 HELLO MARCH! WE ARE GLAD TO SEE YOU!

I hope you all have recovered from our winter blast and are looking forward to seeing some green popping up in yards. I did love the beautiful snow, especially on Thursday when it snowed all day.....something I have never seen in my parts of Texas. However, the resulting problems were disturbing for so many and have prompted me to pay more attention to the solutions state officials will enact going forward. Not having internet for a week resulted in cancellation of our February meeting. Fortunately, our yearbook sponsor and favorite presenter, Jake Yetterberg will join us on March 17th. Have your tax and financial questions ready to share in Chat when we meet on ZOOM.

Here are some things you need to know....

*Know of a retiree needing help after the storm? Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) has financial assistance available through the Helping Hand program. Perhaps you are able to make a donation. Visit trtf.org or call 1.800.880.1650 (ask for Sarah).

*By now you have all received information about the RED LETTER CAMPAIGN to kick-off TRTA’s ZOOM to the CAPITOL ~ April 5-8, 2021! In the past, about 1000 jovial, red shirted TRTA members would swarm the Capitol for one day in April. While it was a fun day for our members, it was likely just another day for legislators with a special interest group arriving in mass, filling the galleries, visiting offices, shaking hands, and taking pictures. COVID caused a rethinking of this event, and I must say, the 2021 plan has the potential be to the most memorable coming together of retired educators Austin has ever experienced.

YOUR help is needed. Imagine the power of 98,000 red letters pouring into the offices of State Senators and Representatives. Let’s make our voices heard by following the instructions in The VOICE, TELLING OUR STORIES and then...
Take a picture of yourself, mailing your red envelopes the week of March 29th

* Email your picture to Michele Bibb at MKbibb@gmail.com for posting on our Facebook page OR
* Post your picture on your social media page then share with Michele.
* Need help with your letter? Let Peggy (210.373.3961 or casapeggyp@gmail.com) know and a happy NSARTA Porch Elf will help you out!
* Everyone sending/posting pictures will be entered into a drawing for a gift card.

*TRTA/NSARTA 2021-2022 Membership Campaign...Pushing for 100,000+ members!!!
* Have you sent in your renewal and signed up to be a Diamond Plus Member?
  o With Diamond Plus Membership TRS deducts $2.92 monthly from your annuity for TRTA dues.
    ▪ Diamond Plus membership allows TRTA & NSARTA to spend less on mailing renewals and MORE on legislative activities and local activities.
    ▪ Joining is easy! Simply follow the directions in NSARTA’s 2021-2022 Membership Packet (delivered by email)
    ▪ NSARTA Treasurer, Eddy English is ready to receive your paperwork at 13028 Trent, SATX 78232-4878
    ▪ Diamond Plus members as of July 1, 2021 will be entered into a drawing for one of four $25 gift cards.
  o Each One Bring One Challenge
    ▪ Reach out to fellow retirees and let them know the benefits of joining TRTA/NSARTA.
    ▪ YES! There will be prizes for recruiting new members....Watch this space!!!
  o Download the TRTA app to stay current on legislative actions and TRTA activities!

*Coming up...On April 1, 2021 Sherlyn Valentin, our fantastic Children’s Book Project chair and Barb Rothe, 2nd Vice President will deliver English and Spanish books for the children of Ridgeview Elementary School. Each child will receive a new book of their own, but unfortunately, due to Covid, NSARTA can only drop off the books. NSARTA will also deliver a donation of $500 to be used for teachers.
HELLO MARVELOUS MARCH 2021! Greetings and still sending lovely thoughts; however, I promise I will not predict the weather for us anymore as I did in our February Newsletter. I hope everyone has recovered from our historic snow storm. Our yard is still brown and several plants and palm trees may or may not come back. We survived several cold nights with no electricity and no water, on and off Wi-Fi, reading by flashlight, cold sandwiches, layered clothing, knit caps and gloves and oh, so much more. Thank goodness we are now on the road to recovery as I’m hoping all of our NSARTA membership is recovering as well. Yes, the snow was beautiful, serene and peaceful; loved seeing our San Antonio kids on Facebook making cute snowmen and women, watching snow fights and making snow angels for ONE day only! ☺ I am one for sunshine and warm weather! Prayers for all who went through a rough time.

FEBRUARY MEETING: Cancelled…Peggy made the perfect call to cancel our meeting for obvious reasons. See above.

MARCH PROGRAM: March 17th! (3rd Wednesday of the month). Jake Yetterberg was not surprised we cancelled the February meeting. We are thankful Jake is gracious and flexible as he is able to speak at our March meeting. He is enthusiastic, informative and one of our loyal sponsors. He is the owner of the Yetterberg Retirement Solutions. Please see February’s Newsletter to read his bio and expertise.

ID # and Passcode will be sent in a separate email from Peggy.

LOOKING AHEAD: Our focus for our April meeting is “What’s Happening in Public Schools”. We are excited for our speaker, Sophie Torres, a regional representative of Raise Your Hand Texas, (RYHT). RYTH is about strengthening and preparing our students for the future. The nonpartisan and non-profit organization was founded in 2006 by Charles Butt, Chairman and CEO of H-E-B. We are very much looking forward to learning about this wonderful organization for our Texas children.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: We will deliver books to Ridgeview ES on Thursday, April 1st. Sherlyn Valentin, our committee chair, will inform us of the protocol for delivering books. Please reach out to her if you are interested in joining us when we deliver books to Ridgeview ES.

NSARTA BIG READ BOOK CLUB: NEW DATE!! Our next Book Club Zoom Meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021 @ 1:30 to discuss the book, Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. An email with the ID# and passcode will be sent a few days before the meeting.

Continued blessings to everyone! Stay well and safe! See you on Zoom!

TREASURER’S REPORT Dolores Ramon 210-386-4533 Dolores.ramon@yahoo.com

Greetings everyone!

I hope everyone has recovered or is in the process of recovering from our winter storm. It’s hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago we were shivering and experiencing single digit temperatures! As beautiful as the snowfall looked out on my lawn, the excitement was short lived when we lost power. I’m sure many of you felt the same way. I took plenty of pictures the first time it snowed, but I was pretty much over it by the time we had our second snowfall! I’m a south Texas girl. I’d never make it up north!

As for our finances, we are in pretty good shape. We had very little activity in the month of February. We had some donations for our SAMMs winter project. We even had some non-members contribute. We also had a donation from District XX for membership recruitment. I know Peggy and Eddy have plans for putting that money to work and increasing our membership.

As always, I look forward to sharing the treasurer’s report with you on Wednesday, March 17. See you there!

Dolores
Yes, it’s March!!! We have 2 very interesting and different Hearts for you to enjoy reading about this month. One Heart lives out of state and the other is here in San Antonio but due to health limitations is unable to attend Zoom or in-person meetings. They have several things in common, their love of teaching and family and their willingness to go above and beyond to help kids. It’s interesting how one Heart was retiring from NEISD just as the other was beginning her teaching career in NEISD. This month we celebrate Lillis Atchley and Kathy Sherman.

Lillis Atchley

“I was born in Grand Bay, Alabama on August 23, 1928 and I am 92 years young. I was one of 6 kids and sadly, only 2 siblings are still living, my brother lives in Alabama and my sister lives in Florida. Dad worked very hard as a day laborer and my mother had a full time job taking care of all my brothers and sisters. I graduated from high school as the Valedictorian of my class, an honor I still am very proud to have achieved. I attended Livingston University founded in 1835 as a church supported school for young women. After 1900, the University began accepting male students and in 1995 changed its name to the University of West Alabama. I met my husband-to-be at Livingston. In fact, we had side by side mailboxes. I remember one day having difficulty opening my mailbox, he was standing next to me and asked if “I needed help.” He was able to open it and our beautiful love story began. One of the fun facts about Livingston University was a location on campus called “The Bowl”. This area was where “courting” couples could go to sit, talk, hug, and kiss. It was an area Fred and I visited while getting to know each other. In 1949, we graduated from Livingston University on Sunday, we were married on Monday and Tuesday we boarded a bus and moved to San Antonio. Fred was drafted and began his basic training at Ft. Sam Houston. We liked San Antonio so much we decided to make it our home. We have twin sons, one sadly has passed away and the other lives with me. We have 3 grown granddaughters, April, Kelly, and Erin and are blessed with 6 great grandsons. Fred passed away in 2016 after we were married 66 years. It has been very difficult living without him as he was my first real boyfriend, in fact, he was “The Love of My Life”. Sometimes I feel like I don’t have a life anymore but I’m grateful my son is here to take care of me.

In 1949, I began teaching senior English at South San Antonio High School and after Fred’s service in the army, he taught science at South San, too. We both decided to go back to school and earn our master’s degrees. I have a Master’s degree in English from St. Mary’s University and Fred received his Master’s degree in Science from Incarnate Word University. We transferred to NEISD where the salary was greater because we had to pay back our college loans. I taught English at Churchill High School and Fred taught Science at Lee and MacArthur High Schools. After many enjoyable years, I retired from NEISD in 1973 and Fred retired from NEISD in 1990. We were both long time Life Members of NSARTA and I was dedicated member of the stitchery group.

When I was younger, I loved quilting. I made many MANY quilts and would put them in boxes under our bed. Fred wanted to use them and couldn’t understand why I wouldn’t let him but instead I would put them away to save and protect. I was a member of the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild for many years.
Now I spend my time reading mysteries are my favorite. Agatha Christie novels with her characters Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple are wonderful. She has such an amazing way of weaving interesting details with twists and turns in each of her books. Something you might be surprised to know about me is how I chopped a big snake in half. My sister and I were walking alone one January day, she pushing a wheelbarrow and I was carrying an axe. We saw a large snake that scared my sister but not me. I walked over closer to it and wacked it in half with my axe. Half of the snake went one way and the other half went another direction.

Fred and I belonged to Harmony Hills Baptist Church until it closed. For many years, we volunteered with other members and traveled to a girl’s Mexican orphanage to do missionary work “For Love of a Child”. Fred was the cook for our group and I was one of the teachers who taught bible study lessons. Since I didn’t speak Spanish, I would write up the lessons and several of the girls would translate the lessons to the children. One year we were in Mexico on Valentine’s Day. Mexico doesn’t celebrate that holiday, but we came prepared with Valentine t-shirts I had painted for the girls and of course, we brought lots of candy. It was a fun time introducing them to this special day.

I’ve been blessed with a long life and a wonderful husband and family. Thank you for selecting me as a NSARTA Heart.”

Thank You, Lillis, for the years of service and love you and Fred gave to students in South San ISD, NEISD, and the young ladies of Mexico. You have made a difference in their lives and the lives of NSARTA members.

Kathy Sherman

“Thank you for the honor of being a NSARTA Heart for March!

I was born in Dallas Texas in 1952 to Katherine & Norman Eaton, their third child. My mother was a native Texan, born & raised in the small east TX town of Brownsboro. My father was born in England and his family migrated to the U.S. when he was a young child. My parents met in Houston where my mother was working, and my father was in the Air Force in San Marcos. They met on a blind date and were married less than a year later. After getting out of the service, my father worked for Eastern Airlines and then Pan American Airlines until I graduated from high school in 1970. His job caused our family to move around the country, so I only lived in Texas until I was two years old. We then lived in California, Buffalo, NY and the New York City suburb of Westport, Connecticut where I went to middle school and high school. My father’s job allowed me to do a lot of traveling around the world in my ‘growing up’ years which instilled a love of travel in me!

After I graduated from high school, I went to college at American University in Washington, DC. During my college years, my parents moved to Boston, then London, back to NYC and returned to Houston when I was finishing college. I majored in education in college and after graduating, I worked for two years as a middle school special education assistant in the Falls Church, VA. District, as I was unable to get a teaching job in the DC area. In 1977 I made my way back to TX. (Houston) and got a second grade teaching job in the Fort Bend district where my parents lived. My father was selling real estate and was the best client of a young man running a title insurance office in the area. It was very unlike my reserved English bred father to do, but he introduced us Labor Day weekend 1977 to play tennis. The young man was Bill Sherman, as many of you know, my future husband! We married in August 1978 and moved to San Antonio where he was transferred with his job.

I applied for teaching jobs in San Antonio and was substituting in the NEISD district at the beginning of the new school year. In September while working a multiple day sub job, I got a call to interview for a second grade position at a newly opened school called Hidden Forest. Very fortunate destiny landed me the position in the neighborhood where we had bought a house and I taught second grade at Hidden Forest until May 2010, when I retired. What a blessing all those years were to teach at such a special neighborhood school, have our daughters attend school there, and to make so many very treasured lifelong friends!!
Our early years in San Antonio were spent working, making friends, playing tennis, and traveling on adventures to scuba dive and snow ski. After seven years of marriage, we started our family in September 1985 with the birth of Jessica, and then in May 1987 Lauren arrived. We raised our girls in the neighborhood of Hidden Forest until they were in high school and then moved to north SA to the neighborhood of Mountain Lodge in 2002. At that time my mother came to live with us and was with us until she passed away in March 2015. Those years were very special for us and for our two daughters who had such a close bond with their Gramma Billie.

By 2016, we were contemplating making a transition to live in the Nashville TN area where both of our daughters and their husbands and two young granddaughters lived. We had another granddaughter born in November 2016, and then I spent most of 2017 in Nashville for the birth of our first grandson, Leo, in March and for his open heart, cleft lip & cleft palate surgeries during his first year and I was going back to SA for short periods of time. After 40 years of living in SA, our whole married life, it took us two years to come to the decision that moving was what we should do. By July 2018 we had a new garden home in Gallatin, TN, just north of Nashville, and we were very happy with our decision. Especially, because by then, another grandchild was on the way, and our second grandson was born in September 2018. Then in January 2021 another granddaughter was born. Being close by to our daughters and our special six grandchildren and experiencing daily life with them is the highlight of our lives now. Brooklynn, Layna, Nora, Leo, Hudson, and Anna (ages almost 8 to 1) are our most special blessings and are keeping us young (and sometimes exhausted haha)!

We have continued to enjoy traveling as we did in our early marriage and have taken some awesome trips to Alaska/Canada and Italy & Greece in the past few years and now are exploring TN and nearby states such as North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. We had a fun & very active trip to Disney World in 2019 with 4 grandkids!

My gratitude is immense for my years full of reassuring faith, loving family & friends, good health, and a career full of special memories. I miss Texas every day and all our friends and family there. We are sad not being able to visit this past year but are hopeful we will make it there later in the spring.

Thank you NSARTA for all you do to support retired educators!"

Kathy, all your friends at Hidden Forest and NSARTA thank you for your years of service to the students IN NEISD, both as a teacher and as a valued parent supporter. I’m sure you are enjoying all the quiet and loud time with your precious grandkids.

FORMER MEMBER HONORARIUM

Many of you will remember Rae Beth Barton. She was one of our very first “Hearts”, way back in May of 2016. Rae Beth passed away in 2017. Her son, Paul and his wife Kim, are submitting a request to NSID to have a school named after Rae Beth. They are in need of a fellow educator who worked with or knew her to complete a short questionnaire. If you would be willing to do this, please let me know and I will send you the questions or you can reach Paul Barton at drsbarton@gmail.com.

Question #1  What was interesting about our two hearts, one beginning a career and one retiring from a career?
Since our last newsletter, Get Well wishes were mailed to Patti Evans’ husband, Mark, who was hospitalized for bronchitis. We also sent a sympathy card to the family of our beloved Sarah Villarreal. She was one of the strongest supporters of children and all NSARTA friends. Sarah’s laughter, jokes, smiles, and unwavering love of our country will be missed by all!

“ENCOURAGING WORDS” Barbara Yates, Chaplain barbyates1@sbcglobal.net

“The person who sows seeds of KINDNESS will have a PERPETUAL HARVEST” - Amish Proverb

Happy Spring and may all your gardens grow.

RECORDING SECRETARY Carolyn Pfeiffer 210-372-0434 carolynpfeiffer48@gmail.com

North San Antonio Retired Teachers Association
WEDNESDAY, February 17, 2021

1. President Peggy Peterson called this meeting to be cancelled on Tuesday evening because of the extreme winter storm weather, snow, and below freezing temperatures. Also internet connections were down and power off in some areas of the San Antonio area.

MEMBERSHIP Eddy English 210-844-1380 eklatt210@satx.rr.com

We are off and running for the 21-22 membership drive. I have already received 15 memberships and am expecting to get many more during the following weeks. So glad we included the birthday month and I’m keeping a record of those that I can hand off to Linda – I believe that she has been responsible for those greetings going out to them and am thankful that she has taken that job on.

DIAMOND PLUS IS THE WAY TO GO!
**LEGISLATIVE/ FOUNDATION**  
Adele Murphy  adelem54@yahoo.com  830-522-0838

Richard Herbst, our District 20 Legislative Chair, continues to set up meetings with our representatives or their staff. During today’s Zoom meeting with Representative Steve Allison Richard confirmed that the funding required by SB12 from the last legislative session for our pension continues to be in the budget! Now that our TRS retirement fund is actuarially sound it is time to push for a COLA. The legislators really like it when we attend these meetings Richard is hosting. Please try to attend those for your legislators as well as any others you have time to attend.

Our Rally Day at the Capital is Wednesday, April 7th. It will be a virtual meeting and we are being asked to setup meetings with our legislators throughout the week.

**Foundation News**
Texas Retired Teachers Foundation, TRTF, is requesting funds to help those who need help as a result of the damage caused by cold weather. If you need help be sure to ask for it. TRTF.org 1-800-880-1650

**INFORMATIVE AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES**  
Laurie Harris  210-887-1125
Laurieharris123@att.net

**Utility scams are snow joke**
Attorney, Federal Trade Commission

Winter often brings the blues, but when it brings Arctic blasts, burst pipes, power outages, and even icicles indoors, scammers aren’t far behind with weather-related scams.

Scammers know severe weather may have shut off your electricity, heat, and water and might pose as your utility company. They might call to say that they’re sorry your power went out and offer a reimbursement, but first they need your bank account information. They might email you to say that there’s an error in their system, and you have to give them personal information so they can turn your gas on again. They could even threaten to leave your utilities shut off if you don’t send them money immediately. But those are all lies.

If you get one of these calls, texts, or emails, here are some things you can do:

- If you get a call, thank the caller and hang up. Never call a number left in a voicemail, text, or email. Instead, if you’re worried, **contact the utility company directly using the number on your bill or on the company’s website.** Verify if the message came from them.
- If you get a call out of the blue and the caller claims you have to pay a past due bill or your services will be shut off, **never give banking information over the phone.** To pay your bill over the phone, **always place the call to a number you know is legitimate.**
- **Utility companies don’t demand payment information by email, text, or phone.** And they won’t force you to pay by phone as your **only option.**
- If the caller tells you to pay by gift card, cash reload card, money transfer, or cryptocurrency, it’s a **scam.** Every time. No matter what they say.

It’s cold out there. Help protect your community by reporting any scams you see at ReportFraud.ftc.gov

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**Answer the two Newsletter questions correctly (MUST ANSWER BOTH!)** to be entered in a drawing and win a great prize. Email or call/text Betty Moseley: bmosley@swbell.net, 210-219-9881, by March 16, with your answers. **Winner announced at March 17th meeting along with the February winner.**
BIRTHDAYS  Linda Nolder  lnolder@aol.com  Michele Bibb  mkbibb47@gmail.com

People born in March can be blessed with excellent eyesight, have a gift for leadership, and are very artistic. Their birth flower is the daffodil, often associated with joy, friendship, along with rebirth and optimism that spring will soon begin. They have 2 birthstones, the blue green aquamarine and the bloodstone. This green stone with flecks of red is prized in many cultures for its perceived abilities to provide energy and heal disorders. FAMOUS people born in March include Simone Biles, Stephen Curry, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Fred Rogers, Albert Einstein, and Theodore Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. TALENTED NSARTA MARCH BIRTHDAY MEMBERS include: Phyllis McMillian, Carolyn Pfeiffer, Buddy Rosene, Eddy English, Debby Moulton, Juliana Strain-Davis, Jim Long, Louise Raphael, Mary Guzman, Myra Pilant and Janet Beauch (in no particular order).

WISHING THESE MARCH MEMBERS A FANTASTIC BIRTHDAY!

SLOW COOKER CRACK CHICKEN
Clemmie Rodriguez

2 LBS boneless skinless chicken thighs (trim off excess fat if desired)
1 oz packet ranch seasoning mix
16 oz cream cheese
8 slices bacon (sliced, cooked, drained and shredded)
1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 cup sliced green onions

INSTRUCTIONS
In a 4 qt. or larger slow cooker, add the chicken thighs. Sprinkle the ranch seasoning. Place the cream cheese (cut in thick slices--I buy 2-8oz blocks).
Cover and cook on LOW for 7 hours WITHOUT opening the lid during the cooking time.
Shred the chicken (I do this right in the slow cooker with two forks)
Stir the cream cheese into the shredded chicken then the cooked bacon
Spread out into an even layer. Sprinkle over the shredded cheddar cheese.
Cover for 10-15 more minutes(LOW) to allow the cheese to melt.
Serve over steamed rice, angel hair pasta, baked potato boat or on sandwich rolls.
Excellent dish for pot luck. Enjoy.

STITCHERY  Ledru Barker  ledrubarker@yahoo.com  210-641-6066

No news.

If you would like to share a recipe for April, Please send it to Michele Bibb at mkbibb47@gmail.com
**CHILDREN’S BOOK PROJECT**  Sherlyn Valentin, dhrc@airmail.net  210-365-9185, Pat Loewe, Nancy Dooley & Mary Martinez

Any member who has given books to children in the months of January, February, or March, please contact Sherlyn Valentin by email or text with the number of books. Thank you.

**VOLUNTEERING**  Janet Pennock japennock57@icloud.com,  979-417-3876
105 Firesage, Universal City, Texas, 78148

Thank you to those members who have emailed me your monthly volunteer hours. Please keep tabs on those hours you are volunteering. As a good majority of us have received the vaccine, I foresee more activity in volunteering.

*Be the rainbow in someone’s cloud!*  

**Question #2**  When is the TRTA Rally Day at the Capitol?
March Healthy Living Calendar

Get a massage—it’s good for the whole body!

While social distancing, mask wearing, and handwashing have helped to slow the spread of Covid, many of us have experienced feelings of isolation, anxiety, depression, or loneliness. To combat these feelings, here are some tips to help you stay positive and healthy.

✓ Create a routine—this may help to bring order and purpose to daily tasks. Include activities such as exercise, eating healthy, meditating, and other healthy pastimes.
✓ Stay connected virtually—Phone or video call a family member or friend. Staying connected could help relieve sad or anxious feelings.
✓ Get online—Social Meditating sites can make it easier to connect with old friends or make new ones. Staying connected can help with sad or anxious feelings.
✓ Learn something new—Find a skill or topic of interest such as painting, baking, building that can be taught by friends or family members through video calls.
✓ Stay positive—Discuss experiences with loved ones or friends; keep a daily gratitude journal and practice mindfulness and relaxation exercises.

For Lexophile Lovers:

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A boiled egg is hard to beat!

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
NSARTA
14219 Turtle Rock St.
San Antonio, Texas 78232

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

HAPPY St. Patrick’s DAY!

March, 2021