



MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

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April 14, 2015

Program by

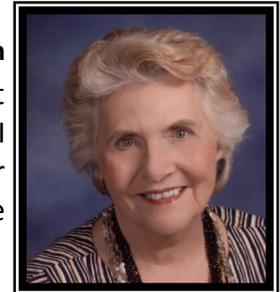
Golden Inspirations of Best Times Center in Beaumont

- ◆ **District 5 Leadership Training:** May 8, First Baptist Church in Nederland, 10-2.
- ◆ **Next meeting: 1:30 PM, May 12 at Ritter Senior Center, 914 Boston Avenue.**
- ◆ **Program:** Installation of Officers
- ◆ **Hostesses:** Candye Martin (chairman), Mary Beth McDuff, Linda Harrison, Beulah Thompson, and Carolyn Martin

Let's do our part . . .

a message from MJCRSP President Gail Krohn

Last Sunday after church, my sister and I had lunch in Port Neches at The Wheelhouse. While waiting for our food, I noticed Representative Dade Phelan walking with his son near our table. Since I had served with Representative Phelan on the Catholic Charities Board, I took the opportunity to say hello.



My purpose in speaking to him was to let him know I was sending him an email with some concerns. He asked me what was in the email, so I shared the three items I included. First, I told him I appreciated what Representative Otto had done to assist retired teachers. Second, I told him I was opposed to vouchers and business tax credits that take money away from public schools. Third, I asked him to consider the needs of the state, especially educational needs, before approving tax cuts, particularly property tax cuts which would impact school districts financially.

I could have said more, but he was nice enough to ask, so I only shared three items. Have you shared concerns with your senator and representative? It is not too late, but hurry so your voice will be heard.

Call! Email! Contact! Don't wait . . .

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: To keep up with meetings and activities of MJCRSP, check out the unit web site at www.localunits.org/MidJefferson. **The 2014-15 yearbook is now available on the website under About Us.** To access the yearbook, use the password **MJCRSP**. 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.

April meeting highlights



Row 1: Beulah, Linda, Mary Beth, Candye, and Carolyn prepare refreshments; Clara, Helen, and Linda are first in line; Loretta, Beverly, and Helen take a break; Carolyn and Dana pose for the camera.
Row 2: Zack, Cookie, and Linda enjoy a laugh; Linda reports on scams; Helen tells us about healthy living.

TRTA convention highlights



Row 1: Dana, Lynne, and Linda meet Brian K. Guthrie, Executive Director of TRS; Linda and Dana pose with Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director; Clara, Becky, Dana, and Linda await the convening of the House of Delegates. **Row 2:** Becky pretends to like the feel of python; Linda is cautious about her reptile; Jacque and Dana are thinking “boots”! Linda and Richard Briggs and Dana’s sister Jacque McCall join the MJCRSP delegation in the Texas House on April 8.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS: Many devoted TRTA members are responding to and inquiring about the Texas Senate’s actions that are aimed at increasing retirees’ benefits. **Sen. Jose Menendez** (D – San Antonio) filed **Senate Bill 1991**, which would provide a 3 percent cost-of-living increase (capped at \$100 per month) to over 100,000 TRS retirees who did not receive one last session. He also filed **Senate Bill 1833**, which would provide a thirteenth check to TRS annuitants. The Chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee, **Sen. Joan Huffman** (R – Houston), and her colleagues are exploring long-term solutions to fund TRS-Care. **Sen. Jane Nelson** (R-Flower Mound) is leading the support for the House bill sustaining TRS-Care. However, as recently as April 20 during a House Pensions Committee hearing, various anti-pension interests testified that defined benefit pension plans are not sustainable and should be terminated! Only by being actively involved in what is going on in Austin can we protect our benefits. **Please call your own state senator and others whom we should thank ~~~ as well as those whose support we need. Act today!**

HELEN’S HEALTH TIP: A recent study of older adults shows that daily eating of leafy green vegetables, such as kale, spinach, mustard greens, and collards, may slow mental decline; therefore, include in your diet these leafy green vegetables which are both delicious and nutritious.