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# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



## February Program: Diane LaPour Quality Tax Service

- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018, @1:30 PM, Ritter Senior Center, 914 Boston Avenue, Nederland, TX
- **Program:** Scott Hasty — J Scott's Aflorist
- **Hostesses:** Candice Zummo (chair), Gail Krohn, Donna Lumpkin, and Dianne Trevey
- **Agenda:** Membership, legislation

### *A primary decision . . .*

. . . a message from MJCRSP President Lynne James



The primary elections are here, so now what? We have tough decisions to make if we are used to voting along party lines. For instance, suppose you have some local, state, or national favorites that you really want to support. But you also have some candidates on the local, state, and national scene that you would like to send home. This creates a dilemma only if some are in one political party and others are in another political party. You can only vote in one party primary. So, what do you do?

As early voting approached, I was one of those with a dilemma. I went back and forth between supporting those in one party that I really favor and voting against those I do not support in the other party. I finally resolved the issue by weighing the impact each candidate would have on my life. In other words, my health care and the stability of the TRS retirement fund. I considered each of the candidates for judge, state senator or representative, governor, lieutenant governor, etc., asking myself: "How important is this person to me personally? Will his/her decisions in office affect me directly? If so, how? Will this candidate probably win (or lose) with (or without) my vote?" After much soul-searching, I was finally able to decide how to cast my vote.

Tim Lee gave us some advice in the last issue of the *Inside Line* (see page 2). He hints at the fact that many retirees and active teachers might cross party lines during the primary elections. However, there has been some confusion about how this practice could affect run-off elections as well as the fall general elections. An individual can vote in only one party primary, including run-off elections that could follow the primary elections. Your voter registration card will be stamped with the name of the party primary you initially vote in simply to cover the possibility of run-off elections that might follow. You are not "legally" in one party or another regardless of how you vote. And, in the general election in November, there are no party restrictions at all. So, whatever you do, make your vote count!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.mjcrsp.org](http://www.mjcrsp.org) AND OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE: [www.facebook.com/MJCRSP/](http://www.facebook.com/MJCRSP/)

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

## February meeting highlights



**Row 1:** President Lynne James calls the meeting to order; members begin each meeting with pledges to our flags; Program Chair Linda Briggs introduces Diane LaPour of Quality Tax Service, the February speaker; LaPour shares important information about the new tax laws. **Row 2:** Linda Briggs expresses appreciation for a “quality” tax program; hostesses Candice Zummo (chair), Gail Krohn, Donna Lumpkin, and Dianne Trevey are ready to serve refreshments; Joyce Russel and Candice Zummo catch up on the latest news; Clara Graham enjoys the Valentine treats. **Row 3:** Co-Historians Jolene Lemaire and Olive Hall share the spotlight; Richard and Linda Briggs look over the list of non-members; Rose Reese poses for the camera; Membership Chair Linda Harrison and committee member Beulah Thompson are ready to begin membership recruiting.

### SPRING PRIMARIES ARE HERE!

**Tim Lee:** “In Texas, the Primary Election is significant because more than 90 percent of the candidates who win their primary go on to win in the November General Election. Texas also is an open primary state. A registered voter does not have to choose a political party primary when registering. Voters are free to vote in either primary, and many people vote based on where their vote will count the most. This option is a great freedom for Texans! With over 1 million active and retired educators in Texas, we have a fantastic opportunity to make our voice[s] heard

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and push that low voter turnout percentage in a positive direction! Please make a plan to vote in the Primary Election and do your best to convince your active and retired colleagues to do the same. Let’s make a positive difference for Texas public educators!”

### NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS MARCH 1

Don’t wait! Send in your dues now! A new legislative session is only months away. TRTA will keep you informed about important issues and how to make contact with decision-makers.

**HELEN’S HEALTH TIP:** Today, yoga is very popular: 15 million people practice it on a regular basis with 72% being woman. This yoga is called yoga without dogma because it focuses on breathing techniques and stretching along with healthy diet, relaxation, and meditation