

MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY PROGRAM *STAP*

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2019, @1:30 PM, Ritter Senior Center, 914 Boston, Nederland

Program: David Hornack & *Hank* the Therapy Dog

Hostesses: Gail Krohn (chair), Donna Lumpkin, Patricia Allen, and Helen Reynolds

OFFICERS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Lynne James
President

Gail Krohn
Immediate Past President
Publicity & Nominations
Scholarship

Linda Harrison
First Vice President
Membership

Linda Briggs
Second Vice President
Programs/Book Project

Donna Lumpkin
Secretary

Loretta Morman
Treasurer

Dixie Tucker
Parliamentarian

Richard Briggs
Legislation

Patricia Allen
Social Media

Becky Dungan
Yearbook

Lynne James
Newsletter
Technology Contact

Olive Hall & Jolene Lemaire
Historians

Clara Graham
Foundation Representative

Beulah Thompson
Community Volunteer
Services

Dana Wasser
Member Benefits

Helen Reynolds
Healthy Living

Linda Fong
Memorials, Get-Well, &
Protective Services

Rosalie Reese
Retirement Education

Wanda Borne
Audit

Beverly Minaldi
Hospitality

'Intentional or not, still an insult . . .

. . . A message from MJCRSP President Lynne James

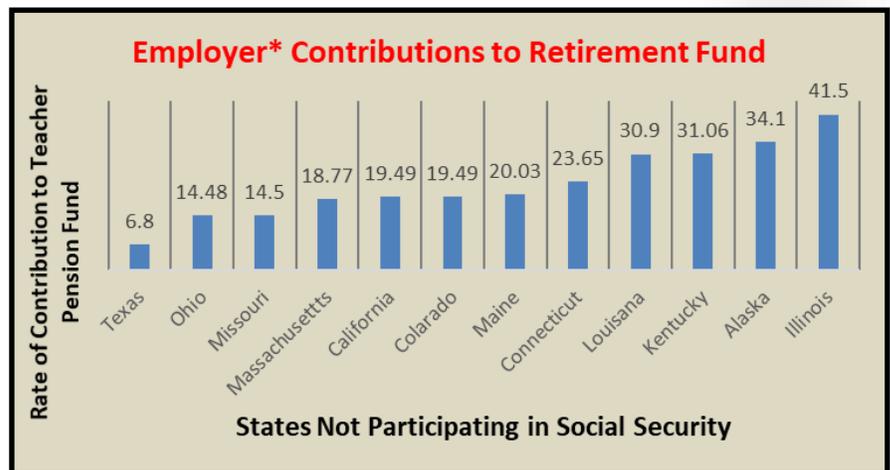


In the *Fourth Quarter 2018* issue of *The Voice*, Tim Lee addressed the fact that among states whose teachers do not participate in Social Security, Texas ranks dead last in employer contributions

(*state and district

combined) to retiree pension plans. Because the other states do not have to match contributions to Social Security, it appears that they compensate their retirees with a larger (than Texas) contribution to teachers' retirement pension funds. He points out 95% of all teachers in Texas do not participate in Social Security. But, if *all teachers* in Texas did pay into Social Security, it would cost the state of Texas and local school districts \$3.8 billion per year—sent to Washington—, which is \$1.9 million more per year that what is currently contributed from the General Revenue Fund. An increase in the contribution rate of up to 8.62% doesn't seem like too much to ask. Furthermore, even with that increase Texas would still be dead last among states whose teachers do not participate in Social Security.

Remember to "tell your story." If you have an email account, it is a simple task, the hardest being actually composing your story. After that, simply **click, paste,** and hit **send**. Do you part NOW. Bills are being written as you read this.



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: Hostesses Donna Lumpkin, Helen Reynolds, Gail Krohn (chair), & Patricia Allen; members offer a prayer; Lynne James calls the meeting to order; STAP specialist April Monroe gives an informative message to members about free communication devices and then assists members sign up for STAP benefits. **Row 2:** Henry Pinner looks at the various communication devices on display; Shelley Dettman and Cathy Purgahn enjoy the presentation. **Row 3:** Clara Graham, Becky Dungan, and Shelley Dettman welcome Sharon Terrell to her first MJCRSP meeting; Beulah Thompson prepares to give her volunteer report; Candye Martin and Henry and Linda Pinner enjoy the refreshments; Helen Reynolds, Wanda Borne, and Donna Lumpkin get ready for the business meeting; Gail Krohn, Linda Fong, and Dixie Tucker enjoy the Valentine sweets. **Row 4:** Loretta Morman reports on the treasury; Linda Fong delivers news about members who have passed; Richard Briggs explains the quandary over pension funding; Helen Reynolds gives members hints about healthy living; Linda Briggs readies her book project and programs reports; Beulah Thompson delivers a rose to Linda Fong for her 2,428 hours of volunteer service—tops in MJCRSP; and Lynne James and Linda Briggs discuss future program topics.

MEMBERSHIP: Linda Harrison, membership chair, and her committee have devised incentives for joining or renewing memberships early this year. For those who join in February & March: Drawing in April for two \$25 gift cards. For those who recruit members or are recruited during March and April: One drawing in May for \$25 gift card to recruiter and the recruited member. Membership Form attached for those who have not joined!

NEWSLETTER: This Month's newsletter is slightly longer than usual. A membership form is attached, as noted in the previous column. In addition, the information about the STAP (Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program) is also included on the next page. You pay for this every time you pay a phone bill and have been for some time. Take advantage of your investment!

HELEN'S HEALTH TIP: Because heart disease is the leading cause of death among Americans (1 in 4 die of it), relief from stress is a must. Laughter, a great way to get relief, has 2 kinds of benefits: short-term (stimulation of many organs, including heart, lungs, and muscles and the soothing of tension) and long-term (improvement of the immune system and relief of pain). Therefore, stock up on funny stories and jokes to share with others, and remember: laughter is no joke to heart health.

Specialize Telecommunications Assistance Program Can Help You!

If you have trouble hearing while on the phone or hearing what is on TV, have difficulty dialing phone numbers, need amplification when using a phone, have difficulty getting to the phone when it is ringing, or have difficulty holding a phone, **STAP** can help with these situations and others—**FREE!** The **STAP** program is funded by the state of Texas through a surcharge that is included on every Texas resident's phone bill. It is listed at the end of your landline or mobile phone bill:

Fed Universal Service Charge	\$2.13
Regulatory Charge	\$0.34
Administrative Charge	\$2.46
TX Margin Surchg	\$0.33
Texas Universal Service	\$1.93

In order to receive one of the many offerings from **STAP**, you must apply in person, be a Texas resident (one ID needed: TX license or ID, utility or phone bill, voter registration card), have trouble hearing, seeing, speaking, thinking, walking or getting to the phone. Age is not a factor. If any of these services appeals to you or to someone you know, please contact [Lynne James](#) before March 15 with your name (or name of person you refer), phone number and/or email address. We will schedule a time for those who respond to meet with the technology specialist and sign you up for the **STAP** program. The specialists will demonstrate the offerings and then complete your registration. Some of the telecommunication offerings are pictured below.

