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# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



## November Program Don Clotiaux WWII Veteran & POW

**Next Meeting:** December 10, 2019 @ Ritter Senior Center, 914 Ave. B, Nederland

**Program:** John Hersey, Chef @ **Judice's 1927** in Nederland

**MJCRSP Hostesses:** Becky Dungan (chair), Linda Briggs, Linda Fong, Dana Wasser & Cathy Purgahn

**Refreshments:** All members who attend will bring their favorite holiday treats to share with others. Please remember to bring treats in disposable containers for delivery to MCT and the Hebert Library in Port Neches in appreciation for their assistance with our newsletter publication each month.

## As the year draws to a close . . .

. . . A message from **MJCRSP President Lynne James**



While we were certainly disappointed that Tim Lee was unable to join us in November, our November program was without a doubt one of the best we have ever had! Don Clotiaux, a Nederland resident and WWII veteran and POW, honored us with his presence on November 12, the day after Veterans' Day. The 96-year-old US Air Corp veteran told of harrowing experiences and at times was absolutely hilarious. Members of his family attended the meeting and were definitely proud of him. We were too! Our December program will take us on a different path. John Hersey, chef at **Judice's 1927** in Nederland, will be our guest speaker. Originally from Thomaston, Maine, John came to Bridge City in 2015 and was chef at Judice's Café in Bridge City before moving to the new restaurant earlier this year. Take it from one who knows, his food is delicious! Try to make this meeting is you can.

As our calendar year draws to a close, we have important business to finish. Our volunteer hours are due on or before **January 14** to Beulah Thompson, who will submit those to TRTA. Our volunteer hours are testimony to the community support of our members and are make a positive impression on legislators. Information is included with this newsletter, so please submit your volunteer hours on time. Also, members are contacting individuals and businesses who have purchased ads in our yearbook and on our website to support our scholarship program. Ad renewals are also due on **January 8**. Applications for our scholarships will be available to seniors at Nederland and Port Neches-Groves in January.

New officers will be selected in January and will assume their responsibilities July 1, 2020. The new slate of officers will be announced during the business meeting on December 10. The strength of our unit depends on the dedication of our members and their willingness to serve. If asked to fill a leadership position, please know that you will be serving not only the retirees in our unit but also retirees across our state.

So, as 2019 draws to a close, our work continues into a new year as members of MJCRSP . . .

*"advocate for improved benefits for all education retirees and promote the well-being of its members."*—TRTA Mission Statement

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.mjcrsp.org](http://www.mjcrsp.org) — SEE OUR VIDEO SCRAPBOOK (NEW)  
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MJCRSP/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MJCRSP/)

SPECIAL THANKS to MCT Credit Union and Hebert Library for the use of their facilities in preparing our monthly newsletters.

## November Highlights



**Row 1:** Lynne James calls the meeting to order; members pledge allegiance to the flags; Billy Curl leads members in song; Gail Krohn with Don and Billie Clotiaux; Don Clotiaux recounts his days in the service. **Row 2:** Clotiaux examines the US flag presented to him; members listen to Clotiaux recount his flying days and capture in WWII. **Row 3:** Clotiaux's family accompanied him to the meeting; hostesses Jolene Lemaire, Beulah Thompson, Linda Harrison, and Candye Martin; Cathy Purgahn and Brenda Philyaw; Beverly Minaldi and Pat Allen. **Row 4:** Patricia Evans and spouse with Linda Harrison; Mary Sue Carter, Linda Fong, and Pat Allen; Wanda Borne and Helen Reynolds; Charlie Jehlen and Donna Lumpkin; Bill Decker.

**SCHOLARSHIP AD SALES:** Ad sales must be verified by January 8 so that we know how much we have sold before our January 14 meeting. Please communicate with me if the vendor will remit money to Loretta Morman so I can keep up with the status of our ad sales. We have dropped at least two ads, so there is room for additional ads if any of you are willing to make a contact. I can send sale information to you if requested.

**STATE CONVENTION:** We will vote on convention delegates (5) in January. If you are interested in attending, let me know at least by January 8 so I can prepare ballots. We will know who our new officers will be before voting on delegates. If you have already agreed to serve in an office and wish to attend, let me know now. If you are a new committee chair, you can learn a lot at convention.

**HELEN'S HEALTH TIP:** TRS-Care Medicare Advantage will remain the same for 2020. Telehealth services to help with nonemergency medical and behavioral health conditions are an important benefit. A virtual visit with a US board-certified doctor or behavioral health provider costs \$5 for the doctor and \$10 for the behavioral health/substance abuse provider. Prescriptions can be written during virtual visits. In addition to the information on MA, remember that the new shingles vaccination which requires 2 shots spaced 2-6 months apart and the 2 pneumococcal vaccinations are important for all retirees to take.



## **Guidelines for Reporting Volunteer Hours**

1. Volunteer hours may be counted for any service provided without pay. **(Maximum 12 hrs./day)**
2. Hours spent doing volunteer work should be recorded door-to-door. (Count the hours from the time you leave home until you return. Also count the time spent at home in preparation for doing volunteer work, such as preparation for a speech or teaching a class, baking food, etc.)
3. Opportunities exist in individual communities of which we are not aware. Do research in your own communities to see what volunteer opportunities are available. Make a habit of recording activities on a regular basis. A date book is ideal for keeping track of volunteer hours. (Any volunteer hours may also show indications of mileage for income tax deductions.)

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Schools, Libraries, Museums and Any Non-Profits**

1. Volunteer as a classroom aide; assist with shelving, filing, book fairs; assist with reviewing curriculum
2. Tutor children, volunteer as an aide at private schools; teach homebound students; teach and assist students who are preparing for SAT, ACT, or GED; teach Adult Education
3. Assist with voter education for newly naturalized citizens
4. Show videos/pictures of trips for learning and enjoyment; tell/read stories for story hour; sing; play instruments
5. Serve as a judge for spelling bees, debates, speech and other UIL contests, science fairs, etc.
6. Assist with after-school programs and athletic events such as tournaments and track meets
7. Call your local entities and inquire about volunteer opportunities; share with your TRTA unit

### **Hospitals and Nursing Homes**

1. Volunteer to operate the Information Desk; assist Social Services, work in gift shop, medical library, pharmacy, laboratory, physical therapy; comfort and assist grieving families
2. Assist patients and visitors; assist in waiting rooms or deliver mail, flowers, plants, etc.
3. Fill water pitchers, write letters and help with cards for special occasions; push wheelchairs
4. Send small gifts and baked goods; plan and help with birthday and ice cream parties; entertain by singing, playing instruments, and dancing; play card and board games or dominoes; provide assistance with phone calls; call seniors to check on well-being; visit shut-ins
5. Assist with personal care such as hair and nails; read aloud; visit with nursing home patients
6. Make calls for those unable to call; organize telephone aid group; telephone for an organization
7. Call your local entities and inquire about volunteer opportunities; share with your TRTA unit

### **Small Businesses and Business Offices**

1. Assist or provide bookkeeping for small business
2. Help fill out Medicare forms, insurance claim forms, or state/federal income tax forms for the sick, handicapped, and elderly
3. Work in business office of schools, hospitals, libraries, churches, and nursing homes

### **Friends, Neighbors, and Family**

1. Mow lawns, clean houses, replace such things as burned out light bulbs and A/C filters
2. Offer to pick up groceries
3. Drive friends to appointments, doctors, banks, etc.
4. Sit with ill or elderly at home to temporarily relieve family caretaker
5. Check on TRTA members and friends; visit and show concern; provide service to newly home-bound or those in rest homes; organize groups to make daily contact with elderly, ill, or those living alone
6. Take an elderly person's pet(s) to the vet
7. When needed, keep neighbors' children
8. Check on latch key children for working parents

### **Senior Citizen Centers, and Other Community Services**

1. Carry trays, fill glasses, set tables, act as greeter; deliver Meals on Wheels; visit shut-ins
2. Help to identify community needs and ways to serve; work on history of a community; help organize games, trips, etc.; help restore parks, old buildings and homes, especially those with historical backgrounds
3. Provide assistance and education to professionals in the field of aging, volunteers who work with older persons, and the general public on issues, programs, and laws affecting the elderly
4. Organize a care group to help children with their aging parents; organize care groups for the grieving and widowed
5. Take clubs and school children through a museum; act as a docent; help in acquisition of items for museum; make speeches on the community value of a museum and how citizens benefit
6. Clean fire hall equipment; assist with ambulance, EMT, and paramedic requests; answer phones
7. Volunteer to assist firemen with fire prevention education; learn and assist with first aid and CPR
8. Volunteer at Boys and Girls Clubs, Goodwill, Shelters for Battered Spouses and Children, homeless shelters, and YMCA/YWCA
9. Serve on any boards for which you are not paid
10. Serve as a speaker for worthy causes, community events, and civic organizations. Organize and implement bingo games, card games, or other activities for service organizations
11. Assist with food banks and provide for the needs of the homeless
12. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce and inquire about other volunteer opportunities
14. Assist with Texas Parks & Wildlife classes for students (designated on-site visits or in the schools)

### **Raising Money for Worthy Causes**

1. Organize and implement giveaways of quilts, televisions and other electronics, antiques, etc.
2. Begin/assist with Christmas craft sales; provide homemade crafts; train others in a craft; operate a Country Store to benefit a worthy cause
3. Plan a book review; organize and assist with "No Bake" sales
4. Encourage donations to the TRTA Foundation

### **Church**

1. Sing in the choir or participate in a bell choir
2. Cook for church meals
3. Visit ill, homebound, and grieving members
4. Teach Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or other Bible studies
5. Work with a youth group
6. Serve as an officer or committee member
7. Organize and participate in some ministry of the church, including mission projects