

the BCRSP NEWSLETTER

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 3

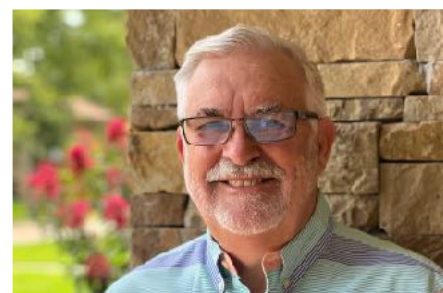


- 01 - Janice Albert, Connie Ferguson
- 02 - Cal Roesler
- 03 - Vikki Lowe
- 05 - Lynn Moseley, Marilyn Terrell
- 10 - Delbert Reed
- 11 - Sheila Orsak
- 15 - Andrew Ruffino, Joann Sands, Dale Schafer
- 16 - Donna Dixon
- 18 - Rita Leisy, Joyce Perkins
- 19 - Rosemary Lege
- 20 - Judy Hooper
- 21 - Ann Callaway
- 23 - Mary Smith, Kathy Wells
- 24 - Connie Moss
- 25 - Patrice Sebesta, Wilma Simmons
- 25 - Kathe Eugster
- 27 - Nicki George
- 29 - Delores Shirley
- 30 - Jeanette Freeman, Lourdes Gorzycki, Sanda Stephenson

Welcome!

Hello Friends,

When I was a beginning teacher and it was time to vote, the gossip in the teacher lounge was, "If teachers would ever get together, they could get anything passed!" Well, you did it! Because of your hard work in educating first the legislature, then the public, after 19 years we will receive a COLA! For many of you, you may say it was a slam dunk. But the reality is thousands of retirees across the state met with legislators, attended the capitol rallies, met with their friends and neighbors, distributed push cards, and posted yard signs! It was a TEAM effort. Congratulations!



Please make plans and register to attend our meeting on November 15 as we celebrate this historic achievement.

**Better Together,
Danny**

Brazos County Retired School Personnel
November 15, 2023
11:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church

“Better Together”

AGENDA

- Welcome!
Danny Stribling
- Invocation and Pledges
Betty Munion

•••••Lunch•••••

Program: TX Retired Teacher’s Foundation

Carla Meuth
Vice-President and TRTF Trustee

New Business/Committee Reports

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

Join Us for Next Month’s Program
Wednesday, December 13th
Christmas Music Entertainment

“Come in Festive Attire
To Celebrate The Season”



Membership Report



First of all, I appreciate you all for renewing your TRTA/BCRSP membership dues. BCRSP has grown its membership because of you. 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 for growing our membership and continue to “Recruit!”, “Regain!”, “Retain!”.

Remember-there is “strength in numbers”!





TX Retired Teachers Foundation

November is Foundation Month.

BCRSP will be collecting donations at our November meeting for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. All funds donated benefit current and retired teachers through grants for classrooms and help for those with drastic needs. There will be jars on each table for the collections of cash and checks. Please **make all checks payable to TRTF** so you can receive credit for the tax-deductible donation. BCRSP will forward all funds to the Foundation at the end of November.

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!



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BCRSP General Meeting Minutes

BCRSP October Meeting October 25, 2023

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

Program- The President and Founder of the OnRamp program of Bryan/College Station, Blake Jennings, gave a very informative and heartwarming presentation on the much needed organization. It was founded in 2017, and serves the Bryan/College Station area, as well as six surrounding counties. Mr. Jennings, a former pastor of 17 years at Grace Bible Church, explained that to date 165 families have been gifted with much needed cars and vans to supply transportation to jobs, school and various appointments. The website for further information or donations is onramptx.org.

Legislative- Dr. James Warner urged everyone to get out and vote for proposition 9. Push cards and yard signs were also available. When someone asks where the money for TRS retirees comes from, the answers are: 1) active employees 2) state taxes mandated by the state constitution 3) investments and 4) local school districts. There will be no new taxes as the monies have already been approved by the State Legislature and set aside from the surplus budget.

TRTF FOUNDATION- Jan Batson encouraged members to donate to the foundation, as it helps retired teachers as well as new teachers just starting out. Checks may be made out to TRTF. November is the official month of recognition. Carla Meuth, Vice-President and TRTF Trustee, will present the November program.

Membership- 1st VP Frances Maloney reported a total of 343 members with an additional 3 joining today, for a grand total of 346 members.

Door Prizes- Lynne Blinka drew tickets for the pumpkin themed door prizes.

Other Business-

The November meeting will be one week earlier on Wednesday, November 15th, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

President Danny Stribling adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Betty Rabe, Secretary



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Short of being domiciled under a lithic pile in some remote fastness, you know that Prop 9 received overwhelming voter approval last week. Of the 14 propositions on the ballot Prop 9 passed with the highest percentage of votes (84% - 16%). Someone out there still appreciates what happened in the classrooms we oversaw. (Just FYI - the only proposition to fail was prop 13 - raising the mandatory retirement age for state judges.)

As a reminder, COLA payments will begin in January 2024. The eligibility requirements for the Cost of Living Adjustments are:

Retired 9/01/2013 through 8/31/2020 - 2%

Retired 9/01/2001 through 8/31/2013 - 4%

Retired on or before 8/31/2001 - 6%

Be looking for additional information from TRS regarding your specific situation. Also, be aware that income tax withholding requirements apply since the COLA amount is considered income.

In the meantime, a huge THANK YOU to all of you for your efforts toward, steady involvement in, and constant optimism that we would get this done.

JBW

BCRSP Legislative Chair

BCRSP November Program



The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is a non-profit 501(c)3 dedicated to helping active and retired educators by providing financial assistance through grants and scholarships.

TRTF offers several charitable programs and has provided more than \$850,000 to educators of the past, present and future since 2008, including \$160,000 for victims of Hurricane Harvey and \$165,000 for victims of winter storm Uri. TRTF's primary program for aiding retirees, "A Helping Hand," began in 2010. As of June 2022, more than \$215,000 has been given to retirees in financial distress. TRTF also continues its Classroom Assistance Grant, Beginning Teacher Scholarship, Disaster Relief, and Legacy programs.

Make sure you are at our meeting on November 15 to learn more about the important work being carried out through YOUR foundation.

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,

The end of the year is almost over. Hard to believe but true. I will need your yearly total by Jan. 26. You can email them to me in Jan or tell me at the meeting in Dec if you already have them. Your time runs from Jan 1-Dec 31.

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.



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