



MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER



TRTA State Convention April 13-15 in Dallas!

March 11, 2014
Program by
Roger Cowles
What's Up with Print?



- OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**
- CHAIRMEN**
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- Linda Briggs**
President
- Dana Wasser**
First Vice President
Immediate Past President
Membership
- Gail Krohn**
Second Vice President
Legislation
- Susan Jones**
Secretary
- Mary Beth McDuff**
Treasurer
- Ted Loftin**
Parliamentarian
- Becky Dungan**
Yearbook Chairman
- Lynne James**
Newsletter
Technology Contact
- Olive Hall**
Local Historian
- Sylvia Ramirez**
Foundation Representative
- Jessie Howard**
Community Volunteer Services
- Patsy Bartels**
Member Benefits
- Helen Reynolds**
Healthcare
- Linda Fong**
Information & Protective Services
- Rose Reese**
Retirement Education
- Patricia Allen**
Children's Book Project
- Donna Lumpkin**
Refreshment & Hospitality
- Wanda Borne**
Audit

- ◆ **Next meeting:** April 8, 2014, @ Ritter Center in Nederland, 914 Boston Avenue—1:30
- ◆ **Program:** "Stroke Awareness" by Medical Center of Southeast Texas
- ◆ **Refreshments:** Donna Lumpkin (Chairman), Susan Jones, Carolyn Martin, Dixie Tucker, and Linda Fong
- ◆ **TRTA State Convention:** April 13-15, Dallas
- ◆ **District 5 Spring Leadership Training:** Friday, May 9, First Baptist Church in Nederland

Preparing for 2015! a message from MJCRSP President Linda Briggs

MJCRSP's 2014-2015 membership drive is underway, with 76 paid members as of March 12. Retirees realize the importance of a strong TRTA membership as we face the 2015 legislative session. We hope to guard our achievements of the 2013 session, while getting help on TRS-Care.

Delegates Linda and Richard Briggs, Loretta Morman, Lynne James, Clara Graham, and Becky Dungan will be attending the April convention in Dallas and hope to come home with new ideas to maintain and improve our local and district units. Please let us know the issues you want us to address.



We are fortunate to have the strong leadership team of MJCRSP's new officers: President Gail Krohn; 1st Vice- President Clara Graham; 2nd Vice President Dianne Trevey; Secretary Donna Lumpkin; and Treasurer Mary Beth McDuff. I know everyone will continue to support the MJCRSP officers.

A membership form is again attached to this message. Note that dues have increased at the state level, and for a very good reason. TRTA dues have not increased since 1999, but costs have escalated. In order to keep a quality staff, TRTA must meet basic salary needs. Attacks by well-funded outside groups have been costly to defend against, and legal support has been needed to help defend retiree benefits. Even at \$45, we get our money's worth with TRTA!

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: To keep up with meetings and activities of MJCRSP, check out the unit web site at www.localunits.org/MidJefferson. Now available is the 2013-2014 yearbook. It is password protected and only current members will have access. If you are a current member who does not have a password or if you have joined recently, email Lynne James (lynnej@gt.rr.com) or call 409.735.6171 and ask for her.

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

March highlights



Top: Members involve themselves in fun, fellowship and *funds*, as they fill out membership renewal forms at the March meeting. **Right:** Paula, Gail, Dana, Nellie and Candice are ready to serve refreshments; The members begin the meeting with pledges to the flags of the USA and Texas; Dana reports on nominations and Helen gives her report on healthy living.

From Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director

One of the most significant concerns facing public education retirees in the 84th Legislative Session that begins in January 2015 is the impending funding crisis to the TRS-Care health insurance program. A large number of our elected officials will be new or have less than two years of experience by the time the next legislative session begins. This means many legislators may not be familiar with the issues impacting retired teachers in Texas or our active school personnel! It is essential that we elect Senators and Representatives that support TRS-Care and the TRS pension fund. **TRS-Care is facing a \$1 billion projected shortfall** in the next biennium if nothing is done to improve the program's long-term sustainability. The official TRS report indicates the shortfalls to TRS-Care are \$424 million in FY 2016 and \$591 million in FY 2017. This combined total of \$1.02 billion is what is needed to keep the fund solvent through the next biennium. Another \$721 million shortfall is expected in FY 2018. In 2013 alone, costs exceeded funding for TRS-Care by \$190 million. This information reveals that the shortfalls will continue to increase dramatically each biennium. It also tells us that the Legislature will be looking at all options to "fix" the TRS-Care crisis. The definition of "fix" is now being discussed by TRS, TRTA, other stakeholders and our elected officials. This crisis is not like the manufactured crisis wrought by groups and individuals who want to rob public servants of their hard-earned pensions. The TRS-Care crisis potentially is far more detrimental because the reserve fund is nearly gone and the options for dealing with it are not easy fixes.

Renew YOUR membership and invite an ACTIVE TEACHER to join!

HELEN'S HEALTH TIP: Follow the recently revised guideline for daily intake of calories from sugars set by the World Health Organization (WHO). The previous guideline, set in 2002, was sugars should be no more than 10% of the total daily calorie intake; the new guideline is 5% of the total daily calorie intake. These sugars include those hidden in many processed foods but do not include sugars found in fresh fruit.