



# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER



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Member Benefits

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Healthcare

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Information & Protective Services

**Rose Reese**  
Retirement Education

**Patricia Allen**  
Children's Book Project

**Donna Lumpkin**  
Refreshment & Hospitality

**Wanda Borne**  
Audit



## February 12, 2013 Meeting

### Mark Rantala shares Nederland EDC initiatives

- ◆ **March 12 Meeting: 1:30 PM @ Ritter Center, 914 Boston Avenue, in Nederland**
- ◆ **Program: Stephanie Herrin of the Museum of the Gulf Coast**
- ◆ **March Refreshment Committee: Gail Krohn (chairman), Wanda Borne, Candice Haggard, Linda Briggs, Frances Glaze**
- ◆ **State convention alternate delegates will be selected. If interested, contact Linda Briggs.**
- ◆ **Make plans now for the TRTA Day at the Capitol—March 20. [Information](#) is provided by a link here and on the MJCRSP web page (see bottom of page).**

## A message from MJCRSP President Linda Briggs . . .

March is a month of legislative activity and TRTA members can exert their influence by attending TRTA Day at the Capitol, March 20, and by contacting our legislators to let them know our needs, reminding them that we are counting on their continued support.

March also is the beginning of our membership drive for 2013-2014. Please renew your membership at the March meeting or mail in your dues along with the 2013-2014 membership form. The \$35 you pay is far less than a large increase in TRS-Care premiums. We can all thank TRTA's intense lobbying efforts last legislative session to prevent that increase. We need to keep up that pressure on the legislature to restore the 1% state contribution to TRS-Care, which was cut in half in the 2011 session. TRTA is encouraged from the initial budget filing from the House and the Senate, both of which include a baseline increase for the TRS pension fund and the TRS-Care. Credit that to TRTA!



**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). Find newsletters, pictures and summaries of meetings past and present. Membership forms are also available at the web-site.

SPECIAL THANKS to MCT Credit Union for the use of their facilities in preparing our monthly newsletters!

## February Meeting Highlights



Sue Croom recorded 2080 volunteer hours to lead MJCRSP in volunteer service.



Donna Lumpkin logged 14, 560,000 steps in 2012, the most by any MJCRSP member.

Richard Briggs, District 5 Legislative Chairman, along with state legislative chairs from 5 other districts, were in Austin recently to meet with legislators. He was able to either meet with our legislators or the staff member who was responsible for issues dealing with retired teachers and TRS. It was evident that it was too early in the session for firm commitments to be made, but he was given the feeling that something has to be done to start making the TRS Fund actuarially sound. Also legislators know that TRS Care will be out of funds *before the end of this biennium*. Briggs pressed our stance that something has to be done NOW. We should know more in 2 or 3 weeks after meetings are held between groups representing active teachers, retired teachers, and TRS. The most influential senator on retired teachers' issues, Robert Duncan, has called for this important meeting. Please continue to communicate with your legislators. STRESS the following:

- ◆ INCREASE TRS FUNDING TO 6.9 PERCENT IN 2014 AND 7.4 IN 2015.
- ◆ MAKE APPROPRIATE LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO OUR HEALTH CARE PROGRAM, TRS CARE, TO MAKE IT VIABLE IN THE FUTURE. THIS WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDING.
- ◆ WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A PERMANENT PAY INCREASE IN 12 YEARS.



As the legislative session proceeds, it is imperative that all retirees keep a close eye on proposed legislation that affects them. TRTA members interested in email updates on issues pertaining to pension, health insurance, Social Security, and other hot topics should sign up for *Inside Line*. This email update is written by Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director, and offers facts and opinions on the issues facing current and future education retirees and legislative issues. Sign-up by filling in the appropriate information at <http://www.trta.org/InsideLineSignup.cfm>.