

MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER



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Publicity & Nominations

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Yearbook

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Newsletter
Technology Contact

Olive Hall
Historian

Clara Graham
Foundation Representative

Jessie Howard
Community Volunteer Ser-
vices

Dana Wasser
Member Benefits

Helen Reynolds
Healthcare

Linda Fong
Memorials, Get-Well, &
Protective Services

Rosalie Reese
Retirement Education

Wanda Borne
Audit

Beverly Minaldi
Hospitality



December Program: Christmas Music by *Redeemed*

- ◆ **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 @1:30 PM, Ritter Senior Center, 914 Boston Avenue, Nederland
- ◆ **Program:** David Long of Calder Woods Retirement Living
- ◆ **Hostesses:** Rosalie Reese (chairman), Becky Dungan, Linda Fong, and Linda Briggs
- ◆ **MJCRSP Scholarship** information available at the January meeting!

Challenges and opportunities

... a message from MJCRSP President Lynne James



We are about to say goodbye to 2016, which to many of us is a good thing. Whatever your thoughts about 2016, the year 2017 appears to be a mixed bag of unknowns. For retirees, it will certainly involve many challenges and some potential opportunities.

In the challenge department is the upcoming legislative session. We know that our health care situation is unstable, and we are in dire need of help from our state legislators. The report of the interim committee is not promising, but two years ago we were not very optimistic and still received a generous bailout. So, don't give up hope. The challenge to our retirement fund is another situation that might be challenging, but at the moment it is second to health care in importance.

What about opportunities? Our local unit has decided to award scholarships to graduating seniors, one to a senior at each local high school, Nederland and Port Neches-Groves. Our local dues will not cover the scholarships, so we are depending on members to sell ads for our yearbook and website to fund the project. So far, the response has been good — but can be better.

Please commit yourself to both the challenges and the opportunities that we all have to make a positive difference in 2017!

**2016 Volunteer Service Hours
due by January 10, 2017.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: To keep up with meetings and activities of MJCRSP, check out the unit web site at www.localunits.org/MidJefferson. 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.

December meeting highlights



Row 1: Hostesses Linda Fong, Linda Briggs, Becky Dungan, and Rosalie Reese arrange the holiday refreshments prepared by members; members begin the meeting with pledges to our flags; Curtis and Linda Harrison and Wanda Borne enjoy the program; Olive Hall, Cookie Byrd, and Donna Lumpkin lead the refreshment line. **Row 2:** Linda Pinner, Loretta Morman, and Beverly Minaldi enjoy the holiday atmosphere; Jessie Howard, Cookie and Zack Byrd, Richard Briggs, and Mary Sue Carter listen to the music of *Redeemed*; Ted Loftin prepares for a feast. **Row 3:** Cookie and Zack Byrd reminisce with Mary Sue (McLeod) Carter about Woodlawn Junior High days while Dana Wasser listens in; *Redeemed* provides holiday cheer with their Christmas music; Gail Krohn and Helen Reynolds listen to the music while Linda Fong takes care of her hostess duties in the background.



Patricia Allen (Book Project chairman), Sue Croom, and Becky Dungan of MJCRSP, and Amy Gil, Port Neches Elementary principal pose with Port Neches Elementary students.

BOOK PROJECT 2016 . . . In conjunction with the Children’s Book Project of the Texas Retired Teachers Association, Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel and Philpott Ford recently donated 202 books to 198 fourth grade students at Port Neches Elementary, including five books donated to the library. Students were thrilled to get a free book that they could keep. The donation was made possible from member donations and a very generous grant from Philpott Ford. Book donations are made to elementary campuses each year, rotating between the Nederland and Port Neches-Groves school districts. The Children’s Book Project is a service activity initiated by local units of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. The purpose is to put books into the hands of children who otherwise would not have books of their own. Since 1998, TRTA members have been heavily involved in the Children’s Book Project. Since the project’s inception, more than 600,000 books have been placed into the hands of children who otherwise might never have a book to call their own. In 2015, 139,637 books were distributed to children across Texas as part of the Children’s Book Project.

HELEN’S HEALTH TIP: Give yourself the Christmas gift of good health by eating healthy foods, exercising portion control, getting enough rest, and forgiving yourself and getting back on track! Merry Christmas and best wishes for a blessed New Year.