

the BCRSP NEWSLETTER

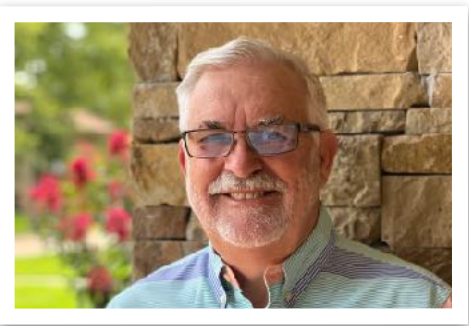
J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



- 02 - Sharee Wilkerson
- 04 - Jim Petty
- 07 - Diane Chester, Sam Todd
- 08 - Sheila Fields
- 12 - Etta Connell, Ellen Lipsey
- 14 - Eugenia Williams
- 15 - Sue Beall
- 17 - Elizabeth Burden, Jimmie Annette Hollis, Daisy McIlveen
- 18 - Julianne Garner
- 20- Linda Ferguson
- 21 - Gustavia Hardwick
- 22 - Peggy Cryan
- 26 - Monica Smith
- 27 - Gail Kurtz
- 28 - Gerald Wynn
- 30 - Linda Barrs
- 31 - Patricia Barrow

Dear Friends,
Happy New Year! I hope your holiday was wonderful. The tree and decorations have been taken down, Hallmark has shelved their movies for another year, and hot chocolate and a warm blanket seem to be the order of the day.



If the passing of the holidays has put you into deep depression, don't fret, don't be down! January is the month for you! It is full of great holidays to celebrate. Other than MLK day on the 15th ; there are popular holidays such as National Bobblehead Day on the 7th ; National Popcorn Day on the 19th ; my personal favorite holiday, National Pie Day, on the 23rd ; National Peanut Butter Day on the 24th , and of course, the always popular National Hot Chocolate Day on the 31st . In 2018, the United Nations created the International Day of Education. Celebrated on January 24th , it is a day that recognizes education as the significant factor in human rights, the public good, and enabler of personal development. January is like Christmas all month long!

Other than a reason to celebrate, January is a wonderful month to reflect on the past year. My reflections include a big thanks to those who contacted their representative, senator, lieutenant governor and governor, and then campaigned vigorously to get Prop 9 passed.

Another word of appreciation goes to those who contributed to our annual TRTF foundation drive. Your contributions will make a huge impact on those who need it the most. And most of all, a huge thanks goes to the officers and members of our local association. Your careers were a testament to service. As members you continue your legacy of service. Thank you!

Brazos County Retired School Personnel
January 24, 2023
11:30 a.m. First Baptist Church

“Better Together”

AGENDA

- Welcome!
Danny Stribling
- Invocation and Pledges
Betty Munion
- Lunch•••••
- Program:
Pat Seiber
Bush Combat Development Complex
at the Rellis Campus
- New Business
- Committee Reports
- Door Prizes and Birthdays
Lynn Blinka
- Happy Dollars and Joke of the Day

*Join Us for Next Month's Program
“A Brazos Valley Treasure”
The Brazos Valley African-American Museum*



And finally, you DO NOT want to miss our January meeting.

America's future military preparedness is being developed in our own backyard, yet few even know it's there! Pat Seiber of the Bush Combat Development Complex at the RELLIS campus will share with us how Brazos County is playing a pivotal role in our nation's security. You WILL NOT want to miss this informative program. See you on the 24th!

We are truly Better Together.
Danny

Membership Report



After achieving a record high of 349 members in November, our BCRSP unit has had to say farewell to some of our longtime members. We said “Goodbye” to Cindy Still who passed away January 6, 2024, and Charles B. McGown who passed away on October 19, 2023. Now, we look ahead and prepare for a new and early renewal and recruitment time officially beginning March 1st. BCRSP had an awesome 2023-2024 year for recruiting members with 38, new, at-large, and/or transfer members. Thank you all who recruited so much for BCRSP. BCRSP is strong because of you!

BCRSP General Meeting Minutes

BCRSP December Meeting December 13, 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.

TRT Foundation- Danny Stribling reported a total of \$540 was raised for the foundation.

Legislative- Dr. James Warner reported the 6 lawsuits filed against accepting the amendments from the November election were thrown out due to lack of evidence, and also they were filed after the deadline date. TRTA and TRF will now start working on legislation that will include all retired school personnel on a permanent COLA.

Program- Betty Munion, who provided the Christmas table decorations, explained their history. She also led members in several Christmas songs. Keagan Owen, the Bryan High School student soloist, was ill and could not attend.

Children's Book Project- Mary Ann Gaylord and Sandra Petty encouraged members to donate either books or monies toward the project. Suggestions of places to drop off books for Christmas were also requested. Books may be donated through February.

Membership- 1st VP Frances Maloney thanked members for joining. A total of 349 members were reported.

Volunteer Hours- Patsy Bolch requested the total hours be sent to her by December 31.

Door Prizes- Lynn Blinka drew tickets for the Christmas themed door prizes.

Other Business

1. January's meeting will be the Bush Combat Development Complex' presentation of "Developing America's Military in Our Own Backyard ".

President Danny Stribling adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m. and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2024.

Submitted by,
Betty Rabe, Secretary



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



Legislative Update - January 2024

COLA -

TRS plans to mail individual statements to all COLA-eligible annuitants beginning January 22. Statements will include exact deposit amounts (less withholding) and planned deposits dates.

ACTUARIAL SUMMARY OF ANNUITY FUND -

The statement of the financial health of our annuity fund has been completed and released for review. You may read the report in its entirety (all 80+ pages) at TRS PUBLICATIONS.

In short scary, our fund amount stood at approximately \$182 billion as of 9/30/2023. The return on investments for FY 2023 was 3.8%. This compares to -6.7% for FY 2022 and approximately 26% for FY 2021. The assumed rate of return on investments is 7.0%.

We are fortunate that funds for the earlier supplemental checks and the upcoming COLA will come from the budget surplus rather than from the annuity fund. The monthly cost of the regular annuities is approximately \$1.1 billion.

MARCH PRIMARY ELECTIONS -

The Primary Elections for both Texas political parties are scheduled for March 5. It is essential that education retirees vote in these elections. Usually less than 10% of Texas voters decide who the candidates will be in November. Several of our strongest supporters will be in hotly contested races. Other of our supporters have either retired or decided not to run again. Watch this space for candidates, statements, etc.

TRTA PLANS OF 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION -

No decisions have been solidified yet, but discussion centers around encouraging the 89th Texas Legislature to present a united front to the Texas Congressional delegation to do away with both the WEP and the GPO. Also, under discussion is finding a way to standardize COLAs so that everyone benefits and there is not another 20-year lapse between COLAs.

Dr. James Warner, District 6 and BCRSP Legislative Chair



Meeting Reservations Information

Meal Price: \$15.00 (tip not included)

For Reservations:

Email **Suzanne Phelps: snphelps@suddenlink.net**

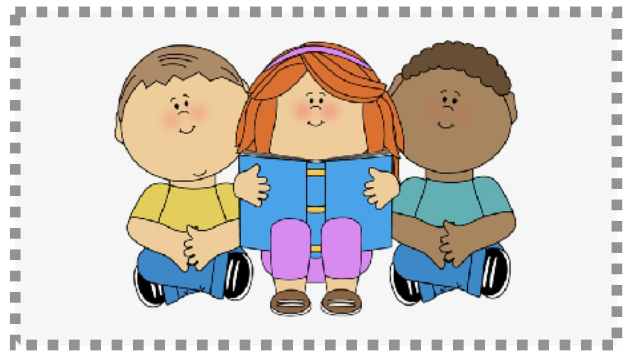
no later than 3:00 on the Friday before the monthly meeting.

Please bring the correct change or a check made out to BCRSP if at all possible. Tips are not included in the meal price so please plan to leave a gratuity on your table. Thanks so much



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. Just a reminder that we are collecting books and money for our local school aged students. All donors need to please put their names on a sheet of paper tucked in the book(s). Jars will be on the tables for donations as well. Thank you!

Sandy Petty/Mary Ann Gaylord/Carolyn Parson
Co-Chairs



Children's Book Project



VOLUNTEER HOURS

Dear Members,

Hard to believe but another year has left us. I will need your yearly total by the end of January. You can email them to me or feel free to call me. Your time runs from Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2024.

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 volunteerism is considered during legislative 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 office (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 errands, babysit grandkids), church (sing in the choir, bell choir, teach Sunday school) raising money for a worthy cause (organize raffles or sale, 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 volunteered for is acceptable please call me or email 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 at home.

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

Patsy Bolch, Community Volunteer Service Chair

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.

December Meeting 2023

Look for your friends who attend our meetings. Come join the fun this month!!

