

# MARSP NEWS

November-December 2023

## PROP 9 FOR COLA PASSES!

GOOD NEWS! A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was dependent on Texas voters approving a constitutional amendment (Proposition 9) to authorize the COLA. Voters approved the amendment in the November 2023 election and the COLA will be applied to eligible annuitants' payments beginning with their **January 2024** payment due the last business day of the month.

### MARSP Thinking Of You!

If any MARSP members are aware of members in need of sympathy or a "Thinking of You" card, please contact Patti Watson at [pnw1000@gmail.com](mailto:pnw1000@gmail.com) or 432-697-1170. This is a very important request that ensures our members know that they are being thought about during difficult times.



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The program for the November 2nd meeting was presented by Captain Philip Bird with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Captain Bird kept the crowd entertained with stories from his 21 years of service as a Game Warden, training officer and administrator. He has been in charge of the Midland office for the past 5 years. He also discussed the requirements for becoming a Game Warden and the fact that there is not a maximum age for admissions to the academy.

The next meeting will be held on December 7th and the program will be presented by the First Baptist Church Men's Choir. Be prepared to sing along as the choir performs seasonal favorites. If you plan to have lunch at the meeting, please send in your reservation to Anita Patton by December 4th.



# NOTE FROM OUR MARSP PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

We are so happy to report that we will be donating **\$625** to TRTF. This amount is more than twice we gave last year. And I am so happy that Prop 9 was passed and we can now have a long over due COLA for our members. Now is the time to keep up with Tim Lee's notifications of the progress they are making in Washington regarding WEP. This legislation is in need of reform and we have the members to speak out against it. Please keep up with the emails that are sent to you and once again we may need to let the country know we have a voice!

Deborah Jordan  
President

## Hearing for HR 82, A Bill that Would Repeal GPO and WEP, Scheduled

A congressional hearing to discuss [HR 82](#), the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, has been [scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2023](#) at 2:00 p.m. Central. HR 82, if passed, would repeal the harmful and arbitrary Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). [During a previous congressional cycle](#), HR 82 gained significant momentum and widespread co-sponsorship, but ultimately, failed to pass.

As members of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) may know, these provisions took effect in the 1980's as a means of eliminating the "windfall" of Social Security benefits received by beneficiaries who also receive a pension based on work not covered by Social Security.



# MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Membership in MARSP for 2023-2024 has climbed over 250 members! However, we'd LOVE to have MORE members! If you know other retirees who are not members of MARSP, please invite them to our meetings and encourage them to join. If you know members who don't attend our meetings, reach out to them. There is strength in numbers. We proved that by Prop 9 passing on November 7th! Not sure if you've paid your 2023-2024 dues? Many of you paid with the bulk mailing and membership drive in March, so it's hard to remember back that far. Please feel free to email Paula Knight, [pvknight432@gmail.com](mailto:pvknight432@gmail.com), for any questions about your membership. As members are added to the MARSP roster, their information will be in the monthly MARSP Membership Newsletter article. Please add/update the following members to your 2023-2024 yearbook:

1. Margaret Saunders, [mjcsaunders@yahoo.com](mailto:mjcsaunders@yahoo.com), 553-4599, 4108 Kniffen Dr., Midland, TX 79705, 2/17
2. Pat Purifoy Erwin, 7252 Mediterranean Dr., Plano, TX 75093 (new address)

Thank You!

Paula Knight

MARSP 1st VP/Membership



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# SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

## **2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTING is quickly approaching for fiscal year 1/1/23 - 12/31/23**

Your participation speaks volumes when reported to legislators making decisions about your retirement benefit. Please report maximum of 12 hours per day for time you volunteered in 2023. The volunteer hourly rate for 2023 reported by the Independent Sector is \$31.80 which is a 6.2% increase from 2021-22 year rate.

Remember:

- Volunteer hours may be counted for any service that is provided without pay to an individual or group.
- Record hours spent in volunteer work from the time you leave home until the time you return. Also count the time you spend preparing to do the volunteer work, i.e., preparing a speech or baking cookies.
- Combine all volunteer hours regardless of type of service performed.
- Make a habit of recording the activities on a regular basis. A calendar is ideal for keeping track. A Community Volunteer Record form is also available on the MARSP webpage.
- **Report your accumulated 2023 hours to Helen Whitehead at [hlwhite54@gmail.com](mailto:hlwhite54@gmail.com)**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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