

MARSP August 2022

Midland Association of Retired School Personnel

You Are Invited!

August 2022

TRTA District 18 Membership Luncheon, hosted by MARSP.

Date: August 18th, 2022

Place: First Baptist Church, Midland TX—Fellowship Hall

Time: 11:15 AM — Sign in, Meet & Greet
11:30 — Lunch is served

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Program: Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director

Topic: State of Retirement For Teachers

Special Points of Interest:

- August Meeting
- TRTF Classroom Scholarship winners
- TRTA Legislature
- MARSP President Note
- TRTA Benefits
- MARSP Volunteer Hours
- MARSP Book Project
- MARSP Membership

Call Anita Patton at 432-349-6822 OR email her at apatton123@sbcglobal.net for your lunch reservation before **August 15**. Payment can be made at the door, but it is important we have a count for lunch.

No need for lunch? You may come and hear Tim Lee at no charge.

2022 TRTF PERMIAN BASIN CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE GRANT WINNERS & BEGINNING TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Melissa Floyd teaches first grade at Clearfork Elementary School in Andrews. Her students need guided books in their hands for fluency, reading practice, and comprehension work at reading levels A to K. Some of the titles she will purchase include Jasper the Cat, Clarence the Dragon, Pickles the Dog, Georgie Giraffe, and Galaxy Girl. Cont...

TRTF Classroom Assistance Scholarships—continued

Brooke Phillips teaches Life Skills at Midland High School. Her special needs students will grow tomatoes as part of the campus beautification project, learning about the vegetable's growth cycle from seed to harvest. The students will also be able to incorporate the tomatoes in their cooking lessons. With her grant, Brooke will purchase grow lights, peat pellets, soil, seeds, jungle towers, and hanging baskets.

Cecilia Herrera (University of Texas—Permian Basin), Major area of study: EC-6 with Bilingual and ESL Supplement. Her aspiration for her students is that they practice higher order thinking so they can problem-solve, connect, plan, and experience knowledge through questioning and analysis. Cecilia was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Brenda Young.

TRTA Legislative News

TRTA Legislative News

As we head into the coming 88th Legislative Session that begins in January 2023, a good reference guide to familiarize yourself with the issues that TRTA will address can be found at Legislative Committee Resource Guide 2022-2024. All documents in this guide are available online at www.trta.org/legislative-committee/ .

In this guide you will find TRTA State Issues, which include:

- ◆ Fund TRS Pension Trust
- ◆ Support a COLA for TRS Retirees
- ◆ Protect TRS-Care

Lois Hillary

MARSP Legislative Chair

MARSP President's Note:

As the school year begins for 2022-23 those of us (retired teachers) always felt that this marks a new beginning. January 2023 will also be the beginning of a new legislative session which will determine if we receive a COLA or not. TRTA is diligently working to advocate for a COLA for us, its time, its long over time that we received one. Inflation is continuing to rise, medical bills are more expensive and even everyday food bills are going up. As a group that advocates for retired teachers, MARSP will continue to keep you apprised of how the legislature is progressing on our part. Please come to our meeting on August 18 with Tim Lee as our guest speaker and hear his view of our prospects during this next legislative session.

Deborah Jordan



Dear TRTA District and Local Unit Presidents,

We want to provide you with additional information regarding the exciting announcement we are making that TRTA and its dental and vision benefits provider, AMBA, have agreed to continue their relationship to offer AMBA's dental and vision insurance programs to our TRTA members.

As you may be aware, TRTA and AMBA had been engaged in a legal process regarding our relationship. Over the last few months, we have met with AMBA's Chief Executive Officer and leadership team on a weekly basis. These conversations have been a wonderful opportunity for us to gain a deeper understanding of the terrific work AMBA does on behalf of TRTA and our members. The result of these conversations was simple: We are better together!

AMBA is a market leader in providing value-based benefits to members of retiree associations like TRTA across the country, and has been a trusted partner to TRTA for nearly four decades. Thousands of our members have enjoyed dental and vision benefits offered and administered by AMBA for years. In addition, AMBA works with hundreds of retired Texas educators each day and has also worked with TRTA to help recruit over 50,000 new members into our association over the years. We believe that entering this new chapter with AMBA best serves our members' dental and vision benefit needs, and will better position TRTA to increase our membership, and help us achieve our legislative goals on behalf of retired educators in Texas.

If you would like to learn more about these dental and vision insurance benefits, we encourage you to contact AMBA at (833) 643-0263 for new customers, or (833) 643-0264 for existing customers. We have also provided some information below on questions that you or other members may have about this partnership.

If you have any questions regarding this exciting and renewed partnership, we encourage you to reach out to TRTA directly at info@trta.org or call us at 1.800.880.1650.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Question 1: What is the nature of the TRTA and AMBA relationship today? Continued on page 4

TRTA FAQ CONTINUED.....

- Answer: AMBA is the exclusive provider of TRTA's dental and vision programs today.

Question 2: What about Trident?

- Answer: TRTA is winding down its partnership with Trident on the dental/vision programs. If someone has dental/vision through Trident, we are working with AMBA on options for those members. Representatives of TRTA and AMBA will be contacting these TRTA members.

Question 3: What about other products (MASA, Life Insurance, etc.) purchased through AMBA in the past?

- Answer: Those AMBA policies will continue so long as you pay your premium.

Question 4: May I invite an AMBA representative to TRTA District or local unit meetings to provide information on benefits? Will AMBA still provide payment to local units for yearbook ads?

- Answer: At this time, AMBA is TRTA's endorsed agent and third-party administrator only for the TRTA group dental plan with Ameritas and the TRTA vision plan with VSP. You may invite AMBA representatives to speak about the dental/vision programs; however, this decision is made at the local level. In addition, you may reach out to AMBA to advertise in your yearbook and receive payment for your local unit for these ads.

Question 5: Last summer TRTA and AMBA were in a lawsuit, but today AMBA is the exclusive endorsed dental/vision provider. Can you provide background on what has happened?

Answer: In 2021, TRTA and AMBA had been engaged in a legal process regarding which contracts governed our relationship. Over the last few months, members of the TRTA Board and Tim Lee, TRTA's Executive Director, have met with AMBA's Chief Executive Officer and their leadership team on a weekly basis. These conversations have been a wonderful opportunity for TRTA leadership to gain a deeper understanding of the terrific work AMBA does on behalf of TRTA and our members. The result of these conversations was simple: We are better together! TRTA and AMBA have a 40-year history and together provide a unique value for retired educators encompassing advocacy, benefits, and social connection. Over the years, AMBA has worked with TRTA to help recruit over 50,000 new association members and is a strong supporter of retired educators in Texas and across the nation. TRTA and AMBA have been working on exciting new ways to better serve our members, which we hope will increase our overall membership.



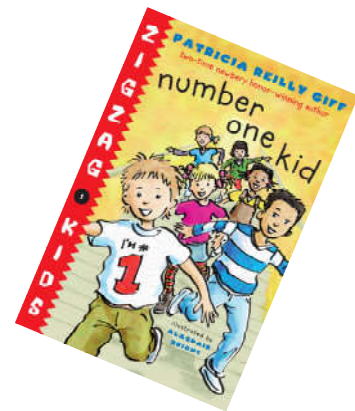
MARSP Volunteer Hours

The current Volunteer Hourly Rate as posted by the Independent Sector is \$29.95. MARSP will report the hours accumulated by our chapter to the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) for the period January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022.

Thank you to all the retired school personnel that volunteer their time and energy serving others in your family, peer groups, and community. The dollars represented by the time you volunteer speaks volumes when presented to our legislators.

Examples of volunteer hours to report include, but are not limited to: schools, libraries, museums, any non-profit, hospitals and nursing homes, small businesses and business offices, friends, neighbors, family, senior citizen centers and other community services, raising money for worthy causes, church, babysitting, etc.

There is a Volunteer Hours Record form on the MARSP webpage under MARSP documents for your convenience if you wish to accumulate annually and submit at the end of the year. Feel free to submit your hours anytime it's convenient for you during the year. Thank you in advance for your participation in reporting data for 2022 by submitting hours at the monthly MARSP meetings or to Helen Whitehead at hlwhite54@gmail.com.



MARSP Children's Book Project

The MARSP Children's Book Project is undergoing a major overhaul. Instead of collecting used books and trying to find groups that want the books, the project will now benefit the PRE-K school at Midland College. MARSP will be purchasing copies of a bi-monthly magazine called *My Big World* for the Pre-K students. We are also hoping to purchase books for the school's library later in the year. Any donations to the Children's Book Project would be greatly appreciated and will be used to purchase the magazines and library books.

MARSP Friendship



Cards have been sent to the following members:

Kathy Favor - Thinking of You

Family of Mary Rasavage - Sympathy upon Mary's death

Cheree Smith -Thinking of You

Zoe Carter -Thinking of You

Family of Linda Ingle - Sympathy upon Linda's death

Please notify Patti Watson at pnw1000@gmail.com or call **697-1170** with names of MARSP member or member's families whose loved one have passed away, sympathy or thinking of you cards sent to them.



Now's the time for Membership & More! Be sure to renew your 2022-2023 membership to continue your access to information, benefits and legislative updates. Membership is \$50 which includes both MARSP and TRTA state dues. Bring your check or cash dues to the August 18th meeting or mail them to MARSP, P.O. Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704-4954 with a renewal notice from the MARSP website,

[www.https://www.midlandretired.org/pdfs/WebMembership.pdf](https://www.midlandretired.org/pdfs/WebMembership.pdf) or the renewal notice mailed to you in March.

Do you know potential new members? Invite them to the August 18th meeting and encourage them to join our group! At the meeting, come on over to the Membership table behind the reservation check in table. Any questions, email pvknight432@gmail.com.
