

## Midland Association of Retired School Personnel

Dear MARSP Members:

It is November and in my time frame, a time for sharing, and for gathering together with our families and friends for a feast of Thanksgiving. This year may not be the traditional gatherings, but we will all find a way to meet whether it is by Zoom, Facetime, cards, or phone calls. We will camp out around the televisions as we watch a football game, or in the kitchen as we chop, peel, or stir to complete the Thanksgiving dinner. It is definitely a time of giving; be it in the form of time, monetary, or in person. This year may change some of our plans due to the COVID 19 virus, but the arrival of my Texas Retired Teachers Foundation donation card, made me happy. It is one tradition that I can fulfill. Read Martha's letter for more information.

News from the October District 18 Fall Conference Zoom Meeting which was held October 20th by District President, Shirley Johnson.

- Kel Seliger is pushing for setting aside testing requirements for 2020
- He spoke about SB12 increasing the state's contribution from 6.5% to 8.25% to TRS
- TRS will have to explain the monetary obligation of the Indeed Tower to the Legislators
- Brooks Landgraf wants actuarial soundness for the pension fund
- The legislators will be redistricting representative and senate districts based on the census
- Pete Flores spoke about SB12 and that he serves on the Finance Committee. There will not be a 13<sup>th</sup> check.
- TRS Dale Wiest and Merita Zoga spoke about how the pension fund has recouped its losses from the beginning of the pandemic and the stock market. The fund has gone from \$157B to \$160B/
- TRTF : Martha Kallus spoke about November is Foundation Month and our goal is to raise \$100,000 to added to the Foundation.
- Maridell Fryar spoke about the nomination of Martha Kallus for the E.L. Galyean Award for 2021
- Retirement Seminar will be February 6, 2021. Pat Buckley noted that there will be a venue and each unit will need to have a representative.
- Legislative Update by Ricky Chandler who noted that SB3 and HB1 along with WEP are still important and important to bringing financial assistance to many of our members.
- Rally Day is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Austin. District 18<sup>th</sup> will rent a 56 passenger bus and members will pay for lodging and meals. Signing up is a first come, first serve basis.

I miss all of you, 242 members, in our local MARSP. Thank you, Debbie Jordan and Michele Harmon Boyd for your continued search for members. Thank you MARSP members for your continued support to our Foundation.

Blessings on all of you,

Mary Smith, President MARSP