

BRAZOS COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

YEARBOOK 2025-2026

BCRSP

Affiliated with:

District VI Retired Teachers Association

Texas Retired Teachers Association

National Retired Teachers Association



BCRSP

P.O. Box 6693

Bryan, Texas 77805-6693

<http://bcrspfb.wixsite.com/bcrsp>

BCRSP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2025-2026

Welcome Friends,

What a pleasure it is to welcome you to a new year with BCRSP and TRTA! Please take a moment to review the variety of programs for our upcoming monthly meetings. As retirees, we are blessed with time to build friendships, make an impact as volunteers, as well as learn about new developments and ideas locally and in the world today. Our executive committee has thoughtfully curated programs that we hope will be timely, interesting, and impactful for you.

Our TRTA president, Ella Gauthier, has chosen as a theme – “Be the Bridge”. As retired school professionals, we can impact our local community and our state by connecting those who are unconnected to people and needed resources. Our monthly programs will continue to bring information about local volunteer opportunities and non-profits. BCRSP will continue to support the Children’s Book Project, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation, and our local scholarships through our donations. In addition, we are excited to share with you some new opportunities where our members can make a difference in our community through local non-profits and our schools. Join us in 2025-26 as together we learn, grow, and have fun!



Suzanne Phelps, President



The TEXAS RETIRED TEACHER ASSOCIATION has an e-mail legislative newsletter -- The Inside Line. This e-mail update is written by Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director, and offers facts and opinions on the issues facing current and

future education retirees. As a member you will receive this newsletter in your email weekly. Access it on the TRTA site at <https://trta.org/inside-line-blog/>

Web Page: <http://www.trta.org>

Email: info@trta.org

313 E 12th St. Suite 200 Austin, TX 78701-1957 1-800-880-1650 (office)

Legislator Hotline: 1-888-674-3788 (toll-free to Texas Legislators)

The TRTA State Legislative Committee representative for District VI is Dr. Johnie Walker.

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS 2025-2026

September 24, 2025

Brazos Valley Food Bank – Speaker, Shannon Avila

October 22, 2025

Still Creek Ranch – Speaker, John Inmon

November 19, 2025

Twin City Mission – Speaker, Ron Crozier

December 17, 2025

Christmas Music

Betty Munion will organize this

January 28, 2026

Habitat for Humanity in B/CS – Speaker, Andy York

February 25, 2026

Lone Star Senior Locator – Speaker, Cassie Rhodes

March 25, 2026

Scotty's House – Speaker, Amanda Ball

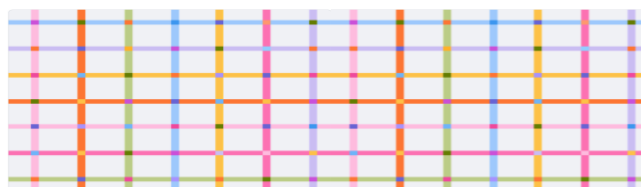
April 22, 2026

Friends of the Library – Speaker, Deb Sappington

May 27, 2026

Scholarships & Memorials

Officer Election & Installation



MEETING LOCATION AND RESERVATIONS

Meeting dates: Meetings are usually held on the **fourth Wednesday** of the month. *However, to conform to holiday schedules, etc. **November** will be on the **third Wednesday**, and **December** will be on the **third Wednesday**.* Meetings are held at the **First Baptist Church of Bryan, 3100 Cambridge Dr., Bryan, TX 77802**. Please note the meeting dates on the **Programs and Events** list above.

General format: We will gather for our social time at 11:15. Lunch will begin at 11:30. A program and short business meeting follows the meal. We encourage more socializing after the meeting.

Dues: Annual dues are \$50.00. (State - \$35, Local - \$15) Dues are for active and associate members. Dues may be mailed to: **BCRSP, P. O. Box 6693, Bryan, TX 77805**

RSVP

THIS IS IMPORTANT! ***LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS***

Reservations: A reservation email will be sent to all members prior to each monthly meeting. Members should ***RSVP*** for lunch reservations by the **FRIDAY *before* the scheduled meeting**. To do this, email **Suzanne Phelps** at snphelps1946@gmail.com.

It is very important that we have an accurate count for the luncheon. We ask that you honor your reservation. ***Please*** help us with this.

RESERVATION DUE DATES:

September 19	October 17	November 14
December 12	January 23	February 20
March 20	April 17	May 22

BRAZOS COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2025-2026 Officers

President	Suzanne Phelps
Immediate Past President	Danny Stribling
1st Vice-President - Membership	Colleen Holmes
2nd Vice-President – Communications	Dianne Rister
Secretary	Betty Rabe
Treasurer	Frances Maloney
Parliamentarian	Claire Lillie
Historian	Mary (Kitty) Biehn
Chaplain	Betty Munion

2025-2026 Committee Chairs

Communications	Sharon Ogden
Member Benefits	Carolyn Taylor
Legislative	Danny Stribling
Volunteer Services	Patsy Bolch
TRTF Representative	TBD
Scholarships	Betty Munion
Children’s Book Project	Sandy Petty
Door Prizes	Linda Brown
Retirement Education	Sheila Fields
Hostess/Meeting Support	TBD

BCRSP/TRTA Events

BCRSP/TRTA Events	
October 8, 2025 District 6 Fall Convention ESC 6, Huntsville, TX	March 25, 2026 Combined District 6 Spring Conference and TRTA State Meeting (held virtually)

**STANDING RULES
BRAZOS COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

I. NAME

The name of this chapter shall be Brazos County Retired School Personnel, hereinafter referred to as BCRSP. BCRSP is affiliated with the Texas Retired Teachers Association, hereinafter referred to as TRTA, to promote the purpose of TRTA and to operate under the TRTA bylaws and policies.

II. PURPOSES

The purposes of BCRSP shall be: to promote the professional, intellectual, social, and healthy well-being of retired school personnel; to encourage retired school personnel to give voluntarily of their time, talents, and experience in furthering the educational and civic endeavors in the community, the state, and the nation; to promote membership in the local chapter and TRTA; and to afford opportunities for united action in solving problems relative to the needs of retired public school employees.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classification

- A. An annuitant or a beneficiary receiving an annuity from a teacher retirement system can become a member of BCRSP and TRTA upon payment of local dues and state dues.
- B. Any person interested in public education and willing to work to achieve the purposes of TRTA can become a member upon payment of local dues and state dues.

Section 2. Privileges

All members can vote and hold office in BCRSP. Non-annuitant members shall not be elected as a district officer or serve as a delegate to the House of Delegates.

Section 3. Dues

The annual dues for BCRSP shall be determined by a vote of the total membership. The total amount shall be comprised of BCRSP and TRTA dues. **TRTA membership is required to be a local member.** The fiscal year shall be July 1 through June 30. Life TRTA members will pay local dues only.

IV. MEETINGS

- A. There shall be nine (9) chapter meetings per calendar year (September – May) on the fourth Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Dates and locations may be changed as necessary by the Executive Board.
- B. Meetings may occur via electronic communications media so long as all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

V. OFFICERS

The elected officers shall be: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Appointed officers and committee representatives will serve on the Executive Board.

VI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. The nominating committee shall consist of the Immediate Past President as chair and two (2) members appointed by the chair.
- B. The nominating chair will report the slate of officers to the members prior to election, providing at least one name for each position.
- C. Any active member can serve as an officer. The officers will be elected for two (2) years, with terms beginning on July 1 following election. Elected officers may be elected to one additional term for the same office. If circumstances prevent an in-person meeting, election of officers may be conducted electronically.
- D. Vacancies in any elected office or appointed office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the president with the approval of the Executive Board.
- E. Appointed officers will include Parliamentarian, Historian, and Chaplain.

VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. **President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of BCRSP and the Executive Board, authorize the payment of bills according to the yearly budget, appoint chair of all committees, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- B. **First Vice-President:** The First Vice-President shall preside in the absence or at the request of the president. The First Vice-President shall serve as the Membership Committee Chair, maintain membership records, and serve as Volunteer Services Committee Chair.
- C. **Second Vice-President:** The Second Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President and First Vice-President. The Second Vice-President shall serve as the Communications Committee Chair.
- D. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all regular chapter meetings and Executive Board meetings and maintain an archival file of all minutes.
- E. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of BCRSP. The Treasurer shall make a budget, keep an accurate record of all financial transactions, assemble materials for the annual audit, and prepare financial reports for regular chapter meetings and Executive Board meetings.
- F. **Appointed:** The appointed officers shall serve at the discretion of the President.

VIII. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The elected officers, the Immediate Past President, and appointed committee chairs shall constitute the Executive Board of BCRSP.

IX. COMMITTEES

The committees of BCRSP shall be Standing Committees (State), Standing Committees (Local), and Special Committees. The standing committees (state) shall be Communications,

Member Benefits, Legislative, Membership, Volunteer Services, and Retirement Education. The standing committees (local) shall be Health Care, TRTF Representative, Scholarships, Children's Book Project, Door Prizes, and Meeting Support. Special committees shall be those the President may appoint for a limited period of time.

X. DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

- A. Communications:** This committee, chaired by the Second Vice-President, shall be responsible for public relations, publicity, local chapter yearbook, website, and newsletter.
- B. Member Benefits:** This committee shall relate information received from TRTA and the district member benefits committee to chapter members.
- C. Legislative:** This committee shall relate information received from TRTA and the district legislative committee to chapter members.
- D. Membership/Volunteer Services:** This committee, chaired by the First Vice-President, shall develop a plan to involve members to recruit, retain, and regain chapter members. This committee shall also coordinate a volunteer services program.
- E. Retirement Education:** This committee will coordinate with TRTA and the district in providing education information to active school personnel about TRS and retirement planning.
- F. Health Care:** This committee will offer information related to individual health improvement for the chapter.
- G. TRTF Representative:** This person will coordinate information about TRTF and solicit donations for TRTF.
- H. Scholarships:** This committee will communicate with the school districts about this amount and number of scholarships to be awarded each year and will attend the award ceremonies for the students. This committee will also invite scholarship recipients to attend a chapter luncheon.
- I. Children's Book Project:** This committee will solicit donations and coordinate distribution of books to campuses.
- J. Door Prizes:** This committee will organize and present door prizes at chapter meetings.
- K. Meeting Support:** This committee will coordinate the set-up and clean up for each meeting. Members will recruit volunteers to help with tablecloths, decorations, name tag set-up, materials distribution, and trash removal for each meeting.

XI. AMENDMENTS

The Standing Rules may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment(s) have been submitted in writing at the previous meeting to the membership. The Standing Rules will be amended automatically to comply with the TRTA bylaws, if applicable.

OUR HISTORY

Sixteen retired teachers met on September 17, 1971 in the Medallion Room of the Bryan Utilities Building to organize the Bryan—College Station Retired Teachers Association. L.C. McDonald, president of the Texas Retired Teachers Association, and Willie Mae McLemore, southeast area director of the National Retired Teachers Association assisted in the organizational meeting.

Our name was changed to Brazos County Retired School Personnel on February 14, 1990.

District VI hosted the TRTA State Convention at the College Station Hilton Hotel and Conference Center on April 29, 30 and May 1, 1993. BCRSP played a major role in this event.

BCRSP continues to provide current retirement information to our area's retired teachers through membership meetings and outreach programs.



PAST PRESIDENTS

Elizabeth Weitzell	1971-1974	*****	Myron Koehler	1999-2000
Carrie Childers	Part of 1974	*****	Lloyd Thomas	2000-2001
Fannie Taylor	1974-1975	*****	Linda Coats	2001-2003
Lila Lane	1975-1977	*****	Mary Sue Ribardo	2003-2007
Marie Pearson	1977-1979	*****	James Warner	2009-2011
Ollie Little	1979-1983	*****	Dixie Tracy	2011-2013
Frances Lloyd	1983-1985	*****	James Warner	2013-2015
Lillie Mae Firkin	1985-1987	*****	Carolyn Taylor	2015-2018
Myron Koehler	1987-1991	*****	Mildred Davis	2018-2020
A. R. Denny	1991-1993	*****	Sheila Fields	2020-2022
Mildred Thomas	1993-1995	*****	Danny Stribling	2022-2024
Dina Richmond	1995-1999	*****		

2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year, BCRSP awards scholarships to four local graduating seniors who will be pursuing a career in education.

The 2025 recipients are:

Kaylynn Kieschnick, College Station H.S.

Lyle Lewis, A&M Consolidated H.S.

Jasmin Ramos, Bryan H.S.

Marisa Weber, Bryan Collegiate H.S.



***Kaylynn Kieschnick
College Station H.S.***



***Marisa Weber
Bryan Collegiate H.S.***



***Jasmin Ramos
Bryan H.S.***



***Lyle Lewis
A&M Consolidated H.S.***



Brazos County Retired School Personnel

LOCAL UNIT BUDGET (BCRSP) 2025-2026

INCOME	2024-2025	2025-2026
Membership dues (300 250 X \$15)	\$4500	\$3750
TRTA incentive	100	100
District VI rebates	400	400
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TOTAL	\$5000	\$4250

EXPENSES		
Printing/copies	\$ 600	\$ 400
Guest meals (15 10 X \$15)	225	150
Postage, including mailbox	300	300
Door prizes (5 per meeting for 9 months X \$10)	450	450
District VI meetings, including door prizes	100	100
Supplies (per officer & chair request)	325	300
Room Rent for meetings	900	900
Scholarships from checking	2000	2000
Supplies for meetings (dessert, tablecloth)	450	450
	-----	-----
TOTAL	\$5400	\$5050

Recommendation – Reduce checking account balance by \$2000 to cover scholarships.
Spend \$2000 from scholarship savings this year.

*** Creation of a hostess committee with budget to cover plastic tablecloths and desserts
(duties: arrive by 10:30 to cover tables and decorate, set up desserts for service, assist with name tags - before meetings; then clear decorations and clear tables after meetings)
IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT THE SAME PEOPLE SERVE EVERY MONTH – need a team

SCHOLARSHIP FUND (SAVINGS ACCOUNT)

Income	
Savings account balance (6/30/25)	\$11,525.41
Ongoing donations	1,000.00
Expenditures	
Scholarships (2 @ \$1000)	2,000.00
Estimated Balance in Savings (6/30/26)	\$10,500.00



Flow-Through Funds – collected and disbursed to others
TRTA Foundation, Books Project, Lunch Income and Costs

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

U. S. CONGRESS

SENATE

Both Senators maintain Texas offices. The nearest are in Austin and Houston. See their respective web pages.

Senator: **Senator Ted Cruz**

D.C. Addr: 404 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-4304, D.C. Tel: 202-224-5922

Web page/send e-mail: <http://cruz.senate.gov/contact.html>

Senator: **Senator John Cornyn**

D.C. Addr: 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510, D.C. Tel: 202-224-2934

Web page/send e-mail: <http://cornyn.senate.gov/index.asp?f=contact&lid=1>

HOUSE (one of the following)

Representative: **Representative Pete Sessions** (Dist. 17 -- part of Brazos + other Counties)

D.C. Addr: 2204 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Tel: 202-225-6105 Web page/send e-mail: <https://sessions.house.gov/>

Local Addr: 2700 Earl Rudder Fwy S Highway 6 Suite 4500 College Station, TX 77845

Local Tel: (979) 431-6340.

Representative: **Representative Michael McCaul** (Dist. 10 – part of Brazos + other Counties)

D.C. Addr: 2300 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Tel: 202-225-2401 Web page/send e-mail: <https://mccaul.house.gov/>

Local Addr: 175 Century Square Dr., Suite 210, College Station, TX 77840 Local Tel: (979) 431-5180

STATE LEGISLATORS

TEXAS SENATE

Senator: **Senator Charles Schwertner** (District 5 -- Brazos and 13 other counties)

Capitol Addr: P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711 Capitol Tel: (512) 463-0105

Web page/send e-mail: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/members/dist5/dist5.htm>

Local Addr: 3000 Briarcrest Dr., Suite 202, Bryan, TX 77802 Local Tel: (979) 776-0222

TEXAS HOUSE (one of the following)

Representative: **Representative Trey Wharton** (District 12 -- Brazos County - part)

Capitol Addr: Room E1.312, P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78711-2910 Capitol Tel: (512) 463-0412

Web page/send e-mail: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist12>

Local Addr: 2503 Lake Road, Suite A-100, Huntsville, TX 77340 Local Tel: 936-649-0510

Representative: **Representative Paul Dyson** (District 14--Brazos County – part)

Capitol Addr: Room E2.702 P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78711-2910, Capitol Tel: (512) 463-0698

Web page/send e-mail: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist14>

Local Addr: 4103 S Texas Ave., Ste. 103, Bryan, TX 77802 Local Tel: (979) 260-5040

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM



Web Page: www.trs.state.tx.us

1000 Red River
Austin, TX 78701- 2698

TRS Health & Insurance Benefits Eligibility and Enrollment:
1-888-237-6762

Standard Medical Coverage: https://www.trs.texas.gov/Pages/healthcare_trs_care.aspx

TRS Care Medicare Advantage: <https://retiree.uhc.com/trs-carema>

Pharmacy Benefits (Express Scripts) 1-844-345-4577



TEXAS RETIRED TEACHER FOUNDATION

313 E 12th St. Suite 220
Austin, TX 78701

Website: info@trtf.org
help@trtf.org

1-800-880-1650 or 512-476-1622

What is the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation?

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is the philanthropic arm of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA). Founded in 1988, the Foundation's original purpose was to raise funds to build the home office for TRTA in Austin. After the successful completion of the TRTA building, the Foundation was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. A brief history of the Foundation may be found in this training packet or at <https://trtf.org/about/history/>.

What is the mission of TRTF?

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation is a non-profit organization that works to provide resources for retired TRS annuitants, as well as active and beginning teachers.

What are TRTF's charitable programs?

TRTF supports three charitable programs: beginning teacher scholarships (previously student scholarships), classroom assistance grants, "A Helping Hand," and our educational program, the Legacy Campaign. These programs enable TRTF to support retired, current, and future educators.

TRTF also supports the Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund to raise revenue for the long-term financial support of "A Helping Hand."

TRTF also began a Disaster Relief Program in the summer of 2017 after the devastation caused to multiple Texas counties and cities by Hurricane Harvey. TRTF plans to continue to utilize the Disaster Relief program to aid with other potential natural disasters in Texas that may occur in the future.

Beginning Teacher Scholarships are awarded to recent college graduates who are about to begin teaching for the very first time. All recipients must be relatives of a TRTA member. Classroom Assistance Grants are awarded to public school teachers who demonstrate a daily commitment to public education and Texas children through the creation of programs, events or other learning platforms. "A Helping Hand" provides public education retirees with financial assistance for a onetime special need or short-term hardship. Recipients include anyone who is eligible to receive an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. The Legacy Campaign provides factual resources about defined benefit retirement plans, and supports a positive image of public education and current and retired school personnel in Texas.

Does the Foundation need donations?

Yes. In order to support TRTF's programs, donations are needed. If every member of TRTA donated just \$1.00, TRTF would raise an astounding \$97,000! We make a significant difference in the lives of many students, educators and retirees thanks to the generosity of TRTA members.

How can I make a donation to the Foundation?

Please send a check or money order to the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation, 313 E. 12th St. Ste. 220, Austin, TX 78701. All donations are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by the Foundation office. Donors may designate funds for any of the Foundation's charitable programs or Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund, and may give a gift in memory or honor of a loved one. Recipients of memorials and honorariums may be notified of the donation if the donor provides the name and mailing address of the recipient to the TRTF office along with their donation.

Donations may be made over the phone using a credit card by calling 1.800.880.1650 and asking for Sarah Richardson. Donations may also be made through the TRTF website www.trtf.org/donate.



“A Helping Hand” Assistance Program Additional Information

Applications may be completed by the grant seeker, or a concerned citizen, friend, or family member of the grant seeker.

Available to retirees already receiving their TRS benefits and their beneficiaries, as well as anyone eligible for a TRS benefit who is not yet retired. Membership in TRTA is not required.

For purpose of emergency need: short-term financial hardship caused by unexpected or extenuating circumstances. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

BCRSP Texas Retired Teachers Foundation Representative:



TRTA members now have access to **thousands** of discounts through a partnership with TRTA, AMBA, and Passport on the myAMBAdiscounts portal. Visit myAMBAdiscounts.com and when registering use the access code **ambasavers'**. TRTA members can also download an iPhone or Android app on their smartphone to access the discounts from local and national vendors.

**Brazos County Retired School Personnel
Membership Form 2025-2026**

Please check one: Renewal _____ New Member _____

NAME _____ BIRTHDAY _____
Month/Day

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE: Home _____ Cell _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

RETIRED FROM: _____
District School/Department

Please choose either Option A or B below:

Option A

Regular Members (\$35 TRTA + \$15 BCRSP)* \$ _____ (\$50.00)

Option B

Other Members (\$15 BCRSP)

Check one: _____ I already paid \$35 to TRTA either directly or
had it deducted from my TRS annuity payment. \$ _____ (\$15.00)
I only need to pay BCRSP local dues of \$15.

_____ I am a Lifetime member (no longer offered)
and only need to pay BCRSP local dues of \$15.

_____ I am an associate member. (anyone interested in education)

(Optional) Scholarship Donation \$ _____

(Optional) Book Project Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Make your check payable to BCRSP and mail to:**

BCRSP, VP Membership

P.O. Box 6693

Bryan, TX 77805-6693

**You must join TRTA to be a BCRSP member.*

***Dues may be paid at BCRSP monthly meetings.*

BCRSP meets monthly September through May. Meetings are usually held on the 4th Wednesday of the month with some exceptions. Please see the meeting schedule on our website. BCRSP meets at First Baptist Church of Bryan, 3100 Cambridge Dr., Bryan, TX 77802 at 11:30 for lunch and an informative program presentation. For additional information about BCRSP, please go to <https://bcrspfb.wixsite.com/bcrsp>. For membership information please contact us at bcrspfbbook@gmail.com.