

BARSEA

Brownsville Area Retired School Employees Association

"Carrying the Torch for TRS Retirees"

Newsletter #1

From the President's desk
September 2013

CONGRATULATIONS! WE DID IT!

Knowing was Everything! YOUR involvement in BARSEA/TRTA brought financial relief to so many retirees this passed legislative session. Why? Because your awareness created a barrage of emails and phone calls to our legislators when they were undecided about giving us a 3% increase in our annuity. It had been over 12 years (2001) since we'd had a cost of living adjustment. If you don't

fit into the criteria this time around, you will next time.

So, with that, we CONGRATULATE all TRS retirees who will be receiving a 3% increase in their annuity October 1st. All TRS public school employees who retired on August 2004 or before, are eligible for this new Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA.) The 83rd Legislative Session passed SB 1458 which relieved many retirees

burdened with the high cost of inflation. This bill also passed legislation that will make the TRS fund actuarially sound so that all retirees will be able to get a COLA in the near future.

Maybe even in two years during the 84th Legislative session.

Stay Informed! Join BARSEA & TRTA today and be a part of the team that carries the torch for all retirees!

Tita E. Tamez
BARSEA President

WE are here for YOU! Your new officers for 2013-2015



Treasurer Mary Guajardo, President Tita E. Tamez, 2nd Vice President Alicia Gonzalez, 1st Vice President Graciana de Pena, and Secretary Raquel Perez, Parliamentarian George Waldhem and Historian Sue Tarrant.

BARSEA 2013-14 Program Schedule

September 12 "Ordinary People doing Extraordinary Things" with Zoila Rolon

October 10 "Take a Bite Out of Crime"~ with Lt. Gerard Serata & Lt. Oscar Maldonado BPD; Plant Auction

October 21 District I Fall Conference, McAllen, S. Texas College, Cooper Center

November 14 "The Voices for TRS Retirees~ Our Champions" with TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee, Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. & Representatives Rene Oliveira, Eddie Lucio III and Armando Martinez from Weslaco; Food Drive

December 12 "Recognizing the Long Life Commitment to BARSEA"; Toy Drive; Annual Silent Auction & Bazaar

January 9 "TRS Care Cares" with Mr. Samuel Berrios, Aetna w/Q&A

February 13 "Good Health is the Real Wealth" with Carmen Phipps (nutritionist) Valley Regional Medical Center

February 8 TRS Retirement Seminar, IBC Bank

March 6 "BARSEA's Scholars

April 10 "Life's Most Important Checklist" with Loraine Knoch, Darling Mouser

April 13-15 TRTA State Convention Dallas Convention Center

April 25 Spring Leadership Conference; Rio Grande City

May 8 "BARSEA's Stars" Honored Member / Awards / Recognitions

Come and join us!

Your COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



Sylvia L. Perez
Retirement Education
Nominating Comm



Sylvia G. Suarez
Legislative



Ana S. Garcia
Health Care



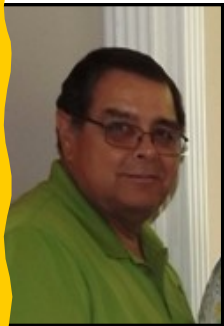
Inez Ortiz
Member Benefits



Dora Cackley
Informative &
Protective



Rose Lehmann
Volunteer Services



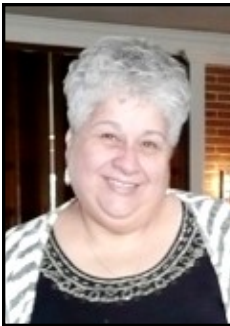
Bill Esparza
Scholarships



Dolores Schrock
Courtesy/Hospitality



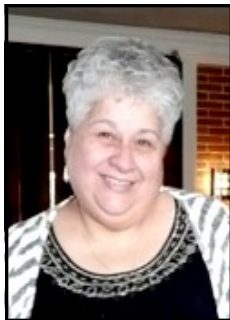
Diane Wanja
Decorations



Loraine G. Knoch
Telephone



Stella & Calixto Ramirez
Foundation



Loraine Knoch
Telephone Chairman



Gloria Benavidez



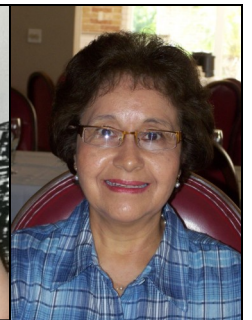
Ana S. Garcia



Gloria Garcia



Rose Lehmann



Emma V. Martinez

Look Who's Calling You?



Raquel Perez



Stella Ramirez



Yolanda Rodriguez



Sue Smith



Rosie Waldhem



Gladys Aznar

TRS Retirees Decrease in Buying Power

Item	2001	2013	
Loaf of bread	\$0.93	\$1.42	53%
Ground beef (per lb.)	\$1.61	\$3.41	112%
1 dozen eggs	\$1.15	\$1.93	68%
Half gallon of milk	\$1.73	\$3.53	104%
Coffee (per lb.)	\$2.53	\$5.90	133%
Chicken (per lb.)	\$1.09	\$1.50	38%
Stick of butter	\$2.97	\$3.18	7%
Potatoes (per lb.)	\$0.35	\$0.63	80%
Housing costs for owners	\$725.00	\$1,059.00	46%
Gas (utility)	\$78.85	\$99.52	26%
Electricity (per month)	\$129.70	\$194.53	50%
Water, sewer, trash (month)	\$108.10	\$194.57	80%
Tires for car	\$99.70	\$133.58	34%
Motor vehicle insurance	\$260.60	\$414.17	59%
A gallon of gas (unleaded)	\$1.40	\$3.35	139%
Prescription drugs	\$292.50	\$440.88	51%
Physician's services	\$250.50	\$351.30	40%
Dental services	\$264.80	\$425.54	61%
Eyeglasses and eye care	\$152.20	\$179.41	18%
Decline of dollar	\$0.56	\$0.43	
Decrease buying power			-23%

**We Need
Your
Membership...
Your
Membership
is your
VOICE!**

Mother Goose Book Project

Book totals 1,031

Always collecting
slightly used or new books

In memory of our beloved BARSEA Members ...through Oct 2012-2013



Belia Cruz



Lamar Flores



Mary C. Hernandez



Leonor "Lee" Trevino

A tribute to their friendship and their career as educators, of having walked with them shoulder to shoulder, and their service to BARSEA. May memories of you forever stay in our hearts.

How can our members help?

Sign up to **Volunteer** for:

Nov 16th...Golf Tournament: we are in need of volunteers to help with many areas. Registration, "Water Carts", Host, Direct, Posting T-Boxes, etc.

Sign up to **Volunteer** for:

Donating Door Prizes. For our monthly meetings. We are signing up for the next 2 years and those names will be printed in our Year-book. It's always fun to get a door prize! Be a part of the action!

A Dental Plan for TRTA Members Only

The TRTA Board of Directors has endorsed a new TRTA "Members Only" group dental insurance plan available exclusively through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) and underwritten by Ameritas Group Dental Insurance.

This plan has very generous benefits plus a two year rate guarantee. Through the TRTA Group Dental Insurance Plan, you and your family will receive comprehensive and flexible dental coverage. The plan provides you the freedom to visit any dentist or specialist when you need care.

Continued TRTA membership is required in order to participate in this dental plan. You can obtain additional information concerning dental benefits at www.trtabenefits.com or by calling AMBA at 800.258.7041.



A Vision Plan for TRTA Members Only

VSP is a nationwide provider of vision care benefits including coverage for comprehensive examinations, lenses, frames and contacts. Founded in 1955, VSP is



America's premier vision care provider with approximately one out

of every eight Americans having VSP vision benefits. VSP members enjoy a paperless system when using their vision care benefits through a network of over 22,000 independent optometrists and ophthalmologists. Most members enroll in VSP's Well Vision program to secure quality eyewear to correct their vision at a cost-effective price. VSP provides coverage in full for all standard spectacle lenses regardless of the prescription. Additionally, patients have a choice from a wide selection of popular frames, with a frame allowance that covers approximately 60% of the frames in today's market. You can obtain additional information concerning vision benefits at www.trtabenefits.com or by calling AMBA at 800.258.7041.

For MEMBERS ONLY For MEMBERS ONLY For MEMBERS ONLY

LET'S PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF!



THE BROWNSVILLE AREA RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: November 16, 2013

Time: 7:30 AM- Registration
8:30 AM- Shotgun Start

Format: 4 Person Florida Scramble

Location: Valley International Country Club

95 Country Club Road

Brownsville, Texas 78520

INFO: call Eric at VICC 956.548.9199

Prizes: 1st ~ \$500

2nd ~ \$300

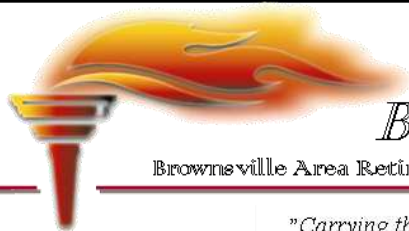
3rd ~ \$200

*Door Prizes
& more!*

*Entry Fee: \$300 per team includes
2 Golf Carts, Breakfast & Lunch*

*Pre-Register: call Dora Cackley at
956.451.4515 or email DoraCackley@aol.com*





BARSEA

Brownsville Area Retired School Employees Association

"Carrying the Torch for TRS Retirees"

YEARBOOK ADVERTISING

2013-2015

1. Full Page \$200 _____
2. ½ Page \$110 _____
3. ¼ Page \$60 _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

PLEASE ATTACH INFORMATION THAT YOU WISH TO HAVE INCLUDED IN YOUR ADVERTISEMENT.

Funds collected will be used to award scholarship(s) to students majoring in education and other altruistic projects.

✓ _____
Signature of advertiser's representative:

✓ _____
Signature of BARSEA member:

Please, make your check payable to **BARSEA**. Check # _____

Thank YOU for your support!

Our **YEARBOOK** is printed once every two years.

Please help BARSEA by selling Yearbook Ads to family members & friends. It does not have to be a business or organization. It could be a family dedicating an ad to their favorite teacher or anything their heart desires. Anyone selling an ad or buying an ad gets a free copy, as do all BARSEA Members with dues paid for 2013-14. Scholarship Donors of \$500 always get a free full-page ad. Our Yearbook includes our paid members Directory, Calendar of Events, contact information for our legislators, a beautiful collage of colorful pictures from past meetings and so much more.

DISTRICT I FALL CONVENTION- Monday, October 21st

We had 19 BARSEA members attend last year's District I Convention in Weslaco and a beautiful picture was printed in The Brownsville Herald with all attendees. Sign up to join our caravan to McAllen this year. Each car that carries 4 passengers receives mileage. Let's have a wonderful representation of the Brownsville Area local unit. \$12.75 for registration which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Email TamezTita@gmail.com or Call 455-5959 to sign up.

TRTA website
TRTA.org

BARSEA website:
localunit/TRTA.org

TRS website:
TRS.state.tx.us