

# MARSP Newsletter

APRIL 2020

[www.midlandretireded.org](http://www.midlandretireded.org)

April 2, 2020  
MARSP Box 4954  
Midland, TX 79704



**As a result of the COVID-19 situation, our April MARSP meeting on April 2nd and our MARSP Executive Committee meeting on April 6th are canceled.**

**MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP**

Members, in the month of February you received your directories and your 2020-21 membership form. March began our membership renewal time. This again will be a legislative year, and we need our voices and concerns heard by our elected officials. TRTA works to lobby on our behalf and to talk to legislators about hardships of retired teachers. Please fill out your membership form and mail it back to Midland Association of Retired School Personnel, P O Box 4954, Midland, Texas 79704. Deborah Jordan, Membership Chair

**CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT**



The Children's Book Project began anew in January. MARSP will be collecting and distributing children's books with the help of our membership. By year's end, we are hoping to distribute 2,100 books to agencies such as The Midland Soup Kitchen, Casa de Amigos, The Midland Boys and Girls Clubs, and Helping Hands. We are looking for donations from the membership in the form of actual children's books or monetary donations for the purchase of books. So far this year, we have collected and processed 466 books and have distributed 419 books. We have a ways to go, so your help will be greatly appreciated! Joyce Watts and Barbara Stooksberry are in charge of the project, so please contact one of them to make donations. You may also bring your donations to the monthly luncheons.

Barbara Stooksberry and Joyce Watts, Co-chairs  
Children's Book Project



**FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Spring has arrived and is a welcome change. The greening of the land lifts spirits. I hope that you have an opportunity to get your hands into that dirt and see something gorgeous come out of it. On that note, our own member, Susie Yarborough, a master gardener, will present our April 2<sup>nd</sup> program “Principles of Xeriscape.” In arid West Texas this is a viable option that many are utilizing. Put this meeting on your calendar and enjoy this pertinent program, a great meal and fellowship with dear friends.

Our TRTA Convention was scheduled for April 6-8 in Corpus Christi. We had five delegates going; however, it has been canceled because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

You received your yearbook last month. Examine your information. **If there is an error, please email Debbie Jordan at [debraejordae@hotmail.com](mailto:debraejordae@hotmail.com) to get it corrected for next year.**

Enjoy this change of seasons. It will be great to see you at our April meeting.

Deanna Dunn  
MARSP President



**NEW OFFICERS**

**At our March meeting, we elected our new slate of officers for 2020 -2022. The following will serve MARSP for the next two years:**

- President – Mary Smith**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Debbie Jordan and Michele Harmon Cobb**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Barbara Stooksberry and Joyce Watts**
- Secretary – Nancy Ashley**
- Treasurer – Eileen Corley**

**If our new president approaches you to help her, please say, “Yes.” Your active participation enriches your MARSP experience.**

**Deanna Dunn, Outgoing President**

**MARSP TO HONOR JOYCE WHITLEY**

Each year prior to the convention, it has been a tradition for MARSP to give to the Texas Retired Teacher Foundation. This will happen at the next meeting. Be prepared to give generously.

The MARSP board has voted to give this year’s donation in honor of Joyce Whitley, who has so generously given of her time and talent to publish our newsletters for a number of years. She published the newsletter as a resident, then moved from Midland, but continued to volunteer and work remotely. She has done this in a professional and timely manner. We are all so grateful for her work. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to those in MARSP that help to make us a model local unit.

The Foundation is the giving arm of the TRTA organization. It works to support school personnel of the past, the present, and future...those just beginning as teachers. TRTF has also stepped up and helped with the Disaster Relief Program when such a need has occurred, such as the West, Texas explosion that devastated that school and surrounding area, affecting several retired and active school personnel and Hurricane Harvey that caught so many off guard with its path and destruction. TRTF gave in a timely matter to help those people.

On a personal note, I want to thank you, the membership of MARSP, for your support of the Foundation programs and all my other endeavors with the TRTA and TRTF. I’m completing my 20<sup>th</sup> year of commitment to TRTA and TRTF. On June 30<sup>th</sup> my TRTF term will end. It has been a wonderful experience and I’ve made many new friends as well as a rewarding experience to be a small part in TRTA success. Thank you so much for your support through the years.

Martha Kallus, TRTF Liaison

**Volunteer Hours for March**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE for March**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YES I EXERCISED** \_\_\_\_\_



## MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONNEL MINUTES

**March 5, 2020**

The regular meeting of Midland Association of Retired School Personnel was held March 5, 2020 at First Baptist Church. The meeting was called to order at 1:15p.m. by President Deanna Dunn. President Dunn welcomed the members, introduced the new members, and thanked Orin Wade for the music and the cafeteria staff. Nancy Doss led the invocation and pledge.

### Introduction of Program

Bayta Cullen introduced Kaitlyn Greb, director of food and nutrition services at Midland Memorial Hospital. Kaitlyn presented a presentation on “Fast Meals—Not Fast Foods.” There were questions from the audience. President Dunn presented Kaitlyn Greb a certificate, and a donation will be given to the scholarship foundation in her name.

### Business Meeting

Cindy Truitt presented the slate of officers for 2020-2022

President – Mary Smith; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Debbie Jordan and Michele Cobb; 2nd Vice President – Barbara Stooksberry and Joyce Watts; Secretary- Nancy Ashley; Treasurer – Eileen Corley.

There were not any nominees from the floor and the nomination was closed.

First Vice President’s Report- Debbie reported 56 new members at the present. Second Vice President’s Cindy Truitt – May’s Program the installation of the Officers and April’s Program- Susie Yarbrough.

Book Project Update - Barbara Stooksberry and Joyce Watts. Four hundred eleven books have been collected and 305 were distributed.

Secretary- Nancy Ashley – No minutes for February due to cancellation of the meeting, because of eight inches of snow.

Treasurer Mary Smith Treasurer’s report was accepted as distributed and will be filed for audit.

Foundation Liaison – Martha Kallus reminded members next month we will be collecting for the foundation.

Scholarship- Kathy Favor reminded members to turn in scholarship applications to Kathy. The forms can be printed for the MARSP website. The deadline is 6/5/2020.

Retirement Education Seminar – President D. Dunn presented Virginia Conner a certificate of appreciation for a job well done (Retirement Seminar in February).

Reservations – Anita Patton reminded members to continue making reservations for the luncheon.

Healthy Living Chair- Nancy Young reminded members that they could do these exercises daily—squats and walking. Susie Yarbrough was the winner for a free meal.

Community Volunteer Service chair – Helen Whitehead will present the two checks to the City Council and Midland Independent School Board. Cindy Truitt was the winner of a free meal.

Reminders - Executive Board Meeting on Monday March 9, 2020, at Centennial Library Rm. 113. Jan Perkins reminded the members that Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International also has applications for teachers, working on graduate and post graduate degrees.

Mary Smith urged members to give to the Scholarship fund.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Nancy Ashley, Secretary

### COVID—19 BRINGS OUT SCAMMERS



Scammers are already on the loose during this pandemic. They are eager to take advantage of your generosity by posing as charities or needy individuals soliciting donations. Here are a few tips for spotting scammers:

1. Look for sound alike names;
2. Verify your charity at [Give.org](https://www.give.org);
3. Review the charity’s website to make sure they specify their plans for the donations and how they will be used to address the issues they claim to combat.

Ann Parish, Informative and Protective

### MARCH HEALTHY LIVING TIPS 2020

THINK	<i>POSITIVELY</i>
EXERCISE	<i>DAILY</i>
WORK	<i>HARD</i>
EAT	<i>HEALTHY</i>
STAY	<i>STRONG</i>
DANCE	<i>MORE</i>
WORRY	<i>LESS</i>
LOVE	<i>OFTEN</i>
BE	<i>HAPPY</i>
WASH	<i>HANDS</i>

Healthy Living Chairman, Nancy Young



## **INCOME TAX SEASON IS UPON US:**

Here's what you need to know to stay safe in 2020

*Scammers are now working harder to sink their claws into the unsuspecting and gullible in 2020. These con artists rely on fear and disinformation to steal money and identities. Knowing scammers' schemes can help protect you and your personal information.*

### **1. The Canceled Social Security Number**

This scam using robocalls claim your Social Security Number (SSN) is being suspended or cancelled due to taxes being owed. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) assures that this will never happen. Plus, the IRS only contacts taxpayers through snail mail or in-person.

### **2. The IRS Impersonation Email**

A spoofing tax scam involves emails and IRS impersonators offering you information about your refund or reminding you to file. These spoofed sites collect any information you input, facilitating identity theft. They can also infect your computer with malware, allowing fraudsters to steal more data. The IRS does not send unsolicited emails or engage through text messaging or social media. Plus, they will never ask you for personal information, such as your SSN, PINs, or passwords.

### **3. The Bureau of Tax Enforcement Does Not Exist**

Scammers are now sending out letters claiming to be from the Bureau of Tax Enforcement and may mention the IRS, demanding immediate payment. While you shouldn't ignore mail from the IRS, be sure it's real. Official letters will always have a seal and a letter or notice number. You can also call the IRS directly to verify the information. If you decide to call, don't call the number on the fake letter, as it could connect you to the fraudster. Instead, look up the number online.

### **4. The Ghost Tax Preparers**

Taxes are complicated, which is why so many people rely on the skills of a preparer or CPA. Be aware of scammers posing as these professionals. These ghost preparers will take money to complete your taxes but won't sign the return, making it look like you did the work yourself. Cons like this tend to target the elderly, costing an estimated \$2.9 billion annually in financial losses. Ghost preparers often lie on the return to make you qualify for credits you haven't earned or apply changes that will get you in trouble. Since they don't sign, you'll be responsible for any errors. At best, you'll have to repay the money owed. At worst, you could be looking at an audit. Protect yourself by making sure your tax preparer has a valid preparer tax identification number (PTIN). These numbers are issued by the IRS and get updated each year. Plus, be sure the preparer signs your return before submission.

## **Be Vigilant About 2020 Tax Scam**

*Tax scams are a year-round business but now as tax day looms they will be more prevalent. If you're planning to file your taxes soon, follow the advice above to stay safe.*

*To keep your personal information and finances secure against 2020 tax season scams, be vigilant and double-check everything.*

Ann Parish, Informative and Protective



By Tim Lee

**Keep up with the happenings in Austin for Retired Educators.**

**Go to <http://www.trta.org> and click the Inside Line icon like the one above. Then follow the directions.**

**The TRTA Call Your Legislator Hotline:  
1-888-674-3788  
TRTA Legislative Hotline:  
1-877-880-1651**

### **CARDS TO MEMBERS**



Cards going out from MARSP since the last newsletter include thinking of you to Charlotte Sweatt and her children upon the death of her husband Ronald.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a card, you may contact Patti Watson at [pnw1000@gmail.com](mailto:pnw1000@gmail.com) or call her at 432-697-1170. If you have any sympathy cards or get well cards that you are not going to use, you may give them to Patti for her to use.

Patti Watson, Friendship Chairperson