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# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER



**September 9, 2014**

**Program by**

**Allan Ritter**

**What Does the Future Hold?  
(as seen by Allan Ritter)**

- ◆ **District 5 Fall Conference:** Thursday, October 2, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 680 Calder in Beaumont, 9:30-2:00.
- ◆ **Next meeting:** October 14, 2014, in Nederland Fire Station court room, 1400 Boston Avenue (across the street from the post office), 1:30 PM. Parking is on the street and across the street in front of the Chamber of Commerce.
- ◆ **Program:** Peggy Harrison, representing the Texas Lions, will speak of the summer camps the Lions sponsor for Texas youth.
- ◆ **Refreshments:** Dixie Tucker (Chairman), Helen Reynolds, Loretta Morman, Susan Jones, and Rhonda Richey

### Let's do our part . . .

a message from MJCRSP President Gail Krohn



According to the latest information from the Texas AFT Legislative Hotline, work is already underway on the first draft of the two-year state budget plan. The Texas Teacher Retirement System is just one of the state agencies that is submitting a budget request.

It is not too early for TRS members to begin contacting legislators, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house in support of improved pension and health care benefits. Perhaps the most expedient course of action for these mentioned would be to support all school employees, active and retired, with the same level of support as that of other state employees.

We must not forget those who are still working. According to Texas AFT, state support for active employees has stayed at \$75 since 2001, causing school districts to increase their contributions, in most cases. The ideal scenario is that both active and retired TRS employees acting together to protect our pensions and benefits. Lets do our part toward this end.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** 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). The 2014-15 yearbook will be available on the website by mid-October to all paid members. When it is posted, you will be issued a password. If you are receiving this newsletter by postal mail but have an email address, please help us to save the cost of a stamp and agree to receive it by email. Contact Lynne James at [lynnej@gt.rr.com](mailto: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.**

## September highlights



(Top) President Gail Krohn prepares to call her first meeting to order; Members begin the meeting with pledges to the flags of the U.S. and Texas; Members enjoy the wide variety of luncheon goodies. (Bottom) New retirees Dixie Dubuisson, Jolene Lemaire, Sylvia Sanchez, and Roy Gaspard are introduced; Commissioner Brent Weaver, out-going Texas Legislator Allan Ritter, and MJCRSP Legislative Chairman Richard Briggs visit; Allan Ritter addresses members and guests; Frances Glaze wins the biggest door prize!

## TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee Visits District 5

More than 140 District 5 members attended the September 10 luncheon hosted by the Beaumont Association of Retired Teachers. Lee addressed the health care options that will be presented to



legislators in the next session and outlined the problems retirees face if more money is not provided to fund retiree health insurance. The worst case scenario is that premiums could increase by 135%! He congratulated retirees on efforts made during the last session to obtain legislative support to make the retirement fund actuarially sound. However, more efforts will be required prior to and during the next session because many legislators will be new and are unfamiliar with our health care situation. What can YOU do? (1) Join TRTA and your local unit. (2) Be informed about political candidates' positions on issues that affect retirees prior to the November election. (3) Make contact (face-to-face, phone, email) with legislators after the election and throughout the legislative session. (4) Sign up for Tim Lee's *Inside Line* email (<http://www.trta.org/index.cfm/features/the-inside-line/>) to keep abreast of what is going on in Austin. He makes contact with retirees when important votes are scheduled so that contacts can be made at critical times. This is how we were successful last session in protecting our retirement fund and acquiring a cost of living increase for many retirees.

**Before the Bell** ([www.beforethebell.org](http://www.beforethebell.org)) is an outreach effort aimed at active educators (pre-retirees) to not only provide them with educational resources but also to prepare them for retirement. We need to impress upon active teachers the fact that what we do now for retirees will benefit them when they reach retirement age. Learn how to promote **Before the Bell** in your local school districts as well as contribute content from your own teaching experiences at [info@trta.org](mailto:info@trta.org).

2014-15 Yearbooks will be ready for pick up at the Oct. meeting, and anyone who has not received a prior digital copy but who wants one should contact yearbook chairman Becky Dungan at [redungan@aol.com](mailto:redungan@aol.com) or 409.722.8486.

**HELEN'S HEALTH TIP:** Be sure to get your flu shot this year. Also if you have not yet gotten your one time only pneumonia and/or shingles shot, do so now. Better to be safe than sorry.