



# MID-JEFFERSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL SEPTEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER



## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**Linda Briggs**  
President

**Dana Wasser**  
First Vice President  
Immediate Past President  
Membership

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Second Vice President  
Legislation

**Sue Croom**  
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**Mary Beth McDuff**  
Treasurer

**Ted Loftin**  
Parliamentarian

**Becky Dungan**  
Yearbook Chairman

**Lynne James**  
Newsletter  
Technology Contact

**Olive Hall**  
Local Historian

**Sylvia Ramirez**  
Foundation Representative

**Jessie Howard**  
Community Volunteer Services

**Patsy Bartels**  
Member Benefits

**Helen Reynolds**  
Healthcare

**Linda Fong**  
Information & Protective Services

**Rose Reese**  
Retirement Education

**Patricia Allen**  
Children's Book Project

**Donna Lumpkin**  
Refreshment & Hospitality

**Donnell Tant**  
Audit

## September 11, 2012 Luncheon Meeting

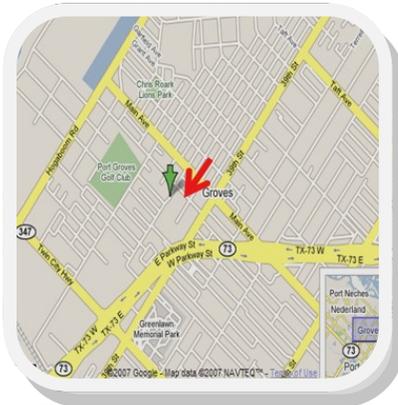
**Time:** 11:30

**Place:** Board Room, West Groves Education Center  
5840 West Jefferson, Groves (see map below)

**Guest Speaker:** State Representative Allan Ritter

Special guests will include recent retirees of Nederland and Port Neches-Groves school districts. Except for new retirees and guests, everyone is asked to bring a covered dish item to share

with others. A larger-than-usual crowd is expected, so members are asked to prepare accordingly. The luncheon will be held in the board room of the Education Center. Parking is available in the lot on Gulf Avenue (see red arrow on map). Gulf is the street off 39th next to Bruce's Market Basket. Entrance to the board room is also on the Gulf Avenue side of the building. Once inside, turn right; board room entrance is at the end of the hall.



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

The **Fall Luncheon** promises socializing, good food, and a pertinent message from State Representative **Allan Ritter**.

The 2013 Texas Legislature controls the pension and health insurance of public school employees, and Representative Ritter will give us his truthful assessment of our status. Immediately, after the business meeting September 11, those

who are interested in **Aetna Advantage** developments will meet to share information. Members who have attended the insurance seminar September 7 will deal with Advantage options. Our **membership** is now **208** and should increase at the September meeting. Thanks to all of you for your recruiting efforts.



**SAVE THE DATE: Fall Conference:** Thursday, October 4, 10 AM—2PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 680 Calder, Beaumont. **Speaker:** Don Vardeman, TRTA State Secretary/Treasurer. **Cost:** \$6/person. **RSVP** to Linda Briggs (rbriggs1@gt.rr.com) or 982.9146 by September 14.

**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.

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

## Summer 2012—lots of work and some play



Spring Leadership Workshop



Summer District 5 Workshop



Executive Committee Meets in August



Summer Social at Novrosky's

### TRS insurance information

If you are eligible for the TRS Medicare Advantage Plan, be sure to sign up for the September 7 informational meeting at Julie Rogers Theater. Only the 2PM session has available seats. Call 1.800.831.2057 (Tdd:711) to reserve a place. A Q&A will follow our September 11 meeting for those who attended to share information with those interested.

**Jessie Howard reminds all to keep a record of volunteer hours! Helen Reynolds says to keep track of your "steps." Reports are due in January.**

### Don't forget!

**This issue of the newsletter is being sent via email and USPS. Those who have an email address and have agreed to forgo the postal format will receive your monthly newsletters on the first of the month from now on. If you have an email address and have not been contacted about receiving the newsletter via email, please contact Lynne James at lynnej@gt.rr.com. Mailing the newsletter each month accounts for about 45% of local dues, funds that could be spent otherwise. The email participation has so far been tremendous, but it is not 100%—yet!**

**YEARBOOK INFORMATION:** Becky Dungan is currently preparing the 2012-13 Yearbook. If your address, phone number, or email address has changed, please notify Becky (409.722.8486 or redungan@aol.com) by September 15. If you have an email address and will receive the newsletter by email, your yearbook will arrive the same way unless you notify her by September 15.

### The time is now . . .

. . . to show our solidarity! The upcoming state legislative session will be of utmost importance to both retirees and active teachers. Decisions will be made regarding our retirement fund: Will it remain a defined benefit plan or become a defined contribution plan? and our TRS health insurance: Will it be properly funded? Will our services be cut? Will our payments be increased? TRTA's efforts to protect our benefits and our retirement fund will be strengthened by several things, especially numbers. The more members we have, the more weight our lobbying efforts will have. If you have not renewed your membership, do so now! If you have renewed, then recruit, recruit, recruit. It is important to educate active teachers and to encourage them to join our cause. Begin now making contact with your representatives; let them know how we feel and that we are monitoring their decisions. A good first step will be to attend the September 11 meeting to hear Representative Ritter's comments. A good turn out will indicate to him and to others present that we are united in our cause. Never has your involvement been more important!

**Our records indicate that you have not renewed your TRTA membership. Your dues support TRTA, the only lobbying group for retired teachers. In the upcoming legislative session, your membership will give strength to TRTA's efforts**

## Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Membership Form **2012-2013**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:** New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (2012-2013)

Active Member (TRTA/LOCAL) (Receiving Annuity) **\$35.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member (TRTA/LOCAL) **\$35.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Life Member (TRTA/LOCAL) **\$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Current Monthly Member (TRTA Payroll Deduction/LOCAL) **\$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$1 (or more) toward our annual Book Project **\$1.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: **Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel** or **MJCRSP**

Mail to **Mary Beth McDuff, 718 Riffle Ave., Port Neches, TX 77651**

or bring form and check to MJCRSP meeting.

\*Payment/response to the membership forms sent from the state organization does not address local membership, but payment to the local unit will insure both state and local membership.

*Monthly meetings are held at the Ritter Senior Citizen Center,  
914 Boston Avenue in Nederland the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:30.*