

September, 2011

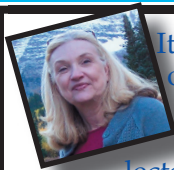


HARTA

Humble Area Retired Teachers Association

LOCAL ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (TRTA).
OPEN TO ALL RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL FROM ALL DISTRICTS
TRTA DISTRICT IV

President's Corner



It was great to see so many new retirees and returning HARTA members at our first meeting of the year. We had a great meeting with around 160 in attendance to welcome our newest members. Our thanks go out to Supt. Dr. Sconzo and Representative Dan Huberty for their inspiring messages. Our meeting was followed by a wonderful luncheon and we also collected a table full of children's books! Thank you to everyone who attended, donated books, bought raffle tickets, and brought some really good food!

You will not want to miss our next meeting on September 12 when we will learn about the Texercise fitness program. Wear some comfortable clothes and sneakers and come prepared to learn new and fun ways to be active. Also at this meeting we will once again be collecting children's books for new elementary classrooms so if you did not already donate books you can do so in September. See you there!

Mary

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our gatherings begin with a social time and refreshments at 9:30 and business meeting at 10:00.

When luncheons are held, they follow the business meeting.

Meetings are held at the HISD Instructional Support Center 4810 Magnolia Cove, Kingwood, Texas

MEETING DATES

UPCOMING TRIPS!

September 12	Texercise Bring a children's book
October 10	Stilwell Residence & Silent Auction
December 12	K-Park Choir with Luncheon & Holiday Gift Raffle
February 13	New Adventures in Retirement & Book Sale
April 9	Zumba & Yoga Exercise & Table Top Garage Sale
May 14	Luncheon & Awards

September 15	Geneology Trip
September 15	Houston Hot Spots!
October 11	Orange TX & Stark House
October 15	Texas Tenors
November	King Tut Exhibit
See inside pages for details	

August Meeting Highlights

The August 22nd meeting was a HUGE success!
Lots of good food and fellowship!

The crowd enjoyed a welcome by Dr. Sconzo as he begins his 11th year in Humble ISD. Good news for us! Congratulations on becoming a grandparent for the first time, Dr. Sconzo.



Our guest speaker, Dan Huberty gave us a very informative report. Dan has not only been working hard in the



Texas Legislature by supporting education and the teaching profession, but is also working on community affairs assisting us in many ways. If you are in Austin and would like a tour of the capital contact Dan's office. Thank you Dan!

Several new members were welcomed at the August meeting. 27 new retirees or new to HARTA were present at this meeting!

NEWS FLASH!
Member 344
Friends 84

Employment after Retirement

For those retirees who are interested in working after filing for retirement with TRS, make sure you are aware of the types of employment that may affect your annuity payments. Be sure to check with TRS about recent changes in the laws that pertain to retirees.

Visit the TRS website at www.trs.state.tx.us, click on the tab for Retirees & Beneficiaries, and access the publication entitled "Employment After Retirement," as well as the latest TRS newsletter and other information on recently adopted rules. Changes were recently made in rules for those who retired prior to January 1, 2011 and those who retired after that same date. For specific questions related to your circumstances contact TRS by calling 1-800-223-8778.

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\$100.00 EACH ONE BRING ONE \$100.00

You could win \$100.00 in a drawing that will be held at the TRTA Convention this March. For every retired school employee you persuade to join HARTA your name will be added to the drawing. The more new members you bring to HARTA the more chances you have to win the \$100.00. There will be one winner of \$100.00 for each District. Turn in the name of the new member and your name to Carolyn Monroe, Membership Chairman.

Carol Parten Treasurer

Bank Balance as of 8-23-2011	\$12,858.27
Scholarship Balance	\$ 6,683.85

Thanks to the following HARTA members for volunteering to bring a gift for the September scholarship drawing:

- Sunny Smith
- Carolyn Mashburn
- Carolyn Monroe
- Glenna Bagley
- Faith Hiller
- Susan Burroughs
- Karen Seay
- Ada Levins
- Mary Peterson

News from Nancy Rogers

Wow! What a great response for the "Book Collection" at the August meeting. You can still bring children's (gently used or new) books, preferably for 4th-5th grade levels but any children's books will be fine. After the September meeting, we will be taking them to a couple of new teachers who need books to build their classroom libraries. Karen Geffert is working with me on this project and we'd like to say a big "Thanks" to all of you who have already brought books.

See you at the next meeting,

Member Benefits Update Susan Burroughs

Did you meet Dan Jackson at the HARTA meeting on August 22nd? Dan is a resident of Humble and serves as our new local representative of Association Member Benefits Advisor (AMBA). He was available at the meeting to answer questions and give information on the many TRTA member benefits.

Importance of Physical Activity

Did you know that Texas is ranked 14th in the U.S. for the highest rate of adult obesity at 27.9?

Regular exercise can help keep you feeling and looking your best, but at busy times we often skip our daily exercise. Regular physical activity can help increase your overall health and lower the risk of developing chronic diseases. It also assists in promoting stronger and healthier muscles, bones and joints. Not only are you building stronger bones and protecting yourself against developing a chronic disease, but by exercising regularly, you will also have more energy. Exercise can also increase your stamina, which can help you perform daily activities such as shopping and climbing.



How do I start?

You don't need to join a gym to be on your way to a healthier life. Exercising at least five times a week for 30 minutes is a great way to begin. Regular physical activity can include daily living activities such as cleaning the house, gardening, and walking your dog. Why not find a HARTA friend and walk at a scheduled time on a scheduled day? Regular exercise and proper nutrition can help lead the way to a healthier you.

Fitness research has shown that providing people with a timed fitness program and related incentives a successful model for developing healthy habits.

HARTA will begin a 12-week Texercise program in September. By beginning our program at our September meeting and concluding it at our December meeting, it will be easier for all of us to get started and stay committed. Along the way, Texercise will provide us with motivation, coaching, and an end event (the December meeting) to celebrate. This program includes tools, resources, a time line, tips, fitness approaches and incentives.

What are the incentives?

Each person will receive a handbook: a handy guide with nutrition and fitness tips, and exercises to encourage us to adopt healthy habits. You will also receive a free pedometer so you can notice how much you regularly walk in a day and how much you increase your walking over time. If you would like, you can receive a Fit for the Health of It! DVD, also. Weekly you get to decide what kind of activity works best for you: walking, dancing, yoga, or anything that gets you moving. At the October meeting you will get more gifts: a stress ball, resistance band or something similar from the state of Texas. This is what they call the mid-point motivational incentive. Finally, at the December meeting everyone who has participated will receive a certificate of completion and a Texercise T-shirt. Most importantly, we all get to be a part of making Texas a healthier state.

Information and Protective Services Faith Hiller

A thank you note to HARTA from FOLK! Our good friends at the library wanted to thank you all for your huge turnout and donations to the teacher/student book sale held the week before school started. Because of you, many new teachers who are only starting this year will have a library of books to use in their classrooms. One particular case: a young man (he looked like a teenager) came in looking for materials to use in his new job as a history teacher/coach. He just graduated from school and heard FOLK was having a sale. Well, thanks to you all, we fixed him up with a twenty dollars donation made by a HARTA member gave him everything he needed for his classroom library. With a wonderful smile and words of thanks, he is ready.

TRTA Legislative Updates

TRTA is the largest organization of its kind in Texas or in the United States that represents solely the interests of retired public school employees. With 20 districts, 257 local units, and 62,000 retired public education employee members, TRTA is respected as the voice for Texas education retirees.

TRTA uses a true grassroots legislative approach. The most critical components in the association's legislative activities are the hundreds and thousands of dedicated local unit volunteers that regularly communicate with their legislative leaders. TRTA's legislative success is due in large part to the volunteers who take time to educate these elected officials on the issues impacting retired educators.

TRTA also utilizes a professional legislative staff comprised of the association's executive director, a professional lobbyist, and two volunteer legislative coordinators. This group is known as the TRTA Capitol Legislative Team.

TRTA 59th Annual Convention News!

Join us for our upcoming convention at the Westin Galleria, March 25-27, 2012. Reserve your room today and stay tuned for detailed convention schedule information.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can check out TRTA on Facebook?

Greetings from Dr. Guy Sconzo



Dear HARTA Family Members:

It was so great to get to be with you all for at least a little time during your opening of the new school year meeting! And thank you all so very much for your active participation in HARTA! You all are a very important organization on many levels and you make a difference for us every day and in so many ways!

Well, I'm very happy to report that the opening of this new school year could truly have not gone any better! Some typical first week of school air conditioning problems, a few late running buses, but all in all, our campuses were full of smiling and ready to go students and staff! I will have more to share with you about enrollment growth and the like next time.

For now, I do want to highlight the Curriculum Audit our Board had conducted by Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) this last year. PDK performs these audits for school districts across the country and they have proven to be very helpful in guiding districts to meet well researched based, higher level standards for delivering

rigorous instruction to all students! Our Curriculum Audit, both a twenty page Executive Summary, and the over two-hundred page full report, is on the district web site. I would encourage you to take the time to at least read the summary as the nine recommendations made by the PDK team will be our roadmap for moving forward and best assuring that 100% of students are college and career ready!

There is no one or anything that could change my sincere appraisal that we are very blessed to live and serve in a great school district. At the same time, we cannot ever stop seeking to improve and I expect the Curriculum Audit will significantly helps us to do just that!

Again, thank you for being a part of the HARTA family! You all are forever very important to and valued by us!

Thanks!
Guy

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Scholarship Fund could use some help. Each year, we try to raise enough money to award two graduating seniors a \$1,500 scholarship.

Our only fundraisers for the year are the Scholarship Raffle we have each meeting and the once a year Table Top Garage Sale. These usually bring in a little over \$200 each meeting. Therefore, we depend heavily on memorial contributions from our members. These contributions are tax-free donations in memory of a dear person, in honor of a person you would like to acknowledge, or just a donation to the Scholarship Fund.

At the time your donation is received, Sunny Smith will write a letter to the recipient, make a copy of the letter for you and also make a copy of your check for your records. These donations have been so well received by the person receiving a letter letting them know someone was thinking of them in such a thoughtful way.

Mail your check along with the memorial/honor scholarship form located in your newsletter to:

Sunny Smith
P.O. Box 342
Humble, TX 77347

Happy Birthday! September Birthdays



9- 1-Linda Byrnes, Denice Jones, 2-Don Hawes, Nancy Morrison, 3-Phyllis Hudson, Michael Say, 5-Gearld Mannix, Kent Richeson, Betty Walters, 6-Sherry Orr, 7-Judy Meaux, 8-Rey Depew, Carol Mann, Mike Sullivan, 10- Verna Larson, Linda Perlioni, Betty Wood, 11- Jerry Gilley, Jon Winfield, Patricia Winkler, 12- Randy Countryman, Sandi Hirschfield, Leslie LeGrand, 13- Joan Robinson, 14- Susan Gaile-Bain, 16- Jacquelyn Hinojosa, 18- Barbara Davis, Norma Deavours, Cardonia Rice, 19- Kim Gaddis, 20- Richard Foisner, 22- Linda Abdomoulaie, Kathleen Linnes, 23- Pat Dinhible, Sheila Lilley, Lynette Rodgers, Becky Streetman, 24- Tom Day, 25- Linda Hitchings, Wanda Johnson, 27-Jill Allen, Rita Grantham, Gloria Hester, 28- Buddy Johnson, Linda Zindler, 30-Robert Rushing

Carolyn Monroe was seen celebrating her birthday with friends at Sorrento's, Kingwood's newest fine dining restaurant.



Nibbles for September! Thanks!

The following have agreed to bring **treats** for the September 12th meeting

Linda Abdmoulaie
Carole Hood
Glenda Carriere
Karen Nypaver
Susan Clark
Rhonda Ellis
Bonnie Dudley

Pat Winkler agreed to bring **JUICE** for the meeting.
Thanks!

Fun Time

Sherry Orr enjoyed this summer!

My husband Randel and I spent 5 weeks in Europe. We rented a car out of Rome and made our own tour visiting Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, and Monaco.

Years of Buying Precinct 4 Raffle Tickets Pays Off
Pat Dinoble has purchased raffle tickets to support the Precinct 4 Fun4Seniors program since she retired. She has probably bought 100 \$2 tickets in this time. This year her \$20 investment paid off when she won one of the 4 prizes in the drawing at the Humble Convention Center. Sally Johnson sent Pat a message on Facebook to tell her she had won but didn't know which prize. Pat had to wait until Precinct 4 called that next Monday to find that she had won the \$1500 Visa Gift Card! A shopping spree



Fall Festival at Kings Harbor

Are you a crafter or just like buying crafts? Kings Harbor 1660 W. Lake Houston Pkwy is having a Fall Festival on October 1, from 4-10:00 p.m. There will be entertainment as well as arts and crafts.

Festival details www.kings-harbor.com

In Our Prayers

Alice Richardson's husband Freddie, has been ill. Let us hope for a speedy recovery.

Trips and Tours!

Thursday, September 15 Clayton Library Genealogy

The bus will leave from Stein Mart parking lot. We will load the bus at 9:15 A.M. and leave for Clayton at 9:30 A.M. Clayton Library opens at 10:00 A.M. For this trip HARTA is joining with The Humble Area Genealogy Society to share the bus, I expect the bus to be full. Most of us know that food and drinks are not allowed on the Precinct IV buses. We will leave Clayton at 4:00 P.M.; it will be a full day in the library. Libraries are not just "cool" places they are cold, so take a sweater or at least wear long sleeves. We will have a 45 minute introduction to using Clayton Library and then you can start your search. We will have our boxed lunches and bottled water available when you are ready for lunch. If you have any questions contact **Carolyn Monroe at Carolyn_monroe@yahoo.com**.

Thursday, September 15 One of a Kind!

Are you a typical resident and have not seen the tourist spots in your own city? This you opportunity to see some of the unique spots in Houston. Visit the Co-Cathedral, the Orange Show, and the Beer Can House. **Check with sponsors, Karen Seay, seaykaren3@gmail.com, or Susan Burroughs, txburro@embarqmail.com**.

Tuesday, October 11

Orange TX Stark House & Museum

Visit the Stark House and Museum in Orange TX. Cost only \$5.00 and lunch on your own at Roberts Meat Market & Steakhouse. Trip will be from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and travel will be with Precinct IV bus. **Check with sponsor, Artie DeHart, artiedehart@gmail.com**

Saturday, October 15

Texas Tenors

Did you see the Texas Tenors on America's Got Talent? This is your chance to see them in person. They will be at the Nathaniel Center. We will be arranging dinner at Amedeo's if you would like to join us for dinner before the show. Details coming.. **Check with sponsors, Mary Lou Schouweiler, marylouschouweiler@mac.com or Gloria Nath, glonath@aol.com**.

November

King Tut Exhibit

The King Tut Exhibit will be at the Museum of Natural Science. Join us for this exciting trip. Details will be coming soon. **Check with sponsor, Carolyn Mashburn, carolynmashburn@kingwoodcable.net**

Each year HARTA has been able to endow two scholarships to high school seniors with plans to major in Education due to the generous donations made to the:

HARTA Scholarship Contribution Form ~ "In Memory or In Celebration"

Credit the Humble Area Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Fund:

Amount \$ _____ Please send an acknowledgment letter:

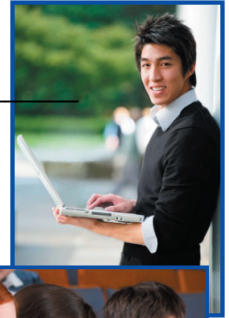
Please Check One: in memory of, OR in celebration of (name) _____

(Give the name and address of the person who should receive an acknowledgment letter.)

Please send an acknowledgement letter to me: (PRINT your name and address.)

Please make your check payable to: Humble ISD Scholarship Fund.
 On the "Memo" portion of your check, write HARTA Scholarship.

Mail your form and check to: HARTA c/o Sunny Smith
 P.O. Box 342
 Humble, TX 77347



**Humble Area Retired Teachers Assoc//Texas Retired Teachers Association
Membership Enrollment Form**

Name _____ Date _____ Amount Paid _____ *

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check the membership that pertains to you: New Member _____ Lifetime Member _____ Renewing Member _____ Associate Member _____ "Friend of HARTA" _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____
 (We will send legislative updates and breaking news)

From which school/dept/district did you retire? _____ Your Birthday (mo. & day) _____

Join for spouses/friends who are not TRS retirees:

Name of Friend of HARTA" _____ "Friend of HARTA's" Birthday (mo. & day) _____

How did you hear about HARTA? _____

***Annual Dues for Members and Associate Members: \$30 (\$5-HARTA- local & \$25 -TRTA-state)**

"Friend of HARTA": \$5 (local only). Please make your check payable to: HARTA.

Mail it to: HARTA, PO Box 14984, Humble, TX 77347 Attn: Carol Parten

