



# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMEN

**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

## December 10, 2013 Meeting *The Music of Christmas*



Presented by Deanne Tanner, Lori Hamilton, Anita Smith, and Becky Seymore

- ◆ **Next meeting:** January 14, 2014 @ Ritter Center in Nederland, 914 Boston Avenue—1:30
- ◆ **Program:** *Angels Above Us* by Amy May, home health information
- ◆ **Refreshments:** Rose Reese (Chairman), Linda Briggs, Linda Pinner, Loretta Morman, Cookie Byrd.
- ◆ **Volunteer hours** due to Jessie Howard by January 10!

## A new year begins . . .

### A message from MJCRSP President Linda Briggs

With 2014 approaching, we must begin to plan for the 2014 state elections and the 2015 Legislative session. MJCRSP will pay particular attention to the candidates running in Rep. Allan Ritter's spot. No one can replace this fine public servant who has been so gracious and supportive of us. However, we need to know how the candidates stand on issues important to us. Our legislative team will survey the candidates and pass on their responses.

Certainly, the biggest concern we face is the probable hike in health insurance premiums, co-pay, deductible, etc. We look to TRTA to guide us and to communicate our needs to state legislators.

So, we welcome the new year, confident that TRTA is actively looking after the challenges confronting TRS annuitants.



**From Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director:** "On November 12, 2013, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) held a meeting to share its August 2013 actuarial valuation of the pension trust fund and to provide an update on the TRS-Care retiree health insurance program. While much of the news shared was good, a common sentiment that was shared by both actuaries and TRS staff members was that legislative changes made in 2013 need to be maintained."

**Join TRTA and MJCRSP to support TRTA's efforts to protect our benefits!**

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

## December highlights



**Top left:** Members and guests enjoy Christmas goodies and a delightful musical program; Dallas Mullins of AMBA reviews TRTA member benefits; Mary Ethelyn Bosarge, Becky and Jimmy Dungan man the Angel Tree at Central Mall; Mary Ethelyn and Becky are joined at the Angel Tree by Betty Cowan and Dana Wasser.

**Bottom right clockwise:** Volunteer Chairman Jesse Howard and Janice Green at the Angel Tree; Highland Park Elementary welcomes MJCRSP and Philpott Ford to campus for the Children's Book Project; Highland Park Students show off their books and are joined by Jennifer Parker and Karen Scalco of Philpott Ford, Highland Park Principal Sissy Yeaman, and Mary Ethelyn Bosarge, Patricia Allen and Sue Croom of MJCRSP.

### Reminders:

- Return list of your 2013 volunteer hours to Jessie Howard by the January 14 meeting. If you are unable to attend, call her (722-2891) or email her ([jessiebh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jessiebh@sbcglobal.net)) with your total hours.
- TRTA Connect training is tentatively set for January 23 at Region 5 in Beaumont.
- MJCRSP officers will be elected at the January meeting.
- Make plans now to attend the TRTA State Convention at the Sheraton in Dallas April 13-15, 2014

**HELEN'S HEALTH TIP:** Because sugar is addictive, learn ways to reduce it in baked goods and make them healthier, such as making smaller portions with less frosting, substituting honey and maple syrup for sugar, using whole wheat flour, replacing oil with applesauce and half the butter with pureed white beans, and adding extra fruit and nuts. You will not miss the unhealthy reductions with these delicious and healthy substitutions and additions.

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE:** To keep up with meetings and activities of MJCRSP, check out the unit web site at [www.localunits.org/MidJefferson](http://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](mailto:lynnej@gt.rr.com)) or call 409.735.6171 and ask for her.