



The TRTF Ledger

November 6, 2009

The latest news and updates from the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation!

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Greetings, Texas Retired Teachers Foundation Liaisons and Representatives!

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The Ledger*.

November is **Foundation Month!**

Page 5 of *The Ledger* features a flyer promoting Foundation Month! Feel free to share this with your District or Local Unit President.

Read inside about our newest board member and unique ways your members can give to TRTF.

If you have received this newsletter in error, please contact Cindee Sharp at info@trtf.org.



TRTF appreciates your feedback. Please let us know if the newsletter is helpful to you as a representative of the foundation. Send feedback to info@trtf.org

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Welcome to Foundation Month!



As you may have read in recent issues of the *The Ledger* or *The Voice*, November 2009 has been designated as Foundation Month by the Texas Retired Teachers Association Board of Directors. Foundation Month is an opportunity to raise awareness of TRTF's

accomplishments and goals for the future.

Many districts and local units have already begun participating by collecting donations for the Foundation during their fall meetings in September and October.

The Lamar-Delta RTA raised an astounding \$367 at their fall meeting in honor of TRTA Board President Dora Scott-Nichols. The Kendall County RTA raised \$160. District X held their fall conference in September, raising \$250 and designating \$50 towards "A Helping Hand." Many more local units are expected to meet this month!

The excitement surrounding Foundation Month is becoming even more intense, as TRTF launches the **Season to Imagine** campaign. You and every member of TRTA will be receiving something special in the mail this month from us. More details about the **Season to Imagine** will be featured in the upcoming issue of *The Voice*.

If your district or local unit meets in November, talk to your President about participating in Foundation Month! TRTF is asking for your help to share recent accomplishments, 2010 goals, and talking points with your members.

Your unit may also host a local fundraiser for the Foundation. Included in this month publication are simple, cost-effective methods you can use to raise funds for TRTF during Foundation Month should you so choose (see page 3).

Thank you for being the voice of the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. We hope that Foundation Month will be a fun and enlightening experience for everyone involved!

How is your district or local unit planning to celebrate Foundation Month?

We'd love to hear from you!

Do you have a unique fundraiser idea you'd like to share? Or a fundraising success story?

Not sure yet? **The ideas on the next page** may inspire you or encourage you to create your own unique fundraiser. Let TRTF know what type of fundraiser you use!



TRTF will feature stories about the most successful fundraisers in *The Ledger*.



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Participate in Foundation Month by Hosting a Local Fundraising Campaign!

Simple, Cost-Effective Fundraising Ideas

Donation Container: This is a straightforward cash collection fundraiser. You may use old coffee cans or purchase plastic containers from your local dollar store, and cover them in bright colored paper or place a label on them. District XVII President Jill Nelson places a container on every table at meetings to collect funds for the foundation!



Adult Spelling Bee: A classic childhood competition could be a great fundraiser. Many TRTA members may enjoy a grown up spelling bee! You can either collect an entry fee to raise money, or charge an “admission fee” to the audience. You may even use the official spelling bee rules, such as asking for a definition of a word and using it in a sentence! (www.spellingbee.com/contest-rules). You can use easier words for the first few rounds, and use more difficult words as the bee progresses. For ideas on what words to use in your competition and study guides, visit *Spell It!* at www.myspellit.com.

Grab Bag: Have members donate inexpensive items, anything from used books to gag items. Place each item in a paper bag and seal all the bags. No feeling or shaking of bags is allowed! Decide what to charge per bag—a few dollars is appropriate. Supporters pay the fee and then choose a bag. They won't know whether they're getting a real treasure like a great cookbook, or a silly item like a rubber ducky. That's part of the fun! You can even include scratch-off lottery tickets to make the buying more competitive and fun

Bakeless Bake Sale: The bakeless bake sale is exactly what it sounds like! Other organizations have used the following terminology to promote their bake-less bake sale: “You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies. You do NOT have to find the recipe. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to wash dishes. You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen. You can write a check for \$10.00 to the *Texas Retired Teachers Foundation* and stay home and enjoy doing something yourself or with your family instead!”

Craft Fair/Bake Sale: Craft fairs and bake sales are common fundraising techniques that call for your members to create an item or bake a delicious goodie. The proceeds earned from selling wares and snacks could then be donated to the Foundation.

More ideas featured on www.trtf.org under Resources.



Ways to Give: Randall's Good Neighbor Program

Did you know TRTF is a member of the Randall's Good Neighbor Program?

To participate, pick up a Remarkable Card application at the Randall's courtesy booth. When completing the application, link your card to TRTF's account (**11723**). Use your Remarkable card every time you shop at Randall's. The grocery store will then donate a portion of the account total to TRTF. The more people who link their card to the our account number, the more money the Foundation will raise. For more information, visit www.trtf.org/ways.htm.

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TRTF Welcomes John Krodel

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of Mr. John Krodel to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Krodel will be completing the term of Roy Pennington, who passed away in July of this year.

John is well-known among TRTA members as former President of Amarillo RTA and District 16. John served on the TRTA Board of Directors, chairing the Leadership Training Committee and serving on the President's Council.

John graduated from Southeastern State University in Durant, Oklahoma in 1959. He began his 37-year career teaching social studies at Sam Houston and Crockett junior high schools. He served as Assistant Principal for Fannin Jr. High, as well as Principal of Bowie Jr. High. He has a master's degree in Administration.

John has been married to his lovely wife Elizabeth Ann for 54 years, and they have three children. Currently John volunteers with St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, visiting the ill in the hospital.

Please join us in welcoming John to the TRTF Board of Trustees. We are excited to have a man of such talent and knowledge join us as we serve the Texas educators of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.



Turkey Trivia!

Did you know....?

- The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed in at 86 pounds -- about the size of a large German Shepherd.
- Mature turkeys have about 3,500 feathers.
- North Carolina produces 61 million turkeys annually, more than any other state.
- The fleshy growth from the base of the beak, which is very long on male turkeys and hangs down over the beak, is called the snood.
- Domesticated turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys can fly for short distances at up to 55 miles per hour. Wild turkeys are also fast on the ground, running at speeds of up to 25 miles per hour.

Looking for Talking Points to share with your local TRTA members during Foundation Month?

Please send an email to Cindee Sharp at info@trtf.org or contact her at 1-800-880-1650 x120 to request a copy.



NOTE: Talking points have been updated as of October 2009. They are also available in the **Training Guide**. The most updated version of the Training Guide is now available online through www.trtf.org on the Resources page. The password to download the Training Guide is: *guidetrtf1*

NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH

The time to give is now.

Designate your fall meeting to increasing awareness of the Foundation. We want to do more, and we need your assistance to make our goals a reality.



In 2009-2010, TRTF will:

- provide ten \$500 student scholarships
- award ten \$500 classroom assistance grants
- launch its newest program "A Helping Hand" to give grants to retirees in critical need

***Help your fellow educators:
past, present, and future!***

Contact us to learn more on how you may participate!

800.880.1650

Texas Retired Teachers Foundation
313 E. 12th St., Ste. 250, Austin, TX 78701-1956



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: WWW.TRTF.ORG