

DECEMBER, 2025

THE VOICE OF THE
FRISCO AREA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL



KAROL'S KOMMENTS

With Christmas just around the corner and the magic of glistening lights and the jingle of bells surrounding us, I would like to stop for just a minute and ask you - Why do we act the way we do around Christmas time? Why do we decorate our homes and put presents under the tree? What motivates us to spend hours putting up our decorations only to have to take them down in a month? For me, the answer is joy. It all brings me Joy! The joy of our Savior being born. The joy of giving gifts to emulate what God gave us when he gave us His Son. The joy that comes when the lights on the tree match the music that's playing. The joy of seeing my mother's Santa collection happily relocated to my home. The joy of remembering past Christmases with everyone gathered around the table enjoying each other's company. It's the joy of memories. And, it's also the joy of having friends. Our FARSP family has brought me so much joy over the years - the sharing of woes; the sharing of happy times; the sharing of each other's hearts. Nowhere else is there a group of folks like a group of retired educators. The experiences and the mindset that we share are rare. We are a superhuman entity. Not everyone can control a class of ninth graders; not everyone can put up with silly 3rd grade boys pulling pranks on the pretty girls; not everyone can recognize when a child needs a hug and not a trip to the office. But we could and did - in our days in the classroom.

So, thank you for bringing me joy in so many ways and being my friends. The gift of friendship far outweighs the new sweater under the tree or the new designer purse you had your eye on. I'll take a friend to talk to any day. And that, my friends, is why we do the things we do at Christmas. Jesus, Friends, and The Spirit of Christmas. The ultimate combination for Joy. Merry Christmas!

-Karol



- 7 ANNETTE SMITH
- 8 ANNE MCCAUSLAND
- 10 LINDA WILLIAMS
- 16 SANDY GUNN
- 17 WANDA WILKINS
- 20 BRENDA PIERCE
- 21 RON BRABEC
- 22 FRANCES JUSTUS
- 24 KIP BLEDSOE
- 26 LOU ANN WARREN
- 27 BRENDA GUTIERREZ
- 28 JEAN CORZINE



Let's get **UGLY** at the **FARSP Christmas Luncheon**

PRIZES FOR THE UGLIEST, CUTEST, & MOST ORIGINAL SWEATERS!

COST: \$5.00 PAY AT THE DOOR!

Wednesday December 3rd CTE Center

9:30am for chat time
10:00 meeting

WE'RE HAVING CANE'S BOX COMBOS!

Please RSVP to Karol! 214.727.2628



ADD 'EM UP, FRIENDS!!

The time is now!
Time to turn in your volunteer/community service hours for 2025!

If you have been turning in hours each month, that's great! If not, we need those numbers by Jan. 1st. FARSP has always shown the state what volunteering should look like! Let's do it again!

It doesn't have to be exact! Just give us a number!

EMAIL TO:
ssburkett@gmail.com
---Susan

BOOK PROJECT!

Principal Becca Penny and the Rogers Elementary staff were thrilled and so very appreciative of the 480 books that FARSP donated! We were able to not only place a book in every child's hands, but the 30 extras will allow Principal Penny to place books in the welcome bags that Rogers gives new students.

Thank you, thank you, dear members, for your kindness and generosity for supporting our goal of spreading literacy among young children.

If you have books that you have earmarked for our book project, please bring them to the December meeting. After December, we will not be collecting any more books. However...our Lending Library will be open for sharing through May! So, bring those books that you have enjoyed to share and take a few home for the holidays!

---Rhonda



TRTF!

TRTF is the part of TRTA that assists retirees in their time of need - whether it be housing, food, or attention, the foundation is the go-to for help. Well, TRTF is needing some love! They've helped so many of us, the resources have grown thin.

So we're going to help!

WELCOME TO SCRATCH-A-BALLOON A-PALOOZA!

WE WILL HAVE 75 SCRATCH-OFF "BALLOONS" WITH NUMBERS HIDDEN INSIDE AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING!

Pay \$5.00 as a donation to TRTF and scratch a "balloon"!

BUT, WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

EVERY BALLOON IS A WINNER OF SOMETHING!

THE TOP PRIZE IS A \$100 BILL!

SO, YOU SAY,

"HOW CAN THAT BE?"



WE HAVE SOME GENEROUS DONORS THAT MAKE THIS ACTIVITY

100% PROFITABLE

FOR TRTF!

SO, LET'S SCRATCH ALL 75 BALLOON CARDS AND SEE WHAT YOU WIN!!! I PROMISE YOU WILL SMILE!

GOT A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL? GREAT! SCRATCH FOUR! FOUR PRIZES! YOU COULD ALMOST DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!



WE HAVE A MATCHING DONOR!

LET'S DO THIS!!

Don't want to chance it? Then pick a gift from the table and pay \$10 (excluding envelopes).

IT'LL BE FUN!

-MARY



Care Crew

The "Care Crew" has been reaching out to our members that need our help or our attention and they are appreciative! Please let us know if you know of someone in need. There are forms on the check-in table, you can follow the link below, OR, you can email Paige directly.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P66HHZP>

Paige Almond

469-964-2206 paige.almond@sbcglobal.net



Ho Ho Ho

If you signed up to be a Secret Santa, you should have received your name. If not, contact Paige Almond. Please bring your gift to the December meeting and give it to your person.

Have fun shopping, Santas!! Thank you for participating!

---Paige



- PLEASE STOP BY THE TREASURER'S TABLE DURING SOCIAL TIME TO PAY FOR THE LUNCHEON IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.
- I'LL ALSO BE COLLECTING MONEY FOR THE LAST ORNAMENT ORDERS. CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH YOU!

--DEB





Christmas



WORD SEARCH

FIND ALL THE CHRISTMAS WORDS HIDDEN IN THE PUZZLE BELOW!

S V P O R N A M E N T B B N N
N E H I L U F Y O J G X Y M Y
O T O J N V S T O C K I N G S
W A L F R E C Y T N K Z E Y P
F R I V E O C N L E L L Y P M
L B D B Z S E O N I K P F B N
A E A Y W S T A N R M R Z D K
K L Y N E I C I A E O A S L Y
E E P R O Y N P V S Y L F M Q
L C P E D B S T T E L N D N Q
V W P N A N B K E E X L X J V
E M A L B C J I B R O Q L T D
S C P V N P E Y R C T T Q Y J

SNOWFLAKE
PINECONE
CANDYCANE
ELVES
HOLIDAY
COZY

ORNAMENT
FAMILY
FESTIVE
PRESENT
COLD
BELLS
WINTER

CELEBRATE
RIBBON
STOCKINGS
JOYFUL
PEACE
SPARKLE
FROST

WELCOME TO GLEE-ON-A-TREE

What do you
call a
reindeer with
only two legs?
Eileen

What is green,
covered in
Christmas lights
and Christmas
bulbs, and goes
ribbit? A mistle-
toad.

How
does Santa avoid
getting sick?
Santa-tizer

How do
Santa's elves
get to work?
The drive a
minivan.

Why did the woman
wear one boot and one
shoe?
She heard there was a
50-percent chance of
snow.

What do you
call a fake
Santa? A faux
Claus.

What do reindeer
use to decorate their
antlers?
Hornaments.

DID YOU KNOW...

Rudolph Was a Marketing Ploy

The beloved reindeer was created by a copywriter for the Montgomery Ward department store in 1939. He wrote Rudolph into a children's story that could be given out to promote the store. It was a huge hit, with more than 2.4 million copies distributed in its first year! In 1949 Gene Autry recorded the famous song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and in 1964 came the movie featuring the island of misfit toys.



Hanging Stockings Started by Accident

The historic St. Nicholas heard about the plight of a local man who did not have enough dowry money to marry off his three daughters. The generous St. Nick tossed some money down the chimney that landed in the ladies' stockings that were drying by the fire.

After that, the tradition stuck!



Only About Half of Americans Attend Christmas Services

You might have noticed that church attendance on Christmas Eve has felt less busy lately than when you were a kid. The Pew Research Center found that fewer people think of Christmas as a religious holiday these days. More specifically, about 51% of American adults attend a religious service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Christmas Decorating Sends

Nearly 15,000 People to the ER

If you've ever watched Clark Griswold decorate his house in Christmas Vacation this stat likely doesn't shock you. In fact, the Consumer Product Safety Commission's most recent news release estimates that 14,700 people visit hospital emergency rooms each November and December from holiday-related decorating accidents — which is about 240 injuries per day. The most common accidents involve falling,

lacerations and back problems.



Coca-Cola Played a Part in Santa's Image

Santa wasn't always the jolly man in red. Older depictions of Santa from the early 1900s depicted him more sternly, and there wasn't a standardized "look" for his appearance. The classic image of a happy and plump Santa that we all know today came in part from Coca-Cola ads, drawn in 1931 by illustrator Haddon

Sundblom.



Tinsel Has a Storied History

Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany. It was spun from real silver and then hammered out and was more of a luxury decoration than the cheap tree trimming it is today. The U.S. government once banned tinsel because it used to contain poisonous lead, but no need to worry now — it's just plastic. That said, it should still be kept away from young kids and pets since it can be a choking hazard.



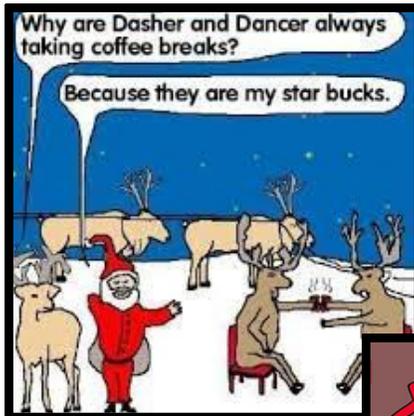
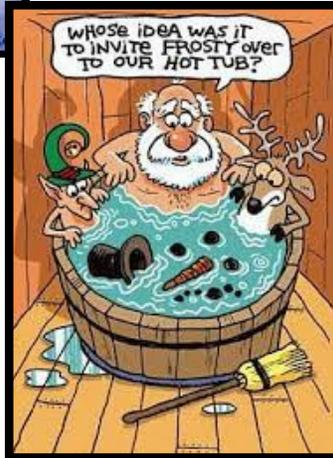
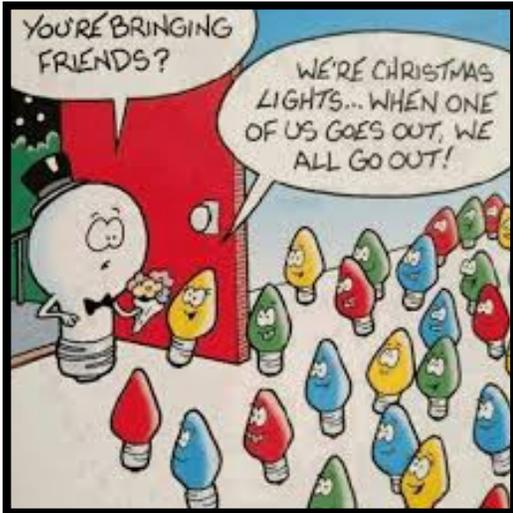
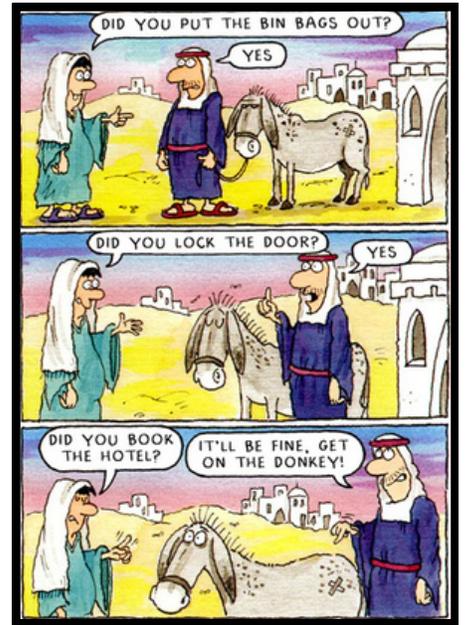
How many words can you
make using the letters in

“NUTCRACKER”

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Can you find more than anyone else? Bring your answers to the December meeting for a prize if you have the most words!

Ho Ho Ho!



HO
HO
HO





**THINGS TO DO IN
FRISCO IN DECEMBER**

1. Nack Theater Events

- **David Gaschens A
Celebration of Christmas**

Broadway star David Gaschens will perform a show celebrating the holiday season at The Nack Theater.

Dec. 19. 7 p.m.

\$30

6711 Oak St., Frisco
www.nacktheater.com



- **Master Magician John
Michael Hinton**

Magician John Michael Hinton will perform his blend of close-up magic, comedy and illusions. Hinton has been featured on “Penn & Teller: Fool Us” and “Good Morning, America.”

Dec. 13, 7 p.m.; Dec. 21- Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

\$28-\$215

Nack Theater, 6711 Oak St., Frisco
www.nacktheater.com

2. Dashing Through The District Holiday Market

Fri, 05 Dec, 2025 at

05:00 pm to 08:00 pm

3255 PGA Pkwy, Texas 75033

Stroll through the festive décor in the PGA District and find a holiday night market with a curated selection of vendors offering unique gifts, holiday treats, and handcrafted treasures perfect for everyone on your list. Seasonal beverages will be available for purchase while you shop!

**OLDTIMER'S
RHYMERS**



a fast present (1)

□ □ □ □ ■ □ □ □ □

BEING AFRAID OF RUDOLPH (1)

□ □ □ □ ■ □ □ □ □

WHEN SANTA STOPS (1)

□ □ □ □ ■ □ □ □ □

PAWNING YOUR SOCK (2)

□ □ □ □ □ □ ■ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

ONE BELL RINGING (2)

□ □ □ □ □ □ ■ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Each set rhymes. The number after the clue is the number of syllables each side has.

SWIFT GIFT
DEER FEAR
CLAUSE PAUSE
HOCKING STOCKING
SINGLE JINGLE



Christmas

WORD SEARCH

Unscramble these Christmas-themed words!

1. CRLAMHSITOCAR

.....

2. ASACTNULAS

.....

3. HGILTS

.....

4. SLEBL

.....

5. TLOEIMSET

.....

6. FTIGS

.....

7. TRENAMON

.....

8. WLNAFOSL

.....

9. NLEGA

.....

10. TRENIW

.....

11. VETSFIE

.....

12. DYALOIH

.....

13. GNPIRWAP

.....

14. YOT ZCOY

.....

15. ICMSU

.....

16. LORYHW HALETH

.....

**2025 - 2026 TRTA and
FriscoArea Retired School Personnel
Membership Form**

**Check if any of your
information has changed**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Date of Birth _____ / _____
Month/Day
Email _____

*Directories will be emailed electronically to all paid members.

*If you would like a **hard copy of the Directory, please include \$5.00** with your dues.

*If you would like a **hard copy of the Directory mailed to you, please include \$7.00** with your membership dues.

- I receive an annuity from a teacher retirement system (Circle one) YES NO
- I am renewing my TRTA/local membership _____
- I am a new member _____

TRTA membership year: July 1, 2025– June 30, 2026. Membership dues are not tax deductible.

What is the TRTA Diamond Plus Program? To learn more about the program visit www.trtadiamondplus.org

TRTA offers FOUR easy ways to join! Please check one.

- Option A - Annual TRTA dues \$35.00 + \$20.00 Local dues (Total of \$55.00)**
1.) Complete the enrollment form above. 2.) Give your local Membership Chair your form plus a check for \$55.00 to cover both TRTA and local chapter dues.
- Option A2 – Annual TRTA dues, local dues and a hard copy of the directory. (\$60.00)**
1.) Complete the enrollment form above. 2.) Give your local Membership Chair your form plus a check for \$60.00 to cover TRTA, local dues and a hard copy of the directory.
- Option A3 – Annual TRTA dues, local dues and a hard copy of the directory mailed to you. (\$62.00)**
2.) Complete the enrollment form above. 2.) Give your local Membership Chair your form plus a check for \$62.00 to cover TRTA, local dues and a hard copy of the directory.
- Option B- Monthly payroll deduction \$2.92 (Diamond Plus Program)**
You must receive a TRS annuity to enroll. The TRS System of Texas will withhold \$2.92 for TRTA membership dues from your monthly TRS annuity check. 1.) Complete the TRS Form 593 along with the enrollment form above. TRS 593 is available for download at www.trta.org/TRS593 2.) Give your local Membership Chair your completed forms plus a check for **\$20.00 to cover local chapter dues, or \$25 for dues and a hard copy directory.**

Anyone can join TRTA! You do not have to be a retired educator.

____ Yes, I would like to make a monetary donation to the book project. \$ _____

____ Yes, I would like to make a donation to help fund FARSP programming and other projects. \$ _____

____ Yes, I would like to donate money to the TRTA Foundation (TRTF). \$ _____

Mail completed forms and checks made out to FARSP to:

Check #: _____

Date: _____

*** Vickie Ryan**

11210 Coralberry Dr.

Frisco, TX 75033