



El Paso Retired Teachers Association

GRAPEVINE

April 2019 - Volume 5 - Issue 7



President's Message

It's that time of year again. Time to renew your membership and help us to recruit new members. A membership form is included on page 4 of this newsletter. Please send it in with your dues as soon as possible. Timely renewals help us to plan for the future.

EPRTA currently has 475 members. Our goal to reach at least 500. To do this, we need your help. Experience has shown that members join our local unit when they are invited to join by current members. If you know a retired educator that does not belong to our local, please call them and invite them to join. Here are some of the benefits of membership you tell them about.

- Legislative representation and advocacy on issues important such as health care and cost of living adjustments
- Legislative updates during sessions of the Legislature
- Subscription to *The VOICE*, a publication exclusively for TRTA members
- Subscription to the *Inside Line*, a weekly online update with important information from TRTA Director Tim Lee.
- Subscription to the *Grapevine* with information from EPRTA.
- Monthly luncheons with informational and entertaining speakers
- Opportunities to give children a book of their own
- Community service opportunities to support our community.
- Information on safety, health, and educational opportunities.
- Benefits information from on dental, vision, & long-term care
- Benefits information on travel, hotel savings, and discounts

IMPORTANT DATES

Apr. 1-3	TRTA Convention in Austin
Apr. 17	EPRTA Luncheon Speaker — Adair Margo
April 21	Easter 
Apr. 25	Board Meeting
May 12	Mother's Day
May. 15	EPRTA Luncheon
May. 23	Last day of school in EPISD
May 27	Memorial Day
May 30	Board Meeting
Aug. 12	First day of School in EPISD 2019/2020 year
Aug. 29	EPRTA Board Meeting
Sep. 2	Labor Day
Sep. 18	EPRTA Luncheon
Sep. 26	EPRTA Board Meeting



Guest Speaker Adair Margo

Adair Margo has been involved in the El Paso/Juarez border community her entire life. Her interests in historic Texas and regional art led her to complete an oral history of the renowned local painter/illustrator/writer Tom Lea.

Margo was appointed by President Bush as Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in 2001. She traveled with Laura Bush for the U.S.'s reentry into UNESCO in Paris, France. In her tenure as Chairman, Margo signed a Joint Communique for Cultural Cooperation between the U.S and Mexico in 2003; served as a private sector adviser for the U.S. Delegation to the Organization of American States Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in Mexico City; and most recently, she was invited to Uruguay to speak about the arts in the U.S and sign a Joint Communique for Cultural Cooperation.

Margo is the former chair of the Texas Commission on the Arts; serves on the board of Mid-America Arts Alliance and recently joined the Texas Humanities Council. She has a B.A. in Art History from Vanderbilt University, studied Renaissance Art History and Italian with Syracuse University's Program in Florence, Italy, and has an M.A. in Art History from New Mexico State University

THE BOOK TABLE

If you have read a good book or two and want to share, bring them with you to our next luncheon. We are also sharing children's books so if you have any that your grandchildren have outgrow, others can use them. Thanks.

EPRTA LUNCHEON

Date & Time: April 17, 2019 @ 12:00 Noon
 Location: Wyndham Airport Hotel
 Program:
 Menu Entrée: Quiche, green beans, & tomatoes
 Cost: \$18.00
 Reservation
 Deadline: April 11, 2019
Call Lila Murphy at 253-5792



Luncheon Reservations

The Wyndham requires that reservations be turned in on the Thursday before the Luncheon. The reservation deadline is listed above. If you are not contacted for the meeting, please call Lila Murphy at 253-5792 by the reservation deadline. If you make a reservation for the Luncheon, cannot attend, and cannot cancel by the deadline, you will be responsible for the cost of the meals reserved. Please pay the Treasurer, Carlos Martinez.

Meal Choice Information

For each Luncheon, two (2) meals will be available.

Those will be:

The regular meal published in this newsletter.

A veggie plate that will also be gluten-free and dairy-free. There is no guarantee that the salad or dessert will meet dietary needs.

Please tell your caller if you wish the veggie plate when you make your reservations.

The Calling Committee calls members each month, asking if they would like a reservation for the upcoming Luncheon. If you are **not** being called each month and **would like to have your name added to our calling list**, please contact Lila Murphy, 253-5792, with your name and preferred phone number.

In Memorium

Helen Sheffer Eiland

Thinking of You

Gary Gray
 Ruth Frith
 Nancy Hines

EPRTA LEADERSHIP

President:	James Lamonica
1 st Vice President:	Donnette Vollmer
2 nd Vice President:	Debra King
Treasurer:	Carlos Martinez
Secretary:	Beverley Mueller

The following members serve as committee chairs.

Book Project:	Anna Marie Tolland
Community Service:	Barbara Keily
Communication:	Gloria Banister
Courtesy:	Page Morgan
Foundation:	Hank Dunbar
Healthy Living:	Beverly Baldwin
Immediate Past President:	Pat Lally
Legislative & Mem. Benefits:	Joe Barbe
Parliamentarian:	Jackie Morgan-Tomko
Protective Services:	Yolanda Barbe
Retirement Seminar:	Ruth Frith
Technology & Phone Tree:	Lila Murphy

**BRING A FRIEND
 TO APRIL'S
 LUNCHEON.**

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

As of this writing in late March, 2019, the Texas State Legislature (affectionately called “The Lege”) is hard at work deciding on new legislation that affects Texas and its people, even its retired educators. Bills have been introduced in both the House of Representatives and Senate which may affect the funding for both the retirement system (TRS) and the retirees’ health system (TRS-Care). Both the House and Senate bills have positive effects for retirees written into them. Because of the fast pace of actions in the Lege, and the time it takes to get this information into your hands or on your screen, I cannot tell you with any accuracy exactly where we stand at the very moment you’re reading this. In Austin, things change by the week, the day, the hour, and the minute. I can tell you that both the House and Senate proposals have good things in them for you and all TRS retirees.

Both address the basic funding of TRS and of our health insurance. That may mean a quick fix now or a solid fix in the long term, or a combination of the two. If a fix happens and more money is poured into TRS and it becomes fiscally strong, increases in monthly pensions could happen, but probably sometime in the future. Insurance premiums could be stabilized. Both plans call for a temporary boost for retirees by a one time bonus check (the famous “13th check”). The Senate’s version calls for a \$500 check, while the

House would allow up to \$2400. There are just too many differences between the House and Senate

bills for me to predict what will happen, and at this writing each bill is at a different stage of the legislative process. And don’t forget that they have to iron out any differences in their bills before any of it gets out of the Lege...they have to be in agreement.

That’s a mighty tall order among all Texans, leave alone the politicians who represent those divergent Texans. Oh, and did I mention that once the plan is finalized and agreed upon by the Lege, there’s another guy in the mix...the Governor. He must sign approval, or the plan is dead in the water if he vetoes it. But I will say that things look hopeful for something for us. It may not be all we want or need (remember the TRTA Legislative Platform?), but I think something good will come our way. In the meantime, keep yourselves informed, and help out through your legislative contacts...they ARE important. “OUR MOMENT IS NOW: TRTA MEMBERS ANSWER THE CALL TO ACTION”! We have once again included the updated contact list for our elected representatives.

Joe Barbe—EPRTA Legislative Chair



Healthy Fixing:

Air Travel After Surgery May Be Risky

Fliers who recently had hip or knee-replacement surgery have a higher risk of developing potentially deadly vein thromboembolism (VTE) or blood clots that form in the vein, than those who do not fly shortly after surgery. Data on 6000 patients indicated that those who flew home an average of six days after surgery, were almost three times more likely to develop VTE than those who traveled on land. Even though more research is needed to confirm this link, it is wise to consult your doctor for advice on flying after lower limb surgery.

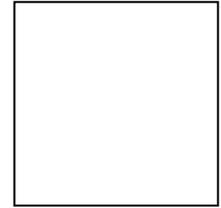
If your doctor does give you permission to fly, make sure you get it in writing. Airlines will provide wheelchairs and boarding assistance for passengers with mobility issues but if you tell them it is because of hip or lower limb surgery, some airlines may refuse to let you fly because of the risk of VTE if you don’t have a note from the doctor.

Now is the time to renew your membership

EL PASO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Membership Form for: **July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

Make your check payable to EPRTA (Your check will include your payment to TRTA.)



Date _____ **PLEASE PRINT**

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip(9-digits) _____ Tel. _____

E-mail _____ Prefer newsletter to be emailed: Yes No

Dues _____ 35.00 + _____ 10.00 = \$45.

TRTA Local Association

I have TRS Payroll deduction _____ (Attach Form TRS 593)

I am local life _____ I am State Life _____

I am a Current Monthly member _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____ CASH _____ CHECK # _____

*I am a new member _____ This is a Renewal _____

**Referred by _____

Your email address will only be used for official EPRTA business. Providing your email helps us cut costs.

Mail form to:

El Paso Retired Teachers

PO BOX 973164

El Paso, TX 79997-3164

Please pay 2019-2020 dues promptly to ensure you will appear in our Yearbook and will receive our publications.

Protective Services

If you suspect that financial abuse of an elderly family member or friend is occurring or has occurred, there are things you can do to assure that their finances are recovered and properly managed in the future. The perpetrators of financial exploitation of the elderly can be relatives, or someone they confide in. Signs of financial exploitation of an older person can include:

- * Canceled checks or bank statements being sent to the perpetrator's address
- * Unexplained large bank withdrawals or account transfers
- * Nonpayment of bills, utilities being disconnected for nonpayment, or eviction notices
- * An elderly person receiving substandard care by a care giver
- * Unexplained ATM withdrawals
- * An elderly person coerced into signing powers of attorney, deeds, wills or other legal documents
- * Missing valuable items such as jewelry, art work, coin collections, stamp collections, or other property.
- * Forging names on checks and on legal documents
- * Using an elderly person's credit cards without their authorization or knowledge

Financial exploitation of an elderly person can be avoided by having a trustworthy attorney who deals with elder law manage their finances or a trusted family member being put in charge of protecting their assets.

For more information or to report neglect, abuse, or exploitation of an elderly person go to

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adult_Protection/

or call **1-800-252-5400**. You can also call your local law enforcement agency or **911** immediately if you have an emergency or life-threatening situation.



**Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services**

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION 2019

This is an update of the information in the EPRTA 2018-19 Yearbook

State Rep. **César Blanco**, Dist. 76:

Email: Cesar.Blanco@house.texas.gov

Twitter: www.twitter.com/CesarJBlanco

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cesarforelpaso

Austin: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768, ph: 512-463-0622

El Paso: 9440 Viscount, Suite 205, EPT 79925, ph: 915-599-9807

State Rep. **Art Fierro**, Dist. 79:

Email: Art.Fierro@house.texas.gov

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ArtFierro79

Facebook: www.facebook.com/artfierro79

Austin: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768, ph: 512-463-0596

El Paso: not yet available

State Rep. **Mary E. González**, Dist. 75:

Email: Mary.Gonzalez@house.texas.gov

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RepMaryGonzalez

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RepMaryGonzalezHD75

Austin: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768, ph: 512-463-0613

El Paso: 1498 Main St., San Elizario, TX 79849, ph: 915-851-6632

State Rep. **Joe Moody**, Dist. 78:

Email: Joe.Moody@house.texas.gov

Twitter: www.twitter.com/moodyforelpaso

Facebook: www.facebook.com/moodyforelpaso

Austin: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768, ph: 512-463-0728

El Paso: 5675 Woodrow Bean, Suite 12, EPT 79924, ph: 915-751-2200

State Rep. **Lina Ortega**, Dist. 77:

Email: lina.Ortega@house.texas.gov

Twitter: www.twitter.com/lina4texas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lina4texas

Austin: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768, ph: 512-463-0683

El Paso: 310 N. Mesa, Suite 519, EPT 79901

State Senator **José Rodríguez**, Dist. 29:

Email: jose.rodriguez@senate.texas.gov

Twitter: www.twitter.com/Josafortexas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/senatorjoserodriguez

Austin: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711, ph: 512-463-0129

El Paso: 100 N. Ochoa, Suite A, EPT 79901

U.S. Rep. **Verónica Escobar**, Congressional Dist. 16:

Email: veronica.escobar@mail.house.gov

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RepEscobar

Facebook: not listed

Washington: 1505 Longworth, Washington, D.C. 20515, ph: 202-225-4831

El Paso: Wells Fargo Plaza, 221 N. Kansas St., Suite 1500, EPT 79901 ph: 915-541-1400

El Paso Retired Teachers Association
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Return Service Requested

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: <http://localunits.org/elpasorta>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EPRTA>

TRTA website: <https://trta.org/>