

On April 11 and 12, thousands of Texas retired teachers converged on the state capitol to lobby for a cost-of-living-adjustment for retirees. The galleries in the House and Senate were filled with retirees adorned in red. It was quite a sight to see. When Dr. Greg Bonnen, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, welcomed retirees to Austin, all representatives in the chamber (except one who was not mobile) gathered around him to show their support for a TRS COLA, the bill which Bonnen himself authored. Retirees in the audience gave him a resounding applause for his dedication to retired teachers. Dr. Bonnen was made aware of the plight of retirees who have not had a COLA since 2004, and especially the 300+ over 100 years old who are having a hard time meeting their financial obligations, by TRTA members, the TRTA legislative committee, and individual members who “told their stories” through face-to-face encounters, phone messages, letters, and emails. TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee expressed high hope that 2023 will be the year that TRS retirees finally get a COLA! However, it is not a done deal until it is done! TRTA membership is on the increase, and knowing that “numbers count,” we in MJCRSP are hoping you will renew your membership again this year so that we make a strong impression on legislators –not only for our gratitude for their considering a COLA, but also because WE VOTE! Join those who have been working hard for ALL retirees by returning the membership renewal form below with your dues!

**Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Membership Form 2023-2024**  
 (Membership drive begins March 1 each calendar year. Yearly memberships expire June 30)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Check if cell only

Please check one: New Member _____ Membership Renewal _____		<b>(2023-2024)</b>
Active Member (TRTA & LOCAL) (TRS Annuitant, active teachers/spouses, etc.)		\$45.00 _____
Life Member (LOCAL dues only)		\$10.00 _____
Current Monthly Member (Payroll Deduction--local dues only)		\$10.00 _____
Add \$1 (or more) toward our annual Book Project		\$1.00 _____
Scholarship Donation (optional)		\$ _____
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

Make Check Payable to: **MJCRSP**  
 Mail to Lynne James, 5305 Oakwood Circle, Orange, TX 77630  
 or bring form and check to MJCRSP meeting.

*Monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:30  
 at the PNGISD Administration Bldg., 766 Magnolia (Hwy 366), Port Neches  
 Refer to monthly newsletter for any change in meeting place.*

## 2022-2023

### OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Charles Jehlen**  
President

**Lynne James**  
Immediate Past President  
Yearbook  
Retirement Education  
Technology Contact

**Becky Dungan**  
First Vice President  
Membership

**Cathy Purgahn**  
Second Vice President  
Book Project  
Programs

**Donna Lumpkin**  
Secretary

**Tricia Kimball**  
Treasurer Elect

**Dixie Tucker**  
Parliamentarian

**Richard Briggs**  
Legislation

**Linda Briggs**  
Scholarship

**Gail Krohn**  
Publicity

**Candy Martin**  
Community Volunteer  
Services

**Helen Reynolds**  
Health

**Mary Sue Carter**  
Safety

**Shelley Dettman**  
Member Benefits

**Clara Graham**  
Foundation  
Representative

**Linda Fong**  
Memorials & Get-Well

**Olive Hall &  
Jolene LeMaire**  
Historians  
Newsletter

**Rosalie Reese**  
Hospitality

**Patricia Allen**  
Social Media

**Loretta Morman**  
Audit

# May

**TRTA District 5**

**Spring Conference**

**Tuesday May 5, 2023**

**10 am to 2 pm**

**'First Baptist Church'**  
**1911 Nederland Avenue**  
**Nederland**

## MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL NEWSLETTER

**MJCRSP**

**Meeting**

**Tuesday May 9, 2023**

**1:30 pm**

**PNG Boardroom**  
**766 Magnolia**  
**Port Neches**



A message from  
**MJCRSP President**



**Can We  
Celebrate  
NOW?**

Wrapping up a school year brings conflicting emotions to educators. "Out with the old and in with the new" refers to friends, colleagues, and students. Some are retiring from public service, others are transitioning into a new phase of their life's journey. Most are happy, some are sad. An aura of anticipation covers everyone as we move towards summer.

This May we will celebrate another successful year as a chapter. Members participated in April's Rally at the Capitol. Our outreach activities will culminate with the awarding of scholarships at Nederland and Port Neches-Groves High Schools.

TRTA Executive Director **Tim Lee** posts weekly video updates on the progress of our legislative priorities. The COLA is working its way through the law-making process. During the remainder of the regular session (and possible special sessions) go to the TRTA website to get accurate information and ways members can support the effort.

New chapter officers will be installed at our May 9th meeting. I hope to see you at the PNGISD Administration Building at 1:30 PM. We appreciate the support given to us by our Mid-County school districts. When visiting with their employees my favorite line is "Y'all are so nice to us because you want to be retired like us!"

Encourage your friends to join TRTA. It's also time for each member to renew their efforts at local, state, and national levels. Join one of our committees and **GET INVOLVED**. We are planning next year's activities and need your input.

## ARE YOU READY?



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.mjcrsp.org](http://www.mjcrsp.org) — SEE OUR VIDEO SCRAPBOOK  
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MJCRSP/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MJCRSP/)



May 4	Thursday	National Day of Prayer
May 5	Friday	Cinco De Mayo
Turn in Membership		<b>Becky Dungan</b>



☺ Drawing will be @ May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

<b>May 5</b>	Friday	<b>TRTA District 5 Spring Conference</b>	First Baptist Church 1911 Nederland Ave.—Nederland 10 am to 2 pm Hosted by MJCRSP
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May 9	Tuesday	Teacher Appreciation Day
May 14	Sunday	Mother's Day
May 20	Saturday	Armed Forces Day
May 29	Monday	Memorial Day



- ☺ Cathy Purgahn - needs **IDEAS** for next year Programs
  - ★ 211 books were distributed to 4th graders at Groves Elementary
- ☺ Becky Dungan - TRTA statewide membership increased to 95,000 this year
- ☺ Candy Martin - Our Chapter had 36,976 volunteer hours with 88 members contributing

**Helen's Health Tips**

For healthy aging, the 3 most important foods are fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products like yogurt and cheese. Enjoy these delicious, healthy foods every day.



**TRTA**

**Day at the Capitol**

