

the BCRSP NEWSLETTER



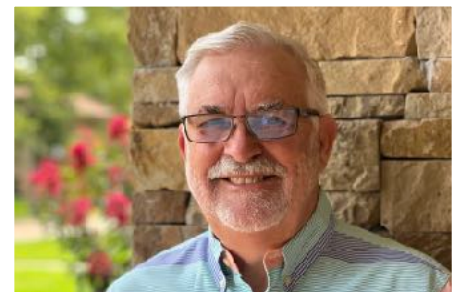
SEPTEMBER 2023



Welcome!

Welcome to BCRSP and TRTA! It's going to be a wonderful year! Your membership signifies your belief in our organization. TRTA is the only organization that focuses on your TRS retirement security. The annual membership fee you invest is money well spent. It keeps your organization strong, active, vocal and visible here in Texas and In Washington, DC!

Because of your membership in TRTA, the 98,000 member strong organization lobbied, wrote letters, visited the Capital, and stood strong in our need for a COLA. The legislature heard us overwhelmingly. Because of your efforts, folks who have been retired and over 75 will receive \$7,500. Folks 70 and over will receive \$2,400! Plus, an increase in our pensions of either 2%, 4% or 6% will be forthcoming with the passage of Proposition 9 in November. This one is not a slam dunk but the money is there, required no new tax, doesn't hurt our pension fund, BUT we must get our story out to the voters! None of this would have happened if it wasn't for TRTA.



But our organization stands for more than legislative action. We provide assistance for beginning educators, support members in need, finance school innovative projects, provide books for children, present scholarships to local graduating seniors, educate our membership of various community opportunities and provide information for personal growth and well-being.

Your board has worked throughout the summer to ensure that our meetings are meaningful and informative. It is our hope that you find your membership and meeting attendance of great value. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings!

- 04 - Sandra Wynn
- 07 - Virginia Reese
- 08 - Anita Foley
- 10 - Sheila Gray
- 11 - Evelyn Alfred, Barbara Lebow
- 12 - Kathleen Murphy, Suzanne Phelps
- 14 - Shirley Jones, Ollie Taylor
- 16 - Ann Seale
- 19 - Paula Burkhalter, Pauline Spencer
- 20 - Wanda Chilton
- 21 - Charlotte Potter
- 22 - Linda Warner
- 23 - Lenora Patranella, Beth Pennebaker
- 24 - Rhonda Putz
- 25 - Ralph Leisy, Gwen Parker-Nelson, Phyllis Tarter
- 26 - Patsy Bolch
- 29 - Marie Bodden

Brazos County Retired School Personnel
September 27, 2023
11:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church

“Better Together”

AGENDA

- Welcome!
Danny Stribling
- Invocation and Pledges
Betty Munion
- Recognition of Officers and Committee Chairs

•••••Lunch•••••



Program: “Tribute to our State Representatives”
Representative John Raney
Representative Kyle Kacal

Special Presentation - Danny Stribling

Proposition 9 Campaign: “Finish The Race
James Warner

AMBA Presentation - Carolyn Taylor

- Announcements
- Door Prizes - Lynn Blinka
- Happy Dollars

Please contact me when you have suggestions, questions or concerns. 979-777-2420 or dmstribling@yahoo.com I'd love to hear from you!

We're better together!

Danny Stribling,
President

Membership Report



There is something special to say about “The Magic of Membership” and that is “persistence”. Our BCRSP local chapter has members who are just that “persistent”. These members have been out there “recruiting, recruiting, recruiting” (in a nice, polite manner!) and not giving up Let's give these members listed below an awesome round of applause thanking them for their support in increasing membership in BCRSP.

Each member's name is followed by the number of new and/or transfer members they brought to the chapter.

Jan Batson - 1
Patsy Bolch - 1
Paula Burkhalter - 1
Linda Fisher - 1
Marian King - 9 new and 3 transfers!
Claire Lillie - 1
Sharon Ogden - 1
Effie Perry 1

Our membership is still increasing. I am waiting on at least 3 new ones coming in and I am still receiving renewals. BCRSP membership to date is 320. State and local is 280 with state only at 40. Please check with me if I have received anyone you have recruited and you were not acknowledged. Thank you for all of your efforts and support!

France Maloney, 1st VP for Membership

TX Retired Teachers Foundation

TRTF needs contributions for this year. Make checks out to TRTF so that you can claim the donation on your taxes. You can donate at our meetings by check or cash or online at https://www.trtf.org/TRTF/TRTF/TRTF_Home_Page.aspx Your contributions help other retired teachers when they need it. TRTF also helps current classroom teachers. Read all about this wonderful part of our organization in the BCRSP 2023-24 handbook which can be found online at our website. Click the link to go to the [BCRSP Website](#).

Member Benefits

Member Benefits:

AMBA sponsored a luncheon recently at Golden Corral, providing a free lunch to members who brought a potential new member. They also provided a free lunch and one year free membership to the potential new members. We were able to recruit 2 new members at this luncheon. AMBA representatives Jason Shirley and Sandy Hazlewood presented many benefits available to members through AMBA.

Sandy will be available at our first meeting this week to answer any questions you may have about member benefits available through AMBA.



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 Scholarship Winners 2023



Jose Francisco Zermeno – Bryan Collegiate High School

Linda Lunar-Valtierra – Mary Catherine Harris High School

Dominic Motekaitis – College Station High School

Antony Vasquez – A&M Consolidated High School



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



READY TO VOTE?

Deadline for Registering to Vote - October 10

Early Voting Begins - October 23

General Election Day - November 7

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

Raise Your Hand Texas is an organization that recognizes that the future prosperity of Texas hinges on the success of each public school, school leader, educator, and child. To that end the organization reviewed legislation and votes during the 88th Legislative Session and identified 100 legislators who “withstood intense political pressure and exemplified courageous support for public schools, teachers and students.” And I hasten to add these legislators also firmly supported retired Texas educators by their support of the supplement and the COLA. These legislators will receive the prestigious **PUBLIC EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD** from Raise Your Hand Texas. Of the ten House members and the four senators who have a constituency in TRTA District 6, five House members will receive the award (Ashby, Bailes, Kacal, Orr, and Raney) and one Senator (Nichols). These officials have been consistent in their support of both Texas public schools and personnel and retired Texas educators. We owe them a great measure of thanks for their unfailing support.

Happy Dollars!

Bring a One Dollar Bill to our monthly meeting! Give it to Danny at the end of our meeting. This donation will allow you to share one personal ,happy thing with the group.

All dollars collected go to our scholarship fund!



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



Jim Petty, BCRSP member and Barry Davis, Interim Director of the Brazos Valley African American Museum and BCRSP member looking over the books that our organization donated to the museum last spring.

BRING YOUR CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO OUR MONTHLY MEETING.

This is one of TRTA's big projects and enables us to give back to our local communities. Bring new and gently used books for us to donate to our local schools. We will collect monetary donations for this project during the months of December, January and February! Look for the jars!

Bring a book! Make a reader happy!



TRS News



Your Annuity Pay Dates

If you receive a monthly annuity from TRS, we've published the new [FY 2024 Annuity Payment Schedule](#) just for you! TRS annuity payments are issued on the last business day of each month. You can refer to the calendar anytime to stay in the know about when your monthly payment will be mailed or deposited. You can also keep it handy by [downloading and printing](#) a copy.

And, remember, you can use [MyTRS](#) to sign up for direct deposit (if you have not already done so) and manage your information.



BCRSP General Meeting Minutes

**BCRSP Monthly Meeting
May 24, 2023**

Vice President Frances Maloney called the meeting to order at 11:35. Chaplain Betty Munion offered the invocation and led members in the United States and Texas pledges.

We were introduced to two of our scholarship recipients: Anthony Vasquez from CSISD and Jose Ramirez from BISD.

Program: CASA: Voices for Children was presented to us by Nancy Browning. The CASA program was introduced to Texas in 1989. There are 73 programs in the State of Texas. 5 counties being served in the Brazos Valley - Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison and Leon. During COVID they served 574 children. In 2022- 432 children were served and present 142.

Legislative: James Warner gave us an update on the Senate proposal to pass the HJR2 Bill. This will include our COLA and a supplement check for retirees. Final action is to take place May 29.

Other Business: Our Book Committee-Carolyn Parsons and Sandy Petty- reported that they have purchased 360 books and will begin distributing them. If you know of any organizations that need books for needy children, please let them know.

Max Thompson thanked everyone who voted for him for the TRS Board of Trustee Election. Max and one other person are on the ballot for consideration. The Governor will decide who will be on the board.

Door Prizes: Lynn Blinka drew tickets for our theme bags.

Vice President Francis Maloney adjourned the meeting at 1:20.

**Submitted by
Betty Rabe
Secretary**

Check out our BCRSP updated website. See our monthly programs list. View our chapter video. Download a membership form to share with friends.

<http://localunits.org/BCRSP/>

Philanthropic Efforts Identified

One thing we know for sure is that members of our organization are both do-ers and givers. Many of our members participate in a wide variety of community organizations while making significant contributions both time-wise and monetarily. In an effort to simplify the philanthropic efforts of BCRSP, during their August meeting the Board developed a plan to both simplify and strengthen our contributions. During the months of **September, October** and **November** our primary focus for our charitable giving will be on our **Texas Retired Teachers Foundation**. In November, the meeting will focus on the work of the foundation. Our primary focus in **December, January** and **February** will be our **Children's Book Project**. Throughout these months we will learn more about this important project. **March, April** and **May** will focus on our **Scholarship Program** where graduation seniors are presented with scholarships.





The following current and former members of BCRSP sadly passed during our 2022-2023 year. We send our condolences to their families and friends.

Dr. Joyce Blasi 1931-2022

Shirley Burkhalter 1954-2023

Sandra Davis 1938-2023

Betty Sue Foy 1930-2023

Virginia Legler 1942-2023

Dr. George McBee 1929-2023

Mary Jo Minnox 1927-2023

Lillian Piwonka 1926-2023

Rep. Bill Presnal 1932-2023

Dixie Tracy 1949-2022

George Vaults 1935-2023