

September 2022

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MARSP September 2022 Newsletter



Midland Association of Retired School Personnel

MARSP September 2022 Meeting

Dr. Angelica Ramsey was the guest speaker at the September 1st meeting of MARSP. Dr. Ramsey, outgoing Superintendent of Midland ISD, spoke on several topics including her strategic plan for MISD. During the Q & A session, Dr. Ramsey spoke very candidly about what can be done to stop the revolving door of superintendents for MISD. At the October 6th meeting, the guest speaker will be Dr. Denise McKown, Dean of Education at Midland College. She will be speaking about the new Pre-K school and teacher education at Midland College.

Children's Book Project

The MARSP Children's Book Project is funding the bi-monthly magazines called My Big World for the pre-K students at Midland College. We would also like to purchase books for the pre-K library, but that will take some funding from our members. If you would like to donate to the Book Project, please bring your donation to the October 6 meeting or mail to: MARSP Book Project, P.O. Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704. Any amount will be appreciated!



Volunteer Hours Reporting Reminder

HOURS TO BE REPORTED FOR TIME PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

(Maximum of 12 hours per day)

Remember:

1. Volunteer hours may be counted for any service that is provided without pay to an individual or group.
2. 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.
3. Combine all volunteer hours regardless of type of service performed.
4. 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 at: <https://www.midlandretireded.org/documents.html>

Report your hours to Helen Whitehead at hlwhite54@gmail.com

Thinking of You!

“Please notify Patti Watson at pnw1000@gmail.com or 432-697-1170 of any death of a member or member of their family or member in need of our thoughts due to illness or other adversity. A sympathy or thinking of you card will then be sent to

President's Note



Members:

We are fast approaching the beginning of a new legislature session and there are many issues. As always, TRTA is fighting for a COLA for our members and federally the elimination of WEP. Be aware of legislators who talk about moving to a defined contribution as opposed to our defined benefits plan. Make sure and read about the candidates that are running for state school board, you need to know what they truly represent. We will continue to make you aware of the legislative progress of our needs.

Thank you!

Debbie Jordan

WEP & GPO Explained

Who Are WE?

We are a coalition of national volunteers engaged in eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision* (WEP) and Government Pension Offset** (GPO) through a political action model.

We are teachers, paraprofessionals, school-related personnel, firefighters, law enforcement, postal carriers, to name a few, municipal, state, and federal workers, and foreign pensioners—affected as retired/disabled workers, spouses, widow(er)s, and children.

PURPOSE OF THE PETITION

We will share the petition in the coming weeks with the sponsors of legislation to repeal the WEP & GPO in the House of Representatives.

It would be fantastic if we could present them with 100,000 signatures, and thus our push to reach that number, and family, friends, and colleagues can sign the petition regardless of whether they are immediately affected.

WEP & GPO Explained: The “Evil Twins”

*What is the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)?



YOUR EARNINGS

The windfall elimination provision (WEP) is a modified benefit formula that reduces the Social Security benefits of certain retired or disabled workers who are also entitled to pension benefits based on earnings from jobs that were not covered by Social Security and thus, not subject to the Social Security payroll tax. Its purpose is to remove an unintended advantage & that these workers would otherwise receive as a result of the interaction between the regular Social Security benefit formula and the workers' relatively short careers in Social Security-covered employment.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/98-35>

For workers who have 30+ years of substantial earnings, the WEP does not apply.

See the substantial earnings table at <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10045.pdf>.

Modified reductions occur during years 21-29 ranging between 45% and 85%. Continued ..

****What is the Government Pension Offset (GPO)? SPOUSAL / SURVIVOR EARNINGS**

“The Government Pension Offset is a Social Security provision that penalizes individuals who apply for Social Security spousal or survivor benefits if they themselves worked for a state or local government in non-SS-covered employment and are entitled to a government pension from that employment. Once they receive that benefit, their earned Social Security spousal or survivor benefits will be reduced by two-thirds of the amount of their non-SS-covered pension. If their public pension receives a cost-of-living

TRTA Benefits

TRTA members have access to discounts on travel through AMBA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING YOUR

TRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

TO ACTIVATE FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS

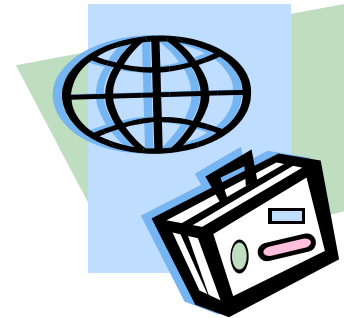
Visit myAMBAdiscounts.com and click “Register Here” for first-time users

Enter your email address

Enter code “ambasavers” as your activation code

Complete your profile and start saving!

If you have any questions about the program or would like assistance locating a specific discount or vendor, please contact Passport at 1-800-410-4211 or support@passportunlimited.com.



How Old Is MARSP?

MARSP is 52 years old and currently has 240 members. It's not too late to renew your 2022-2023 membership to **continue your access to information, benefits and legislative updates.** Membership is \$50 which includes both MARSP and TRTA state dues. Bring your check or cash dues to the October 6th meeting or mail them to MARSP, P.O. Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704-4954 with a renewal notice from the MARSP website or the renewal notice mailed to you in March. Please, invite potential new members to the October 6th meeting and encourage them to join our group! At the meeting, come on over to the Membership table behind the reservation check in table. Any questions, email pvknight432@gmail.com.

Interest in being a Pre-K and Childcare Mentor/Assessor?

I'm reaching out to MARSP as a possible contact with the Midland retired teachers.

The Permian Basin Workforce Board administers a multi-million dollar budget for subsidized child care in the Permian Basin. One of our major efforts is to improve the quality of care provided to the children by mentoring/assisting the child care facilities to become certified as a Texas Rising Star. The Texas Rising Star program is a quality rating and improvement system for early childhood programs in Texas. Here's a link to learn more about it:

<https://texasrisingstar.org/>

We are seeking qualified mentors/assessors to work with the child care facilities to become TRS certified and thought there might be some retired kindergarten or pre-k teachers who might be interested. You may also know of other qualified individuals who might be interested.

Please feel free to share this information. If anyone is interested in applying for this position, please ask them to contact me or Olivia Hancock Burlingame. Or they can email their resume to me.

Thank you.

Gail Dickenson

Chief Operating Officer

Permian Basin Workforce Board | Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

432.563.5239



MARSP October Meeting

Please plan to attend the next MARSP luncheon on October 6th at the First Baptist Church of Midland's fellowship hall. For our program we will have Dr. Denise McKown, MC Dean of Education and Early Childhood.

Lunch will be \$6.00 and please email or call Anita Patton — apatton123@sbcglobal.net if you are planning to have lunch by October 3rd.

Would love to see new members at our monthly luncheons. Any member bringing retired personnel as a guest, your name goes in for a drawing at the end of each meeting for a door prize. Invite friends you know who have recently retired to join us as well as others who have retired, but are not aware of our organization and monthly meetings.

