

*TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION DISTRICT 18*

*SPRING LEADERSHIP CONVENTION*

*REGION 18 SERVICE CENTER*

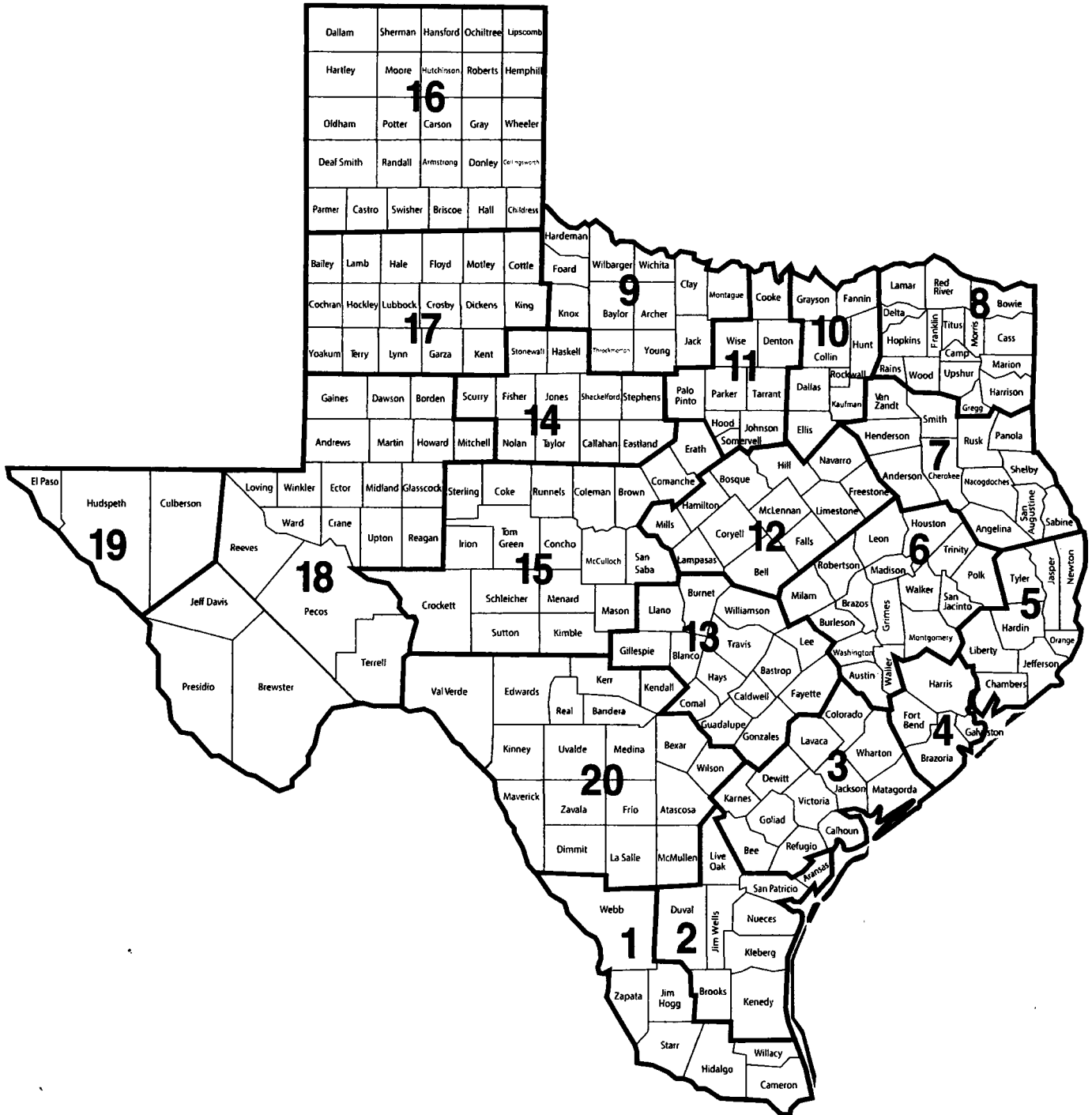
*MAY 3, 2022*



*TRTA Our Mission*

The Texas Retired Teachers Association advocates improved benefits for all education retirees and promotes the well-being of its members.

# District Map



TRTA DISTRICT XVIII SPRING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Region 18 Education Service Center

May 3, 2022

*YouTube*

8:30: Registration	Whitehead, Crawford, Peel
Refreshments	Local Chapters
Coffee	AMBA
9:00 Call to Order	Shirley Johnson
Invocation	Maridell Fryar
Pledge of Allegiance to US & TX Flag	Phyllis Anderson
Roll Call & Introduction of Guests	Shirley Johnson
Introduction of Speaker	Shirley Johnson
Report from TRTA	Fraa Patterson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Q & A	

10:00-10:15 Break-Game/Sonja

10:20-10:45 Training Session One	Group Leaders	Room
President	Shirley Johnson	Conference Room
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Judy Crawford	Tech 9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Darlene Peel	Tech 10
Secretary	Mary Alice Ramos	Tech 8
Treasurer	Helen Whitehead	Tech 7
Healthy Living	Phyllis Anderson	Conference Room
Technology	Michael Landrum	Conference Room

10:50-11:15 Training Session Two	Rick Chandler	Tech 9
Legislative	Pam Buckley/Beth Tuxhorn	Tech 10
Retirement Education	Maridell Fryar	Conference Room
Foundation	Michael Landrum	Conference Room
Technology	Sonja Hanks	Tech 7
Informative/Protective Service	Nancy Young	Tech 8
Community Volunteer Service		

11:20 AMBA Member Benefits	D'Anna Baucom
Food Blessing	Shirley Johnson
11:30 Group Pictures	Michael Landrum
11:45 – 12:30 Lunch	Teresa Cater

12:30-2:00 New Business	Mary Alice Ramos
Minutes are in the District Packet	Helen Whitehead
Treasurer Report in District Packet	Shirley Johnson
Historian	Ann Parish
Installation of 2022-2024 District Officers	Officers', Committees', & Local Chapter Presidents' Reports (packets)
Award Presentation	Ann Parish
Appreciation Award	Judy Crawford
Grand Prix Award	Audience
Announcements	

Benediction	Janet Mayo
-------------	------------

Adjournment	Shirley Johnson
-------------	-----------------

# Candidates for State Office 2022-2024

The following members have filed and are eligible candidates running for 2022-2024 TRTA State Office. The nominees will be elected by the TRTA House of Delegates during the upcoming TRTA Convention in Dallas on April 13, 2022.



## Marcy Cann for President

*Houston Association of Retired Teachers (HART), District 4*

Currently serving as the 2020-2022 State First Vice-President and State Membership Committee Chair. Served as the State Second Vice-President and State Public Relations Committee Chair (2018-2020), State Secretary/Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair (2016-2018), District 4 Immediate Past President (2016-2018), District Presidents Council Chair (2014-2016), and State Legislative Committee member (2009-2016). Served as the District 4 President (2012-2016) and District 4 Legislative Committee member (2007-2014).

## Ella Gauthier for First Vice-President

*Pasadena Area Retired School Employees (PARSE), District 4*

Currently serving as 2020-2022 State Second Vice-President and Public Relations Committee Chair. Served as State Secretary/Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair (2018-2020), District 4 Immediate Past President (2018-2020), District Presidents Council Vice-Chair (2016-2018) and District 4 President (2016-2018). Served as District 4 Parliamentarian (2013-2016), District 4 Treasurer (2011-2013), and Pasadena Area Retired School Employees President (2009-2011).

## Frana Patterson for Second Vice-President

*Palo Pinto County Retired Teachers Association (PPCRTA), District 11*

Currently serving as 2020-2022 State Secretary/Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair. Served as the District Presidents Council Chair 2018-2020. Served as the District 11 President (2018-2020), Healthy Living Committee State Chair (2016-2018), and Palo Pinto County Retired Teachers Association President (2014-2018).

## Terri Navrkal for Secretary/Treasurer

*Lubbock South Plains Retired Teachers Association (LSPRTA), District 17*

Currently serving as District Presidents Council Chair (2020-present), District 17 President (2018-present), and Lubbock South Plains RTA President (2020-present, 2017-19, and 2013-15). Served as the First Vice-President Lubbock South Plains RTA (2015-2017) and State Public Relations Committee (2014-2018). Currently serving as the TRTF Tutor Program Senior Tutor Recruitment and Partnership Advisor (Fall 2020-present).

**DISTRICT  
SPRING  
LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCES**

TRTA's 20 District Spring Leadership Development Conferences  
will begin in April 2022 and continue through June.

For a complete schedule of these events, please visit

**[WWW.TRTA.ORG/SPRINGCONFERENCES](http://WWW.TRTA.ORG/SPRINGCONFERENCES)**

Please be aware that information may change, such as dates, times, or locations.  
Visit the link for any updates or contact your District President.

## ***Congratulations to Our Newly Elected State Officers!***

***The following individuals who were each elected for a two-year term as a TRTA state officer beginning July 1, 2022:***

***Marcy Cann, TRTA President***

***Ella Gauthier, TRTA First Vice-President***

***Frana Patterson, TRTA Second Vice-President***

***Terri Navrkal, TRTA Secretary/Treasurer***

***These individuals were elected by the House of Delegates. Current TRTA President Leroy DeHaven will assume the role of Immediate Past President on July 1. Thank you for your service to TRTA!***

## ***Congratulations E.L. Galyean Award Recipients!***

***TRTA also honored the association's E.L. Galyean Award recipients for 2020, 2021, and 2022 during a luncheon on April 12. This award recognizes a TRTA member for outstanding and unusual service on the state level to TRTA and its members. The award also serves as a constant reminder of the distinctive quality of committed service rendered by Mr. E. L. Galyean, TRTA's first Executive Director (1980-1992).***

### ***MARTHA KALLUS: 2022 AWARD RECIPIENT***

***Martha Kallus worked steadfastly in positions of service in every aspect of her life, particularly within TRTA. She joined her local unit Midland RTA (now ARSP) as soon as she retired. She served as District 18 President and began eleven years of service at the TRTA state level. She was the Chair of the Local Unit Support Committee for four years, Organizational Affairs Committee for two years and the Retirement Education Committee for four. She turned an unorganized series of scattered retirement education events into an organized, uniform program by educating pre-retirees of their options, obligations, and opportunities for retirement. Martha was also a TRTF trustee for seven years and was Chair of the Classroom Assistance Grants committee. She had the heart and soul of a servant and is greatly missed by all.***

**88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**GREAT VICTORIES  
GREAT FUTURE**

# TRTA POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRS TEXAS



**TRTA Purpose and Mission:** The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) works closely with the Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress to preserve and maintain the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) pension fund and TRS-Care insurance plan for all Texas educators. Together, we protect, promote, and defend the interests of TRS members.

## TRTA STATE ISSUES

**Preserve TRS Texas Traditional Defined Benefit Retirement Plan:** TRTA's primary public policy objective is the preservation of the TRS traditional defined benefit plan for all public-school retirees and pre-retirees. TRS proves that when these plans are managed and funded appropriately, they provide cost-efficient retirement security for plan participants and taxpayers alike. Please note that 95% of public-school employees do not participate in Social Security. This saves Texas taxpayers billions of dollars, but also raises the stakes when ensuring the TRS traditional defined benefit plan remains strong and viable for all future retirees.

**Fund TRS Pension Trust:** In 2019, TRTA championed the "TRS Actuarial Soundness—Raise the Base!" plan (Senate Bill 12). This plan is a multi-session increased funding initiative that will ensure the long-term solvency of TRS. TRTA members urge the 88th Texas Legislature to continue the plan by introducing and adopting a state budget that funds contribution rates of 8.25% for the state and active educators and 1.9% for school districts by 2024.

**Support a COLA for TRS Retirees:** *TRTA is aware of the sincere interest expressed by the Legislature over the past several years to take steps regarding the loss of income retirees are experiencing. TRTA welcomes the open expression of support from legislators to address this issue during the 88th Texas Legislative Session. TRTA urges the enactment of a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for TRS retirees as an emergency item in the coming session.*

**Protect TRS-Care:** TRTA appreciates the work of the Legislature to address increasing health care costs for TRS retirees over the past several years. However, it is our belief that the best solution for this issue is to design and implement a long-term plan that continuously reviews health care costs and associated state funding and compares them to the actual costs of health care. This solution would take the place of the current arbitrary formula that was established 35 years ago when TRS-Care was created.



**TRTA**

*The Voice For All Public Education Retirees*

Texas Retired Teachers Association  
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78701  
1.800.880.1650 | [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org)

DISTRICT 18 TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE . . . OCTOBER 5, 2021

REGION 18 . . . 2811 LA FORCE BLVD. . . . MIDLAND, TX

Meeting was called to order by President Shirley Johnson.

Wayne Byrd led the Invocation.

Sonja Hanks led the Pledges to the US/TX Flags.

Roll Call of the Local Units followed: Andrews/Gaines Co 6 . . . Big Spring 2

Crane 2 . . . Midland 13 . . . Mitchell Co 3 . . . Monahans 2 . . . Odessa 10

Ellen Gauthier, TRTA Second Vice-President, Debbie Potter, Dale West, and Merita Zoga were introduced as guests.

Representing TRTA was Ellen Gauthier who addressed members virtually through ZOOM. Following her greetings and updates, President Johnson announced that a \$25 donation will be made to TRTF in Mrs. Gauthier's honor.

Maridell Fryar, TRTF Trustee, presented greetings from the Foundation and reported on the following programs available to public education teachers and retirees: New Tech Scholarships and \$750 Grants; \$750 Classroom Teacher Grants (Every applicant received a grant last year.); November is Foundation Month (Helping Hands is one of the programs.); and the Paid Tutoring Program (There are 3 participants in District 18.) Following a discussion of the E.L. Galyean Service Award, she moved to nominate Martha Kallus as the District 18 2022 recipient. Ann Parish seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. All members are encouraged to submit letters of recommendation for Martha's nomination and to send them to Maridell before the November 1 deadline.

Wayne Byrd reported on the Retirement Education Seminar to be held virtually on March 19, 2022.

Merita Zoga and Dale West presented informative and enlightening updates on the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, Pension Trust Fund, Investment Performance, Supplemental Payment/Sunset Legislation, TRS Health Care, and

the new Campus were discussed. Laurie La Bree will report to the TRS Board of Trustees in her new position of Ombudsman ("ombuds"). El Paso has been designated as a Pilot Regional Office and Big Spring is the site location for District 18.

Memorial Service of our deceased members was conducted by Judy Crawford, First Vice-President.

Trident Representative, Debbie Potter, reported on the dental and vision plans available to members and that more benefits will be presented at a later time.

Ricky Chandler, Past District President and District Legislative Chair, reported on pending issues and stressed the importance of contacting, as well as educating our legislators on Defined Benefits as opposed to Defined Contributions.

Nancy Young presented the Community Volunteer Service report. Members have recorded more than 54,000 hours of service.

Mary Alice Ramos, Secretary, presented the minutes which will be filed as printed.

Helen Whitehead, Treasurer, presented the 2021-2022 Budget and Treasurer's Report which will be filed as printed.

Judy Crawford presented the Membership Report: State 86,500 District 1,513  
823 (At-Large 690)

Ricky Chandler presented the 2022-2024 Slate of Officers: President Shirley Johnson, First Vice-President Judy Crawford, Second Vice-President Darlene Peel, Secretary Mary Alice Ramos, and Treasurer Helen Whitehead.

Dates to Remember: November 1 E.L.Galyean Service Award Nomination  
Deadline January 2022 Local Unit Presidents submit State Convention  
Delegates February 15, 2022 Local Units' Reports to District Committee Chairs  
Children's Book Project Volunteer Service Hours Scholarships and Grants  
March 1, 2022 District Reports to State March 19 Retirement Seminar April  
11-13 TRTA State Convention, Dallas May 3 Spring Leadership Training

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

*Shirley Johnson October 12, 2021  
District 18 President*

*Mary Alice Ramos, Secretary  
October 8, 2021*



TRTA Important Update Concerning Member Benefits

Dear TRTA Members,

We have exciting news! TRTA and its dental and vision benefits provider, AMBA, have agreed to continue their relationship to offer AMBA's dental and vision insurance programs to TRTA members.

AMBA is a market leader in providing value-based benefits to members of retiree associations like TRTA across the country and has been a trusted partner to TRTA for nearly four decades. Thousands of our members have enjoyed dental and vision benefits offered and administered by AMBA for years. In addition, AMBA works with hundreds of retired Texas educators each day and has worked with TRTA to help recruit over 50,000 new members into our association over the years.

TRTA always focuses on our members first and foremost. After careful consideration, we have decided that entering this new chapter with AMBA best serves our members' dental and vision benefit needs. We believe this will better position TRTA to increase our membership, which will help us achieve our legislative goals on behalf of retired educators in the State of Texas. Simply stated, we are better together!

If you would like to learn more about these dental and vision insurance benefits, we encourage you to contact AMBA at (833) 643-0263 for new customers, or (833) 643-0264 for existing customers.

If you have any questions regarding this exciting and renewed partnership, we encourage you to reach out to TRTA directly at [info@trta.org](mailto:info@trta.org) or call us at 1.800.880.1650.

As a result, TRTA will no longer be endorsing dental and vision products offered by Trident.

Leroy DeHaven  
TRTA President

Marcy Cann  
First Vice-President

Ella Gauthier  
Second Vice-President

Tim Lee  
Executive Director

Copyright © 2022 Texas Retired Teachers Association, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are currently or have been a TRTA member.

Our mailing address is:  
Texas Retired Teachers Association  
313 E 12th St Ste 200  
Austin, TX 78701-1957

## DISTRICT 18 SPRING LEADERSHIP PLANNING MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2022

President Shirley Johnson called the meeting to order.

Agenda and assignments for May 3, 2022 Spring Conference to be held at Region 18 were discussed and finalized. Each local unit was assigned refreshment contributions and will bring two door prizes valued at \$20.

\$25 contribution will be made to the Foundation in honor of guest speaker, TRTA Second Vice-President, Franna Patterson, plus a certificate and a Texas flag plaque will be presented to her.

\$25 gift certificates will be awarded to four designated recipients: First-time attendee, Most Recent Retiree, Oldest and Youngest member.

Officers' and Chairs' reports are due Friday, April 22.

Treasurer Helen Whitehead will review the Reimbursement Policy.

Training Sessions will be 25 minutes. District Officers will present the First Session and Chairs will present the Second Session.

Ann Parish will install the District officers.

Lunch menu was set.

Each local unit will decorate their table with an M&M's theme.

Necrology Reports will be submitted by each local unit for the next State Convention.

Foundation Chair, Maridell Fryar, emphasized the significance of the Proposed Revision to the TRTA Bylaws.

Legislative Chair, Ricky Chandler, recommended that local units invite our legislators to our meetings, reminded delegates about next year's Rally Day, and suggested that name tags be made for District Officers and Chairs.

Patricia Maurer recommended that TRTA Convention Breakout Sessions be more relevant to retired teachers' issues and concerns. Maridell Fryar will submit this to the appropriate committee.

Judy Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting and following the second, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

## *Texas Retired Teachers Association District 18 President Report*

*2021-2022*

This year has been a great year for me as your District 18 President. There have been challenges, but always a great outcome.

July started off with District Presidents' training in Pflugerville. It was great getting to meet face to face with the other 19 District Presidents'. We had training on the manual and how to be a better leader. The District Presidents also were able to go to the Capitol and meet with the House of Representatives that were in session. The Representatives talked with us about what they were trying to accomplish for TRTA members. It was very eventful.

Monthly, all 20 District Presidents', TRTA President Leroy DeHaven, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Marcy Cann, Executive Director Tim Lee, along with other TRTA officers and TRTA staff members met by zoom. We discussed topics at hand and what was ahead of us. The monthly DP meetings, were the only silver lining that came from the pandemic. Due to these monthly meetings, we as a District President Council, were more involved and hands on with the TRTA State office and the State Officers.

I was blessed to be asked to speak at the Monahans Area Retired School Personnel, Andrews Gaines Retired School Employees Assoc., Mitchell County Retired School Personnel, and Odessa Retired Teachers and School Personnel Assoc... It was an honor to be with each Chapter and share what was going on within TRTA.

Zoom cluster meetings were done with Immediate Past President, Patricia Macias. During these cluster meetings, we were able to discuss the communication needed in order to help the District Presidents better inform each TRTA member in their district.

The 2022 TRTA State Convention had 17 delegates in attendance at the House of Delegates from District 18. With better planning by each of us, I think that this number of delegates can increase for the 2024 State Convention in Corpus Christi.

District 18 is made up of seven OUTSTANDING Local Chapters. I appreciate the support that you give me as your District President. I definitely rely on you to make District 18 a great district.

Blessings,  
Shirley Johnson  
District 18 President

District 18 First Vice-President's Report  
2021-2022

At the beginning of the year, I contacted the seven Local 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents, asking if our membership goals set in 2020 needed to be adjusted. From the responses, I compiled a list of their suggestions and ideas in a return email for consideration.

State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Marcy Cann held several virtual meetings during the year for all twenty District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents. Following each of those, I emailed summaries to the seven local units along with ideas about how we could implement each meeting's suggestions for membership involvement.

In the absence of our secretary, I recorded the minutes for our District Fall Conference Planning Meeting.

Prior to the District Fall Conference, I obtained updated State, District 18, and local's membership totals and emailed those to the local 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents in case they were unable to attend the conference. I assisted the President with planning lodging, meals, and other details for our State TRTA guest speaker for the Conference: regrettably she was unable to attend.

During the Fall Conference, I reported the 2021 Membership Totals, conducted the Memorial Service, and assisted the President with meeting logistics.

Attending 5 of the local units' meetings with President, I was able to collect ideas about successful membership renewal and enlisting strategies.

It was an honor to submit a letter of commendation for the nomination of Martha Kallus to receive the E.L. Galyean Award for 2022. Memorial ribbons were proudly worn at the State Convention to honor Martha's years of highly active service in TRTA's local, district and state offices.

Judy Crawford  
District 18 First Vice President

## 2nd District 18 Vice President

Darlene Peel

Our Children's Book Project only had 2 participating local units: Andrews/Gaines Retired School Employees Personnel with 62 books and Midland ARSP with 2011 books for a total of 2073 books. Hopefully this coming year we can work to come up creative with ways for each local unit to participate and contribute to the total number of books.

## Public Relations

COVID/Pandemic has made things very different in the last year and created a great deal of change. We have advanced into a much more technologically advanced way of doing things. As we look forward to our coming months of "JOY" we hope to incorporate more media, social media, and other avenues of technology to draw us closer together and more informed. We know we need to stay better connected.

## **DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**MAY 3, 2022**

***No in-person meetings were held by the District Secretary due to the 2021 —2022 Pandemic.***

***Correspondence was initiated by the District Secretary in the form of an informational packet containing protocol: Secretary Tips, Do's and Don'ts on Writing Minutes, Sample Minutes, and Useful Words for Minutes.***

***These packets will be reviewed at the Training Session along with additional information distributed at the TRTA 2022 Convention.***

***Local units did report innovative efforts to continue communication within their units as well as continuing to hold in-person meetings.***

**Mary Alice Ramos**

**District XVIII Secretary**

### **District 18 Treasury Report**

**As of April 19, 2022**

***District 18 of the TRTA began the 2021/2022 year with a beginning balance of [REDACTED] District income and expenses have been recorded as they occur and the checking account and the bank statement have been balanced each month. As of April 19, 2022 the checking account balance for District 18 TRTA is [REDACTED] At the time of this report, the March or April statements have not been received to reconcile to the bank account ledger. Expenditures and revenue for the remaining month of April, as well as those for May and June will be recorded before the end-of-year reports to the TRTA state office are submitted. The end-of-year reports as of June 30, 2022 are due August 1, 2022. After the books are closed on June 30, 2022, an internal audit will be performed.***

**Helen Whitehead**

**District 18 Treasurer**

## TRTA District 18 Legislative Chair Report May 3, 2022

Attended several Zoom meetings with the 20 statewide district presidents and state staff.

Visited with the District 18 Legislators or their staff in local offices.

Attended several Townhall meetings.

Encouraged local units to invite legislators to their local meeting to discuss objectives of TRTA.

Encouraged local units to go vote for the legislators in the Primary elections, runoff election, and general election.

Attended the TRTA State Convention in Dallas.

Looking forward to discussing COLA's with everyone!

District Legislative

Ricky Chandler

Texas Retired Teachers Association  
District XVIII  
2021 Volunteer Hours

Local Unit Volunteer Chairs

Andrews	8,215	Donna Wallace
Big Spring	3,850	Peggy Skiles
Crane	688	Sally Dodd
Midland	12,796	Helen Whitehead
Mitchell	7,071	Frances Godwin
Monahans	37,487	Betty Roeber
Odessa	8,279	Esther Sofge

This group of Volunteer Chairs have been so good about reporting their Unit's hours. With the year, 2021, not being easy with the pandemic, they have been very good about getting back to me in time for me to report our totals of **78,386** to the State.

I think that the Units have done an excellent job even though we have experienced COVID. I do appreciate the Chairs' work on collecting the hours so that District 18 can have a good number of volunteer hours.

My thanks to each chair and to the members of each Unit that volunteered to give us the hours we could send for District XVIII.

Sincerely,

Nancy Young,  
District Community Volunteer Service Committee Chairman



2021-2022  
RETIREMENT EDUCATION SEMINAR SUMMARY

- We could not have done any of this without the help of our local chairs. A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Virginia Conner and Cindy Truitt** of Midland, **Sara Easley** of Odessa, **Jimmy Heath** of Crane, **Darlene Peel** of Andrews, **Peggy Skiles** of Big Spring, and last, but not least, a big shout out to **Janet Mayo** who had the honor of contacting school districts not in Region 18 and had to do some of this footwork on her own.
- We would also like to mention and thank Ashley Franco, TRTA's Membership Analyst, who worked tirelessly with us to insure a successful Retirement Education Seminar. She has sent a copy of all registrants and info to District 18 chairs for distribution
- First we secured a date with TRS and submitted a retirement seminar request with TRTA. Unable to get our usual February date, we had to settle for one in March. It's very likely that Spring Break and the TRS statewide presentation interfered with our District 18 Retirement Seminar.
- Region 18 website provided a list of current superintendent names, phone numbers and email addresses. Shared this info with local Retirement Ed. Chairs.
- Composed information for flyer to be sent to local chairs, who would in turn email flyer to district superintendents they had been assigned.
- Approximately six weeks before seminar date local chairs were sent the flyer and began contacting their assigned district superintendent offices. Superintendent secretaries were contacted by phone for permission to share flyer. Secretaries would in turn email this information to all employees.
- Three days before event TRTA emailed link information to all registrants.
- **District 18 had 80 registrants, but only 30 of these attended the video conference.**

Submitted by District Co-chairs Pam Buckley and Beth Tuxhorn

**District Healthy Living**  
**Report from Phyllis Anderson**

As the Healthy Living District chair, I must admit I have not been as diligent as I should. However, these are the things that I have done this year.

- I have forwarded Healthy Living tips from Barrie Madison to each of the units in our district. They have been some excellent tips on how to stay healthy at “our age”.
- I have printed out the Healthy Living tips each month, made copies, and shared them with individuals within our unit. Our Healthy Living chair, Norman King, always picks a tip to expound upon at our meetings.
- I TRY to live and eat healthily, to be an example for my unit members.

Phyllis Anderson

District Healthy Living Chair

---

Informative and Protective Services District Committee Report

Sonja Hanks

Monthly reports were sent to unit presidents and IP&S unit chairs around the first of each month.

## Report of Technology Activity – TRTA District 18

During the 2021-22 membership year, a website for TRTA District 18 was maintained at <http://www.trtadistrict18.org>. During the year the website was enlarged with content submitted by Shirley Johnson and others. Pictures were added from ones I had taken.

Michael Landrum, Technology Chairman

## FOUNDATION REPORT DISTRICT 18 SPRING CONFERENCE 2022

The TRTF held its first-ever silent auction at this year's convention, and it was a big success! More than 80 items were donated by local units and districts across the state. The Silent Auction brought in \$12,010 and donations received at convention totaled \$6,041 for a grand total of \$18,051! That is FANTASTIC!

Recipients of the Classroom Teachers Grants and the First Year Teacher Scholarships were also announced. 30 of each were awarded. Names are posted on the TRTF web page.

Submitted by Maridell Fryar

TRTF Board Member

Andrews / Gaines County Retired School Employees  
President's Report 2021-2022

With directives from the State to start the year with a PARTY, our local chapter planned a field trip to Aldridge Gardens for lunch with a Family Reunion theme --- complete with a membership "family tree". Other programs included our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with several delightful written accounts from some seasoned members who were unable to attend but wanted to join in the walk down memory lane!

Particularly well-attended were the August Coffee Breaks – one in Seminole and one in Andrews at local coffee shops. We caught up on visiting, donated pencils for our year-long project and grabbed new yearbooks. Recent retirees were invited and several joined. (Bundles of pencils are taken to the various campuses throughout the year.)

The Cookie Connection continues to be a hit with our active teachers. Approximately thirty members each baked 4 dozen cookies / snacks and delivered to all eleven AISD campuses along with TRTA literature, expressing our encouragement and appreciation.

The Andrews Life Center was the recipient of our Children's Book Project. They were so appreciative of the high-quality board books for their graduating clients. The director attended the Feb. luncheon to accept 40+ books and then detailed the monumental positive impact their organization is having on our communities.

With the hospital reopening for visitors, several members were able to return there for volunteering. Meals on Wheels continues to depend on our group for a large part of their deliveries. Many members have cared for grandchildren, provided doctor appt. transportation for those in need, and volunteered in their churches and neighborhoods.

Several especially vibrant, active members have passed this year. It's been a struggle. AGRSEA remains a strong, close-knit gamut of school retirees investing in friendships, active in our communities, and committed to lobbying for current and future benefits.

Judy Crawford  
District 18  
Andrews / Gaines RSEA

**Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association  
President's Report  
Peggy Skiles**

BSARTA had only six meetings in 2021-2022 due to recurrence of the Covid 19 pandemic. We had a large turnout for our August meeting when Tumbleweed Smith was our guest and told stories about interesting women he had met through the years. We really struggled with attendance and recruiting officers at the remaining meetings. Officers were elected at the March 2022 meeting and two of them attended the State Convention.

A new chapter name was voted on and approved: Howard County Area Retired School Employees. Also approved was spending \$700 on State dues for the first 20 new members who agree to pay local dues and attend at least two chapter meetings. Our first fall 2022 meetings will concentrate on what TRTA does for all retirees and the importance of being an active member. At the April meeting a new set of Standing Rules were presented to be voted on at the May meeting.

Our community volunteer hours totaled 3,850.

**District Member Benefits Report  
Peggy Skiles**

There was no Member Benefits Resource Guide available this year. A list of the benefits that the new company, Trident, offered was compiled and sent to the Member Benefits Committee Chairs at all chapters in the district. A few individual questions were answered by phone regarding the Dental and Vision Benefits with Trident. More information was available in the Voice regarding the results of the AMBA lawsuit.

**Crane Retired Educators Association  
President's Annual Activity Report**

**C.R.E.A. held in-person meetings throughout the 2021-2022 year. We had an average of 14 members present at these meeting.**

**As is our practice at our January meetings, we held our First-Responders Appreciation Dinner on January 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 21 First Responders who attended. They were from the Fire Department and EMTs, Police Department and Dispatchers, and Sheriff's Department.**

**We also collected funds during the year for the purchase of books for elementary students. We are now in the process of ordering those books for grades K-2 at Crane Elementary School. They will be delivered to the students in May.**

**Our final meeting of the year will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, postponed from our regular meeting date due to the holiday weekend.**

**Jimmy Heath  
President – C.R.E.A.**

## 2021-2022 Report

### Midland Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP)

MARSP had a terrific year. We had programs that included Tim Lee, Dr. Angelica Ramsey, MISD's superintendent, local author Tina Siemens, the West Texas Food Bank, Miss Cayce's, and The Area Agency on Aging. Several of our meetings were canceled due to an uptick in Covid cases in Midland to support our area healthcare workers and their families. One gathering was offered virtually. Barbara Stooksberry and Joyce Watts, the 2021-2022 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs handled the struggles of moving speakers around with nothing short of perfection.

Our new newsletter committee Chair, Kim Evans, has revised our newsletter. Our website has been updated, and our news blasts to members have taken on a new and modern look. The member directory will be added to our website starting in the fall of 2022 to be easily accessible to our members. This change will encourage our members to check out our website more often; we will save more trees, save postage, and reduce the environmental footprint of MARSP.

Eileen Corley is a rockstar concerning MARSP's budget. She has made a genuine difference.

Our three second VP, Barbara Stooksberry, Joyce Watts, and Patricia Maurer (22-23), are looking for an innovative way to support TRS regarding a new way of doing the book project. In Midland, our libraries are going digital, so there is much less need for copies of books.

Board members like Anita Patton and Deanna Dunn make sure our luncheons go off without a hitch. Michael Landrum is always there to notify our members digitally, take pictures of our family of retirees at events, and share them on our website.

Our President, Michele Harmon, has published two articles in the Permian Basin Oil and Gas Magazine highlighting the shortage of teachers, the strength of retired educators, and tax dollars going into building more government buildings in Austin. Recently, Michele published two articles, one in the Midland Reporter-Telegram and the other in the Odessa American, about the surcharges our local taxpayers are returning to TRS when school districts hire our retirees back to full-time employment, highlighting that those local tax dollars should be spent on compensation for our local educators.

Debbie Jordan, our incoming President, has worked tirelessly with her granddaughter to enlist the support of our local legislators to hear the plight of active and retired teachers. Issues include the need for a cost-of-living increase, eliminating the WEP, and eliminating the surcharges (taxes) sent back to TRS for full-time retired TRS members returning to work because our students need them. Educators need the money in the light of 9% inflation.

MARSP is the organization because of all our board members and members. Thank you, Maridell, Kim, Nancy, Mary, Eileen, Nancy D., Kathy, Patti H, Debbie, Michael, Patricia, Anita, Bayta, Barbara, Cindy, Patti W., Joyce, Helen, Virginia, and Nancy Y.

This year, the icing on the cake was our beloved Martha Kallus, whom we lost this year, was recognized as a 2022 recipient of the E.L. Galyean award. Everyone was excited to see Martha's daughters at our state convention to accept the award on her behalf.

We welcome our new board members, Paula Knight, and Lois Hillary, for 22-23.

Lastly, MARSP would not be what it is today without Maridell Fryar. You are the glue that has held MARSP together and the entire TRTA. Thank you.

Michele Harmon

MARSP President



## **Mitchell County Retired School Personnel**

### **Sonja Hanks, President**

#### **September 2021**

TRTA suggested we celebrate in-person meetings by having a party or celebration. We held our annual Welcome Back Dinner and welcomed retired school employees to be our guests for a chicken fried steak dinner with all the trimmings. District 18 President Shirley Johnson and First Vice-President Judy Crawford were our special guests. After dinner, Elvis Tribute Performer, Harvey McFadden, serenaded members. Everyone enjoyed the performance.

#### **October 2021**

Our unit moto is "To serve; not to be served" and we decided to prepare treat bags for the residents of Mitchell County Rehabilitation and Nursing Home where five of our members reside. Members brought snacks, candy, small gift items, and toiletries to fill the bags. We delivered fifty-four bags for the residents.

Janet Mayo, Bobbie Thompson, and I attended the District 18 Fall Conference in Midland and gained new knowledge.

#### **November 2021**

Several members of the C C Riders Car Club presented the program for our monthly meeting. Carolyn and Larry Don Watlington and Charles Goodlett explained how the car club started and what community activities they support. They were all brought together for their interest in and love of old cars. They also gave us an idea of the time and money involved in restoring cars to their former luster. Each year they club gives several scholarships to students graduating from Mitchell County high schools, purchase bicycles and other toys for children at Christmas, and hold several car events throughout the year. They brought several restored cars for our unit to exam.

#### **January 2022 Book Project**

We collected enough money to donate 240 new books to all second and third graders in Mitchell County schools (Colorado ISD, Lorraine ISD, and Westbrook ISD). We also donated ten books to the Mitchell County Library. After some additional donations came in, we donated \$60 in honor of deceased members to be used by the Lorraine ISD librarian to purchase some additional books for their school library. A book plate, with the deceased member's name, was placed inside the books. Then we donated \$140 to the Lorraine librarian to purchase books for children that would not be able to purchase items from their school book fair.

#### **February 2022**

The MCRSP donated \$100 to the TRTF in memory of Martha Kallus.

This month we played games to Keep Your Brain Healthy. Members played a variety of activities that were designed to keep your brain active and working quickly. Some of the activities were quick one-minute games, while others were longer and required paying

attention and recalling information, while others required thinking, making connections, and reasoning.

### **March 2022**

The COO and CFO of Mitchell Country Hospital came and reported on the progress of the expanded and newly remodeled PT facility and the new Rehabilitation and Nursing Home. Both are nearly finished and waiting for final inspection by the state. They hope to hold an open house in April and move patients to their new home in early May.

### **April 2022**

Janet McCollum presented a very informative program All About Irises. She gave information about growing and dividing irises, what types of soil they preferred, and resources for learning more about these beauties.

Sonja Hanks and Janet Mayo attended the 68<sup>th</sup> TRTA Convention in Dallas.

### **May 2022**

New superintendent, Dr. Larry Polk, will be joining us for lunch and a get to know you session.

Local Unit: Monahans Area Retired School Personnel

President: Rhonda Gallagher

Programs: At our first meeting of the year, our TRTA District 18 President, Shirley Johnson of Andrews presented an informative program. She shared very helpful local and state information.

Several successful ideas to increase membership and/or attendance. There were several programs during the year that drew in high attendance.

In October, Jeff Jones, Director of Support Services, introduced Head Architect, R.J. Lopes, who gave a detailed update on the 2019 MWP-ISD bond projects and building status, accompanied by a video.

In November, Josh Carter with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, gave a detailed program on the status of the border between Texas and Mexico. Officers can be assigned to patrol and location depending on need. A video showed how dogs are trained and have become a helpful addition. Drug Enforcement Agency is responsible for confiscated drugs.

The "border crossers" can no longer be referred to as "illegal aliens", as of 2021 they must be called "non-citizens". Cost to house these non-citizens is approximately \$45 to \$60 a day per person.

The status of the border and policing it is overwhelming! Always armed and wearing vests, it is a very dangerous job. Currently there are 374, 000 legal cases pending; 31 known or suspected terrorists and probably only 5-10% of drugs being intercepted! Not only Mexican citizens cross the border, but many other countries are represented.

In March, Representative Brooks Landgraf was enthusiastically congratulated on his successful reelection. He then shared an update on the 2021 legislative accomplishments and his concerns for teachers and the fact that although there was a thirteenth check given, there should have been a cost-of-living adjustment instead. He expressed hope for a COLA in the 2023 session. Brooks then opened the floor to questions and specific concerns from our membership. The major focus was financial, student testing, specifically the STARR test, insurance and the COLA.

A successful project: Our most successful project has always been with four financial institutions in town to give free popcorn (which we purchase and pop there on location with our machine) on alternating Fridays at their locations. Each institution in turn gives us a monetary donation for our scholarship fund. Our popcorn program has been on hold because of Covid cases. At the end of the year, we will still present two deserving high school seniors going into education with a scholarship from MARSP.

Something else we want to share: In order to promote our organization and the benefits of having retired school personnel continuing to serve the community, we volunteered 67,487 total hours.

attention and recalling information, while others required thinking, making connections, and reasoning.

### **March 2022**

The COO and CFO of Mitchell Country Hospital came and reported on the progress of the expanded and newly remodeled PT facility and the new Rehabilitation and Nursing Home. Both are nearly finished and waiting for final inspection by the state. They hope to hold an open house in April and move patients to their new home in early May.

### **April 2022**

Janet McCollum presented a very informative program All About Irises. She gave information about growing and dividing irises, what types of soil they preferred, and resources for learning more about these beauties.

Sonja Hanks and Janet Mayo attended the 68<sup>th</sup> TRTA Convention in Dallas.

### **May 2022**

New superintendent, Dr. Larry Polk, will be joining us for lunch and a get to know you session.

Some of the goals of Odessa Retired Teachers /School Personnel in the year 2021-2022 were to increase membership, attendance and contact with its members. The unit increased contact with its membership through a monthly newsletter, sending birthday and Christmas cards to all our members, birthdays are recognized and door prizes are given at each meeting. Renewal reminder notices and calls were sent to members that had previously joined but had not renewed. The members were encouraged to bring guests to each event. A 50+1 celebration was held in October. November was a regular meeting. A Christmas luncheon was held in December.

Due to Covid, the January meeting was held by Zoom. In February, the officers voted to change the regular meeting time to 11:30 am with a light lunch included instead of an afternoon meeting at 1:30 pm with refreshments for February, March, April and May. The change was well received with increased attendance and membership. To encourage members to renew membership in March and April instead of straggling in all summer and fall and to increase membership, a drawing for \$100 will be held in June for all memberships sent in by May 31, 2022. Our renewal of members by the end of March has already surpassed membership numbers of last September and 9 new members have joined.

*Sincerely,*  
*Sara Easley*  
*President*  
*O.R.T./S.P.A.*