



EL PASO RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

May 2013

Volume 2, Issue 7

Dear EPRTA Members:

The convention, “Diamond Jubilee by the Sea” in Corpus Christi provided an opportunity to learn about TRTA’s progress in the 83rd legislative session. About 900 public education employees attended sessions focused on community engagement, leadership training, healthy aging, and investment management. One of the sessions I attended was about retirement education on TRS pensions and benefits.

According to Tim Lee, TRS provides retirement security for 1 out of every 20 Texans. He also stated, “It’s necessary to equip our members with facts to share the message that now is the time for the Legislature to make retirees a priority.”

Also, according to Bill Barnes, TRTA State Legislative Coordinator, the 82% funding ratio makes the fund close to actuarial soundness. “So it’s necessary to maintain contact with legislators.”

Next year’s convention will be at the Dallas Sheraton Hotel, so make plans to attend April 13-15, 2014. Be prepared for a fantastic learning experience!

Thank you all for your continued support of EPRTA. I’m looking forward to seeing you on Thursday, May 23rd for a program honoring our deceased members, installation of officers, and awards.

Ruth Frith, President

May 23, 2013 – 12:00 noon

Program	- Installation of Officers and Awards
Location	- Wyndham Airport Hotel
Time	- 12:00 noon
Cost	- \$17.00
Menu	- Mixed Garden Salad, Roast Beef with Mushroom Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Provencale, Lemon Layer Cake. Rolls, Iced Tea, and Coffee included.

****The Wyndham is now requiring that reservations**
****be turned in on the Thursday before the meeting.******

For April, if you are not contacted for the meeting, please call Lila Murphy 253-5792, by Tuesday, May 14th. Also, if you make a reservation for the luncheon, and you are unable to attend, you will be responsible for the payment to Nan Pollock, Treasurer, unless you cancel with Lila Murphy by Sunday, May 19th.

If you have a new telephone number or new address, please contact Lila Murphy 253-5792 or Patricia Lally, Membership Chairman, 821-4570. Also, please check your own information in the 2012-13 Yearbook. If there are any mistakes, call Lila Murphy, 253-5792, so they can be corrected.

CALLERS NEEDED

It takes many helpers to call for luncheon reservations each month.

- Would you be willing to call 10-12 members monthly so everyone can be contacted?
- Please consider joining the Communications Committee.
- Your help is needed!
- Contact Lila Murphy 253-5792

Security At Drive-Up ATMS

- * Keep your engine running, the doors locked and the windows up at all times when waiting in line at a drive-up ATM.
- * When possible, leave enough room between cars to allow for a quick exit should it become necessary.
- * If an ATM is obstructed from view or poorly lit, go to another ATM.
- * Before rolling down the window to use the ATM, observe the entire area around the ATM.
- * Avoid opening your purse, bag or wallet while waiting for the ATM. Have your card out before you approach the ATM.
- * If anyone follows you after making an ATM transaction, go immediately to a crowded, well-lit area and call the police.

Yoli Barbe, Cairman
Informative and Protective Services

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Beverley Mueller - for the loss of her mother-in-law

James Russell

Janet Copland

Mary Brown

Please keep the following members in your thoughts:

Pamela Round

Irene Martin

If you know of members who are ill, members who have ill family, or those in need of special remembrance, please contact Nancy Wall 755-5152 or Ruth Frith 821-3242



REMINDERS

We are continuing to collect donations for the Transitional Living Center. Their wish list includes: gasoline gift cards, USB flash drives, large flower pots, and movie or Western Playland tickets for families.

If you and your spouse are both members of EPRTA and only need to receive one (1) copy of the newsletter, please let us know. Lila Murphy, 253-5792

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE

Go to www.trta.org. On the Homepage bar - go to "Grassroots," scroll down to Districts, then click on District XIX. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on El Paso RTA. Remember to "bookmark" the page for quicker access. Thanks to Lila Murphy, Joe Barbe, and Jackie Morgan-Tomko for keeping us current in this digital age!



PEDOMETERS AVAILABLE

Our unit has received a grant to purchase pedometers for our members. These pedometers will record both steps and miles which will help when completing the Walks-a-Million form. Pedometers will be available to members at a reduced cost of \$3.00, and will be limited to one per member.

Come to our monthly meetings and purchase one of these pedometers at a great price.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Each summer, the TRTA member benefit insurance for dental and visual needs renews in a new plan year. This is a great time to sign up for either of these insurances (or both). But don't delay and miss the beginning of the new plan year. Take a look at Ameritas Dental and Vision Service Plan:

Ameritas Group Dental Insurance

The TRTA Board of Directors has endorsed a new TRTA "Members Only" group dental insurance plan available exclusively through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) and underwritten by Ameritas Group Dental Insurance. This plan has very generous benefits plus a two year rate guarantee. Through the TRTA Group Dental Insurance Plan, you and your family will receive comprehensive and flexible dental coverage. The plan provides you the freedom to visit any dentist or specialist when you need care. Continued TRTA membership is required in order to participate in this dental plan. You can obtain additional information concerning dental benefits at www.myambabenefits.info/trta or by calling AMBA at 800.258.7041.

Vision Service Plan

VSP is a nationwide provider of vision care benefits including coverage for comprehensive examinations, lenses, frames and contacts. Founded in 1955, VSP is America's premier vision care provider with approximately one out of every eight Americans having VSP vision benefits. VSP members enjoy a paperless system when using their vision care benefits through a network of over 22,000 independent optometrists and ophthalmologists. Most members enroll in VSP's Well Vision program to secure quality eyewear to correct their vision at a cost-effective price. VSP provides coverage in full for all standard spectacle lenses regardless of the prescription. Additionally, patients have a choice from a wide selection of popular frames, with a frame allowance that covers approximately 60% of the frames in today's market. You can obtain additional information concerning vision benefits at www.myambabenefits.info/trta or by calling AMBA at 800.258.7041.

Joe Barbe

Member Benefits Representative

**Our May EPRTA General Meeting will be May 23, 2013.
Installation of Officers and Awards
Presentations by Aubrey Cherry**

Addendum 6

2012-2013

(Please place in your yearbook)

New Members

- Douglass, Willa** District, State
P O Box 13001, 79913.....525-0554
- Wikstrom, Louise** District, State
7304 Good Samaritan, #232 79912.....875-0653

Corrections

- Butler, Leona G.** Local Life, State
9818 Knoboak Dr, Houston, TX 77080
- Pippin, Betty** District, State
7304 Good Samaritan Ct. #329 79912.....600-2877

Foundation News

One aspect of the Foundation Fund is designated for our “A Helping Hand” program. “Anyone who is eligible to receive an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) may apply for financial assistance through our “A Helping Hand” program. If you know of someone who is suffering from a financial hardship and could use a helping hand, please contact Beth at 1.800.880.1650.ext. 102 or help@trtf.org. All applications are confidential.”

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