

District 19 E Blast

“The Bridge between TRTA and Local Units”

Volume 3 / Number 1: September 2016

Our Electronic Newsletter

Welcome to our third year of publication fellow educators and friends!

Please scroll through all of our information and photo images.

Fall Conference

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Wyndham El Paso Airport Hotel

TRTA members will make their reservations through their respective local unit by Tuesday, October 4, 2016. The cost is \$ 17 and may be paid at a local unit event or at registration on the day of the conference.

We will have outstanding presentations by Merita Zoga, TRS and Fran Plemmons, TRTA Immediate Past President. Our State Senator and Representatives will discuss the upcoming Legislative Session.

Here is our agenda:

- 9:30 AM Registration in the Foyer
- 10:00 AM Welcome, “God Bless America”, Invocation and Pledges
- 10:05 AM Introductions of Guests, Officers and Chairpersons
- 10:10 AM Speaker: Fran Plemmons, TRTA Immediate Past President

10:30 AM AMBA Speaker
10:40 AM Foundation Presentation
10:50 AM Break and Humana Representatives in Foyer
11:00 AM District 19 Business Meeting
11:25 AM TRS Speaker: Merita Zoga
Noon Lunch includes Stuffed Chicken and Carrot Cake
12:40 PM Drawing # 1
12:45 PM Legislative Report: Paul Pearson
1:00 PM Texas State Senator and Representatives Session
1:50 PM Final Words: Ron Leiman
1:55 PM Drawing # 2

Humana

Everyone who is currently enrolled in AETNA TRS-Care Medicare Advantage has been contacted and informed that TRS has selected Humana as the insurer for our plan beginning January 1, 2017.

Packets are being mailed out to all participants.

You don't have to take any action if you want to stay enrolled in TRS-Care Medicare Advantage.

You have several opportunities to ask questions of Humana.

Humana is hosting a series of seminars on **Monday, October 10** at the Radisson Hotel El Paso Airport (9-11 AM, 1-3 PM & 4-6 PM). **You must make a reservation by calling 1-800-850-1992 (TTY:711) M-F 6AM-7PM.**

At the District 19 Fall Conference on **Tuesday, October 11**, Humana will have staff available from 10:45 AM – 1:30 PM to answer questions.

There will also be online presentations. **You must register online at Humana.com/TRS prior to the event.** The following sessions are from 9-11 AM CDT: October 14, November 1, 9. The following sessions are from 10 AM-Noon CDT: October 24, 26, 28 and November 3, 7.

District 19 Historian Team

Our team is busy preparing for four events in October. Three events will occur during **Ysleta High School Homecoming Week, October 17-23**.

October 20: Team members will discuss the Ysleta Historic District, the Ysleta Historic Schools Marker Funding Project and the program on Oct.23 at the Outstanding Exes Reception.

October 22: Team members will present “Ysleta Schools on the Alameda Corridor” and be available to answer questions at an information table at the YHS All Indians Reunion Dinner at the Vista Hills Country Club.

October 23: Team members who are part of the Ysleta Historic District Committee (YHDC) will coordinate the program at Ysleta High School on Sunday, October 23.

12:45 PM: Doors at Davis St. Entrance (west end) open for the program which will begin in the Auditorium.

1:00 PM: “Ysleta Schools on the Alameda Corridor”

1:10 PM: Introductions

1:15 PM: Henri C. Trost and Architecture Presentation

1:45 PM: Ysleta School Bonds and Construction 1911-1950 Presentation

2:05 PM: Questions and Answers

2:15 PM: Announcements

2:30 PM: Tour of the Building Emphazing Design and Construction

In addition to these activities, team members will present “Ysleta Schools on the Alameda Corridor” and discuss the Ysleta Historic Schools Markers Funding Program at an Ysleta ISD School Board Workshop Meeting in October.

If you are interested in the history of the schools and school districts in El Paso County consider joining our team. Contact Ron Leiman, District 19 Historian at (915-740-6829) or ronleiman2@gmail.com.

EPRTA 70th Anniversary Celebration

The fellowship was wonderful, the food was great and Tim Lee delivered on September 22 at the Wyndham Airport Hotel. Nearly 170 of us attended the celebration of the first retired teacher's organization in the state of Texas.



The room was full and members from all three local units attended the biggest retired teacher's event in many years. We're checking on ever.



Aubrey Cherry, center, was thanked by Tim Lee for his years of service with TRTA. A member of EPRTA, Aubrey is the only El Pasoan to be elected President of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA).



James Lamonica, President of EPRTA, welcomes everyone to the luncheon and conducts a brief, effective business meeting.



Hank Dunbar researched the history of the founding of the El Paso Retired Teachers Association (EPRTA) in 1945 and shared stories of the Laura Yarnall Warren, the founder and first president of EPRTA (1945-47).



Tim Lee, the Executive Director of TRTA, spoke to us of the “good, bad and ugly” and what we might expect in the upcoming Legislative Session. We have three issues: TRS Care, TRS Defined Benefit Pension and WEP, the Windfall Elimination Provision.

Legislative Initiatives

The District 19 Legislative Team is being rebuilt under the leadership of Paul Pearson, District 19 Legislative Chair; Crandall Young, EPRTA Legislative Chair; Raymond Jones, EPLVRTA Legislative Chair; and Steve Evans, YRSEA Legislative Chair.

We have lead liaisons for Representatives Cesar Blanco (Bea Sada), Mary Gonzales (Raymond Jones) and Joe Picket (Norma K. Irwin), but need lead liaisons for Representatives Joe Moody and Lina Ortega. The lead liaison should be an active voter in the representative's district. We are also building teams to meet with our five representatives and Senator Jose Rodriguez.

If you are interested in legislative initiatives, please contact your Legislative Chair of President.



On November 22, we had a District 19 Legislative Team Breakfast with Tim Lee at the Wyndham. From left to right: Raymond Jones, Paul Pearson, Tim Lee, Steve Evans, Bea Sada, Nancy Evans and Norma K. Irwin.

Historian State Submittal

All district and local unit historians will be submitting two pages for the State Memory Book by December 2016. One page will feature the officers and the other will feature committee chairpersons. Ron Leiman, District 19 Historian, will be working with the local units to get these pages completed and submitted by Thanksgiving.

TRS Retirement Seminar

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Vista Hills Elementary School

9:00 AM – Noon

If you know someone who is considering retiring in the next five years, encourage them to register and attend this free seminar. Our speaker will be a representative of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS).

Please RVSP after January 9, 2017 or before February 18, 2017 so we have enough handouts for everyone. Contact one of the individuals below:

Sally Soderstrom	779-6785	annstrom70@aol.com
Norma K. Irwin	594-8426	nisped@aol.com
Sandra Hernandez	433-3396	sandra1hernandez@gmail.com
Ruth Frith	549-6871	

Vista Hills Elementary School is on the Eastside north of I-10 off of Lomaland at 10801 La Subida Drive. The Activity Room is in the back on the northside of the campus.

Registration will begin at 8:30 AM with the program beginning at 9:00 AM.

This event is sponsored by El Paso Retired Teachers Association (EPRTA), El Paso Lower Valley Retired Teachers Association (EPLVRTA), Ysleta Retired School Employees Association (YRSEA) and TRTA District 19. For more information, contact Sally Soderstrom (see above).

District 19 Executive Board Meetings

Our Board will meet on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The times and sites will be announced in November 2016.

TRTA State Convention and Rally Day

March 27-29, 2017 in Austin

This year's TRTA Convention returns to the State Capitol for a shortened convention and a Rally Day at the Capitol.

We hope to have a full contingent of 20 delegates attending this event. If you are interested in joining us and representing El Paso, please contact one of your local unit officers.

Information on rooms and the preliminary schedule are posted on the TRTA web page.

Spring Leadership Training Conference

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Region 19 Service Center

We have adjusted our schedule to later in May in order to avoid conflicts with several of our local units. Patricia Macias, TRTA First Vice President, will be joining us for our annual training and planning meeting.

We would like to expand this meeting beyond current officers and committee chairs, bringing in some members who just haven't found their niche in the organization yet. We expect to develop some new linkages in communications and with our superintendents and school boards. By this meeting we will also have a good idea about the impacts of the legislation completed in Austin. If you have any ideas on sessions that would enable our district and local units to function more effectively, let an officer know.

Parting Words

We are off and running into the new year. We will be voting on a budget package at the Fall Conference that if passed will drive a major District 19 Bylaws Revision in 2017.

We will be convening a Communication Nerds Committee after the Fall Conference that will be a homecoming of sorts for our Technology Team and give us an opportunity to study the links between communications, public relations, newsletters, publications, electronic news (like this E Blast only available in this format), web pages, social media and the new role of the Historian.

Currently we have an opening for a District 19 Member Benefits Chair and EPRTA has openings for 1st Vice President, Historian and Community Volunteers.

At some point in the near future, we will be sharing this E Blast with at large members in our area. Please feel free to pass it along to other retirees, active educators, family and friends. Let's get the word out.

Ron Leiman, District 19 President 2016-18