

MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY

RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

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Lynne James
Immediate Past President
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Publicity & Scholarship

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Programs

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Audit



New Officers for Mid-Jefferson County Retired School

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 1:30 pm

Where: via Zoom by invitation only; begin arriving at 1:20. Details p.2.

Guest Speaker: Marcy Cann, TRTA First Vice President



Reaching for 100,000. . .

. . . A message from **MJCRSP President Charles Jehlen**



It is almost impossible for the average person to imagine the range of emotions going through the minds of educators today. Even those of us with public school experience have limited comprehension of the difficulties in transitioning to distance learning on a national scale. How will they teach electives? VoTech? Extracurriculars? How to best meet the socio-emotional needs of a diverse student population while maintaining physical separation? Each district is plowing new ground and we should continue to pray for all the employees and students.

Our local unit will have a small taste of this changed process as we use Zoom to conduct our meetings for the rest of this calendar year. Tim Lee has challenged us to reach 100,000 members in 2020. We will need everyone on board as the Texas Legislature begins its session in January. The pandemic will add additional costs and reduced income to state and local governments. TRTA is dedicated to maintaining the TRS funding levels established in 2019.

I want to publicly thank Lynne James for her dedicated and persistent efforts in strengthening our unit. Lynne, the committee chairs, and the members have perfected a system that facilitates communications between the state and the individual retired educator. All programs are running on schedule. Being the new kid on the block has its advantages. I enjoyed hiring a teacher from another district or state who would observe my school's functions and ask "Why are you doing this?" If I couldn't justify the program or process to a fellow educator, change was needed. After spending my first year of membership asking questions, I can assure you our unit needs no changes. MJCRSP is in excellent shape and has the assets and institutional knowledge to continue serving our members and communities.

In order to meet Mr. Lee's challenge of 100,000 members, we will need to increase our outreach efforts - especially to the newly retired educators. Since we will not have our September welcome luncheon, I urge each of you to contact the eligible non-members you know and urge them to join TRTA and MJCRSP right now. The two selling points that spoke to me were TRTA's legislative influence and AMBA. When I was president of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, it was my privilege and honor to speak to legislators in both Austin and Washington. This is the time to prepare, so that after the November elections TRTA will promote its members with a louder voice. Are you ready?

Please contact me if I may be of service to you, Charlie Jehlen CRJehlen@gt.rr.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.mjcrsp.org — SEE OUR VIDEO SCRAPBOOK
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MJCRSP/

August Executive Board Meeting Highlights

STARTING ANEW: In keeping with the guidelines of the TRTA board of directors, MJCRSP will have no face-to-face meetings throughout 2020, perhaps longer. Our new officers and current members are embarking on a new journey! The executive board (officers and committee chairs) met through Zoom on August 11. Tentative plans were made for the coming year with an emphasis on membership. It has been challenging to contact new retirees this year. They did not return to their campuses after the first week in March, so we have only names and addresses for most of them. If you know someone who is a new retiree, please provide us with phone numbers and email addresses. Encourage him/her to join TRTA and our local unit. A list of new retirees is included on the following page. TRTA's goal is 100,000 members in 2020. This is an important goal that must be met since funds will be limited during the next legislative session and we will have to fight for every penny. **NUMBERS COUNT!** If you have not renewed your membership, you can still do so --- but don't hesitate a minute longer. Membership forms are available on the unit website (www.mjcrsp.org) at the top of the Home page.



If you have never tried Zoom, please make plans to become familiar with the platform before our September meeting. There is a one-page primer on using Zoom that can be accessed on the MJCRSP website at the following link:

<https://mjcrsp.weebly.com/zoom.html>

To attend the September meeting, click the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84897128429?pwd=RVQxTXdoZ2JSbmVZSkhUb3cyWGNBZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 9712 8429 Passcode: 187538

The complete invitation will be emailed to those with email addresses on Monday, September 7.

DISTRICT 5 FALL CONFERENCE: The annual fall conference for District 5 will be held on October 1, also via Zoom. TRTA State president LeRoy DeHaven will be the guest speaker. This is an opportunity for those who have never attended a fall conference to do so! Unless you are on the agenda to speak, you will only be an "observer." If you want an invitation to this event, send a request to lynnej@gt.rr.com before September 15 to get on the guest list.

HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES COMING: We have known for some time that our health insurance will change January 1. As usual, when a change in health insurance takes place, TRS annuitants have the opportunity to attend seminars to hear of major changes, if any, and changes in premiums and deductions. This year the seminars will be webinars, so you can learn from the comfort of our homes. (Gotta love this virus!) Webinars begin in October and you must register to attend. Look for registration information soon from TRS. The webinar schedule is attached.

SCHOLARSHIP ADS: Our scholarship program has been very successful since we began in 2017. Eight high school seniors have received a combined total of \$9,400, made possible through the support of local merchants who have purchased ads in our yearbook and contributions from members. In view of the economic effect of COVID, some of the merchants may not be able to renew their ads when our ad campaign resumes in October. Begin thinking now of merchants in our community who do not currently have an ad. Perhaps you can approach them later to help sponsoring our scholarships! Yearbooks with scholarship ads will be available at the October meeting.

VOLUNTEERS: Providing services to the community is our purpose, but our volunteer program has been stifled by the pandemic. So we must reimagine and adapt how our hours can be accomplished. Many of us have turned to making masks for those who need them, mending clothes and stuffed animals for children. Others have been tutoring, helping neighbors with chores, grocery shopping for others or using FaceTime to visit the ill or sequestered. Be aware that our Community Volunteer Hours are counted from January through December 2020. Our goals for 2020 are to maintain our increasing member participation and continue educating members on what counts as a volunteer hour.

HELEN'S HEALTH TIP: As September gets closer, it is time to think about needed vaccinations, such as the flu shot (vitaly important in this COVID-19 year) and other important shots. More on this topic at the September meeting.

Information Needed for New Retirees

Nederland ISD Retirees		
Name	Phone	Email
Jolane Bedford		
Pamela Burns		
Keith Clarke		
David Carm Crommett		
Carmela Dalton		
Gracie De La Rosa		
Judy DeCuir		
Carol Dial		
Laura Enterline		
Troy Ford		
Carol Girouard		
Kristi Hood		
Lisa McGlothin		
Keith Neal		
Carmen Pickard		
Andre Rosales		
PNGISD Retirees		
Name		Email
James Arnett		
Nancy Daigrepont		
Tami Dauterive		
Kathy Hollier		
Lisa Johnson		
Kathran LeBlanc		
Dolores McLin		
Michael Sigur		
Denise Walker		

If you can provide the missing information above for the retirees listed, please send it to

**Lynne James
409.735.6171(H)
409.718.8808 (C)
lynnej@gt.rr.com**