Greetings All,

Last year NSARTA adopted the theme, *Be the Rainbow in Someone Else’s Cloud*. We set out to brighten the gloom of Covid-19 and in a flash we learned how to Zoom, enjoyed friends virtually, won gift cards, played bingo, laughed through a holiday sing-along, created porch elves, met excellent speakers, and even heard from our state legislators! Today as we prepare to kick-off NSARTA’s 2021-2022 year, the dark cloud of Covid is still casting a shadow on our plans to meet in person...so what do you do when Covid rains on your parade again, well you ZOOM of course! At least for September please join us.....

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

9:15 – Waiting room opens for fellowship

10:00 – Meeting

Featured speaker- Tim Lee, Executive Director of TRTA
Our dynamic speaker will recap the legislative session and bring us up to date on the 13th check.
Of course, there will be Zoom Prizes too!!
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89257429948?pwd=ZjhtUjZIU3BhakxyMGZKcGRFN3BDdz09
Meeting ID: 892 5742 9948
Passcode: 343929
Together We Will Make NSARTA The Rainbow in Our Crazy 2021 Cloud!

Questions
Betty Moseley  bmosley@swbell.net  210 219 9881

Embedded within your Newsletter you will find 2 questions. E-mail or text your answer to both these questions to Betty Moseley by the 3rd Tuesday (day before our meeting) each month, and you will have your name placed in a drawing for a Gift card. The winner will be drawn at our meeting each month.

Hearts of NSARTA  Michele Bibb  210-494-8197  mkbibb47@gmail.com

We are finally back together, or at least Zooming together again, and celebrating our wonderful NSARTA members. This year we are going to do something a little different. Our 2021-2022 Hearts will be married couples or siblings. NSARTA’s September Hearts are Charles and Lee Carr. Their story was lovingly written by their daughter, Barbara and goodness, what an exciting life they’ve had!!

We might mention that Lee is an important member in the Stitchery Club.

Charles and Lee Carr  “Charles Richard Carr was born on 12/02/1934, to Cecil Thomas and Ethel Maude Newcomer Carr in Forth Worth, Texas. He was the eldest child of four, and the only son of the family. Charles was surrounded by educators including his maternal aunts and great aunts. He began attending school in Medina, Texas. The family moved to San Antonio during the war, and he attended schools in SAISD. After the war the family moved back to Medina where Charles graduated from high school.”
Lee Ola Cowan Carr was born on 01/12/1937, to Ernest and Madelle Smith Cowan in Tahoka, Texas. She was the youngest child and only daughter of the family. Lee was also surrounded by educators as her maternal aunts and great aunts were educators. She began attending school in Beaton and Idalou, Texas. The family moved to Galveston during the war, and she graduated from Ball High in Galveston.

Both Charles and Lee attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. Both earned their BS Degrees in Education. They met and fell in love while singing in the church choir at the Methodist Church. Once Charles graduated and was hired to teach 6th grade for North East ISD in San Antonio, the couple married on September 6, 1958. While Charles was in San Antonio for his first year of teaching, Lee returned to Georgetown to finish her last year of college. The couple welcomed their first child, Richard Lee Carr, in November of 1959 and a daughter, Barbara Lynn Carr, in May of 1962.

Charles earned his Master’s Degree from Highland University in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Lee earned her Master’s Degree from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

Once Charles earned his Master’s Degree, he left the classroom behind and began a career in School Administration. He was the Principal of several Elementary schools in the North East ISD and spent seven years as the Principal of the Alternative High School for North East. Highlights from his 33 years with North East ISD include:

- Leading Wilshire Elementary back to normalcy after a fire in the Cafetorium.
- Changing the direction of the Alternative High School to one of reform and a focus on learning.
  - Built a reward game room students could earn time in with good behavior and good grades.
  - Arranged camping trips that could be earned.
- Helping police capture a suspect hiding in Colonial Hills Elementary who fell out of the ceiling in front of him.

Lee began her educational career as the director of the preschool/kindergarten at Los Angeles Height’s Episcopal Church. This job had the added benefit of allowing her to take her children to work with her.

Once the kids were in public school, she took a job at the Harry Jersig Speech and Hearing Center at Our Lady of the Lake University. While there she earned her master’s degree. This love of working with children with special needs continued as she moved to Judson ISD.

To relax, the family enjoyed the outdoors. Charles and Lee were founding members of the Alamo chapter of the Sierra Club. Both Charles and Lee held various officer positions within the organization. Leading outings on the wild Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande River was a highlight for the expert canoeists. Camping, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, fishing, and exploration were always family favorites. Once summer rolled around, the family camper was loaded and they were off on an extended road trip to explore new places (with cooler temperatures of course).

After retirement, they traveled to Alaska to park host on the Kenai peninsula during the summer months. This gave them several years of exploring Alaska and one eventful trip to Russia just across the Bering Strait. Here they became stranded by weather, turning a weekend trip to a week-long trip. During this time, they made many friends and an old love came back into their lives.
They began to stop at Bluegrass music festivals on their way home to San Antonio for the winter. And thus, a new chapter in their lives began.

Lee became a grand champion Mountain Dulcimer player and Charles taught himself to play the Alto Mandolin. From this point on they were constantly going to music jams and festivals. Any time or place where they could play music, they were there. Charles has written several original songs and both enjoy performing. They have surrounded themselves with good friends, great music, and adventure. Life is good.”

Special Recognition

We are proud to celebrate the 103rd birthday of our long time member, Ocoee Meadows. Ocoee was born in 1918 in Bradshaw, Texas, a town which no longer exists, according to Ocoee. She did her under-graduate work at Abilene Christian, master’s degree from Sul Ross with additional work from Alpine and UTSA. Her reading certification is from Incarnate Word and her counseling certification and supervision certification from Our Lady of the Lake. Under graduate degrees include a major in education and a minor in music. Ocoee once said, “You know if you go to Abilene Christian your other major is Bible.”

Ocoee began her career teaching second and third grade plus music to all grades in Hylton, Texas. Her career lasted 40 years and ended at Sunset Hills Elementary, now known as Colby Glass Elementary in NISD. At the time of her retirement she was a reading specialist. Both she and her husband, Leaird, retired from NISD in 1979. Considering NSARTA began in 1975, we can say that Ocoee was “almost” a charter member. They have 2 children, Leaird III, a retired school counselor and daughter, Betty who now lives in Charlotte, NC.

Ocoee has served as NSARTA’s Chaplin, Corresponding Secretary, Program Chair, and chairman for the stitchery group. In fact, she helped organize the stitchery group and was in a leadership position until 2011. She was a member of the NSARTA Bridge Club and according to Judy McFeaters, was the voice of common sense and calm during board meetings. We thank you, Ocoee, for sharing a small part of your life with us.

Several years ago, Ocoee moved to a Senior Living Community in Charlotte, North Carolina to be closer to her daughter. She continues to be very involved with all activities in her new community and looks forward to reading NSARTA’s monthly newsletter. To our dear friend, Mrs. Ocoee Meadows, we send a Big Happy Belated Birthday Hug to you! Congratulations to you for celebrating your 103rd birthday in style!!  (Information from 2012 article written by Judy McFeaters)
SEPTEMBER 2021 - A new exciting NSARTA 2021-2022 year ahead! Great programs are planned, Big Read Book Club is going strong and our service projects remain a very important part of our “giving back” to our community. We are also planning on exciting social “meet-ups” several times a year. Stay tuned!

Following tradition, our September’s program will again feature our fabulous TRTA Executive Director, Tim Lee. Tim keeps us informed with up-to-date information as our legislators pass Bills that directly impact us. Tim works tirelessly and effectively for TRS retirees.

Due to continuing Covid numbers rising, the Board felt, in the best interest of our members, we should meet once again on Zoom. You will receive the Zoom ID and passcode from Peggy by email a few days before Wednesday, September 15th. Decisions will be made on a month-month basis.

As always, I enjoy working with our amazing Board and all of our NSARTA members. Hope to see everyone on Zoom in September and throughout our 2021-2022 NSARTA year.

Please stay safe and healthy.

BIG READ BOOK CLUB  Patti Evans  paevans2808@aol.com

On September 1st the Big Read Book Club met through Zoom to discuss our two selections The Midnight School by Suzanne Woods Fisher and The Children’s Blizzard by Melanie Benjamin. We had a great discussion of the books and compared them. Our next meeting will be November 3rd at 1:30. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person. Our November selection is The Rose Code by Kate Quinn. This is a heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchley Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over.

We would love to have you join us if you love to read and enjoy sharing your reading adventures. We meet every other month on the first Wednesday at 1:30. Contact Patti Evans or Peggy if you would be interested in joining us.

Meet-Ups for Members  Kathy Cooke  kjccooke@yahoo.com

Kathy Cooke will be planning meet-ups and events throughout the year so that we can fellowship outside of meetings. Kathy would welcome anyone who would like to work with her in researching and arranging fun experiences.

Question #1: What instruments do our hearts play?
NSARTA Minutes—Regular Meeting Via ZOOM  
WEDNESDAY, May 19, 2021

1. President Peggy Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The program started first.
2. Program: Barb Rothe introduced our speaker, Brenda Schmachtenberger. Brenda is the executive director for Oasis, for 29 years. Her message today was the senior program in San Antonio for Lifelong Adventures thru Oasis, offering classes and volunteer opportunities for seniors in the community.
3. Welcome: Peggy welcomed all members and the speaker to this meeting, at 10:20 AM. 39 participants were present today. Barb talked about the procedures for Bingo later today.
4. Invocation: Barbara Yates, Chaplain; Pledges: Paul Cwiklik, Immediate Past President.
5. Three Bingo games were played with Tracy Wiggins in charge. Gift cards will be given to the winners, donated by Tracy, Pam Neel, and Des LaMacchia from Keller Williams Realtors.
6. Officer Reports:
   a. Minutes from April 21, 2021 were approved and filed. Carolyn Pfeiffer, recording secretary, had these minutes previously printed in the May newsletter.
   b. Treasurer’s report, by Dolores Ramon, was reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.
   c. Eddy English (1st V-P) gave a membership report, with a total of 92 members update.
   d. Adele Murphy, Legislative Chair, reported that the Sunset Committee bill passed and the Golden Ticket bill should pass. The COLA for retirees did not make it out of the calendars committee and will not be voted on this time. 80% of the TRTA bills did pass on from the calendars committee to the House and then to the Senate for possible approval.
   e. Sherlyn Valentin, Children’s Book Project Chair, reported that 797 books were given to Ridgeview Elementary for this project in April, 2021. THE NEISD Book Sale will be Friday, May 21, at the Blossom Athletic Center, starting at 10 AM. Please show up to assist her by 9:30 AM. SAMMinistries is requesting books for pre-teen and teens, please contact Sherlyn about your donations.
   f. Janet Pennock, Volunteer Hours Chair, reported to continue to keep track of one’s hours during the summer months. Babysitting grandchildren counts, as well as attending the NSARTA monthly meetings count.
6. Other Business:
   a. Peggy will be emailing information again about the cleaning supplies project to SAMMinistries in the next week. Porch Elves will be onboard to collect these items from members. Empty spray bottles will also be collected.
   b. Peggy voiced her “thank yous” to: Betty Moseley, Barbara Yates, all the officers, the committee chairs, and anyone else she may have missed for a job well done this past year.
7. Zoom Prizes: will be mailed to the winners.
   a. May Newsletter questions winner is: Barbara Miller.
   b. Door prize winners are: Patti Evans and Carolyn Pfeiffer.
   c. Bingo winners are: Sue Sim, Adele Murphy, and Nancy Black.
   d. Attendance winner for January thru May meetings is: Glennie Lecocke.
8. June 3 will be the TRTA District 20 Spring Conference via Zoom, link to come soon.
9. October 28 will be the TRTA District 20 Fall Conference in-person in Boerne, more details coming in September.
10. Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 15, 2021, back in-person at San Pedro Presbyterian Church, with Tim Lee as our speaker.
11. Adjournment: 12:02 PM. Carolyn Pfeiffer
MEMBERSHIP

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

We now have 208 members. This includes our 15 life members.

We are hoping to increase our membership if we can follow through with “Each one bring one”.

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

It’s been a busy summer and I’m happy to be getting back to a routine. My granddaughters were here visiting for 11 weeks. I hadn’t seen them since December, 2019. I missed them terribly, and was so happy to have them here this summer. But I must tell you, my husband and I were ready for them to go back to California by the time they left. They wore us out!

Our NSARTA June summer service project was a big success. Thank you to our members who entrusted me with their shopping. I received over $300 in checks! That was quite a bit of cleaning supplies…and the money stretched a long way at Big Lots and Dollar Tree. I look forward to sharing the treasurer’s report with you at our September meeting.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  Michele Bibb  210-494-8197  mkbibb47@gmail.com

Last month we sent get well cards to Carol Shelfer who had back surgery and to Patti Evans whose husband has been hospitalized. Please keep both families in your prayers.

On a personal note, I’d like to thank everyone who called, texted, sent cards, and prayed for my husband, Barry, and myself while we were battling Covid. I’m happy to say we are both doing well and we continue to get stronger each day.

LEGISLATIVE & FOUNDATION  Adele Murphy  adelem54@yahoo.com  830-522-0838

My name should be Pollyanna not Adele. I’m a very good spin doctor and will attempt to frame the events of this past legislative session as positively as I can. As you know from the Inside Line we obtained many of the objectives put forth by TRTA. Unfortunately, we did not receive the COLA we hoped for. The positive outcome is that there was universal support for a 13th check that is being funded by the state not TRS. It seems that TRS was insecure about their ability to remain actuarily sound if they gave us the proposed COLA. Short of a huge recession I think we can be confident we will receive a COLA in 2023. Baby steps can be frustrating after so many years, but I think we will be in a better position to push for annual COLAs. Politicians love teachers and want to support us. Please support them by sending letters of thanks for what they have accomplished.

FOUNDATION -

Texas Retired Teachers Foundation, TRTF, is a worthy cause. They strive to help all levels of teachers and succeed. They have begun a tutoring program to help schools and students to overcome the setbacks brought on by COVID. This should not impact your benefits unless you retired in 2021 or took an early retirement for medical reasons. For more information, go to trtf.org.
"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" - Marie Curie

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Birthdays
Linda Nolder 210-219-4749 lnolder@aol.com Michele Bibb

Members of the Hospitality Committee:
Co-Chairs: Linda Nolder & Michele Bibb
Members: Laurie Harris, Sue Blom, Kathy Cooke, Cindy Nobles, Karin Stanley, Lori Armstrong, Teresa Flansburg, Glennie Lecocke, Dolores Ramon, Patti Evans, and Barb Rothe.

Sending HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES to these SEPTEMBER NSARTA members:

Marta Amezquita, Michele Bibb, Margie Cadena, Terri Chidgey, Kathy Crane, Debbie Davis, Anita Oberle, Peggy Peterson, Betty Welch, Lori Armstrong, Marjorie Bolt, Pat Hatchett, Loretta Huddleston, Cynthia Nobles, Don Patmon, Judith Salge, William Smith, Carolyn Valdivieso, Pam Yarnold

One birthday name will be drawn at our meeting for a gift card

HOSPITALITY
Co-chairs Linda Nolder (210) 219-4749 Michele Bibb (210) 494-8197

Hospitality Fun

Are you in the mood to do something quick, cheap and easy? Are you in the mood to decorate for Fall, but it really seems too “hot”? Here’s a fun craft to busy your time in the air conditioning of your home while still getting ready for your fall decorations. Get 3 splatter screens from the Dollar Store, a few fall leaves and stems, some black pipe cleaners, some lightweight rope or twine, and a bow or ribbon. Place the screens on top of each other, separated somewhat, enough to space and look like a pumpkin. Tape the handles together and then wrap them with the rope or twine. Glue the pipe cleaners on the outside edge. Decorate with leaves and stems as you “feel” the fall spirit. Top with the bow. You can add the welcome if you want, but I might just leave mine blank. And there you have the spirit of fall all ready for you in no time at all and ready to hang when the spirit moves you and the weather cools.
Community volunteering is a vital way to show that retired educators still make an impact on the community. My job is to collect the hours that our members have volunteered and send that data to TRTA. You can submit your hours, at a meeting, by email or text. Do you take care of your grandchildren? Do you teach Sunday School? Did you help at a church project? Do you help at the food bank? Do you help at a school? Did you make a meal for someone in need? Did you take a friend to the doctor? These are just a few activities that are considered community volunteering. Record those hours on your calendar and submit them to me!

TRTA District 20 Fall Conference

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Cana Ballroom

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

202 W. Kronkosky Street             Boerne, TX. 78006             10:00 AM (Registration begins at 9:30 AM)

Lunch Reservation---$20.00             NO REFUNDS!!

**Please mail your reservation (your $20 check) to:

Carolyn Pfeiffer
8310 Magdalena Run
Helotes, TX.  78023

Make check payable to: NSARTA
Deadline is: Monday, October 4

~ONLY IF THE CONFERENCE IS CANCELLED will you receive a refund.~

Speakers include representatives from TRS, TRTA, and District Legislative Chair.

I will hold everyone’s check until the latter part of October to be sure we will be meeting in person.

Carolyn

Question #2: What time are we zooming on September 15th?
**CHILDRENS’ BOOK PROJECT**  Sherlyn Valentin, Nancy Dooley, Pat Loewe & Mary Martinez

In spring 2020, the state of Texas local units gave 102,283 books to children; and District 20 local units donated 12,041 books. NSARTA will be again donating books to Ridgeview Elementary this next spring 2022. Last year NSARTA members donated 795 books to Ridgeview students. Thank you to Barbara Johns, Barb Rothe, and Harold Black, in assisting in bringing those books. Thank you to Mary Guzman, Peggy Peterson, Carolyn Pfeiffer, and Sherlyn Valentin for donating 96 books to SAMMinistries and Edgewood ISD Outreach in June. And thank you to members Nancy Black, Harold Black, and Sue Sim, for assisting in choosing books at the NEISD PTA Used Book Sale in May to be given to Ridgeview students next spring. The attached photos taken by Harold Black depict the books at Ridgeview and choosing books at the book sale.

Sherlyn:  dhrc@airmail.net  210-365-9185

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**STITCHERY**  Ledru Barker  ledrubarker@yahoo.com  210-289-3554

We received many donations over the summer as people were cleaning out homes. My guest bed is overflowing with cloth. I dropped off 36 pillows and 13 quilts. Thanks to Kay Rosene for providing 11 of the quilts. The VA took them because I begged to get them out of my house. He took them but said they would take no more until COVID calms down again. Our group was going to start back up but I have nowhere to take items yet. I am looking for other locations that will take our contributions.

Donations
August 19, 2021, by Alvaro Puig
Consumer Education Specialist, FTC
Scammers are impersonating FTC Chair Lina Khan in a new phishing scheme. The email says the FTC wants to send you Coronavirus relief funds and tells you to send some personal information, like your name, address, and date of birth. The FTC is not distributing Coronavirus economic stimulus or relief money to people. The email is a scam. Don’t reply.

If you get an unexpected email that asks you to reply – or call or click a link – to give somebody personal or financial information, don’t. It’s probably a phishing scam trying to steal your money.

Report the phishing email to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov and forward it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group at report phishing@apwg.org. (If scammers contact you by text message or phone, report that, too.)

Pat is our registrar when we are meeting in person. When that time comes, we will include the directions for registering at each meeting as you enter the hall.

I will keep you informed as I get more information. If you have vision and dental care with AMBA you can continue with AMBA. If you want dental and vision care you will need to work with Trident.
September Healthy Living Calendar

Let go of the little things

Accurate vaccine information is critical and can help stop common myths and rumors. This is updated info from the CDC, August 27, 2021. More will follow next time.

Bust Common Myths and Learn the Facts

Is the mRNA vaccine considered a vaccine?

Yes, mRNA vaccines, such as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, work differently than other types of vaccines, but they still trigger an immune response inside your body. This type of vaccine is new, but research and development on it has been under way for decades.

The mRNA vaccines do not contain any live virus. Instead, they work by teaching our cells to make a harmless piece of a “spike protein,” which is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. After making the protein piece, cells display it on their surface. Our immune system then recognizes that it does not belong there and responds to get rid of it. When an immune response begins, antibodies are produced, creating the same response that happens in a natural infection.

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

Learn more about mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines.
NSARTA
14219 Turtle Rock St.
San Antonio, Tx 78232

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 2021

Be the Rainbow in someone’s cloud!