

MARSP

Newsletter

May, 2018

www.midlandretireded.org

May 3, 2018
MARSP
Box 4954, Midland, TX
79704



PLEASE COME TO THE MAY MEETING

Don't forget to put May 3, 2018 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 will be the installation of officers for the upcoming two years.

Call Anita Patton at 432-349-6822 or e-mail her at

apatton123@sbcglobal.net by Monday, April 30, 2018. Please don't forget to bring your donations for the scholarship fund.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As our year comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of MARSP for the privilege of serving as your President these last two years.

I continue to be impressed with your commitment to TRTA and to serving as advocates for public education retirees. I especially want to thank the members of the MARSP Board who have been so supportive of the work of this organization. They have done the "heavy lifting" which has contributed to a successful two years.

Five of us have just returned from the state TRTA Convention in San Antonio with over 1,000 other TRTA members from across the state. We attended training sessions and listened to inspiring speakers. Everywhere we turned, we were reminded of the mission of TRTA to preserve our pensions and work for better health insurance. We even had a visit from Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick who had requested to speak to our House of Delegates and to assure us of his support for our issues.

I will not be able to attend the May meeting because of a conflict with another state-wide meeting in which I hold an office. I wish all of you a great summer and look forward to seeing you again in August as we begin another year of TRTA work. Thank you again for the last two years.

Maridell

MARSP SCHOLARSHIP IN NEED OF FUNDING



We have almost come to the end of the MARSP year, and we are still a few hundred dollars short of our goal of \$1500 for our MARSP Scholarship. If you have not had the opportunity to give to the scholarship fund this year, will you consider making a donation? If you wish, you can donate in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please include the name and address of the recipient and the recipient's family, if the gift is a memorial, and I will send an acknowledgement note.

Please send any donations to Kathy Favor, 2512 Castleford Rd., Midland, TX 79705, or you can bring your donation to our last meeting on **Thursday, May 3.**

It is not too late to encourage someone you know to apply. The requirements for application are found on the MARSP website at www.midlandretireded.org.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help a young person who is going into the wonderful world of teaching!

Kathy Favor, Scholarship Chair



MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

APRIL 5, 2018

MARSP met at First Baptist Church on Thursday, April 5, 2018. Lunch was served at 11:30 a.m. President Fryar called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. with a welcome to all. Ann Parish and Eileen Corley presented the Texas Flag, a gift from Senator Kel Seliger, to MARSP. Texas State Representative Tom Craddick has donated a stand for the flag, which will be delivered soon. Invocation and pledges to the flags were led by Nancy Doss.

PROGRAM

Cindy Truitt introduced Gretchen Bell, who then presented a book review, *Marlene Dietrich – Legend and Icon*. Following the presentation, Mrs. Bell was presented a certificate of appreciation. A donation to our scholarship fund will be donated in her name.

Karron Pearson led us in a short stretch break.

FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

TRT Foundation Committee met and reviewed scholarship applications from 104 applicants. Eileen Corley shared information about beginning teacher scholarship applicants and recipients. Of the 104 scholarship applications received, 30 teachers were chosen to receive \$500.00 each to use in their classroom curriculum. These names will be announced at the TRTA Convention in San Antonio this month.

Donation envelopes to the Foundation were collected at today’s meeting. If you choose to write a check, TRTA will send you a receipt if you request one. Maridell reported that money collected will be presented to the Foundation at either the Foundation luncheon or breakfast during the convention.

BUSINESS MEETING

- a. March minutes were approved as distributed and will be filed.
- b. The financial report was distributed. In the absence of Mary Smith, the treasurer, President Fryar offered to contact Mary if there were any questions from anyone about the financial report. There were none, so the report was accepted for audit.
- c. An Audit Committee has been appointed by President Fryar. They are Kerry Kay Cook, chairman, and Nancy Young and Zoe Carter, committee members.
- d. MARSP membership renewals started in March. Deborah Jordan reported 110 as the latest count. President Fryar recognized and welcomed three guests in attendance today.
- e. Children’s Book Project committee is still collecting books now through May. Maridell suggested checking out Albertson’s store for their display of books that are reasonably priced and can be purchased for the project.
- f. Nancy Young shared with us the volunteer hours “mock check” that she will present to MISD School Board at San Jacinto on April 17, at 5:30 p.m. The check will show the number of volunteer hours (60,028) that MARSP members contributed to our community in 2017, for which we were not paid. The amount for those donated hours would translate dollar wise to \$1,507,303.00. Nancy will also share this presentation with the City Council at City Hall at a later date.
- g. Door prizes were won by Betty Bagwell for healthcare, and by Kathy Landrum for volunteer hours.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. There will be no MARSP Board meeting for April. Newsletter items need to be emailed to Joyce Whitley by Friday, April 13.
- b. Next MARSP meeting is May 3
- c. District Spring Conference is Friday, May 11 at Region 18. President Fryar requested that committee chairmen would make every effort to be in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Lois Hillary, Secretary



BOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKS

Members are asked to be on the look-out for children’s books during the summer. If you are at garage sales, cleaning out your grandchildren’s book shelves, or at various stores, please look for books that would be appropriate for our organization to distribute.

Debby Neeley, Book Chairperson

Volunteer Hours - April 2018

Name: _____

Number of Hours: _____

Exercise for April 2018

Name: _____

YES I EXERCISED _____

MARSP LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS



The following people have been elected to be the officers for MARSP for the next two years:

President - Deanna Dunn

Co-First Vice-Presidents - Michele Cobb & Deborah Jordan

Co-Second Vice-Presidents - Cindy Truitt, Bayta Cullen, and Debby Neeley

Secretary - Nancy Ashley

Treasurer - Mary Smith

Parliamentarian - Maridell Fryar

Chaplain - Nancy Doss

Historian - Executive Committee

The following people have agreed to serve as Committee Chairpersons:

Community Volunteer Service - Helen Whitehead

Finance - Mary Smith

Foundation Liaison - Martha Kallus

Friendship - Patti Watson

Health Care - Nancy Young

Heritage - Executive Committee

Hospitality - Bayta Cullen, Cindy Truitt, and Debby Neeley

Informative and Protective Services - Ann Parish

Legislative - Jan Van Eman

Member Benefits - Lyn Fishman

Membership - Michele Cobb and Deborah Jordan

Newsletter - Joyce Whitley, Carol Miller, and Patti Heard

Programs - Cindy Truitt, Bayta Cullen, and Debby Neeley

Public Relations - Bayta Cullen and Debby Neeley

Retirement Education - Virginia Conner

Scholarship - Kathy Favor

Yearbook & Email Communications - Kathy Landrum & Mike Landrum



Thank you to everyone for being so prompt and faithful in making your reservations for the lunches this past year. You make my job SO much easier.
Anita Patton, Reservations

REACHING OUT TO OUR MEMBERS

A sympathy card was recently sent to the family of Carolina Salazer upon her death. Also, a card of sympathy was sent to Judia Foreman upon the death of her husband.



MARSP also sends cards of thinking of you and get well. If you know of a member who would appreciate a card, please let Patti Watson know. She can be reached at pnw1000@gmail.com, Her phone number is 697-1170. She is also in need of thinking of you cards if you have any that you are not using..

Patti Watson, Friendship Chairman.



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

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND

WATCH FOR A

NOTICE IN LATE AUGUST CONCERNING OUR FIRST MEETING AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK.

TRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

CAR



Avis Rent-A-Car--Receive up to 25% off the rental. To reserve online, go to www.avis.com/AvisWeb/html/bridge/go.ex?D404600 or call 1.800.331.1212.

Budget Rent-A-Car--Receive up to 25% off the rental. To reserve online, go to www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?x885500 or call 1.800.527.0700.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car--Receive a 10% discount to members when car is rented from an airport location and 5% discount when car is rented from non-airport location. Call Enterprise by phone at 800.736.8227 for reservations. Make sure you mention the discount code 65TRTA by phone. Or visit www.enterprise.com and use the discount code 65TRTA and code TEX on second page.



HOTEL



Drury Inn & Suites • 1.800.378.7946 • www.druryhotels.com. TRTA members receive 5% discount off Drury's corporate rates at the more than 100 Drury Inn & Suites in nineteen states (discounts are not available when hotels are on "peak status"). Amenities include a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, Belgian waffles & more, one hour of free long distance per room per night, evening beverages and snacks from 5:30-7 p.m. and high-speed internet access in every room & wireless lobby.

La Quinta Inns & Suites • 1.800.753.3757 • www.LQ.com/TRTA--TRTA members receive up to a 10 percent discount off La Quinta Inn and Suites best available rates nationwide. You may call 1.800.753.3757 to reserve over the phone and mention code TXSTAT10.

FOR FUN



Dallas Zoo

You are now able to buy discounted tickets for the Dallas Zoo with the added convenience of printing your admission tickets from your computer and presenting them at the entrance turnstiles bypassing ticket booth lines. You may purchase tickets by visiting our exclusive Discount Tickets Store <https://zootickets.dallaszoo.com> and enter "trta."

To access the member benefits online, you must log in to your member profile. Go to www.trta.org, and click on Member Login at the top right of your computer screen. Your username is your member ID number and the default password is trta123 (all lowercase, no spaces). Always check details of discount rates and follow the guidelines for receiving these discounts or rates.

For more information on Member Benefits, please visit <https://trta.org/member-benefits>

Lyn Fishman, Benefits

HOTEL BOOKING SCAM: HOW TO SPOT IT



One in four travelers reported booking on what they thought was a hotel website, only to later find out it was another site, according to research released by American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA). The many options available to travelers to book reservations add to the confusion.

Be suspicious of sites that charge the full amount for the room upfront. Check the website's URL carefully because legitimate hotel sites generally will begin with the characters "http://", according to the AHLA. It is also recommended to look for the **lock symbol in the upper left-hand side of the search bar** which lets you know that the site is safe. Know when you are making a reservation where the funds are nonrefundable. Finally, make it a habit to contact the hotel or resort customer service directly. Be sure to confirm your reservation with the hotel/resort directly and receive a confirmation number. *[Money.com. March 2018. submitted by Thalia Matherson, Ed.D., I&PSC member.]*

Ann Parish, Informative and Protective Services

Watch Out for Combosquatting



Combosquatting is a new malicious computer and cellphone attack that enters by means of familiar names. For example: you may see <www.security-(business name).com> or <www. (businessname)-security.com>. The hyphen is the clue that marks these sites as dangerous scams. Many legitimate sites have hyphens, so always call the business or bank first to see if they legitimately sent you the message. [Henry. N. to "Heloise." *Amarillo Globe-News*. Feb. 16, 218. p. B-5.



Build a Better Password

Passwords represent the bank vault door to your electronic data. (1) Use passphrases such as "My Aunt SylviA hAs loved me since I wAs A child310?%." (2) Use a two-factor authentication service. See <twofactorautho.org>. You use a password, but the authentication site sends your phone a six-digit code that you must enter also. (3) Use a password manager that stores them in a protected digital space. You need a master password to access the list. See Last Pass, Dashlane, and 1Password. For apps that put the vault on your hard drive, see RoboForm & Password Safe. (4) Vary passwords. Different ones are like keys that open different doors. [Submitted by Jose Lugo. I&PSC member. (Shadel, Doug. "Outsmart Fraud">)]

Ann Parish, Informative and Protective Services



FOUNDATION REPORT



MARSP was recognized for a \$500 gift at the Foundation Luncheon during the recent convention. This local unit has been so generous through the years helping with these worthy causes. Thank you.

The winners of the "Beginning Teacher Scholarships" and the "Classroom Assistance Grants" were announced at the convention. There were 15 scholarships given and 30 grants. The teachers requesting grants exhibited real ingenuity with their creativity, presentation of ideas, and use of the grant money. The committee believed the recipients chosen would make a difference in their classrooms with these grants.

This has been an exceptional year for giving to the Foundation. The Hurricane Harvey Disaster Fund was successful in helping many TRS/TRTA members. Many of those who suffered great losses are still in the process of rebuilding. It will be a long, slow process and funds are still needed to help with that particular fund. In the meantime, the "Helping Hands" grant program continues to assist those in need. Many applicants are in need of help with medical bills. Please remember to continue to give to these causes

Thank you for your generosity and support of these worthy endeavors. Visit the website at www.trtf.org to learn more.

Martha Kallus, TRTF Liaison

FINAL REMINDER BEFORE SUMMER BREAK ABOUT MEMBERSHIP DUES

Members please turn in your dues by our May luncheon. We will be breaking for summer after the luncheon. *The Voice* is a benefit of your dues as well as the emails from Tim Lee. It is key that we are aware of the business done in Austin regarding our insurance. So please renew your membership today.



A membership form can be completed at <http://www.midlandretireded.org/webmembership.pdf>

Debbie Jordan and Michele Harmon Cobb, Membership

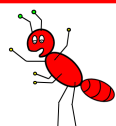
VOLUNTEER HOURS PRESENTATION



April 17, 2018 – 5:30 pm – San Jacinto Jr. High – Midland – Presentation of MARSP's Volunteer Hours 2017 to MISD School Board. All members are welcome to attend.

April 24, 2018 - 10:00 am – City Hall Midland – Presentation of MARSP's Volunteer Hours for 2017 to City Council. All members are welcome to attend.

Nancy Young, Volunteer Chairperson



Ant Issue

Sprinkle used coffee grounds around ant hills. It takes around 30 minutes to work. [“Heloise.” *amarillo.com*. 2.23.2018, p. A8.]
Ann Parish, Informative and Protective Services