

# MARSP Newsletter

*February 2021*



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

**MARSP**

Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear MARSP Members,

I am looking out the window at the blue sky, no wind, and trees still in their winter wear. They are awaiting spring like we are awaiting spring, vaccinations, and the normal times we just took for granted.

MARSP will not be publishing a Yearbook this year. There has not been time that we could get together to complete it in a safe manner as proposed by Texas, TRTA, and CDC.

MISD has a new Superintendent that we have not been able to meet at this time. We will meet her and request that the District continue to publish our yearbook.

We have a total of 247 members this year. Thank you for your continued support of TRTA and MARSP. We have collected books and now need a place to donate. If you know of a daycare, or some group that is in need of children's books, please share that information with me at [msmith3201@yahoo.com](mailto:msmith3201@yahoo.com). I will pass the information to Barbara and Joyce.

I pray that all of you and your families are doing well.

Mary Smith, President

## FOUNDATION REPORT

The Texas Retired Teacher Foundation is always accepting funds for their various programs. Giving has been easy with the new opportunities to give online.

There has been a new program added, the Online Tutoring Service. The pandemic has changed rules for volunteers and part-time workers in the schools, so this virtual program has been designed to help retirees with replacement income and continue their work with students.

The Helping Hands program is always looking to help retired and active members with one-time grants for medical needs, home repairs, transportation. The Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund is always ready to accept donations. This is the permanent fund for Helping Hands.

Two popular programs that have deadlines on **February 25<sup>th</sup>** are the applications for Classroom Assistance Grants and the Beginning Teacher Scholarships.

There will be 40 grants of \$500 each offered this year for Classroom Assistance. The grant encourages teachers to apply for funds to do extra projects or to buy software or materials for their classrooms. Beginning Teacher Scholarships will be offered to those who are beginning their careers. These grants can also help beginning teachers transition from teacher training in colleges and universities into the classroom. There are costs for accreditation, changes and moves in living situations, and classroom needs. TRTF will be offering 25 of these scholarships at \$750 each.

Please pass the word along to those that could benefit from these Foundation programs. All the applications and details will be on the website at [www.trtf.org](http://www.trtf.org). Application deadlines are **February 25, 2021** for the grants and scholarships. Thank you for your support in the past for your generous donations.

Martha Kallus, TRTF Liaison

## CHILDRENS BOOK PROJECT

The Children's Book Project collected and distributed 2,011 books during 2020. Finding agencies who were willing to take the books was a challenge. Many of the agencies had not been open during much of 2020 and still had plenty of books from the previous year. Several agencies were not allowed to accept any outside donations because of COVID. Some of the agencies commented that their children were reading on their electronic devices and were not interested in physical books. We have started collecting books for 2021. Thanks to Eileen Corley and Ophelia Pallanez at Friends of the Library, we have already collected over 2,300 books! Now comes the hard part, which is finding agencies that are willing to take the books. We have donated 100 books to a neighborhood library, but haven't found anyone to take the other 2,200. If you know of an agency that would like to have some or all of the books, please contact Barbara Stooksberry or Joyce Watts.

Because we have amassed so many books, the MARSP Board has agreed that we will not be accepting any more books for the time being.

Barbara Stooksberry and Joyce Watts

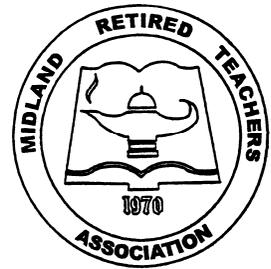
MARSP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

*Last year in 2020 the Midland Association of Retired Personnel celebrated its 50th birthday. The following people were Charter members of our organization..*

*Mrs. Ollie Bell,  
Mrs. Melvin Brazzel,  
Mrs. Earl Clemens, Mrs. Mae Dunagan,  
Mrs. Norma Francis, Miss Christine Golladay, Miss  
Minnie Jackson, Mr. E. L. Jordan, Mrs. Lucille McCree,  
Mrs. Opal McKnight, Miss Nova Jane Moore, Mrs.  
George Pigg, Miss Mildred Pope, Mrs. B. A. Rogers,  
Mrs. Leola Swenson, Mrs. Alma B. Tiner, Miss  
Naomi Walker, Mrs. Ova Webb, Mrs.  
Ruth Wenck, Miss Ouida  
Whitefield*

*Graphic by Mike Landrum*

Original Logo



REMEMBRANCES FROM OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

I was busy teaching school, raising kids, and driving debaters all across the country when MRTA was organized in 1970, so I wasn't really tuned in to that important event. I did know Nova Jane Moore, one of the charter members. She was an English teacher and a colleague when I first started teaching at Lee. I remember her retirement and the discussions about what she would do in retirement. I am not surprised she was one of the charter members. Helping to put together an organization that would promote the interests of retired teachers and help protect their retirement annuities is exactly what she would see as her mission. I am grateful to her and to the other teachers who had the vision to establish our local unit. Maridell Fryar, Past President of MARSP

The following remembrances were sent by Martha Kallus

Mae Dunagan was native Midlander and a prominent family. She was a pleasant lady that was involved in community activities and I am almost certain a member of First Baptist. Because we knew most all the teachers in MISD when I came, I believe, Mae was still teaching at that time and would see her at in-services.

Christine Golladay was also a native Midlander. Her family farmed out south of town near the Greenwood community. Her niece was Helen Golladay Spinks, a dear friend of mine. Helen's son Alan Spinks inherited her farm land and for a short time lived on the farm. Her brother Ben Golladay lived on Louisiana Street, just east of Sam Houston.

Minnie Jackson was a Spanish teacher at Midland High School. She was delightful lady and very likeable. She would definitely fit the characteristics of a school marm. She nearly choked to death at my house one night. A couple of years after Dan and I were married we invited Minnie Jackson, Nova Lynn Moore, and Dorothy Perkins to our apartment for supper. Minnie got choked on something...and this was before the Heimlich maneuver. Fortunately, Minnie survived, but I still remember how horrified I was at the time. I believe she was raised in the Buckner's Children's Home in the Dallas area.

Lucille McCree was a tall, thin lady, very demure, just a lovely lady. Dan had taught her daughter, I believe, so they always like to visit about school and her daughter. She was an elementary teacher.

**Volunteer Hours for DEC/JAN**

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

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

**EXERCISE for DEC/JAN**

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

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

*(remembrances continued)*

Nova Jane Moore was an English teacher first at Midland High School and then at Lee High School. I taught one year at Lee and her apartment was across the street from where Dan and I lived. We had only one car at that time, so I rode to school with Nova Lynn that year. She was a tall lady and, like Minnie and the others of this time, very proper. Her brother was a very successful oil man here in town, Wayne Moore, who was very generous with community support, even in the 60's. He saw that her needs were always met.

I probably met Mildred Pope before any of the others in this group. So I met her at inservice the first year I was in Midland in 1959. Mildred was a home ec teacher at Austin Jr. High, and I was the new home ec teacher at Cowden Jr. High. We worked together on in-service objectives and FHA plans. She was very precise in all she did, whether it was cutting out a dress or baking a cake. She was a wonderful role model and always so dear. I stayed connected with Mildred until the very end of her life.

Ruth Wenck was a short, plump, delightful lady, gray hair pulled up in a twist. She was a teacher at Sam Houston. She taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade there for no telling how long. She was inquisitive, which helped her to be informed on what was going on with you and others. I want to chuckle when I think of Ruth. She was definitely one-of-a-kind, very self-assured and ready to dive in to get thing done.



### CARDS FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



The friendship chairperson sends cards to MARSP member and their families as she becomes aware that they are needed. Since the last newsletter cards have been sent to the following people: Thinking of you cards have been sent to Pat Adams and Celia Munoz. Sympathy cards have been sent to the families of Marilyn Higgins, Jarvis Salmon, and Francis Smith upon their deaths. A sympathy card was also sent to Karron Pearson and her family upon the death of her nephew, and to Linda Hancock and Darlene Olson upon the deaths of their mothers. If you know of someone who would appreciate a card from MARSP, please send the information to Patti Watson. She can be reached at [pnw1000@gmail.com](mailto:pnw1000@gmail.com), or by phone at 432-697-1170.

Patti Watson, Friendship Chairperson



### STIMULUS PAYMENT

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is sending out millions more checks in this second round of stimulus payments. As people start to spend their money, some wonder: Is my stimulus payment taxable? The short answer: No. In the somewhat longer words of the IRS: "No, the payment is not income and taxpayers will not owe tax on it. The payment will not reduce a taxpayer's refund or increase the amount they owe when they file their 2020 or 2021 tax return next year. A payment also will not affect income for purposes of determining eligibility for federal government assistance or benefit programs." If, for some reason, you didn't get any stimulus payment last year, but you're owed one, you can get it this year when you file your 2020 tax return.

Ann Parish, Informative and Protective Services

<https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2020/are-stimulus-checks-taxed.html> John Waggoner, AARP, Updated January 4, 2021

### MEMBERSHIP

It is 2021 and 2020 is only a memory. No matter what happens in the world, we need each other's fellowship and we need our numbers to grow.

**MARSP needs you!! 2021 is going to be a big year for public education.**

Your membership and voice are essential to the present and future for our retired and active teachers. Membership in your local TRTA group is a must.

There are two ways to join your local organization.

- + Join through TRTA and pay separately to MARSP.
- + Join through both the state and local groups via MARSP.

It is imperative that you join both the state and local organization.

We appreciate your membership and look forward to seeing you in the Fall of 2021 when it is safe for us to gather.

Help us recruit our NEW Retirees.

Please pass along my contact information to them.

Thanks so much,

Deborah Jordan and Michele Harmon Cobb

[Debraejordan@hotmail.com](mailto:Debraejordan@hotmail.com) and [Micheleharmon1@gmail.com](mailto:Micheleharmon1@gmail.com)

Deborah Jordan and Michele Harmon Cobb, Membership Co-chairs

State Representative Brooks Landgraf asks Gov. Greg Abbott to establish teachers as frontline workers.

NEW AMBA REPRESENTATIVE

The new AMBA representative for our area is Tasha Brewer. She lives in Lubbock and teaches virtually. AMBA has many great benefits for retired teachers, and if you ever have a question about a benefit, you may call her at 409-882-8771. The following is a benefit that may interest you.

*The costs associated with an unexpected stroke can be overwhelming. A lump sum policy provides a cash benefit to help cover out-of-pocket medical expenses and daily expenses, so you can worry less about financial issues and stay focused on your recovery.*

Some features of the TRTA endorsed Heart Attack and Stroke policies offered by AMBA are:

*For an affordable monthly premium, you select a base policy with a maximum benefit amount of \$5,000 to \$100,000 upon diagnosis.*

*Policies can be issued from ages 18 to 99 and can include coverage for dependents.*

*Policies pay in addition to any other existing health coverage in force without interference.*

*Policies will help with "out-of-pocket" expenses associated with physical therapy, rehabilitation, co-pays and deductibles.*

*You can choose to add more benefits for an additional premium, such as a restoration coverage for a later heart attack or stroke diagnosis or procedure and other riders for specific situations.*

*Your policy is Guaranteed Renewable for Life.*

For more information, contact AMBA at 866-619-6463

Lyn Fishman, Benefits Chairperson



**INSIDE LINE** 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

**START THE NEW YEAR WITH GREAT PET CARE!**

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Lyn Fishman, Benefits



MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm by President Mary Smith via zoom. President Smith greeted the board members and informed the board the February 2021 newsletter will be published and all articles are due on or before February 5, 2021 to Joyce Whitley. Her email is [joyce.whitley@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.whitley@gmail.com).

1. Minutes from the last board meeting were approved and submitted for printing.
2. Treasurer's Report Eileen Corley-No activity for the month. The treasurer's report will hold as presented in September. If you have incurred any costs, scan and send your receipts to Eileen Corley.
3. Tasha Brewer- AMBA representative for the Midland chapter made a presentation concerning the different coverages that are available to the TRTA members. Telephone number 409-882-8771  
[tasha.brewer@AMBA.info](mailto:tasha.brewer@AMBA.info).
4. Note from Tim Lee and the TRTA State Board. The State Board meeting in person has been officially canceled until after June 30, 2021. All business for MARSP will be virtual meetings until June 30, 2021.
5. Newsletter- Joyce Whitley reviewed the procedures for the newsletter. Joyce suggested if you know something that is of importance and will benefit the members send it to her. Joyce will also insert an article about MRTA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
6. Membership- Debbie Jordan reported current membership is 240 members. Mike Landrum will print the labels for the membership forms. Debbie will stuff the envelopes.
7. President Smith stated she made an executive decision purchasing a year's license for \$127.00 with a 25% off for ZOOM. All members agreed to the executive decision that was made by President Smith.
8. Volunteer Hours are due to Helen Whitehead and Nancy Young. Hours turned in as of January 31, 2021 were 8,834. Members were urged to turn in hours.
9. Legislative Information from TRTA will be available through the TRTA app. Rep. Brooks Landgraf is working to get rid of the STAAR test. President Smith urged members to keep calling your Legislators about your concerns. Debbie Jordan will prepare a blurb to go in the newsletter about phone calls/or email to legislative members. Michele Harmon discussed the TRTA Facebook page printing misinformation.
10. Scholarship- Kathy Favor indicated that the organization has money in the treasure for a \$1,500.00 scholarship that is coming up this year. A motion was made to give a \$1,500.00 scholarship this year, 1<sup>st</sup> by Michele Harmon and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Jordan.
11. Book Project- Joyce Watts reported the committee had collected 12 boxes of books and no one will accept them. Mary Smith suggested the Midland/Odessa College may accept the books.
12. Retirement- Cindy and Virginia report they have been talking to school districts and have sent out flyers for the retirement seminar February 6, 2021. The Seminar will be online.
13. Patty Watson- Reported the cards that were sent since last zoom meeting (September 20,2021). Those recipients are mentioned earlier in the newsletter.

Mike will get information to executive board members about the next ZOOM meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

Mary Smith, President / Nancy Ashley, Secretary

10 HABITS OF EXTREMELY LIKEABLE PEOPLE

- ♥ They greet the world with a smile on their face
- ♥ They ask questions
- ♥ They are consistent
- ♥ They remember names and use them
- ♥ They put the phone away
- ♥ They keep an open mind and don't pass judgement
- ♥ They are authentic
- ♥ They are kind and generous
- ♥ They're accountable for their mistakes
- ♥ They send thank you notes.



Ann Parish, Informative and Protective Chairperson

Just like mama always told you!

<https://www.southernliving.com/healthy-living/how-to-be-likeable-person>