



San Antonio Area Retired Teachers Association

General Membership Meeting – September 15, 2021

Call to Order/Welcome

The September 15, 2021, meeting of SAARTA was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by President Shirley Melenzyer-Schertz at the Garden Center.

Linda Martin led the membership in an inspirational prayer and the Pledges to the flags of the United States and Texas.

President Melenzyer-Schertz announced the minutes were approved by committee.

Dr. Stella Carreon introduced our guest speaker, TRTA Executive Director, Tim Lee.

TRTA Executive director, Tim Lee thanked the membership for being invited. He also praised SAARTA for their efforts working so closely with state elected officials for the benefit of Texas retired teachers.

Guest Speaker-Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director

Mr. Lee spoke on an upcoming 88th Special Session. He mentioned that TRS-TX as the best funded teacher retirement system in the country, with over \$200 million in total value. Tim Lee also spoke on the assurance of the 13th supplemental check. The check will arrive in January 2022. Tim continued to mention that the Texas Legislature allocated \$701 million at the recent 2nd Special Session to fund and authorize a 13th supplemental payment.

Tim Lee also spoke on TRS Board of Trustees' attempt to build a new headquarters building. TRTA President wants assurance the any monies used from the Trust Fund will have an immaterial impact on the work to get a COLA for retirees.

The following elected officials attended and spoke at the General Membership Meeting:

State Senator Jose Menendez- He stated he would propose a bill pressuring TRS and he would recommend that TRS should not get a new building before passing a COLA. Also, he stated he would check into COLA for ERS employees.

State Representative Barbara Gervin-Hawkins- She stated that now is the time to get an advocacy group started to go after COLA benefits. Texas Legislature has not been truthful. Texas currently has a lot of money from different resources, especially federal dollars, to support our retired educators with a COLA.

State Representative Steve Allison – Understands firsthand what teachers are going through. He has family members who are educators. Resources are long overdue beyond the 13th check.

State Representative Ray Lopez- Pandemic made the public aware of just how essential our teachers really are.

Rob Gowan, Staff member for State Representative Donna Campbell- Understands how educators need to be taken care of from the beginning of their careers into their retirement.

All attending officials thanked SAARTA and the other state retiree groups for all the work they have done to put a voice to the needs that concern retirees. They assured us that the TRS is financially sound, and they are committed to funding a COLA for Texas retired teachers.

Officer's Reports

President-Shirley Melenzyer-Schertz -She stated they attended the TRTA District 20 conference in D'Hanis, TX.

President-Elect- Susan Saenz-Solis

- Asked if everyone had received the dark teal blue 2021-2022 yearbook. Please verify information. Please report any discrepancies to Susan.
- Reminded everyone about the 70th Jubilee birthday celebration function to be held in March 2022 at the San Francisco Steak House. Job assignment packets were distributed.
- Encouraged members to join committees. There are 20 committees.
- The theme is Past, Present and Future.
- Guest speakers will be (Past) Victor Rodriguez, former SAISD superintendent; (Present) Patti Radle, former SAISD Board President; and (Future) will be Tim Lee, Executive Director, TRTA.

1st Vice President- Joe Rivera

Mr. Rivera spoke on ideas to recruit new retirees as members and to contact those retirees who have never joined SAARTA. One suggestion was to host a social gathering for prospective members.

2nd Vice President/Public Relations-Martha Ann Gutierrez

- Ms. Gutierrez reminded everyone of the upcoming Fire Prevention Week presentation in October.
- Asked for input whether the October Scholarship Arts & Crafts Fair should meet face-to-face. There was positive discussion in favor. The consensus was to hold the October fair face-to face.
- Read a proclamation from the City of San Antonio proclaiming September 15-October 15, 2021 as National Hispanic Heritage Month and commends the San Antonio Area Retired Teachers Association as they observe the impact and influence of Hispanic Americans in our community.

Treasurer—Mary Arnold Fox

The treasurer's report was published in the September newsletter and a copy was sent to the Finance Committee, Dr. Stella Carreon and to Salvador Gutierrez, Recording Secretary.

Bank balances as of 8.31.21:

Checking Account Balance	\$6,754.26
<u>SAARTA Assets Dedicated Funds:</u>	
S1 Savings Annual Scholarship Fund	\$4,973.94
12 Month Flex 250 Min CD-Scholarship Reserve	\$20,399.45
Money Market-Operation Reserve	\$9,188.44
SAISD Foundation SAARTA Scholarship Fund (03.20.21)	\$2,422.00
Kathleen May Gonzalez Scholarship Fund (03.14.21)	\$13,287.37

TRTA District 20 President-Irene Rodriguez-Dubberly

- Reminded of the Fall conference is October 28th in Boerne, TX. Deadline to submit names is October 4.

- Email sent regarding submitting nominations for the E. L. Galyean Service Award. Locals can submit names to be honored by the State.
- State convention will be April 11-13 in Dallas, TX. Discussion on the bylaws is planned.
- Irene Rodriguez-Dubberly suggested not to make any changes to the SAARTA bylaws.

Committee Reports

Legislative-Dr. Amy Jo Baker

Tutors are needed for students who lost learning due to the on-line learning at home. TRTA District 20 is offering tutoring if anyone is interested. The State of Texas assured that retirees benefits would not be affected.

Registration/Greeters

It was reported that at the Zoom General Membership meeting, there were 58 members and 8 guests in attendance.

Announcements

October 28th, District 20 Fall Conference-- St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, 202 Kronkosky Street, Boerne, Texas 78006. All officers, chairs and interested members are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending, please let Dr. Amy Jo Baker know by October 4th. Money needs to be paid to Mary Fox. The cost is \$20. If you are writing a check, make the check payable to SAARTA. Mail your payment by October 8th to SAARTA c/o Mary Arnold Fox 105 River View Dr. Boerne, Tx 78006-3878.

President Melenyzer-Schertz adjourned the meeting at 2:21 P.M



G. Salvador Gutierrez. Recording Secretary

Date Approved/Approved as Corrected

Shirley Melenyzer-Schertz, President

Date Approved/Approved as Corrected