



Spring Program Snapshot:

- **February 14-**
9:45- Dr. Tara Dudley, UT Associate Professor, Dept. of Agriculture, will share her research on Austin segregation and her work at the Neill-Cochran House Museum
- **March 14**
@ 11:30
ARTA 73rd Birthday Luncheon with speaker, Dr. Linda Webb on "Why We Teach: How We Learn and Grow Together."
- **April 11**
Speaker, Luke Ellis, Exec. Dir. Of BIG (Brookwood in Georgetown) will discuss Providing Meaningful Work and Community for Adults with Disabilities.
- **May 9**
Annual Ice Cream Social and Introduction of Foundation Scholarship Recipients

9:00 a.m.-
Social Time
9:45 a.m.-
Program begins

President's Ponderings:

Dear ARTA Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued dedication to ARTA/TRTA.

It is difficult to believe we are halfway through the 2024-2025 ARTA/TRTA year! While it feels like we have so much to do as an organization, a lot has already happened to our meetings and structure. The new entryway harkens back to having been used long ago, our meetings are more streamlined, and we are exploring new areas to grow as a vital organization supporting retired and active educators.

I would like to highlight two important notes for our organizational future.

First, we are exploring ways to simplify our dues payment process to make it easier for members to remember and pay on time. This highlights the need to increase our membership, which is vital for our continued success. All it takes is to ask the question, "Have you heard about ARTA/TRTA? We received a COLA in Fall 2023 and helped repeal WEP/GPO in January 2025!!" Carrying the ARTA card or membership form could easily bring them in. That's how Vicki Baldwin grabbed me – she had a brochure. Just try it!

Secondly, I know we have retired educators who can help with our technology. It is simply helping with Zoom, and sound at the meetings and helping make our website robust with

secure items such as pay links. We have a robust group attending on Zoom and we are looking at how to include them in some of the door prize drawings! We have technology, ideas, and need help. Please join us.

Thank you for considering these important roles and initiatives. I look forward to collaborating with you as we move forward.

I'm thrilled to share the fantastic news that the hard work of Tim Lee and TRTA, among many others, has finally repealed the WEP/GPO. This is a significant victory not just for educators but for public employees like police officers and firefighters across the country. It will be interesting to see how this repeal positively impacts the lives of those who have faced this injustice.

As we enter the 89th Texas Legislative Session, there is much work ahead with the TRTA Priorities. We have the strongest voice in Texas, and I encourage you to read more about the March 26th Day at the Capitol. I hope you can register soon on the TRTA website (<https://trta.org/es/dac2025/>) to secure your spot and enjoy the free lunch provided. Our Legislative Committee will keep everyone updated throughout the year on how we can effectively reach our legislative goals to support all TRS annuitants.

We still want to show what we as retired educators do for Texas and that means WE NEED YOUR 2024 VOLUNTEER HOURS!! Estimate them and turn them in to Marsha Lyons-

Gray. She is knocking on doors and wants them by January 24, 2025. It is also the best time to establish your hours 'system' – it could be weekly, monthly, etc. Our website has LOTS of ideas to reveal what counts as volunteering – so please look and plan for Marsha's January 2025 goal!

<https://austintrta.org/volunteer-opportunities>

I hope all of you will join me at our March 14 luncheon at Chez Zee American Bistro to celebrate ARTA's 73rd birthday. You will find more information in this edition of the ARTA News. Additional information for registration and payment will be sent through the ARTA listserv in February and will be in that month's meeting *Newsette*. We have so much to celebrate as an organization!

Thank you for your continued support and participation in ARTA and I look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

Norma Jost
ARTA President 2024-2026

ARTA Zoom Link, ID, and Password-

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83666120286?pwd=80YFhmWiv5T1PtkUFz6Oav0hQ3Rry0.1>

Meeting ID:
836 6612 0286
Password: Retired

President's Ponderings continued-

We are ARTA/TRTA Members, and we:

- pay dues early or on time – our term is July 1–June 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!



**Legislative Committee Report
By Craig Campbell, Chair**



WEP and GPO Reform Triumph

H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, passed the U.S. Congress, and President Biden signed it into law on January 5, 2025. It should be remembered that WEP and GPO came about through attacks on unions and little guys in the 1980s who were getting rich with windfalls that allowed non-billionaires to retire with some dignity.

This reform resulted due to the partnerships of many factions, including public safety groups and unions, teacher unions, healthcare unions, and other public workers. For years, TRTA advocated for lesser changes to the WEP/GPO because it felt that we should not ask for too much either because we might offend the powers that be or incrementalism was the only way for change to occur. Congressman Doggett had maintained that we should go for a complete repeal of WEP/GPO because it was the right thing to do to return workers to their rightful earnings.

The Social Security Fairness Act repeals WEP and GPO, which will help many retirees who did not retire from Austin ISD. It should be noted that many AISD retirees spoke in favor of this repeal even though they will not personally benefit from it because we are brothers and sisters in the fight for justice, fairness, public service, and public education. If we keep the spirit that an injustice to one is an injustice for us all, we can continue to make progress to help workers and the common good.

We should remain vigilant that the billionaire class will be looking for “savings” to come from those people they label as “others,” who they consider weak. We will see this at the federal level in attacks on Social Security, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act. At the state level, we should always be vigilante for attacks on direct benefit pensions. Fairness is a universal value (accepted by both liberals and conservatives) that we can use to frame our requests going forward.

TRTA Day at the Capitol

Our visit to the Capitol for TRTA DAY is scheduled for March 26th. Registration information can be found at trta.org/dac2025. Please register so they can get a headcount for box lunches and Amy's Ice Cream. This will be our opportunity to continue our request for increased cost-of-living adjustments.

On the last TRTA Day in 2023, we provided a van to transport people to the Capitol to reduce the amount of walking. If you would like to participate in that, please let me or another ARTA Legislative Committee member know. If you would like to be a member of the committee, please contact the chair, Craig Campbell (craigseu@gmail.com), or co-chair Gloria Lenoir (gclenoir@gmail.com).

See the TRTA Day announcement to follow on page 3 for further information.

TRTA Day at the Capitol is on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

ARTA members are asked to reserve **Wednesday, March 26**, to attend TRTA's Day at the Capitol. This gives us the opportunity to meet with members of the Texas Legislature and their staff. We must let them know that we still need more to be done regarding additional cost-of-living adjustments for all TRS retirees, including those recent retirees who were not covered by Proposition 9 in the November 2023 election.

District 13 will be sending \$1,000 to each of its 14 chapters in February. These funds can be used to cover various expenses incurred by each chapter. ARTA is considering renting a van to transport members from a specific location to the Capitol building. The ARTA Legislative Committee will be sending additional information regarding transportation and other logistics regarding our events on March 26 soon.

TRTA will be providing a complimentary boxed lunch and will host an ice cream social on the Capitol grounds at noon on March 26th. Members will need to sign up at <https://trta.org/dac2025/> so that TRTA has an accurate headcount for the number of meals that need to be ordered. The window for registration opened on January 10.

What to Do Now!

Coming to the Texas Capitol is an exciting experience, but members should be prepared. Once legislative session begins, we ask that members reach out to their legislators to schedule a time to meet on March 26, either in the morning or after the ice cream social. Please use the [Texas Legislature Online website https://capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx](https://capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx) to find contact information for your legislators. If you're planning to meet with your legislator, let us know the time and location of your appointment by emailing info@trta.org. TRTA may be able to send a staff photographer to your meeting (available on a first come, first-served basis). Remember to **WEAR RED**, wear comfortable shoes, and view a [map of the Capitol https://tspb.texas.gov/plan/access/access.html](https://tspb.texas.gov/plan/access/access.html) before arriving.

Tentative Schedule

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Arrive on the East Lawn and collect items to give to your legislators.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Attend your scheduled visits and take photos with your legislators or their staff members.

Invite them to the ice cream social at Noon!

9:30 a.m.

Head to the House Gallery on the third floor to hear the resolution honoring TRS retirees.

If the gallery is full, consider going to the Senate gallery instead.

10:30 a.m.

Head to the Senate Gallery on the third floor to hear the resolution honoring TRS retirees.

Noon-All District 13 chapter members attending will meet in front of the east entrance of the Capitol at noon for a group photo.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Head to the East Lawn to enjoy a complimentary boxed lunch and our popular ice cream social, featuring Amy's Ice Cream!

Many legislators will also join us and will often speak.

2:00 p.m.

If you did not have a chance to visit with your legislator, this is a good time to do so and a great way to end a wonderful day!

Helpful Resources

- Capitol Building Guide <https://tspb.texas.gov/plan/maps/maps.html>
- Capitol Accessibility Services <https://tspb.texas.gov/plan/access/access.html>
- Capitol Accessibility Map
- A limited number of wheelchairs can be borrowed from the Capitol Information and Guide Service in the south wing, first floor of the Capitol building and or the Capitol Visitors Center with a photo ID during business hours (hours are subject to change). First come first served.

ARTA Spring Program Reminders by Program Chair, Trish Davis

2025 started with us learning about the Blue Zones and Successful Aging. On February 14, for Valentine's Day, we will learn about Austin segregation research and the Neill-Cochran House Museum with Dr. Tara Dudley. On March 14, we will celebrate ARTA's 73 birthday with a lovely luncheon at Chez Zee with ARTA member and consultant Dr. Linda Webb sharing about how we learn and grow together. On April 11, we will learn about helping adults with disabilities. Our last meeting for the year will find us recognizing our foundation scholar recipients, installing 2025-2027 officers, and enjoying ice cream as we celebrate the end of another ARTA year filled with delicious snacks, interesting programs, exercising, and visiting with our fellow educator friends. Please remember to pay your dues for next year, to register and pay for the Birthday Luncheon, and to keep saving your empty prescription and vitamin bottles and donations for Austin Pets Alive. Thank you for attending ARTA meetings in person and via Zoom to support each other and make new friends!

Now is the time to get your dues payments ready for 2025-2026. Dues may be paid online at our ARTA website: <https://austintrta.org/membership> or at our upcoming ARTA meeting on February 14, 2025, with cash, check, or credit card. Please make checks out to **ARTA**.

Please help us by sharing the membership form and our website link with a retired friend.

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Membership Form: AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (ARTA)
 ANNUAL ARTA/TRTA MEMBERSHIP DUES – Supporting ALL Retired School Personnel
Membership Year is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Please pay your membership dues online at our ARTA Website: <https://austintrta.org/membership>
or complete and mail this form and a check for \$50 payable to **ARTA** to:

Rudy Munguia, ARTA Treasurer
4100 Jackson Avenue #524
Austin, TX 78731-6086

- ➔ If you have your TRTA membership dues deducted monthly or annually by TRS, TRTA or AMBA, please send a \$15 check payable to **ARTA** to Rudy Munguia, ARTA Treasurer.
- ➔ If you would like to pay by credit card, please complete your card information and mail this form to Rudy Munguia, ARTA Treasurer.

Please charge my card:		<input type="checkbox"/> Am Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa
Card Number: _____					
Expiration Date: _____		Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> \$52 (\$50 dues + \$2.00 fee) or If you have your TRTA membership dues deducted monthly or annually by TRS, TRTA or AMBA, please pay Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> \$17 (\$15 dues + \$2.00 fee)			
CVC Code: _____					
Zip Code: _____					
Signature _____					

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

If new to ARTA, did someone recommend you? Please list their name: _____

CHECK ONE: I DO () DO NOT () want to be contacted by the ARTA Telephone Tree for reminders.

CHECK ONE: I DO () DO NOT () want my phone number and address listed in the ARTA Yearbook.

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

Thank you for your membership and support,
 Bonnie Cross and Terry Morganti-Fisher, ARTA Membership Committee Co-chairs

Membership continued:

Remember, you can have the TRTA portion of your dues taken out of your monthly TRS check (\$2.92/month) by filling out the form below and mailing it to Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

TRS 593
Rev. 07-15



TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS
1000 Red River Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2698
Telephone (512) 542-6400 or 1-800-223-8778
www.trs.texas.gov

ASSOCIATION DUES
PAYROLL DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION

MAIL (do not fax) this form to:
TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS
1000 Red River Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2698

By signing below, I authorize the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to withhold each month 1/12 (one-twelfth) of my annual Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) membership dues from my TRS monthly annuity payment. I understand that the amount of TRTA membership dues is set by TRTA (not TRS) and that to receive membership dues information, I must contact TRTA at (512) 476-1622 or 1-800-880-1650. I understand and agree that the monthly deduction from my TRS annuity will ***automatically*** increase upon the effective date of all future increases in TRTA membership dues unless this authorization is cancelled in a manner indicated below.

Also, I understand and agree to the following:

- As provided in Texas Government Code §825.507(b)(6), I authorize TRS to disclose to TRTA the following information: date TRS received this form; name, TRTA number, and Social Security number reflected on this form; and dates and amounts of dues deductions made from my annuity and if provided below my phone number.
- This deduction will be effective no earlier than the first annuity payment after this authorization is received by TRS. However, once begun, this deduction will remain effective until the earliest of the following: 1) the date my annuity terminates for any reason; 2) the date the Association Dues Deduction Agreement between TRS and TRTA is terminated for any reason; or 3) the date of the first annuity payable after the date TRS receives a signed form TRS 594, *Association Dues Payroll Deduction Cancellation*, unless this cancellation form is received by TRS after the monthly payroll cutoff date established by TRS. In that event, the deduction will continue until the first annuity payable for the month after the month in which TRS receives the cancellation form.
- All other appropriate deductions will be made from my annuity before TRTA dues are deducted. If the amount of my annuity payable is not sufficient for such dues deduction, no deduction will occur.
- TRS assumes no liability or responsibility for any disputes, damages or other consequences relating to dues deduction or this authorization.
- **TRS is not affiliated or associated in any way with TRTA, nor is TRTA authorized to act on behalf of TRS.**

To ensure processing of this request, all of the information in the blanks below must be complete and accurate. Please print your name as it appears on the mail you receive from TRS.

Printed Name _____

TRTA Member ID Number _____

If you are not currently a TRTA member, please leave blank. A TRTA Member ID number will be assigned to you after your membership application is processed. If you are already a TRTA member and are now requesting payroll deduction for payment of TRTA dues, please provide your current TRTA member ID number.

Social Security Number _____ Telephone No. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

ARTA Health News



Winter Safety Tips for Older Adults: While staying safe in the extreme summer heat of Central Texas gets a lot of attention, freezing weather—and particularly ice storms—are just as dangerous and disruptive. The following are several of the tips that our experts from Meals on Wheels Central Texas recommend increasing winter readiness:

1. **Plan for Emergencies:** Keep a supply of essentials, such as medications, shelf-stable food, and water, in case of severe weather. Consider having a backup power source for medical equipment. We provide all of our Home Delivered Meal participants with five shelf stable meals at the start of the winter season in case home deliveries are interrupted by extreme weather.
2. **Prepare Your Home:** Ensure your home is winter-proofed. Check drafts, and seal windows and doors to keep heat in. Consider using space heaters safely in rooms where you spend most of your time but always follow safety guidelines to prevent fire hazards and ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are operating correctly. If you or someone you know needs assistance with winterizing their home, our Home Repair team may be able to help!
3. **Stay Hydrated and Nourished:** Even in winter, hydration is vital. Warm, nutritious meals can provide necessary energy and warmth.
4. **Limit Outdoor Activities:** If the weather is particularly harsh, limit outings. When necessary, walk carefully to avoid slips on wet or icy surfaces and consider using assistive devices if needed.
5. **Stay Active Indoors:** When trapped inside by the winter weather, find time to exercise which can improve circulation and help maintain body heat. Simple indoor activities like stretching or yoga can keep muscles active and prevent falls.

**Member Benefits Committee Report
By Laura Grayson and Lucia Facundo, Co-Chairs**

UnitedHealthcare ID cards were mailed out December 20, 2024. Members can also sign-in or register at retiree.uhc.com/TRS-CareMA and view or print the member ID card". The page also provides detailed information on the benefits plan and keeps track of the amount the insurance has paid throughout the year and the enrollee's deductible amount, which is helpful as tax season is here. If members enrolled in the TRS vision and dental insurance plans, the benefits started January 1, 2025. ID cards and benefits plan should arrive in the mail or may have already arrived, depending on the date enrolled. If the ID Benefits card has not arrived, services can be accessed using an ID and or SS number. AMBA also offers dental and vision plans. Members can enroll by calling 1-844-385-4359, Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., or contacting Jessica Marchi -Andrews, AMBA benefits advisor for ARTA, by calling her at 336-403-8029 or through email at jessica.marchi@amba.info TAUCK is a travel company offering travel packages for retired teachers and their families. Members can visit the TAUCK website at www.TAUCK.com and gather information on the various cruises and travel opportunities offered. Members don't forget to take advantage of the many discounts and reduced costs available through the AMBA PASSPORT APP, which can be downloaded to your phone or visit their website, <https://amba.passportmembership.com> to discover all the savings available.

**Nominations for ARTA Officers 2025-2027
By Joe Ramirez and Dr. Rosemary Morrow, Nominating Committee Co-Chairs**

The election of Austin Retired Teachers Association officers for 2025-2027 will be conducted at the ARTA regular meeting on February 14. Names were presented to the ARTA membership at the ARTA regular meeting on Friday, January 10. The ARTA Nominating Committee recommends the following members for ARTA Officers, 2025-2027:

- First Vice-President: Terry Morganti-Fisher
- Secretary: Marcia Caldwell
- Treasurer: Tony Dishner

Additionally, nominations for each office may be made from the floor at the February meeting. The person nominated should give consent to be considered and to serve.

The installation ceremony will be held at the May 9 ARTA regular meeting. Officers will assume their newly elected positions on July 1, 2025, and serve through June 30, 2027. ARTA Officers continuing their 2024-2026 terms include President: Norma Jost; Second Vice-President: Patty Young; and Assistant Treasurer: Wendy Abel. We also extend our appreciation to outgoing officers First Vice-President Trish Davis and Treasurer Rudy Munguía, who are respectively completing four and two years of service in their current offices.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Patty Young and Linda Burns, ARTA Social Committee Chairs

Welcome to 2025! We have had such a wonderful time this last semester providing food and drinks for the lucky members who are able to attend our meetings in person. MANY THANKS to all the many volunteers each month who fill our table with amazing snacks as well as providing water as needed. Additionally, these same people help set up the table before the meeting or clean up and wash dishes afterward. Kudos to these hard-working friends!

Since the ARTA Foundation will provide for the February meeting and in March, we have our Birthday Bash, you only have two more opportunities to sign up. In April, we can celebrate with fresh spring produce and lighter fare. In May, ARTA will welcome its scholarship winners with our ice cream social. The red and black clipboard has some volunteers, but we still need more. Please look for it during the next few meetings to sign up to do a little bit of work and have a lot of fun.



**Austin Retired Teacher Association
ARTA 73rd Birthday Bash at Chez Zee on
March 14, 2025
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Please make your reservation by March 3 for the ARTA 73rd Birthday Bash at Chez Zee American Bistro, located at 5406 Balcones Drive, Austin, 78731. The luncheon will be on Friday, March 14, 2025, beginning at 11:30 a.m. We will hear from Dr. Linda Webb, Red Shoe Educational Consultant, about “Why We Teach: How We Learn and Grow Together.” Our ARTA Sweetheart will also be honored. Our Birthday Luncheon is a special tradition where we enjoy celebrating the founding of ARTA in 1952.

Our seated luncheon will cost \$40 this year and includes free valet parking. You can bring a check payable to ARTA to the February 14 meeting or mail a check to Mary Lou Clayton, 2309 Sunny Slope Drive, Austin, Texas, 78703, by March 3, 2025. We hope to have the payment link up on our website soon so please check there to pay by credit card (add \$2). Please sign up for the luncheon at <https://tinyurl.com/3f6f7znp>. It is always fun to celebrate together!

Dr. Mary Lou Clayton, ARTA Birthday Luncheon Chair



**ARTA Foundation Report
By Glenda Black, ARTA Foundation**

Your ARTA Foundation collected \$10,752.21 toward the \$16,800 needed to fund the fourteen scholars we will support for the 2024-2025 school year. The remainder of the money will come from our accounts from the past and from the large donation given by Arthur Amundson even before the Foundation existed as a 501(c)(3). Thank you for your support of the Foundation. Supporting future educators is our main purpose, and we appreciate your contributions in honor or in memory of someone. Pat Boswell funded the full scholarship for a McCallum student in memory of her mother, Audrey Little, and Caroline Tollefson donated a full scholarship in memory of her husband, Tom.

Since July, we have had these donations: Rudy and Gloria Munguia give monthly. Mary Wright, Sheila Sargent, Lloy Lizcano, Wayne Bowen, Betty Clough and Catherine van Zanten donated. Trish Davis gave in memory of Rea Jean Morgan, mother of Dani Pothoff. Glenda Black honored Ruth Hansen’s birthday and Ruth Hansen honored Glenda Black and Emma Lea Mayton on their birthdays. Dr. Rosemary Morrow honored Akins ROTC. Joe Ramirez and Sheila Sargent gave in honor of Worley Printing and Joe Ramirez donated in honor of Carole Stockton. ARTA donated in memory of Roslinda Ruzenjka-Oliver, Mary Alice Alvarez, David Robinson, and Stan Brooks.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REPORT

ARTA members have been busy volunteering. As of January 9, 2025, we collected a combined total of over 70,000 in 2024. Hopefully, we will reach 72,000 hours by the time each member has had the opportunity to submit their 2024 hours to Marsha Gray. January 24, 2025, is the absolute last day to submit any volunteer hours for 2024.

It is time to turn the calendar to 2025. Please track your volunteer hours. Remember, you may submit up to 12 hours per day. Volunteer time is calculated from the time the volunteer leaves home until the volunteer returns home.

In 2019, ARTA submitted 70,722 hours and in 2023, with an actual increase in membership, we submitted only 44,650 hours. ARTA members can do better. Let us set our **2025** goal at **75,000** volunteer hours. We can work together and remind one another to track service hours and submit them to the Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Chair, Marsha Gray.

Thanks for all your work and let us continue moving forward as we tell our neighbors and the political powers our value as teacher retirees!

**AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
INDIVIDUAL RECORD OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Name: _____ Total Hours Reported: _____

MONTH	HOURS GIVEN	MONTH	HOURS GIVEN
January		July	
February		August	
March		September	
April		October	
May		November	
June		December	

Please submit your information in one of the following four ways:

Postal:

Marsha Lyons-Gray
3901 Amy Circle
Austin, TX 78759-8101

Bring:

To the monthly meeting
AND hand to Marsha

Email:

Marsha_gray@att.net

Text:

(512) 924-2049

Deadline for counting hours: December 31, 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FORM: January 24, 2025



2025 > TRTA PRIORITIES FOR 89TH SESSION

THE VOICE FOR ALL EDUCATION RETIREES

STATE ISSUES

Maintain a solvent TRS pension fund by fully funding statutory contribution rates and using excess state revenues to help reduce the unfunded liability

- The TRS defined benefit pension plan is vital to the retirement security of all public education employees and retirees.
- TRS provides cost-efficient retirement security for plan participants and taxpayers.
- Reducing the unfunded liability now saves Texas taxpayers significant money in the long term and protects the TRS pension fund.

Provide a benefit enhancement to help offset the negative impact of inflation

- TRTA recommends funding a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for TRS retirees when possible or providing a supplemental payment when a COLA is not possible.
- Retirees living on fixed incomes have been impacted drastically by record inflation over the last decade and managing its impact is an ongoing challenge.
- Last session, the Texas Legislature passed SB 10 and Texas voters approved Prop 9, providing much-needed help to most TRS retirees.
- The unfortunate reality is that cumulative inflation has eroded the modest pension benefits of all TRS retirees.

Maintain and protect TRS-Care by fully funding the current statutory contribution rates

- Continue to provide an affordable healthcare plan for all TRS retirees.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Repeal or Reform Social Security WEP and GPO: Pursue federal legislation for repeal or reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) to eliminate unfair laws and rules affecting public servants who contributed to and qualify for Social Security benefits.

Notice of Amendments to ARTA Standing Rules to be considered at the February 14, ARTA Meeting

Austin Retired Teachers Association

STANDING RULES

Proposed amendments, 2025

Effective July 1, 2023 2025

NOTE: Strikethroughs are current words to be deleted; bold italics is new text to be considered for adoption. Rules having no pending amendments are omitted. The current complete Standing Rules can be downloaded from the ARTA website at: <https://austintrta.org/about-us>.

RULE 1—NAME

RULE 2—PURPOSES

RULE 3—MEMBERSHIP

RULE 4—MEETINGS

RULE 5—OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

RULE 6—NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

RULE 7—RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

7.1 Officers

7.1.3 The First Vice-President ***shall***:

- a. ~~shall~~ preside in the absence or at the request of the President;
- b. ~~shall~~ serve as chair of the ~~Program~~ ***Membership*** Committee;
- c. ~~may~~ represent the chapter ~~Membership and Volunteer Services/~~***Community Involvement Committee*** Committees at the district and state levels ***and submit reports as requested to district and state.***

7.1.5 The Secretary shall:

- a. keep accurate minutes of all regular chapter meetings, ***Executive Committee meetings***, and Executive Board meetings;

7.1.6 The Treasurer shall:

- a. have custody of all funds of ARTA;
- b. chair the Budget Committee;
- c. keep an accurate record of all financial transactions;
- d. assemble materials for the annual audit;
- e. prepare financial reports for regular chapter meetings and Executive Board meetings.
- f. ***process membership dues on the TRTA portal.***

7.1.8 The Parliamentarian shall:

- a. see that all actions of ARTA are in accordance with these Standing Rules and with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with these Standing Rules.
- b. ***serve as chair of the ARTA Standing Rules Committee.***

7.2 Representatives

7.2.1 The TRTF Representative shall:

- a. speak on behalf of the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation at meetings and answer basic questions about the activities and state of the Foundation;
- b. provide donation cards and/or brochures to local chapter members as needed;
- c. accept donations from local chapter members or other people in the community;
- d. communicate information about ~~"A Helping Hand" program~~ ***TRTF initiatives.***

RULE 8—EXECUTIVE BOARD

8.1 Composition

The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers, the appointed officers, and the Immediate Past President. Chairs of standing committees, the TRTF Representative, and the President of the ARTA Foundation are designated as ex officio members of the Executive Board and shall be allowed to make motions and vote on issues before the board. ***Co-chairs have no representation, except voice, if the chair is also present.***

8.2 Responsibilities

8.3 Meetings

8.4 Quorum

Twelve (12) members, of which three (3) must be elected members of the Executive Board, shall constitute a quorum. ***A committee co-chair does not count toward the quorum if the chair is also present,***

RULE 9—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RULE 10—COMMITTEES

10.1 Types -Committees shall be of two (2) types: standing and special.

10.1.1 Standing committees-TRTA-required standing committees shall be Communications, Legislative, Member Benefits, Membership, Retirement Education, and Volunteer Services/**Community Involvement**. Additional ARTA standing committees shall be: Archives, Audit, Budget, Courtesy, Health and Safety, Identification, Nominating, Program, Records, Social, Standing Rules, Technology, and Yearbook.

10.1.2 Special committees-Special committees shall be established by the President with the approval of the Executive Board as necessary for a temporary period ~~of time~~.

10.2 Chairs-The chairs of all committees shall be members of ARTA and shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board. **Committees may select their own co-chairs.**

10.3 Committee members

Except for the Nominating Committee, ARTA members may volunteer to serve on the committee(s) of their choice.

RULE 11—RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEES

The committees shall perform their responsibilities as defined in these Standing Rules, in addition to other responsibilities assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

11.10 Membership Committee. This committee shall maintain a plan to involve members to recruit, retain, and regain chapter members. The First Vice-President ~~may represent~~ **represents** this committee at the district and state levels.

11.13 Records Committee. This committee shall keep:

- a. current membership records—including names, mailing addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers—on a computer program, and shall provide membership lists and mailing labels as needed by ARTA officers and committees. *A backup of the records shall be maintained.* These membership lists may not be given or sold to any other person or entity.
- b. *obituaries of current and former members by even-numbered biennium. At the end of each even-numbered biennium, only those obituaries of ARTA leaders will be retained for the ARTA archives and the others discarded. Those retained will be transferred periodically to the Austin History Center for placement in the ARTA archives.*
A database containing the name, date of birth, date of death, and membership years of all current and former members shall be kept. The chair shall notify the ARTA President; Treasurer; Assistant Treasurer; editor of the Newsette; chairs of the ARTA Courtesy, Identification, Membership, Technology, Telephone, and Yearbook committees; and the ARTA Foundation President, Treasurer, and acknowledgement writer.

11.17 Technology Committee. This committee shall oversee and maintain the use of ~~technology~~ **technological** equipment used at regular meetings. It will maintain the ARTA website, the ARTA Facebook page, and any other form of social media network that the committee deems appropriate. It will also facilitate the use of electronic communications with the general membership.

11.19 Volunteer Services /Community Involvement Committee. This committee shall encourage the participation of members in volunteer services and shall conduct a survey of member participation and report results annually to TRTA and ARTA. The First Vice-President ~~may represent~~ **represents** this committee at the district and state levels.

RULE 12—AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
(ARTA FOUNDATION)

[Note: The ARTA Foundation is self-governing, and its bylaws cannot be amended by ARTA.]

RULE 13—CHAPTER DISSOLUTION

RULE 14—MEMORIALS

RULE 15—AMENDMENTS

ARTA News
Austin Retired Teachers Association
4502 Trail Crest Circle
Austin, TX 78735

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Jost, ARTA President at
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**The ARTA meeting entry has moved to the
EAST Faith Lutheran Church entry off
Woodrow Ave. From either parking area, walk
towards Woodrow and take the sidewalk to
the new covered entry sidewalk.**

New Entry Way: Approximately 100 ft walk from both Faith Lutheran Church
parking lots and street parking.

Check out our website: www.austintrta.org