



# Austin Retired Teachers Association

Regular Monthly Meeting

Friday, November 14, 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                                | Rudy Munguía                         |
| b. Inspiration  | Sheila Sargent                       |
| 2) <b>PROGRAM:</b>  |                                      |
| Introduction of Speaker   | Dr. Rosemary Morrow                  |
| <b>“National Museum of the Pacific War: 80 Years After the End of World War II”</b> |                                      |
| <b>Bill Dolman, National Museum of the Pacific War</b>                              |                                      |
| 3) Recognition of ARTA Veterans   | Norma Jost                           |
| ----- Veterans’ Day Singing: <b>Glenda Black</b> -----                              |                                      |
| Please see Meeting Packet for Lyrics  |                                      |
| Exercise with <b>Connor Grady</b> , Break   |                                      |
| 4) Social Committee Update  | Patty Young                          |
| 5) Introduction of Guests/New Members   | Betty Zschiesche                     |
| 6) ARTA Foundation Report/Memorial Tributes   | Glenda Black & Linda Harvey          |
| 7) <b>BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS:</b>   |                                      |
| a. Approval of October 10, 2025, Minutes  | Marcia Caldwell                      |
| b. Treasurer’s Report   | Tony Dishner                         |
| c. TRT Foundation Collection  | Julie Campbell                       |
| d. Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Update                                  | Marsha Lyons-Gray                    |
| e. Membership Report  | Bonnie Cross & Terry Morganti-Fisher |
| f. Legislative Update   | Craig Campell & Gloria Lenoir        |
| g. March 25 TRTA House of Delegates Live  | Joe Ramirez                          |
| h. Jumpstart Read for the Record – February 26                                      | Norma Jost                           |
| i. Announcements and Reminders  | Norma Jost                           |
| j. Door Prizes  | G. Lenoir & C. van Zanten            |
| 8) Adjournment  | Norma Jost                           |

**Next Meeting: December 12, 2025, “Stress Strategies for the Holidays”**  
**Nancy Barr, Counselor and Group Coach**

**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://austirta.org/>, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TRTA.org>, Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/austin\\_rta](https://www.instagram.com/austin_rta)



# Austin Retired Teachers Association

## Meeting Highlights October 10, 2025

### In Person at Faith Lutheran Church and on Zoom

Joyce Clendennen, ARTA Historian



**ARTA President Norma Jost reminded members to participate in the “Trunk or Treat” at Faith Lutheran Church on October 25<sup>th</sup>.**



**Linda Burns led the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.**



**Tim Ball, Developmental Associate from the Women’s Storybook Project of Texas, presented “Connecting Children with Their Incarcerated Moms Through the Joy of Literature.”**



**Joe Ramirez said the Standing Rules Committee proposed the adoption of two amendments to the Standing Rules. Members voted approval, and they will go into effect on July 1, 2026.**



**Judy Wallace created a scavenger hunt to help members become familiar with ARTA’s website.**



**Delicious Halloween treats were enjoyed by Marjeanne Rutt and Ilene Cossey.**



**Pat Emmert was the lucky winner of the AMBA gift card.**



**ARTA members, including Doris Fresch, Betty Williams, and Barbara Bell, exercised with Laurie Barber to fall music.**



## *Songs of the U.S. Military*



### **ARMY**

#### **The Army Goes Rolling Along**

First to fight for the right,  
And to build the Nation's might,  
And the Army goes rolling along.  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won,  
And the Army goes rolling along.  
Then it's hi! hi! hey!  
The Army's on its way.  
Count off the cadence loud and strong  
For where e'er we go,  
You will always know  
That the Army goes rolling along.

### **MARINES**

#### **Marines' Hymn**

From the halls of Montezuma  
To the shores of Tripoli;  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land and sea;  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title  
Of United States Marine.

### **NAVY**

#### **Anchors Aweigh**

Anchors aweigh, my boys, anchors aweigh.  
Farewell to foreign shores,  
We sail at break of day=ay-ay-ay.  
Through our last night ashore,  
Drink to the foam.  
Until we meet once more,  
Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.

### **AIR FORCE**

#### **The U.S. Air Force**

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,  
Climbing high into the sun;  
Here they come, zooming to meet our thunder.  
At 'em, now, give 'em the gun!  
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,  
Off with one helluva roar!  
We live in fame or go down in flame! Hey!  
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force.

### **SPACE FORCE**

#### **Semper Supra (Always Above)**

We're the mighty watchful eye,  
Guardians beyond the blue  
The invisible front line,  
Warfighters brave and true.  
Boldly reaching into space,  
There's no limit to our sky.  
Standing guard both night and day,  
We're the Space Force from on high!

*(c) 2022 United States Department of the Air Force.  
All rights Reserved.*

### **COAST GUARD**

#### **Semper Paratus (Always Ready)**

We're always ready for the call,  
We place our trust in Thee.  
Through surf and storm and howling gale  
High shall our purpose be.  
*Semper Paratus* is our guide,  
Our fame, our glory, too.  
To fight to save, or fight and die  
Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you!



Austin Retired Teachers Association  
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting  
Friday, October 10, 2025  
Via In person/Zoom



The regular monthly meeting of the Austin Retired Teachers Association was held October 10, 2025, in person and via Zoom. In attendance there were 70 in person and 7 on Zoom for a total of 77 attendees.

## GATHERING

**Call to Order/Announcements:** President Norma Jost called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. She announced there was a sign-up sheet for helping with the Faith Lutheran Church Trunk-or-Treat celebration on Saturday, October 25, from 5-7:00 p.m. ARTA will have a station. President Jost also introduced the new keychains which are ready to purchase for a dollar.

**Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags:** Linda Burns led the pledges.

**Inspiration:** Yolanda Uribe Rangel suggested change can be beautiful and messy at the same time.

**Introduction of New Members:** Betty Zschiesche announced John O'Sullivan as ARTA's newest member along with Dorothy Marshall, Samantha Mitchell, and Ed Tobia.

**ARTA Foundation Report/Memorials:** Glenda Black and Linda Harvey announced the foundation's account was at 39.5% of the \$16,800 needed for next year's scholarship distribution and encouraged members to donate. They presented memorials for Sara Bolton Ezell and William Roy Armentrout. A moment of silence followed.

## PROGRAM:

**Program Introduction and Presentation:** Mary Alice Hatchett introduced guest speaker Tim Ball, Development Associate of the Women's Storybook Project of Texas. All 11 women's prisons in Texas currently participate in this program along with three county jails. The program aims to keep incarcerated mothers in contact with their children and enhance their literacy skills. Mothers who are eligible apply to the program and meet on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month for fellowship and coffee. During that time, mothers may record a story to be sent to their child. Volunteers take the recording, convert it to a CD, and take it to wherever the child resides. Equipment is provided for the recipient. The Women's Storybook Project needs more volunteers to expand the services to additional facilities and to reach a larger percent of incarcerated women in Texas prisons.

**Five door prizes were awarded.**

**BREAK/Exercise with Laurie Barber**

## BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS

Approval of September 12, 2025, Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tony Dishner reviewed his report, which will be filed for audit.

Standing Rules Committee: In place of committee chair Jane Garner, Past President Joe Ramirez moved the adoption of three proposed amendments to the ARTA Standing Rules as announced at the September meeting and detailed in the October meeting packet. All three motions passed, and the changes will go into effect July 1, 2026.

Volunteer Services/Community Involvement: Marsha Lyons-Gray reiterated the need for retired teachers statewide to use their voices for change. Attached to her handout this week is a paper bag to fill with suggested items for SAFE Alliance. Also, ARTA volunteers are needed to provide mentor teachers for

Manor ISD as they have so many new teachers; there are still 20 who have no mentor. Interested members are asked to contact Marsha.

Membership: Bonnie Cross said thank you for the efforts to add members. ARTA is now up to 670 members.

Member Benefits Update: Laura Grayson recommended members keep going to the UnitedHealthcare portal to stay informed.

Legislative Update: Gloria Lenoir reminded members that votes matter; be sure to vote on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. She suggested checking *The Texas Tribune* or the League of Women Voters websites to get good information on the proposed amendments.

ARTA Website update: Judy Wallace had questions in the meeting packet for members to look up answers on the ARTA website. Due to time concerns, she just reminded the group how much information is available there.

ARTA Vests, Aprons, & Patches: Gladys Havel reminded members that she has these items for sale on the side table. Any money made in addition to costs goes to the ARTA Foundation.

Announcements and Reminders: President Norma Jost reminded members about the key chain sales and said magnetic ARTA bumper stickers would be next. She also asked again for volunteers for the Trunk or Treat event. Next month's program will be the Pacific War Museum presentation in honor of Veterans Day.

Mike Harris spoke up for donations to MACares, a foundation at McCallum HS.

Door Prizes: Thirteen additional door prizes were awarded at the end of the meeting.

Adjournment: President Norma Jost adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

---

Marcia Caldwell, Secretary

---

Norma Jost, President

**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

AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1–31, 2025

**Money Market**

Initial Month Balance	\$	2,169.79	
Income/expenses	\$	0.65	
Ending Balance	\$	2,170.44	\$ 2,170.44

**Member Savings**

Initial Month Balance	\$	520.02	
Dividend	\$	4.30	
Ending Balance	\$	524.32	\$ 524.32

**A+ Checking**

Initial Month Balance	\$	15,326.21	
Deposits	\$	221.32	
Expenses	\$	(563.00)	
Ending Balance	\$	14,984.53	\$ 14,984.53

**Start-Up Certificate** \$ 1,000.00 \$ 1,000.00

**12 month Certificate**

Initial Month Balance	\$	2,350.42	
Dividend	\$	7.85	
Ending Balance	\$	2,358.27	\$ 2,358.27

**24 Month Certificate**

Initial Month Balance	\$	2,336.48	
Dividend	\$	7.94	
Ending Balance	\$	2,344.42	\$ 2,344.42

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,381.98</b>
--------------	---------------------

Tony Dishner  
Treasurer



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter our Texas fall, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and collaboration.

We will meet on **Friday, November 14, 2025**, with socializing beginning at **9:15 a.m.** The ARTA Welcoming Committee will be ready to greet you, help you find your ARTA name tag, assist with the door prize sign-up, and guide you to the refreshments table, where you'll find delicious fall treats and coffee.

Marcia Caldwell and I had a blast "Bridging to the Future" at the Faith Lutheran Church 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trunk or Treat on October 25! Due to the weather, we moved into the gym (thank goodness), and I was thrilled that Judy Wallace had placed the ARTA banner in the closet — so we were able to add it to our display! Not only are we welcoming two prospective members — the retired educator told us her husband encouraged her to check out ARTA, and she's bringing a friend — and we also received the unexpected joy of hugging Wayne Schade's daughter Pam and her husband Jeff. What a small world this is sometimes, especially as we are "Bridging to the Future." Thank you to ALL who donated such wonderful, popular Halloween treats!

We are excited to celebrate with our veterans at our November 14 meeting. Having Bill Dolman present **National Museum of the Pacific War: 80 Years After the End of World War II** will be a fitting tribute to all veterans and showcases the American spirit that shines this Veterans Day 2025. We will sing the songs of all the services (including SPACE FORCE!) and exercise with Connor Grady!

I'd like to add a personal veterans reflection. My father-in-law, Kenneth C. Jost, Sr., served as a Navy Chief Quartermaster on minesweepers in the Pacific. At the end of World War II, his commander told him his time was up but that he should go celebrate with the others. The next morning, the commander changed his mind: "Never mind, Jost, you have a young wife waiting for you; go home." He left for San Francisco that same day.

Shortly thereafter, a typhoon struck the ship he had left, and half the crew were lost. When he arrived home, he was carrying a flag he had

begged to keep. They told him it must be destroyed. He replied, "It is the only thing remaining of my ship." In college, he wrote a paper titled *The Last Voyage*. When he retired from Ethyl Oil, he devoted his time to locating surviving shipmates, sharing the flag with them, updating *his Last Voyage* story, and honoring veterans and spouses for the rest of his days. I brought this flag last year for the Akins Honor Guard so they could touch the past and bridge to the future.



We are still having technological issues, and I apologize. We may get new technology going forward for meeting ZOOM issues. In September, we encountered in our email system a "verification issue" that goes to the vast unknown. I hope that will be resolved in the next few days.

Joe Ramirez and I met with TRTA Deputy Director Rosalind Johnson regarding fundraising, and we learned we need to work closely with the ARTA Foundation as we move toward this goal. We will keep you posted!

Please note these quick reminders: besides our remaining regular meetings on the second Friday of each month from December to May (except the Birthday Luncheon in March), we have:

- ARTA Executive Board Meeting (Zoom): January 5, April 6, June 1
- Read for the Record at two Austin ISD schools (north & south): February 26
- TRTA House of Delegates: March 25 in San Marcos

The ARTA Membership drive begins in the spring, and we will have another Committee Fair in May!

This month, we are collecting for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF), and at all meetings, we collect for ARTA scholarships. Please volunteer all you can for the amazing opportunities shared from our programs and



ARTA Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Chair Marsha Lyons-Gray. ARTA’s goal is to have its membership submit the equivalent of \$3,000,000 in volunteer service hours to TRTA to show how our work impacts the Texas economy. Please see more information in the meeting packet.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in ARTA. 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](https://www.instagram.com/austin_rta)

*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 October 10 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](mailto: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 member:

- Sharon McIlroy

*Norma Jost  
ARTA President*

### ♥ ARTA’S MILITARY VETERANS ♥

The Austin Retired Teachers Association takes this time to recognize and honor our members who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Our nation’s military is composed of six service branches: the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and the recently established Space Force. Each branch has its own mission, reflected in its training, equipment, areas of responsibility, and culture. All branches fall under the Department of Defense, except the Coast Guard, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security. We take time to honor the following ARTA military veterans:

#### *U.S. Air Force:*

- **Buck Cole** began an 11-year career in the U.S. Air Force in 1973 at Laredo Air Force Base before graduating from the U.S. Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School in 1976. Buck served domestically in Oklahoma and at Bergstrom Air Force Base and abroad at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, Aviano Air Base in Italy, and Royal Air Force Alconbury in the United Kingdom. By the time of his honorable discharge in 1984, while serving at Bergstrom, Staff Sergeant Buck Cole had been awarded two Air Force Commendation Medals and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal.
- **Ed Williamsen** served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He began his career in 1967 and completed his service as a Staff Sergeant in 1971.

#### *U.S. Army:*

- **Wayne Bowen** served in Detachment B of the 66th Military Intelligence of the U.S. Army from April 1973 until October 1974. During this time, he was stationed in Berlin, Germany, leaving active duty as a Specialist 4.
- **Gilbert Cantu** first served in the Marine Corps and was based at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California, for six months. Because the Marines would only take him for a 4-year reenlistment period, after his 6 months’ enlistment, he



decided to enlist in the U.S. Army for 2 years. He and his wife Mary were boyfriend/girlfriend at the time. He didn't want to be away from her for a very long period. He served in the Panama Canal Zone. The Army sent him to clerical school, so he became the company clerk for Company E, 1st Battle Group 20th Infantry, Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone. His boot camp experience in the Marines was by far the toughest! He and Mary have been married 63 years.

- **Bernard "BG" Henry** served in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1964 and one more year during the Berlin crisis. A battery clerk, he served at Fort Chaffee and Fort Polk.
- **Carl Hutchens** was drafted in the U.S. Army in January 1968. He served in Cu Chi, Vietnam, from January to December 1969 as a staff sergeant with the 25th Infantry Division. He received a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Silver Star, and a Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- **Perry Jackson** joined the U.S. Army in August 1952 during the Korean War. After 16 weeks of learning basic infantry, he became an assistant instructor at Camp Funston, a part of Fort Riley, Kansas. With three months left in his two-year enlistment, he was transferred to Camp (now Fort) Carson, Colorado, where he was assigned to a reconnaissance unit. In August 1954, Sergeant Perry Jackson was released from active duty. He was discharged on July 13, 1960, after a period of inactive reserve. Sergeant Jackson received an award for outstanding performance of duty when he left Fort Riley.
- **Rudy Munguía** dedicated 28 years to the U.S. Army beginning with a commission through the ROTC program at Texas A&I University in 1964. He served in the Signal Corps branch from 1964 to 1966 and was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, before spending one year in Vietnam. After his discharge from active duty, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1992.
- **Dr. Ramona Sullivan Treviño** served in the Massachusetts Army Reserves until she graduated college in 1981. She transferred to the Arizona National Guard and began teaching elementary special education for the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Shonto Boarding School on the Navajo reservation. She then transferred to

teach in Heilbronn, Germany, for the Department of Defense Schools until her release from military duties in 1986.

#### **U.S. Navy:**

- **James Harrington** enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1958 and was a chief dental technician until his retirement in 1981. During his 23-year career in the Navy, he was stationed in California, Illinois, Washington, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He also served on the USS *Bon Homme Richard* CVA 31, the USS *Constellation* CVA 64, and the USS *Bryce Canyon* AD 36. CVAs are attack aircraft carriers, and ADs are auxiliary destroyer tenders.
- **Jerry Jarmon** served as a Master Chief Torpedoman B-9 in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1967 until his retirement in 1995. His active duty included service on the USS *Howard W. Gilmore* A 16 as well as in the Naval Reserve Mine Warfare and Inspector Group and the Naval Reserve Mobile Mine Assembly Group. He was also posted at the Concord Naval Weapons Station in Concord, California. He retired as Command Master Chief at the Naval Reserve Center in Austin. During his time in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Jerry received multiple recognitions, including the Navy and Marine Corps Command Medal, the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service (Good Conduct) Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the National Pistol Qualification Ribbon, and was twice awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

We are proud of all of you and **thank you** for your years of dedicated service to the U.S. military. A list of restaurants offering veteran complimentary meals and restaurant discounts is at <https://www.military.com/veterans-day/veterans-day-military-discounts.html>. Please contact venue first to confirm.

*Norma Jost*

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

**Rodney Craig Brown** was born in Abilene in 1939 and farmed alongside his father and brothers. He graduated from Haskell High School. He earned a BS from McMurry College and a Master of Science degree from Baylor University. He taught social studies for 33 years at Albert Sidney Johnston High School and



loved going to work every day. He touched many lives and spoke with a passionate voice to advocate for quality education for students and a quality workplace for teachers. He was instrumental in organizing the local teachers' union, AFT 2048. He championed fairness, dedication, and the transformative power of education. Rodney died September 26, 2025. He was an ARTA member from 2001 to 2012.

**Sandra Kay Horton Brock Hubbard** was born in Tyler in 1947 and graduated from Permian High School in Odessa. She graduated from Texas Tech and worked at Sul Ross as a secretary. She taught VOE and Business at Crockett High School. She retired from AISD in 2002. She was intern facilitator at UT-Austin. She was a member of Manchaca United Methodist Church. She died October 6, 2025, at age 78. She was an ARTA member from 2003 to 2004 and 2018 to 2019.

**Melba F. Stewart-Denny** was born in 1935. She began teaching in AISD in 1956. She taught in Abilene from 1983–1987. She returned to Austin to teach kindergarten at Wooldridge and Casis elementaries. She retired in 1997. Melba died October 16, 2025, at age 89. She was an ARTA member from 1998 to 2025.

*Glenda Black, President  
ARTA Foundation*

### ARTA FOUNDATION

November and December donations to the ARTA Foundation go to our 2026 scholars. Starting in January, we collect for the next calendar year scholars. To date, we have collected \$8184.43 which is 48.7% of the \$16,800 needed to support our scholars. Please consider making a contribution to the Foundation as part of your yearly charitable giving. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) so any donations are tax deductible.

We also will offer two of last year's scholars a continuing scholarship of \$1200 each. The donation from Julia Mellenbruch's family in her memory will support our continuing scholars from last year.

*Glenda Black, President  
ARTA Foundation*

### ARTA MEMBERSHIP

Please reach out to fellow retirees. We are on the search for new members! We need to reach at least 797 members by February 28<sup>th</sup> to receive our membership rebate! 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.

Many thanks to the 671 members who have paid their TRTA/ARTA dues as of October 28, 2025. If you haven't had a chance to renew, it's not too late. To be a member of ARTA, you must also join TRTA. Dues may be paid online at our new ARTA website:

<https://austinrta.org/membership> or by cash, check, or credit card at our upcoming ARTA meeting. Paper forms will be available at the treasurer's table. Please help us by sharing the membership form and our website link with a retired friend.

Please contact us at [tamf5683@gmail.com](mailto:tamf5683@gmail.com) or [bonnie@bonniecros.com](mailto:bonnie@bonniecros.com) with any questions.

Thank you for your membership and support.

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

### MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE

The best way to learn about benefits available through the **Texas Retired Teachers Association** is by visiting the TRTA website at [trta.org](http://trta.org) and clicking on the Benefits link found at the top of the main webpage. On the Benefits page, members can register for TRTA webinars, which provide information on benefits the association offers. Even if you can't attend the webinar on the designated day, it is recommended members register, as most webinars are recorded and can be viewed at a later time. **AMBA** also provides webinars for members and, like TRTA, encourages members to register even if they can't attend at the time, so as to have access to the recorded version.

An upcoming AMBA webinar will be held Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. CST:



TRTA—*Holiday Discounts for Members*. Register here:

[https://ambabenefits.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pk0BZQbxT56EZ0lyhLfw0A](https://ambabenefits.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pk0BZQbxT56EZ0lyhLfw0A)

From the TRTA website: “The Social Security Fairness Act” (HR 82) became law on Jan. 5, 2025. The best and most direct source for information on how this may affect you is the Social Security Administration. Visit the **Social Security Administration** (SSA) website for details and updates or call the SSA directly at 1-800-772-1213. You can also visit SSA’s **HR 82 webpage**, which includes an option to sign up for email updates.”

From personal experience in signing up for Social Security benefits or having questions answered, the best recourse is to visit the Social Security offices in person. There are two offices in Austin: 1029 Camino La Costa and 5508 Hwy 290 Service Road Bldg. B. Offices open at 9 a.m. I avoided confusion and delay by calling ahead of my visit and getting a list of identifying documents I would need to sign up either for benefits or for information.

Be sure to use your UnitedHealthcare OTC (Over-the-Counter) dollars before they expire on December 31, 2025. The new cycle starts January 1, 2026, with \$40.00 loaded into the member’s account every quarter. Unused dollars accumulate throughout the year until the next cycle begins.

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

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICES/ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **How Time Flies!**

#### **Community Involvement**

November marks the beginning of the holiday season, a time of giving!

Over the years, our organization has actively participated in various initiatives to support and uplift our local community. From volunteering at neighborhood events to organizing charity drives, we continuously strive to make a positive impact and foster strong connections among residents.

As we welcome November, we reflect on the importance of coming together as an organization and letting the community know

just what we have accomplished. We set a goal of three million dollars in volunteer services for 2025. As of this report, members have recorded 7,981 hours, amounting to approximately \$277,659.99, with only 20 out of more than 600 members submitting their information. Please submit your hours to Marsha Gray by the end of 2025. We are all members of the ARTA Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Committee, and we need to let people know who we are as a group when we go out into the community to serve.

We have individually served many areas of need. As a group we have served Austin Pets Alive! and SAFE Alliance. You have been introduced to the Women’s Storybook Project of Texas, Eastside Mission, Moore-Hancock Farmstead, and others. In November, we want to increase our giving to the Lions Club eyeglasses campaign. The eyeglass program primarily involves collecting used eyeglasses for “Recycle for Sight” program and providing financial assistance for glasses to those in need. Used glasses are delivered to recycling centers where volunteers clean, sort, and package them for distribution to people in developing countries. Local clubs also have separate programs that provide eyeglasses to qualifying individuals within their own communities. For additional information, contact Rudy Munguía.

Several months ago, ARTA President Norma Jost began a program with the Austin area school superintendents. We are now partnering with Manor ISD. They have 100 new teachers needing mentors, and UTeach is assisting approximately 80 of them. ARTA has been asked to mentor 20 teachers; currently, four ARTA volunteers are committed to mentoring, but more mentors are needed. This requires only two visits each month to the teacher to be mentored. If interested, please contact Marsha Gray to support new teachers’ growth and confidence.

Do not let time get away from you during this busy time of the year. Please turn in your volunteer service hours to Marsha Gray and keep on volunteering. In addition to these ongoing efforts, we encourage members to share stories and highlights from their community involvement. Whether you have volunteered for



a special cause, participated in a local event, or made a difference in someone’s life, your experiences help inspire others and highlight the impact our organization can have. Please consider submitting a brief summary or photographs of your activities for our upcoming

newsletter or social media updates to Marsha Gray. Together, we can continue building a vibrant and supportive community.

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

### ARTA Volunteer Opportunity

#### ACADEMY4.ORG

**DORA CERVANTES BILINGUAL PROGRAM MANAGER** | Austin, Texas

Office: 817-744-8707 | Cell:512-592-1603

685 John B Sias Memorial Pkwy, Ste 215

Fort Worth, TX 76134

Please view these videos for more information and talk with Linda Burns about Harris Elementary Academy 4!

**Spark Clubs:** [video](#)

**Academy 4 Friday:** [video of typical A4 Friday](#)

ACADEMY

**CHANGE LIVES THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS**

- 🕒 90 Minutes, once a month
- 🤝 Build a positive relationship with a 4<sup>th</sup> grader

Sign up to mentor!  
Scan the code or go to [academy4.org](http://academy4.org)

**ACADEMY**

**Elevator Pitch**

Kids in our community need **positive adults** to be successful. So Academy 4 **changes lives through relationships** by providing a mentor for **EVERY 4<sup>th</sup> grader** in the low-income schools we serve. Our volunteers **come together and serve once a month for 90 minutes on a Friday afternoon**, and mentor EVERY 4th grader in **leadership**. They express love and care and provide the students with a **positive relationship** with a dependable adult.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We are ARTA/TRTA Members, and we:**

- pay dues early or on time – our term is 7/1-6/30,
- advocate for Education; and
- publicize Who We Are and WHAT We Do for TEXAS-Volunteer Hours impact the TX Economy 1/1-12/31!

**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://austindrta.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 page 2 of this form.

**For treasurers' use only:**


TRTA Member# _____	Payment Date: _____	Payment Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card/Debit _____
-----------------------	------------------------	--

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

➔ If you would like to pay by credit card, please complete your card information and mail to

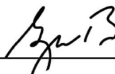
**Tony Dishner, ARTA Treasurer**  
**2218 Speidel Drive**  
**Pflugerville, TX 78660-5067**

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


 1234  
DATE

PAY TO THE ORDER OF<| **ARTA** \$ **50.00**

*Fifty dollars and 00/00* DOLLARS ₣

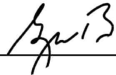
FOR: **ARTA and TRTA dues paid together** 

⑆23456789 ⑆890 567⑆

 1234  
DATE

PAY TO THE ORDER OF<| **ARTA** \$ **15.00**

*Fifteen dollars and 00/00* DOLLARS ₣

FOR: **ARTA dues** 

⑆23456789 ⑆890 567⑆