

# MARSP Newsletter

FEBRUARY, 2019

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

February 7, 2019  
MARSP  
Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704



## PLEASE COME TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Don't forget to put Thursday, February 7, on your calendar. This is the date for the next luncheon meeting of MARSP. Meet and greet begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$6, and your reservation is your commitment to pay. The program, entitled Preparing for Disaster, will be presented by Ann Parish. Taking proactive steps can make dealing with the unexpected easier and less stressful.

Call Anita Patton at 432-349-6822 or e-mail her at [apatton123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apatton123@sbcglobal.net) by Monday, February 4.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR NEW  
AND/OR GENTLY USED BOOKS  
TO ALL MEETINGS.

## CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

*"Books are a uniquely portable magic."* –Stephen King



Thank you and congratulations on a job well done to all who contributed to the Children's Book Project this past year. We collected and delivered 2200 children's books. The last bunch is going to the YMCA which is starting a new library. Please continue to support this project with money and/or books. If you have books to donate, you may bring them to a meeting or to Bayta Cullen's house (2304 Sinclair, 432-559-7797).

## WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEART?



Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. killing more than 600,000 Americans each year. Take a look at these 9 best foods for your heart and think carefully about your current diet and daily routine—it is easy to make small changes that make a big difference.

1. Oatmeal
2. Dark Chocolate
3. Salmon
4. Blueberries
5. Oranges & lemons
6. Soy
7. Potatoes
8. Nuts
9. Tomatoes

**HEART HEALTHY-** [www/dailyheartremedies.com/9-best-foods-for-your-heart](http://www.dailyheartremedies.com/9-best-foods-for-your-heart)

Nancy Young, Healthcare

## MEMBERSHIP



The 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative session has begun. There will be many major issues that will impact retired teachers. TRTA will continue to work with legislators to help and improve our retirement. **March 2019 is the time to renew your TRTA membership.** You will receive an email from MARSP with a membership form. Please plan to renew your membership and TRTA will be working for you.

Deborah Jordan, Membership



GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope that you're back in your new improved routine after implementing new goals. Blessings as you embark on 2019. May it be a great one! Put our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on your calendar. Our own Ann Parish will be presenting "Preparing for Disaster." What a timely subject! Come and bring a friend.

Our annual Region 18 Retirement Seminar is Saturday morning, February 9, 2019, at Abell Junior High here in Midland. If you are in contact with anyone who is retiring in May or next year, please tell them about this informative seminar. A representative from TRTA will be here to explain how to navigate the process. Word of mouth is our most effective method to invite our retiring teachers to this seminar. Spread the word!

April 1 – 2, 2019, is our TRTA State Convention in Austin. We will also meet with our local legislators to present our concerns April 3, our Rally Day. If you would be interested in acting as a delegate, please contact me. We would love to have you join us for this fun and informative time.

The Texas Legislature is officially in session. Continue to send postcards to Tom Craddick and Kel Seliger encouraging them to bolster our pension with cost of living raises and to implement more affordable, comprehensive health care by increasing state funding. Help them understand the hardships that you experience living in 2019 on a 2002 retirement (when our last cost of living raise occurred). Tell your story and mention that you are their constituent. Follow our Midland Association of Retired School Personnel Facebook page. We are constantly posting TRTA articles that explain what is currently happening at the state level. If you know other legislators, contact them also. You have influence; use it to improve your life!

Deanna Dunn – MARSP President

CARDS SENT TO MEMBERS



Notification of cards that have been sent to members appears in every newsletter. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a card of sympathy, get well, or thinking of you, you may contact Patti Watson at [pnw1000@gmail.com](mailto:pnw1000@gmail.com) or call her at 432-697-1170. A thinking of you card was recently sent to Celia Munoz and a card of sympathy was sent to the family of Peggy Woods. If you have any sympathy cards or get well cards that you are not going to use, you may give them to Patti at the monthly luncheon for her to use.

Patti Watson, Friendship



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:

INSURANCE FOR YOUR PET



If you have taken your dog or cat to the vet lately, you know it can be very expensive. Nationwide Pet Insurance give association members a 5% discount on new pet insurance policies. [www.petinsurance.com/amba](http://www.petinsurance.com/amba).

Lyn Fishman, Benefits

**Volunteer Hours Dec/Jan**

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

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

**Exercise for Dec/Jan**

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

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

**MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

**(MARSP) VOLUNTEER HOURS**

The MARSP collects volunteer hours from members to present to the State of Texas Legislators. Why is this important? These statistics are impressive and speak volumes when we ask for consideration and support from the state for our health care and other benefits associated with our retirement. The collected data is due February 15 of each year.

The data will be translated into unpaid dollars when reported. Hours may be counted for any service provided without pay and includes door to door and preparation time. Examples of volunteer hours would 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. It is a way for us to show the contributions individuals and organizations have made in our communities. The Independent Sector has estimated the value of volunteer time for 2018 was \$24.69 per volunteer hour.

Please help us collect any unreported **2018** data by submitting hours to Helen Whitehead by **January 25, 2019** to [hlwhite54@gmail.com](mailto:hlwhite54@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for your participation in getting the **2018** MARSP data collected.

Helen Whitehead, Volunteer Chair



**MARSP MINUTES**

**January 3, 2019**

MARSP meeting for January 3, 2019 was held at First Baptist Church. The meeting was called to order by president, Deanna Dunn at 12:05p.m.

Invocation and Pledges to the flags were led by Anita Patton.

President Deanna Dunn thanked each for coming to the meeting and Orin for the piano music.

She welcomed the members and wished everyone a Happy New Year (2019).

**Introduction of Program**

President Deanna Dunn introduced Judge Kyle Peeler. Judge Kyle Peeler has been practicing law 42 years; he is a Lee High and Baylor graduate.

Judge Kyle Peeler presentation included:

- a. Probate and Estate Planning Pearls,
- b. Durable Power of Attorney,
- c. Last Will and Testament
- d. Directive to Physician Living Will,
- e. Medical Power of Attorney
- f. Non Testamentary Documents,
- g. New Alternative to Guardianship,
- h. Federal Estate Tax and Exclusion Amount,
- i. Federal Annual Gift Tax,
- j. Exclusion Tax

After questions and answers from the members, President Dunn presented Judge Kyle Peeler a certificate.

**Business Meeting**

Debbie Jordan reported the current membership is 249. Membership drive for the New Year will begin in March.

Debby Neeley reminded the members to continue bringing books for the Book Project.

Minutes for December were approved and filed.

The treasurer's report for November and December was distributed and is ready for audit.

Jan Van Eman updated the members about what was happening in the Legislature. They will be having hearings in January and February. She also stated the best way to communicate is sending a postcard, reminding them about a raise for retired teachers and about health care.

Healthy Living free meal drawing was won by President Deanna Dunn.

Volunteer Hours drawing for a free meal was won by Lois Hillary.

**Reminder**

Executive Board Meeting Monday, January 7, 2019, Centennial Library.

Nancy Ashley, Secretary