



The District 19 Crew at La Cantera in San Antonio: Sitting L>R: Norma K. Irwin, Sally Soderstrom, Jean McDaniel, Cathy Czapla, Sandy Hernandez, Julie Jones; Standing L>R: Hank Dunbar, Aubrey Cherry, Mary Frazier, Bea Sada, Ruth Frith, Ron Leiman, Rosemary Leiman, Armida Olivas, Paul Pearson, Jackie Morgan Tomko, James Lamonica, Raymond Jones, Jean Lamonica, Mando Hernandez, Nancy Evans and Steve Evans. (Frances Cherry was at the Credentials Desk.)

District 19 E Blast

The Bridge Between

TRTA and Our Local Districts

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Welcome to 2018

We are glad to be here and glad you are reading our news from Far West Texas. There are a handful of runoffs just ahead and then it's on the November Election. Study your candidates and be ready to vote.

A few weeks remain in this term and then it's on to 2018-2020. If you would like to be part of the 2018-2020 District 19 Leadership Team, please contact President Elect Paul Pearson at ppearson7@gmail.com or any of the other incoming/returning officers: Nancy Evans, Bobbie Estrada, Sandy Hernandez, Cathy Czaplá or Ron Leiman.

Ron Leiman, District 19 President

Executive Board Meeting

Our final meeting for this year will be on Tuesday, May 1 at the Region XIX Service Center. We will meet in the Gran Vista Room from 9:30 to approximately 11:15 AM. District officers and chairs plus local unit presidents are expected to attend.

In addition to committee reports and regular business, we will have a state convention debriefing and plan for the Spring Leadership Conference.

Spring Leadership Conference

Tuesday, May 15: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Region XIX Service Center: Tierra Del Sol Room

Our leaders and prospective leaders from EPRTA, EPLVRTA and YRSEA will gather for this inspiring training and planning meeting on May 15. Local Unit Presidents are asked to bring up to three new members who are not 2018-2019 officers or chairs for their association.

The morning session will include the TRTA presentation by Leroy Dehaven, TRTA 1st Vice President; and several breakout sessions emphasizing team-building, specific committee concerns and developing solutions for perceived Region 19 problems.

Our catered luncheon will feature Awards. Local Unit Presidents are asked to e-mail/attachment their conference registration form to Ron Leiman at ronleiman2@gmail.com by noon of Friday, May 11.

The afternoon session will include the Legislative Report by Paul Pearson and our business meeting. We will have the installation of our new officers: President Paul Pearson, 1st Vice President Nancy Evans, 2nd Vice President Bobbie Estrada, Interim Secretary Sandy Hernandez and Treasurer Cathy Czaplá. The final hour of the conference will be a planning session for 2018-2020. The calendar for 2018-19 will be developed at this session. Local Unit Presidents are asked to bring their draft calendars for 2018-19 noting next year's state convention dates (March 31 – April 3). For more information contact Ron Leiman at 915-740-6829.

Review of the TRTA State Convention



The lights go on and the district presidents gather for a 2:00 PM meeting on Sunday, April 8.



Tim Lee gives us a heads up on our speakers for tomorrow morning at the Opening Ceremonies.



The district presidents represent over 88,000 retired educators across the State of Texas. On to 100,000 Strong!



District 19 delegates and attendees gather for our caucus meeting at 4:45 PM.



We discuss the convention schedule including the breakout sessions and bylaws amendments at the caucus. Cathy Czapla won the 100 dollar bill in the membership drawing!



After the caucus, we gather for our group photo. After this, we would go to the meet and greet reception or out to eat.



This is our formal group photo. Sitting L>R: Norma K. Irwin, Sally Soderstrom, Jean McDaniel, Cathy Czapla, Sandy Hernandez and Julie Jones. Standing R>L: Hank Dunbar, Aubrey Cherry, Mary Frazier, Bea Sada, Ruth Frith, Rosemary Leiman, Paul Pearson, Armida Olivas, Jackie Morgan Tomko, James Lamonica, Raymond Jones, Jean Lamonica, Mando Hernandez, Nancy Evans and Steve Evans. Frances Cherry was at the Credentials Desk and Ron Leiman shot the photograph.

The camera was set aside on Monday, April 9 as one played in the TRTF Golf Tournament and everyone else went to the Opening Ceremonies and morning breakout sessions. After the La Cantera Luncheon, everyone attended afternoon breakout sessions. That evening some of us dressed to the nines and attended the Big Band Gala.



On Tuesday, April 10, we gathered for the Delegates First Session. Left Center, James Lamonica, EPRTA President.



Nancy Byler, TRTA President, calls the meeting to order.



Tim Lee gives the Legislative Update to 700 delegates and 300 members attending this convention at La Contera Resort in San Antonio.



We are trying to bring Tim back to El Paso in the Fall of 2018.



After the first session, many of our delegation enjoys the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation Luncheon.



We nearly filled two tables at this luncheon for about 450 TRTA members.



Cathy Czapl presented the \$ 800 check for YRSEA and Jean McDaniel presented the \$ 800 check for District 19. If you look carefully, in the line of check presenters between Cathy and Jean, Hank Dunbar (yellow shirt) is ready to present the \$3,000 check from EPRTA.



Then it's back to the Delegates Session Two. Aubrey Cherry, Past TRTA President, speaks with James Lamonica, EPRTA President.



We chat before the gavel signals the start of our session and voting on amendments to the bylaws. The District 19 Amendment to have the district legislative chair serve as an optional delegate failed.



Raymond Jones and Armando Hernandez represented EPLVRTA.



In one of her final acts as TRTA President, Nancy Byler raises her hand to quiet the crowd of 1,000 strong.



And we begin the final session. Soon our successful convention would conclude and we begin our preparations to return safely to El Paso.

Odds and Ends

Generally we would post a calendar at this point in this publication. The one date that is set for the district is our Fall Conference on October 9, 2018.

The next Legislative Session will likely be crucial in terms of our pensions and healthcare. Our organization of 88,000 members represents the interests of 325,000 Texas retired school employees.

As this E Blast is being finalized, the TRS Board is in Austin determining whether our pension rate of return assumption will be dropped from 8% to 7.5 or 7.25%. This doesn't impact our current annuity, but would impact any future COLAs or a thirteenth check. Please read Tim Lee's [Inside Line](#) to stay current with all things TRTA.

We are fortunate that our legislators support educators and retired educators in District 19. If you are interested in finding out what is going on in Austin and throughout the state, access [The Texas Tribune](#) online.

If you know a member who does not access this E Blast online, please share this information with them.

The final E Blast of this volume (#4) will come out at the end of May and will be my final one.

Ron Leiman, District 19 President 2015-2018.