

MARSP Newsletter

MARCH 2019

www.midlandretireded.org

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



PLEASE COME TO THE MARCH MEETING

Don't forget to put Thursday, March 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 presenter is Debby Hiser from Aldredge Gardens. She will present tips on spring planting and advise us on how to extend the life span of our house plants.

Call Anita Patton at 432-349-6822 or e-mail her at apatton123@sbcglobal.net by Monday, March 4

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR DONATION FOR THE TRTF FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION NEWS



Each year at this time MARSP collects contributions from its members to be presented to the Foundation at the convention. We are asking that you consider giving again to help with the Foundation programs at this upcoming meeting. Announcement of our amount of giving at the Foundation Breakfast always gives our delegates there a sense of pride in our MARSP contributions.

The Texas Retired Teacher Foundation thrives on the generosity of TRTA members for most of their revenue. It is through thoughtful giving that the Foundation has been able to increase the number of Classroom Assistance Grants, continue the Beginning Teacher Scholarships, and help TRS annuitants needing one-time grants to assist them in daily life and at the time of disasters. The permanent Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund must meet its \$200,000 mark by December of this year or be dissolved. It would be good to designate that donations this time go to the Endowment Fund. The goal is reachable, but the fund needs more.

The Foundation Board of Trustees work diligently to consider the use of funds. All the grants and scholarships are reviewed and decided on by the board members as they work with their respective committee members. Your donations are used wisely to the best of TRTF knowledge.

Giving has become easier, also. You may not be aware that one can go online and give donations for a memorial or to honor someone at any time. The website is user friendly. That website is www.trtf.org and go to the drop down menu under donate. Also, we will be hearing more about remembering to include the Foundation in your will. Those donations leave a wonderful legacy for the help of all school personnel in the future.

Thank you for your wonderful generosity at MARSP. Your contributions show your willingness to help others and your giving ways.

Martha Kallus , TRTF Board of Trustees

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Greetings to you! While in February’s roller coaster weather, we look forward to a calmer March. As we itch to get our hands in the soil, join us on March 7 for our program “Landscaping and Gardening in West Texas.” Our challenges are real in West Texas.

Our chapter is working hard for your benefit at the legislature and here at home. We will present our volunteer hours to the MISD board on March 25 and Midland City Council on March 26. Come join us as we present a check to them to show how much our members contribute to our schools and city through volunteering. We make a positive impact on life here in Midland! Let’s celebrate!

We are monitoring the legislature as they conduct hearings about cost of living raises and making our insurance more affordable. If you’re not getting the Inside Line from TRTA, please sign up to get it at <https://trta.org/inside-line-blog/>. Tim Lee blogs about what is happening in Austin to keep us up to date as he advocates for us. Continue to phone and send postcards to our legislators to explain how we need them to bolster our pension with cost of living raises and more inclusive health care. Specific numbers that we want are outlined in our Legislative Agenda article in this newsletter.

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, TRS Rally Day. If you would be interested in acting as a delegate or just attending, please contact me. We would love to have you join us for this fun and informative time.

Continue to be active in bettering our community and monitoring the legislature. TRS is advocating for us in Austin. Get involved by updating your MARSP membership for 2019-2020 and recruiting others to join!

Deanna Dunn, President MARSP

RETIREMENT SEMINAR WELL ATTENDED



As a team effort the Midland chapter came together to promote the District 18 Retirement Seminar on February 9, 2019, at Abell Jr. High. Deanna Dunn, Joy Cunningham, Paula Knight, Nancy Ashley, and Virginia Conner distributed flyers throughout Midland Independent School District campuses. MISD sent one e-mail out to their staff about the seminar. In our local January newsletter we encouraged our members to promote the seminar through digital media. Deanna Dunn, Mike Landrum, and Virginia Conner from our chapter attended the seminar to assist where needed. Thanks to everyone who assisted in promoting the seminar. It was well attended including some spouses —135 attendees and 47 were from Midland.

Virginia Conner, Retirement Chairman

THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED



MARSP has received a thank-you note from A Storybook Christmas. Our donation will be used to purchase books to be given to every first grader in Midland. We join with A Storybook Christmas in recognizing the importance of instilling a love for reading at an early age.

Volunteer Hours for FEBRUARY

Name: _____

Number of Hours: _____

EXERCISE for FEBRUARY

Name: _____

YES I EXERCISED _____



MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Midland Association of Retired School Personnel met at First Baptist Church February 7, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 12:18p.m. President Dunn welcomed everyone in attendance. The invocation and pledge to the flags were led by Chaplain Nancy Doss.

PROGRAM

Today's program, "Preparing for Disaster," was presented by Ann Parish. Ann presented important information on having a planned response for natural and man-made disasters that can strike at any time. The group participated in a written exercise on Disaster Preparation, followed by questions and answers. She strongly encouraged us to have a planned response. President Deanna Dunn presented Ms. Ann Parish with a certificate for her presentation. A donation to our scholarship fund will be given in her name.

Business Meeting:

President Dunn indicated three more delegates are needed to go to the State Convention April 1-3, 2019 in Austin, Texas. The delegates will carpool and make it an informative, fun, and enjoyable trip.

- a. Debbie Jordan reported that the new membership drive will start in March.
- b. Cindy Truitt reported that the Book project will begin collecting books for next year, and also received a thank-you note from Casa De Amigo.
- c. March's program- "Landscaping & Gardening in West Texas" will be presented by Debby Hiser of Aldridge Gardens.
- d. Minutes for January approved as printed in the newsletter.
- e. The report for January was approved and distributed.
- f. Patti Watson reported no cards were sent last month. Sympathy cards are needed.
- g. Jan Van Eman gave an update on the legislative session and encouraged the members to call our legislators, with # Raise the Base (send messages, Facebook, hash tag raise the base).
- h. Retirement Education update was reported by Virginia Connor. Virginia indicated the retirement seminar Saturday February 9, 2019 was well attended and thanked everyone who passed out flyers and helped on Saturday. There were 140 in attendance and 50 were from MISD.
- i. Scholarship applications should be turned in to Kathy Favor; they can be printed from the MARSP website.
- j. Remember to make meeting /luncheon reservations with Anita Patton.
- k. Kathy Landrum won the Healthy Living drawing for a free meal.
- l. Drawing for volunteer hours and wellness was won by Dorothy Blair. Helen Whitehead gave an update on the volunteer hours earned by the members (34,179 hours). A check for hours earned will be presented to the city council and MISD board meeting.

Executive Board will meet Monday, February 11, 2019 at Centennial Library, Room 113 at 1:30p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:18p.m.

Nancy Ashley, Secretary

MARCH HEALTH NEWS—TASTE AND STRETCH



Foods with rich colors are more than just nice to look at. They are also packed with nutrients and antioxidants that bind the damaging free radicals in your body, lowering inflammation. (Sadly, Skittles do not count.) Eat nine fistfuls of colorful fruits and vegetables and you will reap the benefits. That would be about 2 cups of fruit a day and about 2 ½ cups of vegetables a day. These fruits and vegetables can be as powerful as drugs sold in the pharmacy!!

STRETCH: STRENGTHEN ARM AND SHOULDER

Stand with feet about shoulder width apart. Hold water bottles in each hand. Hold in abs. Turn arms out. Hold hands up in the air. Reach up and touch water bottles above head. Repeat about 10-15 times.

Nancy Young, Health and Wellness

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



The Scholarship Committee is looking forward to receiving several scholarship applications for our yearly scholarship of \$1500.

If you have a relative, or if you have mentored a young person, who is planning a career in teaching, I hope you will encourage that person to apply for our scholarship. The application is on our website, <http://www.midlandretireded.org>, and the deadline for having the application postmarked is June 3, 2019. Applications should be mailed to my address: Kathy Favor, 2512 Castleford Road, Midland, TX 79705. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 432-682-1949 (home) or 432-349-1004 (cell).

If you have not contributed to our scholarship fund this year, please consider doing so. You can make a donation either to honor someone or in memory of someone. I will send acknowledgement cards to let the individuals or families know of your generosity. Please send your donation to my address listed in the previous paragraph. Your gift will help a young person pursue his/her dream of becoming a teacher, someone who will positively touch the lives of endless numbers of children over the course of a lifetime. There is no better investment!

Kathy Favor, Scholarship Committee Chair

MARSP VOLUNTEER HOURS



Volunteer hours for 2019 are off to a great start. As of the February 7th meeting of MARSP there have been 776 hours reported. The MARSP collects volunteer hours from members to present to the State of Texas Legislators. These statistics speak volumes when we ask for consideration and support from the State for our health care and other benefits associated with our retirement. The data translated into unpaid dollars for the reported 34,179 hours in 2018 was \$843,879.51. These impressive statistics will also be presented to the Midland ISD board meeting on March 25, 2019 and to the City of Midland council meeting on March 26, 2019. 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 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 1 volunteer hour. Thank you in advance for your participation in reporting 2019 data by submitting hours at the monthly MARSP meetings or to Helen Whitehead at hlwhite54@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP !!!



Once again it is time to renew your membership. Currently, TRTA is working to inform legislators how badly retired teachers need a cost of living increase, more TRS funding on our benefits, the effects of a change in the rate of assumption and the need of a strong defined benefits program. TRTA is the only organization that works for the benefit of retired teachers, such as an increase in the percentage the state contributes to TRS. We need to show our legislators solidarity for a better retirement for those who worked so hard to educate today's society. Your membership form will be mailed to you at the end of February; please return the form by mail or attend our March 7, 2019 luncheon. If you have any questions about membership; please contact Debbie Jordan debraejordae@hotmail.com or Michele Harmon Cobb micheleharmon1@gmail.com.



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 Carole Clay, Debby Neeley, Pat Adams, and Lyn Fishman—hope you feel better soon.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a card, you may contact Patti Watson at 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