

the BCRSP NEWSLETTER

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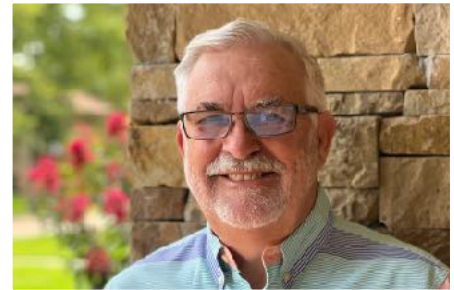
Happy
birthday

- 01 - Lillie Steele
- 02 - Eileen Slater
- 04 - John Giedraitis, Carol Happ, Dodie Wilson
- 05 - Marvin Sedberry
- 08 - Carol Enloe, Pat Shannon
- 11 - Susan Juneke, Claire Maciques
- 12 - Connie Jagielski, Joyce Karsten, Carol Nichols
- 13 - Mary Markowich
- 14 - Eloise Wimbish
- 16 - Jim Ferguson
- 19 - Judy Mezick
- 22 - Lorita Koenning
- 24 - Karan Wester
- 25 - Ray George
- 28 - Jimmy Dixon
- 29 - Sue Schuelke
- 30 - Sally Motl

Welcome!

Merry Christmas!

I am dreaming, or did we not just celebrate Christmas? The years seem to roll around so incredible fast! Now, it's time to start our annual exercise of preparing for family and friends. In doing so, we often stress about the decorations, worry about the cleanliness of the house, and fear that the food will neither be tasty nor plentiful. But guess what! Everything will be perfect. When you share with family and friends, all those things we stress about truly become meaningless.



We have so much to be thankful for. I am truly thankful of each of you. You have spent a lifetime making a difference in the lives of others. And, you continue to do so. Relax, don't worry about a little dust or the burned out Christmas light. It's you that makes the difference.

Merry Christmas!

Danny

**Brazos County Retired School Personnel
December 3, 2023
11:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church**

“Better Together”

AGENDA

- **Welcome!**
Danny Stribling
- **Invocation and Pledges**
Betty Munion
- **Foundation Report**
Danny Stribling
- **Lunch** •••••

Program:

**Keagan Owen, Soloist - Bryan High School
Holiday Sing Along - Betty Munion**

New Business/Committee Reports

- **Announcements**
- **Door Prizes - Lynne Blinka**
 - **Happy Dollars**
 - **Joke of the Day**

**Join Us for Next Month’s Program
Wednesday, January 24, 2024
Bush Combat Development Complex
Developing America’s Military in Our Own
Backyard**

Membership Report



No new members to report at this time. Our state and local stands at 309 with state at 40. This means that our local chapter, BCRSP, now has 349 members. Keep up the momentum. We appreciate all you do to help us “recruit, regain and retain!”





TX Retired Teachers Foundation

We had a lovely November meeting. Carla Meuth, a TRTF trustee for 5 years, gave a very informative presentation about the working of our Foundation. Our group collected total cash and checks of \$541.50. This amount does not include any donations that have been made directly to TRTF as a result of their mail outs. I believe we had a great response for our group and thank you for being so generous! Merry Christmas!
Jan Batson, TRTF chairman



Meeting Reservations Information

Cost: \$15.00

For Reservations:

**Email Suzanne Phelps: snphelps1946@gmail.com
no later than 3:00 on the Friday before the monthly meeting. An email will be sent each month to help you remember!**

Please bring the correct change or a check made out to BCRSP if at all possible. We will have \$5 bills to make change, but not dollars. Consider donating your change to our scholarship fund!





BCRSP General Meeting Minutes

**BCRSP November Meeting
November 15, 2023**

President Danny Stribling called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Chaplain Betty Munion gave the invocation and led members in the United States and Texas pledges.

Legislative- Dr. James Warner reported on the passage of Proposition 9; the retired teachers COLA. The additional monies will begin at the end of January, 2024. The State Comptroller has already stated that there would again be excess budget dollars available for the 89th Legislative session beginning in January, 2025. Meetings are currently being held in Washington D.C. concerning the repeal of the WEP program.

Program- Carla Meuth, Texas Retired Teachers Foundation Vice President and Trustee, gave an informative program on the TRTF programs and functions. TRTF helps beginning teachers and other teachers with grants and scholarships. A Helping Hand program aids retired Texas school personnel in times of financial crisis. November is designated as TRTF month.

Volunteer Hours- Patsy Bolch asked for volunteer hours to be turned in by December 31.

Membership- 1st VP Frances Maloney reported a total of 349 members.

Children's Book Project- The book project will begin in December and run through February. New or gently used books may be donated, as well as monetary donations.

Door Prizes- Lynne Blinka drew winning numbers for the harvest themed gift bags.

Other Business

1. Claire Lillie asked for 3 people who would like to sign up to be a Salvation Army bell ringer at Sam's Club.
2. Mary Ann Gaylord also reported there are various Angel Tree locations around the community.
3. Our next meeting will be on December 13th with Christmas musical entertainment. Wear festive attire to celebrate the season.

President Danny Stribling adjourned the meeting at 1 p.m.

Submitted by,
Betty Rabe
Secretary

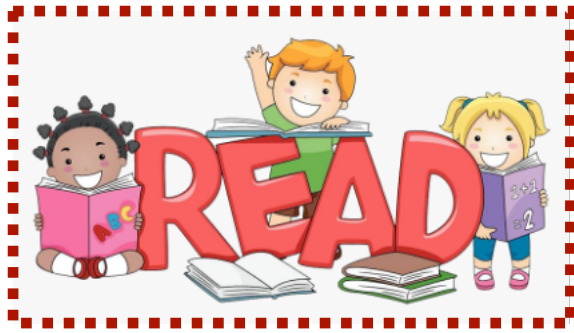
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Yesterday, December 6, the Office of the Texas AG notified the district court that the challengers' lawsuit filed earlier against the amendments election of Nov. 7 contained a "fatal flaw". Therefore, the thirteen amendments approved by the people, properly canvassed and certified, will become part of the Texas Constitution upon receiving the signature of the Governor. Governor Abbott immediately attached his signature and the "fundamentally defective" lawsuits went away. The challengers may lodge further legal complaints, but for now **"the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) does not expect a significant delay in our members receiving their COLAs."**

(Tim Lee, Executive Director TRTA The Inside Line, December 6, 2023.)

JBW

BCRSP Legislative Chair



Children's Book Project

The Children's Book Project is a service activity initiated by local chapters of TRTA. The purpose is to put books into the hands of children who otherwise would not have books of their own. The Children's Book Project involves using membership donations, money from fundraising efforts, or contributions from local businesses to purchase books.

In December, January and February we will be highlighting the Book Project. We are collecting books and money for our local school aged students during these month, so please donate what you can. Jars will be on the tables for donations. Thank you!

Sandy Petty/Carolyn Parsons/Mary Ann Gaylord, Co-Chairs

Our monthly Treasurer's report will be attached to the newsletter email that is sent to you each month from BCRSP.





VOLUNTEER HOURS

Dear Members,

December 31 is the deadline for this year's volunteer hours.

I had someone ask why volunteer hours were so important. They are important because **NUMBERS COUNT..IT PAYS** in public relations with taxpayers (saves them money) and the most important reason of them all is with **LEGISLATORS** when the value of education retirees is considered during legislation negotiations (**this concerns our pension and insurance**).

Here are some guidelines for you:

The state will only allow 12 hours per day if you are the sole caretaker of a loved one you can claim these hours.

Other types of community services are : schools, libraries, small businesses and business of- fice (assist or provide bookkeeping, fill out Medicare forms or insurance forms for the sick or elderly, including your parents), hospitals and nursing homes (visiting the sick, working in the gift shop, personal care), friends and neighbors (mow lawns, clean houses, visitation, run er- rands, babysit grandchildren), church (sing in the choir, bell choir, teach Sunday school), rais- ing money for worthy cause (organize raffles or sales, assist with crafts and bake goods) and calling on friends, neighbors and family to see how they are doing.

These are just a few services. If you aren't sure if what you have volunteered for is acceptable please call or email me and I will let you know.

REMEMBER NO TIME IS TOO LITTLE. Your time begins the minute you start your car and ends when you return home including any prep time done at home.

A big **THANK YOU** for all your time and help you give back to the community.

Patsy Bolch
BCRSP Volunteer Hours/Name Tags Chair
patsybolch@gmail.com

TRTA Membership/Volunteer Services Committee



Individual Hours of Community Volunteer Services

**Submit by FEBRUARY 1 to Local Chapter
Membership/Volunteer Services Committee Chair**

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.

Name _____

Phone _____

Local Chapter _____ District _____

MONTH	TOTAL HOURS	MONTH	TOTAL HOURS
JANUARY		JULY	
FEBRUARY		AUGUST	
MARCH		SEPTEMBER	
APRIL		OCTOBER	
MAY		NOVEMBER	
JUNE		DECEMBER	

TOTAL: _____

The Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for officers for the next two years! If you would like to nominate a member to serve or if you would like to serve as an officer of BCRSP, please see Sheila Fields, chairperson or contact her at atredrobin@msn.com.

