be a sign up sheet provided OR during the meeting we may ask for members to volunteer to provide refreshments. Popcorn, cookies, chips, nuts, yogurt, protein bars, fruit, and cheese plates are ideas for refreshments OR you can bring whatever you'd like to bring!! We do ask for items to be on a plate along with any utensils needed for serving. NSARTA members love to eat and we enjoy and appreciate anything provided. We'll have a delicious catered Christmas luncheon in December and all members provide items for our end of the year May pot luck luncheon.

Our theme for September is "BACK TO SCHOOL". As an additional way to support our Children's Book Drive, we are asking members to donate school supplies (pencils, pens, crayons, markers, notebook paper, kleenex, white glue, scissors, or erasers) which will be delivered to Valley Hi Elementary in NISD. As you know, Valley Hi Elementary is a Title I school where children come to school with little or no supplies. Our school supply donations will be given to those children/teachers as needed. As a child, wouldn't it be great to have a brand new box of crayons and pencils to begin this school year! Through your school supply donations, we can help make that happen. Michele Bibb

VOLUNTEERING

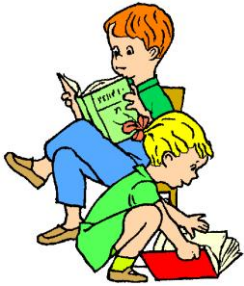
Janet Pennock japennock57@yahoo.com., 979-417-3876

Volunteering is a positive impact that we can make on our community. It is our way of showing legislators that retired doesn't mean being idle. We are an industrious group of individuals. So let's collect the data needed to prove how vital we still are to the community. It is quite a simple procedure. Every time you sign in for our monthly meeting, take a second to find your volunteer hours form in the gray binder, fill in how many hours you volunteered. No proof is necessary! If you forget to record your volunteer hours at the meeting, just email me or call and leave a message, with your name and hours. A lot of things you do can be considered volunteering. These are a few times that you may not realize you are volunteering. 1. Attending NSARTA meetings + the travel time to and from (that could be up to 4 hours a month). 2. Visiting or telephoning a sick or disabled friend + travel time to and from 3. Teaching (Bible, Sunday school, Religious

(Volunteering continued)

- classes, special interest, education course) + travel time to and from. **4.** Being a docent at a museum, zoo, theater, etc + travel time to and from **5.** Grandchildren (baby-sitting, shopping for, assisting when they are sick + travel to and from) **6.** Neighbors, Church Family and Friends (assisting them, transporting them, helping with their pets) + travel to and from **7.** Contributing to funeral preparation and support + travel to and from **8.** Jury Duty + travel time to and from **9.** Anything related to schools, education, learning and caring + travel to and from.

CHILDRENS' BOOK DRIVE *Sherlyn Valentin, Nancy Dooley, Pat Loewe,*



Last May, NSARTA members distributed 443 books to the students of Valley Hi Elementary in Northside I.S.D. The children were so excited to receive their books to take home. You can view all the photos taken by Harold Black on the NSARTA website. Many thanks to all the volunteers (Nancy Dooley, Georgia Couch, Judy McFeaters, Janet Pennock, Carolyn Pfeiffer, Carolyn Varian, Harold Black, and Sherlyn Valentin) who assisted in setting up, taking the photos, and helping students make their decisions. NSARTA members will be distributing books to Valley Hi Elementary again this year. We appreciate all of our members' book and cash donations throughout the year. Please remember when you donate books that they be: 1) new or slightly used; 2) have no marks and no names written inside the book; and 3) have no library or school markings. The donation baskets will be on the tables at each meeting. Thank you for all your support..

INFORMATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Adele Murphy

After perusing the TRTA website, I decided that this TIPS-SHEET would be the most helpful resource to our NSARTA members. I am providing a link to the page and will have a copy of the list at the meeting. https://trta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/TIPS-SHEET_October-2104.doc. The following is an example of agencies and organizations found on that list that may provide assistance, information, and/or materials on a variety of issues for which most retirees might seek help. **Benefits Check Up**, www.benefitscheckup.org/ **Better Business Bureau**, www.bbb.org, **Cancer Information Service**, National Cancer Institute, 800-422-6237, www.cancer.gov/aboutnci, **Charity Fraud**, www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0011-charity-scams, **Do Not Call Registry**, 888-382-1222, www.donotcall.gov/, **Federal Citizen Information Center**, 888-878-3256, www.publications.usa.gov/, **FEMA**, 800-621-3362, www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov/, **Finding Help in Texas**, dial 211 or call 877-541-7905, www.211texas.org/, **Free Publications**, www.consumer.ftc.gov/.

DISTRICT 20 FALL CONFERENCE



Thursday, October 25, 2018
 The Cana Ballroom
 St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
 202 W. Kronkosky Street
 Boerne, Texas 78006
 10:00 A.M.

Registration begins at 9:30 A.M.
 Lunch Reservation - \$20.00

The conference is open to all TRTA/NSARTA members
 NO REFUNDS after October 5, 2018

Make checks to **NSARTA**. Mail to Carolyn Pfeiffer 8310 Magdalena Run, Helotes, TX 78023
 or give it to her at the meeting on September 19, 2018

MEMBERSHIP Harold Black



Congratulations and hoorah for Dolores Ramon! Her enthusiasm has brought NSARTA a new member. Dolores will now be added to the “ Each One Bring One” list for NSARTA with a chance to win. The TRTA membership initiative, “Each One Bring One”, gives members a chance to win \$100! The member’s name will be submitted for a drawing for each member recruited to join the state association. To date, not one of 157 invitations we sent out to teachers who just retired, has responded. It is up to us.

Membership recruitment needs to be personal. Invite your retired teacher friends to join NSARTA and TRTA and then to VOTE in all our state and local elections. We have retirees with serious health care concerns which only the Texas legislature can resolve, BUT THE LEGISLATORS MUST KNOW WE HAVE NUMBERS AND WE VOTE.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN A TRTA/NSARTA MEMBER FOR AT LEAST THE LAST THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS, PLEASE USE THE ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM.

TRTA/NSARTA ANNUAL RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018-2019`

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ TODAY’S DATE _____

School district from which you retired _____ Retirement Year _____

ANNUAL RENEWAL: TRTA \$35.00 and NSARTA \$15.00 = TOTAL AMOUNT \$50.00

Make check payable to NSARTA for the total amount of \$50.00. CHECK # _____

If by mail, send to: Harold Black, 13307 Sage Heights Dr, San Antonio, TX 78230-5847

REGISTRATION Pat Loewe, Eddy English



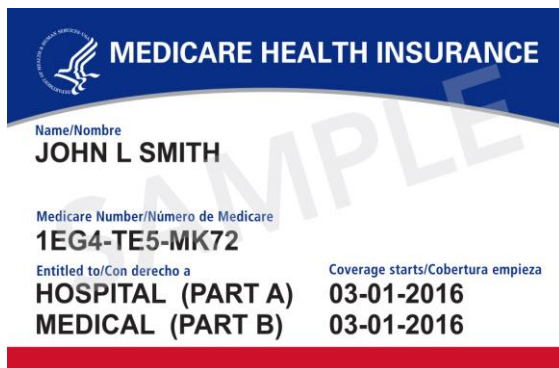
The registration desk keeps a record of each person who attends. They also distribute name tags and furnish every attendee with a raffle ticket for a drawing at the end of meetings. In addition to this, a sign-up sheet for bringing refreshments for the next meeting is located at this table. **Be sure to stop by the registration desk and sign in, as you enter each meeting.**

HEALTH *Eddy English*



Your new card will have a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, instead of your Social Security Number. This will help to protect your identity.

YOUR NEW CARD WILL LOOK LIKE THIS:



3 things to know

1. Your new card will automatically come to you. You don't need to do anything as long as your address is up to date. If you need to update your address, visit your [My Social Security account.- Opens in a new tab](#)
2. Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old Medicare card and start using your new card right away.
3. Your new Medicare Number is a unique combination of numbers and letters. Your new number uses numbers 0 thru 9. The letters S, L, O, I, B, and Z are never used.

Watch out for scams

Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.

Scam artists may try to get personal information (like your current Medicare Number) by contacting you about your new card.

If someone asks you for your information, for money, or threatens to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your personal information, hang up and call us at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 2018

