



Austin Retired Teachers Association

Regular Monthly Meeting

Friday, October 10, 2025

Hybrid Meeting: In Person or Zoom at Faith Lutheran Church



AGENDA

ZOOM LOG-IN/SOCIAL TIME: 9:15 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85025126693?pwd=JBbLTGRS9mmlbQ9rFzkobSRrRhVfVJ.1>

Meeting ID: 850 2512 6693 Passcode: Retired

*****ARTA Meet & Greet Commitment!*****

GATHERING:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1) Call to Order/Announcements | Norma Jost |
| a. Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. and Texas Flags | Linda Burns |
| b. Inspiration | Yolanda Uribe Rangel |
| 2) Introduction of Guests/New Members | Betty Zschesche |
| 3) ARTA Foundation Report/Memorials | Glenda Black & Linda Harvey |

4) PROGRAM:

Introduction of Speaker Mary Alice Hatchett
 “Connecting Children With Their Incarcerated Moms Through the Joy of Literature”
 Tim Ball, Development Associate, Women’s Storybook Project of Texas

----- Break: Fall Music and Exercise with LAURIE BARBER -----

PLUS 5 Door Prizes with Gloria Lenoir & Catherine van Zanten

5) BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| a. Approval of September 12, 2025, Minutes | Marcia Caldwell |
| b. Treasurer’s Report | Tony Dishner |
| c. Amendments to Standing Rules Vote | Joe Ramirez |
| d. Volunteer/Community Involvement | Marsha Lyons-Gray |
| e. Membership Update | Bonnie Cross & Terry Morganti-Fisher |
| f. Member Benefits Update | Laura Grayson |
| g. Legislative Update | Craig Campbell & Gloria Lenoir |
| h. ARTA Website Update | Judy Wallace |
| i. ARTA Vests, Aprons, & Patches | Gladys Havel |
| j. Faith Lutheran Church 75th Anniversary Block Party | Norma Jost |
| k. Announcements and Reminders | Norma Jost |
| l. Door Prizes | Gloria Lenoir & Catherine van Zanten |

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|----------------|------------|
| 6) Adjournment | Norma Jost |
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Next Meeting: November 14, 2025, Veterans Day Celebration – Honor our Veterans!

“National Museum of the Pacific War: 80 Years After the End of World War II”

Bill Dolman, National Museum of the Pacific War

TRTA Photo Policy: If a TRTA member wishes not to be photographed, recorded, or appear in TRTA promotional items, the member should avoid any cameras in the area.

Refer to the meeting packet for the full text of this policy.

Follow us at our ARTA Website, Facebook & Instagram sites:

Website <https://austinrta.org/>, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TRTA.org>, Instagram https://www.instagram.com/austin_rta



Purchase ARTA Keychains for \$1 – ARTA Foundation Fundraiser!!





Austin Retired Teachers Association

Meeting Highlights, September 12, 2025

In Person at Faith Lutheran Church and on Zoom

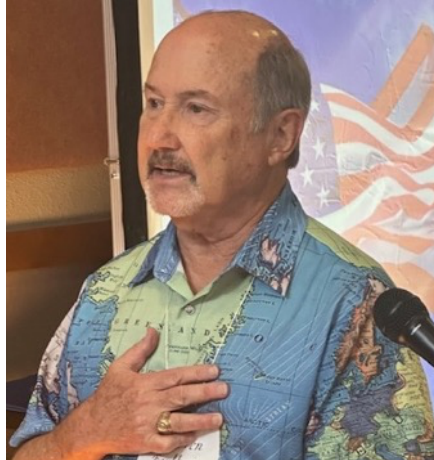
Joyce Clendennen, ARTA Historian



ARTA President Norma Jost called the meeting to order and said area superintendents need our help.



Warren Faulkner led the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.



TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee gave a TRTA Update: "Report on the 89th Legislative Session."



Audit Chair Anne Hyzak praised the treasurers of ARTA and ARTA Foundation for their financial records.



ARTA Treasurer Tony Dishner presented the ARTA budget for 2025-2026, which was approved by ARTA members.



Trish Davis collected pill bottles for Austin Pets Alive! that were donated by ARTA members.



Marilyn Gregory, Norma Jost, AMBA representative Jessica Marchi-Andrews and Liz Abrahams are with service dog Lacie.



ARTA's technology team Judy Wallace and new member Adam Miller, with ARTA President Norma Jost, worked to provide Zoom for those that can't attend in-person ARTA meetings.





Austin Retired Teachers Association
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
Friday, September 12, 2025
Via In person/Zoom



The regular monthly meeting of the Austin Retired Teachers Association was held Sept. 12, 2025, in person and via Zoom. In attendance, there were 93 in person and 9 on Zoom for a total of 102 attendees.

GATHERING

Call to Order/Announcements: President Norma Jost called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags: Warren Faulkner led the pledges.

PROGRAM:

Program Introduction and Presentation: Gloria Cisneros Lenoir introduced Tim Lee, Executive Director of TRTA and sought-after speaker, for the initial meeting of the year. He presented his report on the 89th Texas Legislative Session. He thanked the members of ARTA for standing so solidly behind him and being present as TRTA works to support retired teachers. His top items going forward are to ensure the sustainability of TRS, increase benefits, and maintain TRS healthcare and insurance. He addressed working toward better funding of education, revoking vouchers, and getting rid of the Robin Hood system for using property values to finance public education.

Lee also emphasized increasing membership as there are far more actual retired teachers than TRTA members. For stronger generational power, Lee wants to see the membership double statewide.

Inspiration: Marcia Caldwell read a quote from Margeret Atwood who suggests we can find a way to go around obstacles like water does.

BREAK/Exercise with Laurie Barber

Social Committee: Patty Young and Barbara Wilson introduced their theme of what you did last summer. They are asking members to document summer trips or accomplishments on Post-it Notes and place them on or near the destination on a map.

Perfect Attendance in 2024–2025: Identification Committee Co-chair Lois Mayes recognized 18 members listed in the meeting packet for perfect attendance. From those names, Glenda Black was selected to have her ARTA dues paid for 2026-2027.

Introduction of Elected and Appointed Officers: President Norma Jost recognized the elected and appointed officers for 2025–2026. They are pictured in the 2025–2026 ARTA Yearbook.

ARTA Foundation Report/Memorial Tributes: Glenda Black and Linda Harvey said they were pleased to announce all 13 of the 2025 scholarship recipients are enrolled in college and have received their scholarship funds. There are also three successful continuing scholarships.

They announced Marilyn Gregory will also be on the Foundation's board.

Memorial tributes for Jane Willis, Judith Kalb, Betty Owen, Mary Beth Bach, Charlene Zimmermann, Kimberly Royal, Joe Bell, and Rusty Cribbs were shared. A tribute to Kay Head was posted in the meeting packet.

Introduction of Guests/New Members: Betty Zschiesche announced over 43 first-time members who have joined ARTA since the May 9 meeting. They are listed in the meeting packet. She recognized the new members in attendance.

BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS

Approval of May 9, 2025, Minutes: The minutes were approved for filing.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tony Dishner reviewed the Treasurer's Report for June, July, and August 2025 posted in the meeting packet. The report was filed for audit as presented. He discussed the proposed 2025–2026 ARTA budget and moved on behalf of the Budget Committee to accept the 2025–2026 budget as presented. The membership voted to accept the budget.

Audit Report: Audit chair Anne Hyzak and members of the Audit Committee conducted a review of all ARTA accounts on July 23 and found them to be in order. On behalf of the Audit Committee, she moved that the report be approved as presented. The membership approved the motion.

Standing Rules Committee: Past President Joe Ramirez spoke in place of committee chair Jane Garner. The proposed change in the ARTA Standing Rules is posted on the last page of the meeting packet. He gave the 30-day announcement of the official proposal, and it will be voted on at the October meeting.

Membership Report: Terry Morganti-Fisher reported that after many emails, phone calls, and mail-outs, ARTA has 654 paid members. HEB gift cards were drawn and presented to members present.

ARTA Yearbook Update: Editor Marilyn Gregory and her committee just mailed the 2025–2026 Yearbook to the members. It was later than planned due to information changes.

Member Benefits Update: Laura Grayson said she was happy to announce there are no TRS-Care premium changes planned for 2026. She recommended members sign up for the TRS online publication *The Pulse*, which can be found at <https://www.trs.texas.gov>.

Volunteer Services/Community Involvement: Marsha Lyons-Gray highlighted the organizations ARTA collects items for at the monthly meetings. They are SAFE Alliance, Austin Pets Alive!, The Lions Club Eyeglasses Recycling, and The Children's Book Project. Lyons-Gray also reminded the group that she set a three-million-dollar in-kind value for volunteer hours in 2025. Members shared new opportunities for volunteering: Linda Burns suggested Academy 4 tutoring during the day at Hart Elementary, and Emma Lea Mayton and Kristen Marstaller said Pioneer Farms needs living history volunteers.

District 13 Fall Conference: District 13 President Joe Ramirez reminded members it was not too late to plan to go to the Fall Conference at the San Marcos Activity Center on September 17.

Door Prizes: Door prizes were awarded.

Adjournment: President Norma Jost adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Marcia Caldwell, Secretary

Norma Jost, President

AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 1–30 2025

Money Market

Initial Month Balance	\$	2,169.16		
Income/expenses	\$	0.63		
Ending Balance	\$	2,169.79	\$	2,169.79

Member Savings

Initial Month Balance	\$	515.86		
Dividend	\$	4.16		
Ending Balance	\$	520.02	\$	520.02

A+ Checking

Initial Month Balance	\$	17,888.27		
Deposits	\$	764.88		
Expenses	\$	(3,326.94)		
Ending Balance	\$	15,326.21	\$	15,326.21

Start-Up Certificate	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
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12 month Certificate

Initial Month Balance	\$	2,342.85		
Dividend	\$	7.57		
Ending Balance	\$	2,350.42	\$	2,350.42

24 Month Certificate

Initial Month Balance	\$	2,328.82		
Dividend	\$	7.66		
Ending Balance	\$	2,336.48	\$	2,336.48

Total			\$ 23,702.92	
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Tony Dishner
Treasurer



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the fall breezes bring cooler weather, we know many joys are ahead. I hope this note finds you well, and I am excited to welcome you to our upcoming meeting. You are invited to attend Friday, October 10th, at our usual social time beginning at 9:15 a.m. The Welcoming Committee will be ready to greet you, locate your ARTA name tag, assist with locating the door prize sign-up, and guide you to the refreshments table, where you'll find delicious food and coffee. Please see additional information about the ARTA Standing Rules amendments we are voting on, the fun ARTA website scavenger hunt, and exciting information about ARTA Volunteer Services/Community Involvement! Please be aware that our November 4 election is around the corner with 17 proposed constitutional amendments. Our ARTA Legislative Committee will give more information at our meeting.

We have our first ARTA Foundation fundraiser with \$1 ARTA keychains to market our organization. We hope to add car magnets, tote bags, coffee cups, etc. in the coming months. Furthermore, we are currently selling ARTA vests, aprons, and patches—please check with Gladys Havel at the meeting. Please remember to bring these donations to all meetings: eyeglasses for the Lions Club, items for SAFE Alliance, books for the TRTA Children's Book Project, and empty pill bottles for Austin Pets Alive!. Trisha Davis let us know at the last meeting that labels can stay on the pill bottles.

While we are thrilled to welcome many new TRTA and ARTA members, we are still missing 68 members from last year who have not yet renewed their dues. Thank you to all 667 members who have paid their dues! Dues are \$15 or \$50, and ARTA members have made incredible efforts—through rewards, letters, postcards, and phone calls—to reach out. Thank you all for your dedication to this Herculean task. We heard from TRTA Director Tim Lee last month: WE NEED MEMBERS.

We are honored to partner with Faith Lutheran Church, Pastor Taylor, and handyman Mike Davidson, who have invited us to their **Faith Lutheran Church 75th Anniversary Block Party** on Saturday, October 25, from

5:00–7:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. This special evening will include fall activities, live music, a free dinner, and their ever-popular trunk-or-treat. ARTA will host a decorated trunk of goodies, and we'd love your help to make it shine! **You can participate by:**

- Donating candy or small prizes
- Helping decorate the trunk
- Attending with me to welcome families.

If you'd like help with anything or join me on 10/25, please sign up at the October meeting or email me at njost2@yahoo.com.

Mark your calendars - It is NEVER too early! TRTA will hold its first Virtual House of Delegates Live event in San Marcos on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. We will be calling on ARTA members to attend, and more information will be available in 2026. Please reach out to me or District 13 President Joe Ramirez if you have questions.

Together, we can keep building momentum, supporting each other, and strengthening our membership.

Norma Jost
ARTA President 2024-2026

TRTA PHOTO POLICY

At public TRTA events (such as convention), including at the local, district, and state levels, photos may be taken by TRTA staff and/or volunteers. TRTA may use likenesses of its members in photographs, videos, or other digital or social media ("photo") in its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration. If a TRTA member wishes not to be photographed, recorded, or appear in TRTA promotional items, the member should avoid any cameras in the area.

This should be in your directory, on every printed agenda, and/or posted at a sign-in table, and/or posted on screen if using technology projection, and/or announced at the beginning of meetings for every TRTA event you host or participate in.



**WELCOME, NEW ARTA MEMBERS!**

Welcome to the first-time ARTA members who joined after our September 12 regular meeting! Your fellow members are honored that you are now part of our organization.

We have plenty of committees that you can join. Do not hesitate to contact me at **njost2@yahoo.com** if you are interested in joining any of our committees. I will then place you in contact with the appropriate committee chairs.

Please welcome the following new ARTA members:

- Dorothy Marshall
- Samantha Mitchell
- John O'Sullivan
- Ed Tobia

*Norma Jost
ARTA President 2024-2026*

IN MEMORIAM

Sara Bolton Ezell was born in Wharton, Texas, in 1938. She graduated from Wharton High School and earned a bachelor's degree in math from Lamar University and a master's degree in education from the University of Houston. She taught middle school math and science in the Friendswood School District for 35 years.

She was a sixth generation Texan, a descendant of her family patriarch Col. Charles Louis Bolton, early settler in Wharton and Galveston counties.

She was active in the Lakeway Chapter of TRTA and played in multiple bridge groups. She was active in AAUW and Austin Newcomers. She died January 19, 2025, at age 86. She was a member of ARTA from 2016 to 2025.

William Roy Armentrout was born in Christine, Texas, in 1936. He began as a shop teacher and coach at Fulmore Junior High in 1958. He became assistant principal at Fulmore in 1966 and was named principal in 1971. After serving 15 years there in that position, he became the first principal at Covington Middle School in 1986. He was named AISD Administrator of the Year in 1975 at Fulmore and in 1988 at Covington. He retired and lived in Fredericksburg. He and his wife Ann visited 48 states and Canada in their RV. He enjoyed

hunting and fishing and was an avid golfer and woodworker, crafting much of his own furniture.

He died August 29, 2025, at age 89. He was a member of ARTA from 1991 to 2001.

*Glenda Black, President
ARTA Foundation*

ARTA FOUNDATION

Your ARTA Foundation needs you to donate. We are a 501(c)(3) so your contributions are tax deductible! To date, we have collected \$6,637.87, which is only 39.5% of the \$16,800 needed to cover fourteen scholarships of \$1200 each. We only have October, November and December to collect for our 2026 scholarships. Look at your charitable giving for this year. Have you included our Foundation? Send a check to our Foundation treasurer, Linda Harvey, or give her a check at our monthly meeting. Thank you for your support of future educators.

*Glenda Black, President
ARTA Foundation*

MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE

UnitedHealthcare beneficiaries are encouraged to create an online account on the UHC website, **uhc.com**. It's easy; just follow the instructions once logged in to **uhc.com**. In using the online account, members can track the status of claims, keep up with benefits and special UnitedHealthcare offers and take advantage of UnitedHealthcare's over-the-counter (OTC) benefits. Every quarter, \$40.00 credits are loaded into this account by UHC; the credits expire at the end of each quarter. Credits can be used to purchase a variety of over-the-counter medications and personal healthcare aids. In the past, UHC mailed a catalog of products available for purchase; now the list is only online. Selected purchases are mailed to members' homes. Credits associated with returned items will expire at the end of the original benefit period or 30 days after the return is made, whichever is longer. Current credits were deposited on 10/01/25 and will expire on 12/31/25.

*Laura Grayson & Lucia Facundo, Co-chairs
Member Benefits Committee*



ARTA MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks to the 661 members who have paid their TRTA/ARTA dues as of September 25, 2025!

Friendly Reminder for the 68 members from last year that have not renewed: If you haven't had a chance to renew, it's not too late. Dues may be paid online at our ARTA website: <https://austintrta.org/membership> or by cash, check, or credit card at our upcoming ARTA meeting.

We need to reach **at least** 797 members by February 28th to receive our membership rebate!

We are on the search for new members! Please share the ARTA membership form and our website link with a retired friend. Be sure to let the membership chairs know when you have recruited a new member. Your name will be entered in a drawing with other District 13 members for a chance to win a \$50.00 check in March 2026.

Please contact us at tamf5683@gmail.com or bonnie@bonniecros.com with any questions.

Thank you for your membership and support.

*Bonnie Cross & Terry Morganti-Fisher
ARTA Membership Committee Co-chairs*

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee would like to thank the following executive board members for providing yummy treats for our September meeting: Trish Davis, Warren Faulkner, Laura Grayson, Marilyn Gregory, Norma Jost, Gloria Cisneros Lenoir, Terry Moganti-Fisher, Joe Ramirez, Debbie Sansom, Catherine van Zanten, and Judy Wallace. Additionally, thanks to all the members who participated in our "What did you do? Where did you go?" game. Not everyone submitted names, but below is a synopsis of what some of us did this past summer. Please follow up with introductions and questions as we work harder this year to connect with each other.

Gloria Franco: Went to Pamplona, Spain, to watch the Running of the Bulls.

Norma Jost: Went with her choir to Austria and Prague. Then she went to see her son and his fiancée in Nederland, Colorado.

Debbie Sansom: Spent all of June with her kids and grandkids, half the time in Kauai, Hawaii, and the other half in Port Aransas, Tx.

Joe Ramirez: Had NO travel! Instead he worked on District 13 and ARTA all summer!

Catherine van Zanten: Visited her son and his wife in Germany for three weeks and later spent time in Maine.

Judy Wallace: Worked on the ARTA website and her 50th McCallum High School Reunion.

Barbara Wilson: Sang with her choir in Salzburg, Austria! It was amazing!

Also the map showed **Emma Lea Mayton** going to Ecuador and the United Kingdom; **Pat Emmert** was in Yucatan, and **Nancy Lehmann-Carsow** was in Africa.

Names not given:

- Traveled with family to beautiful Lake Conroe with clean water, great pools, and miniature golf.
- Traveled to D.C. with grandsons (ages 7 & 9). Both loved the Lincoln Memorial. Then we took the train from there to New York City!
- Went to Randall's, HEB, Costco, and Sam's for day fun and then the movie *Summer Night*.
- Did a road trip from Florida to New York and explored Shenandoah National Park.

*Patty Young, Chair
Second Vice-President*

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Thanks to Norma Jost for bringing to our attention the most recent article in *The Texas Tribune* about the 17 proposed constitutional amendments that will appear on the November 4, 2025, ballot. The majority of the propositions address tax cuts for homeowners and businesses. María Méndez reports in the article that two joint resolutions were passed by the Texas Legislature earlier in the year authorizing the vote for the constitutional amendments this November. The state's budget for the next biennium includes \$51 billion for property tax cuts.

Proposition 1 creates an endowment for the Texas State Technical College System.



Propositions 11 and 13 address school tax exemptions.

Méndez states that “some lawmakers and budget analysts have raised concerns that passing more tax cuts, especially on school district taxes which the state helps pay for, could be unsustainable.”

While the state of Texas is pushing tax cuts and tax bans, on the local level, like in Austin, we are seeing local propositions increasing property tax rates. Shannon Halbrook, a fiscal policy director for the Every Texan organization, predicts that state and local governments will face severe challenges in providing public services in areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure if the propositions are passed.

Upcoming important dates:

- Texas voters need to be registered to vote by October 6, 2025.
- Early voting will run from October 20–31, 2025.
- Election day is November 4, 2025.
- The deadline for counties to receive applications to vote by mail is October 24, 2025.

You will find important legislative dates on this link:

<https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/Dates-of-Interest.pdf>.

Source:

<https://www.texastribune.org/2025/09/22/texas-statewide-propositions-november-ballot-election/>, Retrieved 10/2/25

Other good sources to learn more about the proposed constitutional amendments:

<https://communityimpact.com/austin/south-central-austin/election/2025/09/22/what-to-know-about-the-17-state-propositions-on-the-nov-4-ballot/>, Retrieved 10/2/25

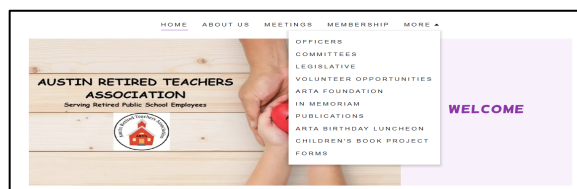
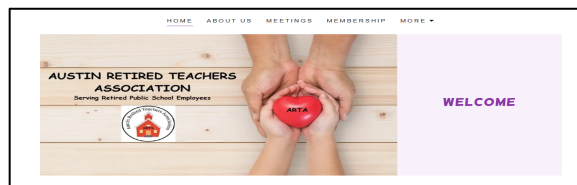
<https://texasimpact.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Proposed-Amendments-for-Nov.-2025.pdf>, Retrieved 10/2/25

*Gloria Cisneros Lenoir, Co-Chair
Legislative Committee*

ART A WEBSITE

Use your smartphones to log into the ART A website:

austinrta.org



Turn to the person(s) next to you and see how many of the following questions you and your partner(s) can answer in the next few minutes.

- On what page can you learn about ART A's origins?
- Who will be the guest speaker at the March Luncheon?
- How many appointed officers serve ART A?
- Can you pay your dues online? If so, is there a processing fee?
- How many committees are there?
- Can you donate to the ART A Foundation online?
- What was the value of the volunteer hours in 2024?
- Where can you see TRTA Legislative efforts?
- What publications are available on our website?
- How many forms are available on the Forms page? Are any of those forms available elsewhere on the website?

Do you have any suggestions for changes or additions?

Please write any suggestions on the index cards left on your chair and leave them in the basket on the technology table.

*Judy Wallace, Co-Chair
Technology Committee*



VOLUNTEER SERVICES/ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Fall Is In The Air!

What Does It Actually Mean?

As the days grow shorter and temperatures start to drop, nature signals the arrival of fall renewal and cozy excitement, marked by traditions like pumpkin picking, harvest festivals, and a warm drink by the fire. It is a time of sharing with friends, family, and those who may need a little help and support.

Please ramp up your giving back through your commitment to Community Involvement. According to a UT study led by Sae Hwand Han, regular volunteering outside the home can slow cognitive aging by 15-20%. The study found that these cognitive benefits accumulate with ongoing participation, not just in the short term.

Keep a record of your involvement activities. Qualifying activities include but are not limited to attending ARTA meetings, unpaid babysitting or elder care, serving communion at your house of worship, preparing event refreshments, and participating in telephone or "Hi, how are you" committees. You may count 12 hours of community involvement per day from the time you leave home until you return.

In all honesty, **please, please** turn in your community involvement hours weekly, monthly, or quarterly. We all know time passes quickly, and suddenly, the deadline has passed, and we are unable to share our work with ARTA members, district retired teacher groups and state leaders. Remember you have options as to when and how you turn in your report on or before December 31, 2025.

Whether you choose to volunteer at a local shelter, mentor youth, or take part in neighborhood cleanups, every effort helps to build a more supportive and connected community. Consider exploring new ways to contribute to the season of sharing your experiences.

New Opportunities

For Community Involvement

*East Side Community Mission:

Volunteers, including Spanish-speaking volunteers, and donations are needed at the mission. ECM provides groceries, rental, and

utility assistance among other services for our Austin neighbors and community. Volunteers may help with answering phones, transporting food, and assist in the clothes resale store. Donations of cash, non-perishable foods, and gently used clothing are always welcome. Please contact Chris King by phone or text 512-297-6171 or email Gloria Franco (a new ARTA member) at franco.gloria2@gmail.com.

***Moore-Hancock Farmstead:** Karen Sikes Collins is the owner and steward of the Moore-Hancock Farmstead. This homestead is Austin's oldest log cabin and sits on its original site. Karen has spent years restoring the property and uncovering the stories tied to this historic homestead. The staff at the farmstead are seeking volunteers with experience working with young people to serve as docents. To prepare new docents, we are offering two initial October training sessions with additional ones that are likely in November.

Thursday, October 16th 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 17th 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Please reach out to Andrew Gonzales, a former AISD teacher and current AISD trustee for South Central Austin, for additional information. Contact Mr. Gonzales at

andrew.rongonzales@utexas.edu. The farmstead website is:

<http://moorehancockfarmstead.com>.

*Marsha Lyons-Gray, Chair
Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Committee*

DISTRICT 13 FALL CONFERENCE

TRTA District 13 held a successful fall conference at the San Marcos Activity Center on September 17, 2025. Ninety-seven members from all 14 chapters attended. Special presentations were made by TRS Benefits Officer Barbie Pearson, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore Ed Rogers, and TRTA Secretary/Treasurer Gary Schepf, who brought greetings from TRTA and made a special presentation on the "do's" and "don'ts" of fundraising and finances. Schepf also invited all chapters to attend the virtual TRTA House of Delegates that will take place on March 25, 2026. The District 13 Spring Conference will take place immediately after the House of Delegates adjourns on that day. AMBA representative Brad Franchione and his



team also gave an overview of member benefits provided by AMBA and compared these to the benefits provided by TRS.

District 13 officers for the 2026-2028 biennium were elected during the business meeting. All current officers were reelected to their respective offices:

- Joe Ramirez, President, Austin RTA
- Melanie Mica, First Vice-President, Fayette County RTA
- Alice Castillo, Second Vice-President, San Marcos ARTS
- Shelly McNulty, Secretary, Bastrop County RTA
- Michial Meyer, Williamson County RTA

These officers will be installed at the March 25 Spring Conference that will take place at the San Marcos Activity Center.

Members attending the conference also voted in favor of two proposed amendments to the TRTA Bylaws that will give non-TRS annuitants greater opportunities to serve in the future as district committee chairs and as delegates from local chapters to the House of Delegates. Both amendments were forwarded to TRTA along with a rationale for these proposed changes and will be voted on by all state delegates at the March 25 Virtual House of Delegates.

*Joe Ramirez
District 13 President, 2024-2028*

TRTA: CELEBRATING OUR CONNECTION TO YOU!

SAVE
THE
DATE!

HOUSE OF DELEGATES LIVE!
MARCH 25, 2026

COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

RIO GRANDE CITY | CORPUS CHRISTI
EDNA | CYPRESS | BEAUMONT
HUNTSVILLE | JACKSONVILLE
PITTSBURG | WICHITA FALLS | ALLEN
WHITE SETTLEMENT
WACO | SAN MARCOS | ABILENE
BROWNWOOD | AMARILLO
LUBBOCK
MIDLAND | EL PASO | SAN ANTONIO

Proposed Amendments to the ARTA Standing Rules
By Jane Garner, Standing Rules Committee Chair

The Standing Rules Committee proposes the adoption of the following proposed amendments to align the responsibilities of the ARTA Second Vice-President, Treasurer, and Communications Committee Chair to the current TRTA Bylaws, District 13 Standing Rules, and the new TRTA Operations Emergency Plan. Membership will vote on these proposed amendments at the October 10 ARTA meeting to go into effect July 1, 2026:

If adopted, **Rule 7.1.4** as amended shall read:

The Second Vice-President shall:

- a. preside in the absence of the President and First Vice-President;
- b. serve as chair of the Communications Committee;
- c. represent the chapter Communications Committee at the district and state levels;
- d. promote the Children's Book Project and serve as coordinator or work with the assigned Children's Book Project coordinator;
- e. promote or work with the Technology chair and committee to maintain local chapter website, newsletters, and social media.

If adopted, **Rule 7.1.6** as amended will include the additional two responsibilities:

The Treasurer shall:

- g. complete the annual review and revision of the TRTA Operations Emergency Plan with assistance from the President, Technology Chair and the ARTA Foundation Treasurer;
- h. retain a copy of the TRTA Operations Emergency Plan along with the ARTA President and one other bonded officer to serve as an alternate and notify the District 13 Treasurer annually when the plan has been completed.

If adopted, **Rule 11.4** as amended shall read:

Communications Committee. This committee shall promote and publicize TRTA state, district, and local chapter activities to the general public, all active and retired educational employees, and elected officials. The Second Vice-President shall chair and represent this committee at the district and state levels.

11.4.1 TRTA Children's Book Project:

- a. collects children's books suitable for pre-K through grade 5;
- b. selects a donor elementary school and a receiving elementary school in support of "Student to Student" gifts of books for the same grades;
- c. determines dates for the collecting period;
- d. screens books and inserts book labels;
- e. delivers books to the receiving school;
- a. submits an annual report to the Second Vice-Presidents of ARTA and District 13. (Previously Rule 11.5.1 under the Courtesy Committee)

Reviewed and recommended by the ARTA Executive Board, August 4, 2025

Membership Form: AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (ARTA)
ANNUAL ARTA & TRTA MEMBERSHIP DUES – Supporting ALL Retired School Personnel

To be a member of ARTA, you must **ALSO** be a member of the *TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION*(TRTA) Please pay **BOTH** your membership dues online at our ARTA Website:
<https://austintrta.org/membership>

or

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO USE THE ARTA WEBSITE, please complete this form **AND SEND IT WITH** a check payable to **ARTA** for **\$50.00**

****If you have your TRTA membership dues deducted monthly or annually by TRS, TRTA or AMBA, please *COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND IT WITH* a check payable to **ARTA** for **\$15.00****

Mail to:
Tony Dishner, ARTA Treasurer
2218 Speidel Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660-5067

NAME _____

PHONE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CIRCLE: Do you want to be contacted by the ARTA Telephone Tree for meeting reminders? **YES** **NO**
For new members only: Please list the name of recruiter: _____

- ➔ If you would like to pay by credit card, complete your card information on the back of this form and mail to Tony Dishner, ARTA Treasurer.

For treasurers' use only:

TRTA Member# _____	Payment Date: _____	Payment Amount: ☐ Check # _____ ☐ Cash _____ ☐ Credit Card/Debit _____
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- ➔ If you would like to pay by credit card, please complete your card information and mail to
Tony Dishner, ARTA Treasurer
2218 Speidel Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660-5067

Please charge my card: ☐ Am Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa	
Card Number: _____	
Expiration Date: _____	Amount: ☐ \$52.00 (\$50.00 dues + \$2.00 fee)
CVC Code: _____	or
Zip Code: _____	If you have your TRTA membership dues deducted monthly or annually by TRS, TRTA or AMBA, please pay
_____	Amount: ☐ \$17.00 (\$15.00 dues + \$2.00 fee)
Signature _____	

Page 2 Membership Form: AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (ARTA)



DATE

1234

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF<|

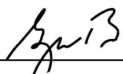
ARTA

\$ 50.00

Fifty dollars and 00/00

DOLLARS

FOR ARTA and TRTA dues paid together



23456789 890 5678



DATE

1234

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF<|

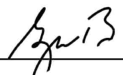
ARTA

\$ 15.00

Fifteen dollars and 00/00

DOLLARS

FOR ARTA dues



23456789 890 5678