NORTH SAN ANTONIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Teacher Retirement System of Texas Votes 5-4 to Lower Rate of Return Assumption

All eyes turn to next session as pension and health care programs both need higher contribution levels.

This is the challenge for all active and retired educators for the coming legislative biennium!
ARE YOU ALL IN, OR ARE YOU GOING TO TRUST YOUR LEGISLATORS TO DO THE RIGHT THING WITHOUT YOUR VOICE BEING HEARD?

The change to rate of return assumption doesn’t impact current retiree benefits. However, the change does create a potential $1.6 billion biennial cost for the next Texas Legislature. A change to the investment rate of return assumption impacts potential cost-of-living increases for more than 400,000 retired educators who receive an annuity from TRS, as well as impacts the overall affordability of these promised pension benefits for future TRS retirees.

Cost-of-living increases for TRS retirees are not guaranteed and may only occur if the Texas Legislature approves them. **Many TRS retirees have NEVER received a cost-of-living increase.** Pension increases can only occur when the fund is able to amortize the cost within a 31-year period.

In order to reach the 31-year funding period, the TRS fund will require a 1.82 percent increase in contributions, which equates to an additional $786 million per year. The fund must be below this 31-year funding period to provide annuity increases.

The average TRS annuity is $2,060 per month. Ninety-five percent of Texas school districts don’t contribute to Social Security. Many TRS members rely on the annuity as the sole source of income.

The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) is strongly encouraging TRS to pursue the necessary funding from the Texas Legislature to make the fund actuarially sound. TRTA feels that a cost-of-living increase for retirees is vital and necessary, and that a healthy TRS pension fund is an enormous benefit to the state.

Tim Lee, TRTA’s Executive Director, has a warning for those groups who would angle to remove the defined benefit pension plan.

“We will be ready. You better be as well,” Lee said. He went on to explain that retirees would sound the alarm if any attempt was made to privatize the TRS pension fund.

“We will approach the Legislature with a list of priorities that ask for higher contributions being made to TRS pension fund, a measure that provides a pension increase to TRS retirees, and more money for the TRS-Care program that is expected to have another shortfall of $400-600 million,” Lee said. “The longer we wait to see these issues resolved, the more difficult they will be to achieve in future legislative sessions.”

(Source: TRTA “THE INSIDE LINE” July 27, 2018)

- MORE -
JOIN TRTA/NSARTA TODAY

As a recently retired educator, please strengthen the voice of all retirees by becoming a member of the TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION and its NORTH SAN ANTONIO affiliate in the continuing effort to protect our defined benefit pension plan and help fix a broken health care program.

NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT FORM

NAME: ________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________

CITY: _______________ ZIP: __________

DATE: _______ PHONE: ________________

EMAIL: ________________________________

School district retired from: _____________
Year: ________

TRTA Annual Dues: $35.00, NSARTA Annual Dues: $15.00

Complete this form and keep for your files.
Complete the enclosed form and mail to:
Harold Black
13307 Sage Heights Drive
San Antonio, TX 78230-5847

Your Total Annual Dues: $50.00, check # ______ payable to “NSARTA”.

** EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **

THE FIRST 10 NEW ENROLLMENTS RECEIVED WITH A POSTMARK OF NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 7, 2018, WILL RECEIVE A REBATE OF THE FIRST YEAR’S NSARTA DUES OF $15.00, PAYABLE AT THE END OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2018, MEETING WITH TRTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TIM LEE. PERSONAL ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED FOR THE REBATE. MEETING PLACE: SAN PEDRO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 14900 SAN PEDRO AVENUE, SAN ANTONIO, AT 9:45 AM.
TRTA/NSARTA NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018-2019

NAME ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________________________________ CITY ______________________ ZIP CODE __________

PHONE _______________ EMAIL ___________________ TODAY’S DATE __________

School district from which you retired __________________________ Retirement Year ______

TRTA: $35.00 and NSARTA: $15.00 = TOTAL AMOUNT $50.00  MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH IS REQUIRED.

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