



MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

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March 10, 2015

Program by

Cindy Laird

of

NISD Technology Department

Internet Security Etc.

- ◆ **Next meeting: 1:30 PM, April 14, at Ritter Senior Center, 914 Boston Avenue, Nederland.**
- ◆ **Program: Inspirations** — Dance team from Best Times Center in Beaumont
- ◆ **Hostesses:** Candye Martin (chairman), Mary Beth McDuff, Linda Harrison, Beulah Thompson, and Carolyn Martin

Let's do our part . . .

a message from MJCRSP President Gail Krohn

How disappointing that former U. S. Senator Phil Gramm chose to enter the discussion on vouchers with an emotional plea about freedom. According to his long testimony, he indicated educators were against vouchers because it would increase competition. He went even further to state that it was a "tyranny of status quo" of the teachers' union at work. Where did that come from?



Many of the voucher supporters talk about students being stuck in low performing schools with no option to move to a private or parochial school that a voucher system would provide. If a school is low performing, the Texas Education Agency has the mechanism in place to either close the school, appoint a managing staff, or replace all staff in the school. That should be the option and solution which is already available. The fact that the process drags on too long is something for which legislators need to hold the agency accountable.

Taking public money for private school support, once again, will deplete funds available for educating an increasingly diverse population. As we call and contact our legislators to support increased funding for retirees, let us also voice our opposition to the voucher bills.

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said to the Senate Committee on Education that "We're not trying to upend the public school system." Really! You could have fooled me.

Call! Email! Contact! Don't wait . . .

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: To keep up with meetings and activities of MJCRSP, check out the unit web site at www.localunits.org/MidJefferson. **The 2014-15 yearbook is now available on the website under About Us.** To access the yearbook, use the password **MJCRSP**. Please help us to save the cost of a stamp and agree to receive the newsletter by email. Contact Lynne James at lynnej@gt.rr.com or call her at 409.735.6171 and ask to be placed on the emailing list!

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

March meeting highlights



Frances, Gail, Charlotte, Paula, & Candice host; Gail presides in style; Cindy Laird shares a laugh!



Linda Fong reports; Helen Reynolds talks health ; Zack, Richard, & Linda visit ; Clara and Betty enjoy program.



Members enjoy fellowship during refreshments: Carolyn and Patricia; Nellie and Candice; Jolene & Helen.

Legislative update: MJCRSP Legislative Chairman Richard Briggs reports that retirees have received encouragement from important members of the Texas House: “Next to the Speaker, **John Otto**, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, is the most powerful representative in the House of Representatives. He is on record in support of budgeting about \$769 million dollars to cover the cost of TRS Care for the next two years. He is a great supporter of retired teachers. We should thank him. **Dade Phelan**, our own representative, is on the Appropriations Committee and is on the Article III subcommittee which deals with TRS issues. He has been *totally* supportive of TRTA issues. We especially need to thank him. We will need Senator **Brandon Creighton**'s support in the Senate to get what the House is committed to passing. I feel he will support us, but he will be under a lot of pressure to support the more conservative members of the Senate. Contact him, thanking him for his vote in advance.” Email contact information: Dade Phelan (Dade.Phelan@house.state.tx.us), John Otto (John.Otto@house.state.tx.us), and Brandon Creighton (brandon.creighton@senate.state.tx.us). You may also write them or contact them by phone or fax. Those who receive the newsletter by email will have the complete list of House and Senate members and their contact information attached to their newsletter. Others may access the complete list on the unit [webpage](#). You may also click the links above to access that information.

HELEN'S HEALTH TIP: Spring clean your heavier fall and winter diet by adding delicious and nutritious lighter spring delicacies, such as strawberries, asparagus, sweet cherries, fresh peas, radishes, fava beans, apricots, artichokes, rhubarb, and morel mushrooms.