

# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## OFFICERS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Charles Jehlen**  
President

**Lynne James**  
Immediate Past President  
Newsletter /Yearbook  
Retirement Education  
Technology Contact

**Gail Krohn**  
First Vice President  
Membership  
Publicity & Scholarship

**Linda Briggs**  
Second Vice President  
Book Project  
Programs

**Donna Lumpkin**  
Secretary

**Wanda Borne**  
Treasurer

**Dixie Tucker**  
Parliamentarian

**Richard Briggs**  
Legislation

**Beulah Thompson**  
Community Volunteer  
Services

**Helen Reynolds**  
Healthy Living

**Mary Sue Carter**  
Informative & Protective  
Services

**Shelley Dettman**  
Member Benefits

**Clara Graham**  
Foundation Representative

**Linda Fong**  
Memorials, Get-Well

**Olive Hall & Jolene Lemaire**  
Historians

**Rosalie Reese**  
Hospitality

**Patricia Allen**  
Social Media

**Loretta Morman**  
Audit

## April Guest Speaker

**Bill Barnes, TRTA Legislative Consultant  
TRTF Trustee  
2020 E.L. Gaylean Award Winner**



**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 11, 1:30 pm

**Where:** via Zoom by invitation only; begin arriving at 1:15.

**Program:** Installation of Officers, 2020-2021 Recap, and Looking Ahead to 2021-2022

**Refreshments:** Ice cream provided by individual members

**Click the link below to join:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84897128429>

**Meeting ID: 848 9712 8429**

## Looking back . . . Forging ahead!

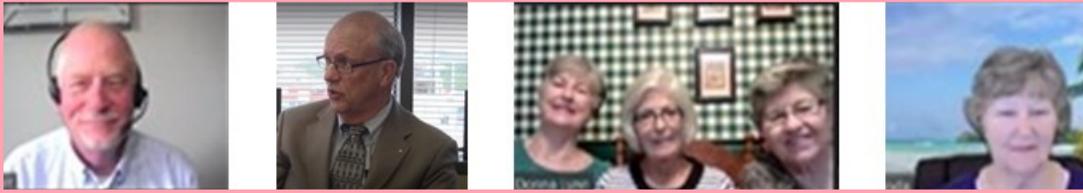
As our COVID year draws to a close, each MJCRSP member can look back with satisfaction on a job well done. Like our friends in the public schools, we adjusted and overcame many obstacles while maintaining our unit's level of service. Every committee completed its task. Every member was kept informed. Every meeting featured important guest speakers with timely information. The one thing I *didn't* do was gain weight from scarfing the chocolate-covered goodies that would have been brought to the meetings. Eating my own cooking during a Zoom meeting wasn't as enjoyable.

We continue to watch the Legislature as they make their decisions on our benefits and the state budget. Allocating limited resources is a difficult job, and I ask you to keep them in your prayers. While the Red Letters and video conferences had an effect, other groups were doing the same asking for funding. As the session winds down, we should continue stressing our association goals to our representatives. Promises made should be kept. Our members' needs must be considered during the final days of the session.

This has been a year of learning for me. Lynne James has been an invaluable mentor for my role. Each of the committee chairs graciously shared their expertise and experiences. In my opinion, the committee leadership and organizational skills are the primary reason why the unit was able to maintain its integrity this year. Well Done!



# April Highlights



Charlie Jehlen

Bill Barnes

Donna Lumpkin, Diane White, Kathleen Woods

Wanda Borne



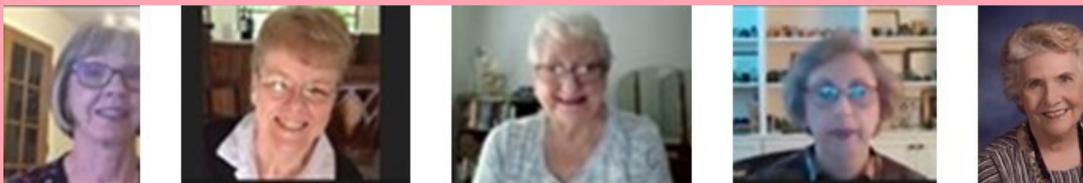
Linda Briggs

Lynne James

Richard Briggs

Helen Reynolds

Mary Sue Carter



Linda Fong

Candye Martin

Becky Dungan

Dana Wasser

Gail Krohn

**ROW ONE:** Charlie Jehlen calls the March meeting to order, and then leads members in prayer and pledges to the USA and Texas flags; guest speaker Bill Barnes updates members about current legislative actions and reminds members to remain in personal contact with legislators throughout the session; Donna Lumpkin shares her Zoom screen with new members Diane White and Kathleen Woods while she presents the March meeting minutes; Treasurer Wanda Borne gives the treasurer's report.

**ROW TWO:** Program Chair Linda Briggs announces installation of officers for the May meeting followed by round table discussion of recent events and what we can hopefully look forward to next fall; Lynne James gives deadlines for the May newsletter; Legislative Chair Richard Briggs announces his legislative plans for the coming weeks and months; Helen Reynolds shares healthy living tips; Mary Sue Carter reminds members that on April 24 area code 409 residents must begin using ten digits. **ROW THREE:** Linda Fong reports on member status, memorials, and get-well communications; Candye Martin, Becky Dungan, and Dana Wasser enjoy the meeting from home; Gail Krohn sends her report on the current membership drive and announces that scholarship winners have been decided by the scholarship committee members.

**TIME TO CELEBRATE:** In spite of all the difficulties faced during the past thirteen months (last in-person meeting was March 2020), MJCRSP has managed to not only survive but thrive! Although we could not physically attend the 2020 state convention and the Day at the Capitol in 2021, we have managed to stay in contact with our legislators and our team leaders in TRTA. We have much to be thankful for! While our 2020 April and May unit meetings were limited to emailed reports and handouts, we resumed in-face meetings by Zoom in August and have not missed a meeting since. We have had an informative program every meeting, and although our membership for 2020-2021 was below our norm, we still were able to sign up most of our members from the previous year. Currently our membership drive for 2021-2022 is going along smoothly. The TRS retirement fund is at an all-time high, thanks to SB12 from the previous legislative session and the efforts by TRTA members to get it signed into law. Our insurance premiums have not increased, and we did not need an increase in funding from the legislature this session. We are on track to receive a long-passed-due cost of living increase (COLA), which will be most helpful to those retirees who live on an annuity of \$2000 or less each month. The report from Austin is that legislators in both the house and senate were inundated with red letters earlier this month. Several bills supported by TRTA have been voted out of committee and are scheduled for vote by the house and/or senate as you read this. At our May 11 meeting we will install our officers, look back on the past year, and celebrate *hopefully* our last Zoom meeting with an ice cream social (each at his or her own home). Our September 14 meeting is traditionally our new retiree luncheon, and TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee is scheduled to be the guest speaker. Save the date and cross your fingers! Have a healthy and happy summer.

**MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE ATTACHED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN TRTA. THE SOONER YOU GET THEM IN, THE BETTER OFF WE WILL BE AS WE LOBBY FOR A COLA! JOINING THE STATE AND LOCAL UNIT FOR ONLY \$45 IS THE BEST \$45 YOU WILL EVER SPEND! SHARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH A NEW MEMBER WHO HAS NEVER JOINED OR A NEW RETIREE WHO IS ABOUT TO JOIN OUR RANKS.**

**HELEN'S HEALTH TIP:** United Healthcare has some new helpers for Medicare Advantage members, and we should take advantage of them. One new part of our plan is *Renew*, a magazine for us. It is excellent with short articles on many aspects of health from physical to mental and easy, delicious recipes to prepare. Remember to look through *Renew* when it arrives and take advantage of our magazine.

Dear Retiree:

Our records indicate that you have not renewed your membership in the local unit of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. If you have been keeping up with news from TRTA headquarters in Austin, you are aware that we are hopeful of a cost of living increase during this session of the legislature. "Hopeful" is not enough! There are deadlines to be met for bills to be passed and our bill has not yet been voted on. At last report it has cleared committee but has not reached the floor for a vote.

The challenges are many. However, with a strong support group, our legislative team in Austin will have a chance to get this done! We need **you** to be part of that support group.

As we approach the end of our membership campaign, there is still time for you to become an active member as you were last year. Your membership dues are only \$45 -- the best investment in your future you can make! Please send the form below with your dues.

**Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Membership Form 2021-2022**  
(Membership drive begins on March 1 each calendar year.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Check if cell only

Please check one: New Member _____	Membership Renewal _____	(2021-2022)
Active Member (TRTA & LOCAL) (Receiving TRS Annuity)		\$45.00 _____
Associate Member (TRTA & LOCAL) (Active teachers/spouses, etc.)		\$45.00 _____
Life Member (LOCAL dues only)		\$10.00 _____
Current Monthly Member (Payroll Deduction/Bank Draft; Local dues only)		\$10.00 _____
Add \$1 (or more) toward our annual Book Project		\$1.00 _____
Scholarship Donation (optional)		\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ _____

Make Check Payable to: **MJCRSP**  
Mail to Wanda Borne, 6975 Olympic, Port Arthur, TX 77642  
or bring form and check to MJCRSP meeting.

*Monthly meetings are held by Zoom, or at the  
Ritter Senior Citizen Center, 914 Boston Avenue in Nederland  
the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:30.*



## DIALING CHANGES FOR SOUTHEAST TEXAS

From Texas Public Utility Commission



**Starting on April 24, 2021, Texans with phone numbers in the 254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915 and 940 area codes should get in the habit of dialing 10-digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls.**

On July 16, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an Order (FCC 20-100) approving 988 as the three-digit abbreviated dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The Order requires all telecommunications providers (including telecommunications carriers, interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol [VoIP] providers, and one-way VoIP providers [covered providers]) to make any network changes necessary to ensure 988 access by July 16, 2022.

Several Texas area codes (254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915 and 940) have numbers with a 988 prefix. Therefore, those areas must transition from seven-digit to 10-digit local dialing. (Areas shown in yellow on this map are not affected by this change.)

April 24, 2021 marks the beginning of a “permissive dialing period” in which callers in those area codes can still complete a call with seven-digit dialing. When that period expires on October 24, 2021, only calls dialed with ten digits will be connected. After the permissive dialing period, local calls dialed with only seven digits will reach a recording prompting them to hang up and dial again using both the area code with the seven-digit telephone number.

### **What other changes need to be made?**

Important safety and security equipment, such as medical alert devices, and alarm and security systems must be programmed to use 10-digit dialing. Many systems operate on 10-digit dialing by default, but some older equipment may still use seven-digits. Please contact your medical alert or security provider if you are not sure whether your equipment needs to be reprogrammed to accommodate the upcoming change to 10-digit local dialing. Any needed reprogramming of alarm and home security equipment must be done during the permissive dialing period from April 24, 2021 to October 24, 2021 to avoid interruption of those services.

Some other examples of services that may need to be re-programmed are:

- life safety systems or medical monitoring devices
- PBXs
- fax machines
- Internet dial-up numbers
- fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates
- speed dialers
- mobile or other wireless phone contact lists
- call forwarding settings
- voicemail services and other similar functions

Customers should also ensure the area code is included in all other places where a telephone number is displayed like their websites, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks, and even personal or pet ID tags.

### **What will remain the same?**

- Telephone numbers, including current area code, will not change
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the dialing change
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed
- Customers will continue to dial 1+ the area code + telephone number for all long-distance calls
- Customers will continue to dial a prefix (such as "9") when dialing from a multi-line telephone system (e.g., in a hotel, office building, etc.) as required
- Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services)
- If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, or 811 are currently available in one's community, they can still be dialed with just three digits
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can still be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255) even after the 988 code is in effect.

Beginning July 16, 2022, dialing "988" will route calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022.

To learn more, visit the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) website at [https://www.nationalnanpa.com/transition\\_to\\_10\\_digit\\_dialing\\_for\\_988/index.html](https://www.nationalnanpa.com/transition_to_10_digit_dialing_for_988/index.html), email NANPA at [988@somos.com](mailto:988@somos.com) with questions about the dialing procedure change, or visit the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline>.