

**2021-2022 OFFICERS
&
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Charles Jehlen
President

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

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Linda Briggs
Second Vice President
Book Project
Programs

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Wanda Borne
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Dixie Tucker
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Richard Briggs
Legislation

Gail Krohn
Publicity & Scholarship

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

Jolene Lemaire
Newsletter

Rosalie Reese
Hospitality

Patricia Allen
Social Media

Loretta Morman
Audit



**MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY
RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER**



Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

When: 1:30 pm

Where: Port Neches Public Library, 2025 Merriman, Port Neches

**Program: Santa Claus (aka) Jerry Miller
Celebrating the Season in Song**



Useful distractions . . .

. . . A message from MJCRSP President Charles Jehlen

I really don't like Christmas-themed commercials, shows, or music in October. I can tolerate them in November, but there is still a low level of irritation. Every once in a while, a scene or a lyric cuts through the daily consumerism and finds a niche in my heart. Almost always, it involves the return of a prodigal son or daughter to the love of his or her family. Having experienced that situation, this provides a laser-like focused reminder of the importance of family and community. We hold each other to standards and work toward our common good. And love unconditionally.

I was a better teacher because my hallmates would not settle for less than my best. I was a better administrator because my peers challenged each other to leave our comfort zones and imagine better schools. I am a better Christian because my Sunday School and Praise Band are forgiving of my shortcomings and are patiently persistent in spreading God's Word.

And I am a better person because of you. Each of you has been through the fire and not only survived, but thrived. Public education is not for the faint of heart and we are still pushing each other to be better. Our fellow retirees need that. I need that. The year 2021 was MUCH better than 2020. We have a lot of work to do starting in January. But for this month, let's enjoy our families, friends, and the true spirit of the season.

The diet starts on 1/2/22 . . .



Lynne James

Since 2013 I have enjoyed publishing the MJCRSP monthly newsletter and distributing it to all local unit members. I appreciate the assistance given by the staff at MCT in Port Neches as well as from Rose Reese and Donna Lumpkin, among others. Beginning in January, Jolene Lemaire will assume the editing duties of the newsletter while I will continue to send it out via email or postal mail. Jolene is very creative and is excited to contribute to our local unit. You will enjoy her newsletters!



Jolene Lemaire



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

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Row One: President Charlie Jehlen calls the meeting to order, gives the invocation, leads pledges to the flags, and introduces program speaker Dr. Brenda Duhon; Brenda gives a very enlightening program about Internet security and ways to avoid phishing attempts by hackers; members listen attentively to the program presentation; members turn their attention to committee reports. **Row Two:** Membership chair Becky Dungan gives the latest membership numbers; Becky and Charlie conduct the drawing for a member who will win a gift card for recruiting a retiree to join or renew membership; Becky awards Jolene Lemaire, the winner, with a gift card; Dana Wasser, Becky, and others listen to committee reports by Mary Sue Carter, Helen Reynolds, and Beulah Thompson.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS: Legislative Chair Richard Briggs suggests we read the *Inside Line* communication from Tim Lee regarding Congressman Kevin Brady’s support of TRTA efforts to reform WEP. The will bill seeks to replace the unfair and arbitrary WEP formula with a new proportional formula that puts public servants and other American workers on equal footing. The *Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2021*, [HR 5834](#), makes sure that teachers, firefighters, and police officers will receive a Social Security benefit that reflects their actual work history. The bill also provides critical relief to retired public servants who are affected by the WEP. You are encouraged to contact our Texas legislators to get on board with this bill by clicking the following link. [Use our Action Alert to support WEP reform!](#)

TRTA BENEFITS: In the coming weeks you should be hearing from TRTA about several member benefits offered by Trident Benefits, TRTA’s new benefits provider. Legal issues currently restrict Trident from soliciting you, but you may contact them if you are interested in their benefits package. At the present time you can call them direct about dental and vision plans available to you (1.800.322.0201). The dental and vision plans, lodging, travel, entertainment, and medical air services are available for you at our local unit website: www.mjcrsp.org. On the Home page, scroll past the meeting information and click on the link to **Member Benefits**.

Member Benefits

Click this link on the Home page at mjcrsp.org.

SOLVING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: The federal funds under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be distributed over the next five years across the state for roads, bridges, pipes and clean water, airports, transit plans, broadband access and other public improvements. At least \$100 million is earmarked for improved broadband access in Texas alone. It is intended to provide broadband access to at least one million Texans who don’t have it now. This should help close the digital divide between low-income and more-affluent students, which became so obvious when schools were shut down and students were learning remotely. (TSTA.org 11.11.2021)

HELEN’S HEALTH TIP: Snacking between meals when you feel hungry is good when you choose healthy snacks, especially in November and December when so much is available that is not healthy. A snack should be 100 calories or less and have small servings with good nutrition, such as fresh fruit; raw vegetables with fat-free dressing; whole grain bread, cereals, and rice; and fat-free or low-fat dairy products.

