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# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER



### March Program: Ann Bares Master Gardener



- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 8, 2018, @1:30 PM, Ritter Senior Center, 914 Boston Avenue, Nederland, TX
- **Program: Installation of Officers**
- **Hostesses:** Linda Pinner (chair), Loretta Morman, Olive Hall, Wanda Borne
- **District 5 Spring Leadership Development Conference:** Friday, May 4, FBC-Nederland, 9:30 AM—2:00 PM
- **Agenda:** Membership, District 5 Spring Leadership Development Conference & Convention Reports, Unit Awards

### Get involved . . .

... a message from MJCRSP President Lynne James



Mid-Jefferson County RSP was well represented at the annual TRTA state convention in early April. Mid-afternoon of the second day, TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee announced that Lt. Governor (LG) Dan Patrick had *asked* if he could speak to the retirees when the House of Delegates convened the following day. Needless to say, all of us, including Lee, were surprised, especially since the LG has not been sympathetic to our concerns for affordable health care, a cost of living increase, or protection of the defined benefit we now enjoy. When Lee was introduced the next morning, the delegates greeted him with a rowdy welcome; Patrick received polite applause. However, he gave a very eloquent speech, and emphasized the word FOREVER. He explained that we "would FOREVER have our health care and would FOREVER have our retirement fund." Well, the retirement fund is guaranteed by the state constitution and he did *not* say it would continue to be a defined-benefit plan. Although he promised we would have health insurance FOREVER, he did *not* promise that we would be able to pay for it. Perhaps he didn't realize he was talking to teachers.

So, what was the real purpose of his visit? Consider this: In the recent primaries, 1,168,331 people voted for Patrick, and 1,324,933 voted for someone else when the votes for both parties were combined. Of the 19,900,980 Texans *eligible* to vote, only 15,249,541 (76%) are actually *registered* to vote. When 8,000 retirees called Governor Abbott on one single day last summer to ask that our health insurance situation be placed on the docket for the special session, Abbott got the message and the final result was double that from the general session alone. Evidently, Patrick can see the handwriting on the wall. With only 156,602 votes difference between what Patrick received and what all others on the ballot for LG received, there is room for us to make a difference! Knowing this, be sure to . . .

**Join TRTA and our local unit**, and you will be networked with news from the legislature as it happens.

When phone calls and letters to senators and representatives are needed, you will be the first to know.

**Register to vote.** Legislators (and everyone else) have access to the voter registration rolls as well as who actually votes (but not how they vote). It is not difficult to cross-reference that data with the list of retired teachers receiving an annuity. Make sure we are well represented.

**Encourage** others to *register* and to *vote* in the November election! Too many sit back and do nothing.

**Recruit.** Do your part to recruit non-members to TRTA. TRTA membership is at an all-time high, indicating that we are fed up with being ignored and are **NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE!**

**Vote.** Enough said.

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.

## April meeting and convention highlights



**Row 1:** Members begin each meeting with pledges to our flags; First Vice President Linda Harrison calls the meeting to order; Master Gardener Ann Bares shares her expertise with local unit members. **Row 2:** Hostesses Wanda Borne, Beverly Minaldi (for Loretta Morman), Linda Pinner, and Olive Hall are ready to serve; Linda Harrison visits with Ann Bares and her friend Dot Norris; Dot Norris makes an interesting point about Master Gardeners; Linda Fong gets refreshed and Gail Krohn takes notes. **Row 3:** Dana Wasser, Becky Dungan and Clara Graham are interested in the program; Wanda Borne and Linda Fong consult the minutes; Candy Martin inspects the agenda; Curtis Harrison and Henry Pinner share a laugh; Linda Harrison and Linda Fong inspect the yearbook. **Row 4:** Beverly Minaldi and Wanda Borne listen carefully to the speaker; Dana Wasser and Dot Norris are attentive to Beulah Thompson's story; Olive Hall enjoys meeting with friends; Lt. Governor Dan Patrick addresses the delegates at the 65th Convention of the Texas Retired Teachers Association State Convention in San Antonio. **Row 5:** La Contera Resort hosted the TRTA state convention; Delegates include (bottom) Linda Briggs and Loretta Morman and (top) Richard Briggs, Lynne James, and Donna Lumpkin; Donna and Lee Lumpkin enjoy dancing to the Big Band Sound Gala; Linda and Richard Briggs await the beginning of the meeting of the House of Delegates; Lynne James joins members from the Twin County unit at the TRTA Foundation luncheon.

**HELEN'S HEALTH TIP:** Even though this spring has been particularly hard on allergies, do not forget to appreciate this season of rebirth and beauty that can bring pleasure to you and lift your spirits.