



Austin Retired Teachers Association

Regular Monthly Meeting
Friday, September 12, 2025

Hybrid Meeting: in Person at Faith Lutheran Church or Zoom

*Please NOTE: We are starting the program early so Tim can attend other meetings!

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

GATHERING:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1) Call to Order/Announcements | Norma Jost |
| a. Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. and Texas flags | Warren Faulkner |
| 2) PROGRAM | |
| Introduction of Speaker | Gloria Cisneros Lenoir |
| “TRTA Update: Report on the 89th Legislative Session” | |
| Tim Lee, Executive Director, TRTA | |

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 3) Inspiration | Marcia Caldwell |
|----------------|-----------------|

----- Break with Back to School Music and Exercise with Laurie Barber, and door prizes! -----

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|---|-----------------------------|
| 4) 2024-2025 Perfect Attendance Recognitions | Lois Mayes |
| 5) Introduction of Elected and Appointed Officers | Norma Jost |
| 6) ARTA Foundation Report/Memorial Tributes | Glenda Black & Linda Harvey |
| 7) Introduction of Guests/New Members | Betty Zschiesche |

8) **BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| a. Approval of May 9, 2025, Minutes | Marcia Caldwell |
| b. Treasurer's Report, Budget 2025-2026 | Tony Dishner |
| c. Audit Report | Anne Hyzak |
| d. Proposed Amendments to Standing Rules | Joe Ramirez |
| e. Membership Report and Gift Card Drawing | Bonnie Cross & Terry Morganti-Fisher |
| f. 2025-2026 ARTA Yearbook Update | Marilyn Gregory |
| g. Member Benefits Update | Laura Grayson |
| h. Volunteer Community Involvement | Marsha Lyons-Gray |
| i. ARTA Service & Support Projects | Marsha Lyons-Gray |
| j. District 13 Fall Conference – September 17 | Joe Ramirez |
| k. Announcements and Reminders | Norma Jost |
| l. Door Prizes | G. Lenoir & C. van Zanten |
| 9) Adjournment | Norma Jost |

Next Meeting: October 10, 2025, “Connecting Children With Their Incarcerated Moms Through the Joy of Literature,” Tim Ball, Development Associate, Women's Storybook Project

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 on our ARTA Website, Facebook & Instagram sites

Website <https://austintrta.org/>, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TRTA.org>, and

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/austin_rta



Austin Retired Teachers Association

Meeting Highlights, May 9, 2025

In Person at Faith Lutheran Church and on Zoom

Joyce Clendennen, ARTA Historian



ARTA President Norma Jost called the May meeting to order and said AMBA's new member lunch will be at Central Market North on May 15, 2025.



Catherine van Zanten led the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.



Laura Grayson gave the Inspirational Moment by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Bridges don't just lead us to new places; they remind us that the journey is as important as the destination."



ARTA Foundation President Glenda Black and Treasurer Linda Harvey awarded \$1,200 ARTA Scholarships to thirteen outstanding AISD High School scholars planning to be educators. This year, three previous scholars received a second year \$1,200 continuing scholarship.



ARTA members Janie Maldonado and Linda Holt enjoyed our end-of-year ice cream social.



ARTA's first Committee Fair was held before today's meeting to give members an opportunity to join a committee. ARTA Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Chair Marsha Lyons-Gray engaged members at the ARTA Committee Fair.





Austin Retired Teachers Association
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
Friday, May 9, 2025
Via In person/Zoom



The regular monthly meeting of the Austin Retired Teachers Association was held May 9, 2025, in person and via Zoom. In attendance there were 95 in person and six on Zoom for a total of 102 attendees.

Pre-Meeting Committee Fair: Beginning at 9:15 and lasting until 10:00, committee chairs were sitting at tables spread along the outside of the seating areas. Their purpose was to recruit new committee members and answer any question members might have. There were 13 committees participating.

GATHERING

Call to Order/Announcements: President Norma Jost called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Jost also reminded members that dues are due, and that on May 15, AMBA will be sponsoring a new member recruitment luncheon at Central Market on North Lamar. Details are in the meeting packet.

Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags: Catherine van Zanten led the pledges.

Inspiration: Laura Grayson reminded members that the journey is as important as the destination.

PROGRAM:

Program Introduction and Presentation: Linda Harvey and Glenda Black announced and introduced each of the 2025 ARTA Foundation Scholars. Several scholarship winners were unable to attend as they were taking AP exams. The honorees were Austin ISD seniors who have committed to pursue a career in education, for which they each receive a \$1,200 scholarship. The students who were present were asked to come up to the podium and share their inspiration for desiring to go into teaching and their plans for becoming a teacher. Twelve AISD high schools participated.

Early Meeting Door Prizes: Five door prizes were awarded.

BREAK/Ice Cream Social

Introduction of Guests/New Members: Betty Zschiesche directed members to look in their meeting packets to read about the seven new members. Our guests were the six parents of scholarship winners.

ARTA Foundation Report/Memorial Tributes: Sheila Sargent reminded members that contributions to the ARTA Foundation are for 2026 scholarship recipients. Linda Harvey presented the memorial tributes for Loretta Lowry Hughes and Betty Ruth Stephens Moore.

BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS

Approval of April 11, 2025, Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rudy Munguía referred to the four accounts posted in the meeting packet. The report was filed for audit.

Standing Rules Committee: Past President Joe Ramirez proposed an amendment to ARTA Standing Rules clarifying the role of the Program Committee chair. The proposed amendment was put to a vote and passed, going into effect July 1. The line now reads, *the Program Committee chair coordinates program committee selections and submits program information to the editors of the various ARTA publications.*

Installation of Officers/District 13 Information: Past President Joe Ramirez performed the installation of the new officers who were elected in February. They are First Vice-President: Terry Morganti-Fisher, Secretary: Marcia Caldwell, and Treasurer: Tony Dishner. Ramirez used the analogy of geese flying in formation; leaders may drop out of the front, but they join the ranks to maintain and support the organization.

In his persona as District 13 President, Joe Ramirez also announced the date of Wednesday, September 17, for the TRTA District 13 Fall Conference at the San Marcos Activity Center in San Marcos. In lieu of a traditional state convention, TRTA will be conducting a virtual House of Delegates on March 25, 2026. Delegates from each of TRTA's districts will meet at 20 different sites across the state on that day. District 13 will hold its combined House of Delegates and 2026 Spring Conference at the San Marcos Activity Center. Ramirez also reminded members that District 13 receives \$3.00 from every TRTA membership.

Membership Report: Terry Morganti-Fisher related that there were only 234 paid members of ARTA as of this meeting. Those who join by May 31 will be eligible for an HEB gift card drawing at the September meeting. The membership forms will need to change for July 1st, so Tony Dishner's information can replace Rudy Munguia's.

Membership Drive: The AMBA Each One-Bring One Luncheon will take place on My 14th, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Central Market on North Lamar. Lunch will be free to the members who attend if their friend joins TRTA and ARTA. In addition, new members combined local and state dues will be paid for a full year.

Legislative Update: Dr. Gloria Lenoir reminded members that persistence is the key to change, but she also urged our group to be a polite role model while persisting. Several bills still exist that could be detrimental to retired teachers.

TRTA Children's Book Project: Maria Martinez shared that there were 873 books distributed at Cook Elementary via the Book Project. She suggested members should be collecting books now for next year's distribution.

Volunteer Services/Community Involvement: Marsha Lyons-Gray discussed the benefits of volunteering and distributed a new form for keeping track of volunteer hours. She would like members to submit their hours monthly, quarterly, or annually. Her direct contact information is on the new form.

Announcements and Reminders: President Norma Jost announced ARTA will be hosting a gathering for Travis County superintendents in September to communicate with them about the role of TRTA and how ARTA might be of service to their school districts. September 12 will be the first meeting for our new year.

Door Prizes: Door prizes were awarded.

Adjournment: President Norma Jost adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Marcia Caldwell, Secretary

Norma Jost, President

AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**Treasurer's Report****June–August 2025**

	<i>FY 2024–25</i>	<i>FY 2025–26</i>	
Account	June	July	Aug
12 month Cert			
Initial Month Bal	\$2,318.21	\$2,326.22	\$ 2,334.52
Dividend	\$8.01	\$8.30	\$ 8.33
ending Balance	\$2,326.22	\$2,334.52	\$ 2,342.85
Money Market			
Initial Month Bal	\$2,167.23	\$2,167.86	\$ 2,168.51
Income/expenses	\$0.63	\$0.65	\$ 0.65
ending Balance	\$2,167.86	\$2,168.51	\$ 2,169.16
Memb Savings			
Initial Month Bal	\$503.10	\$507.26	\$ 511.56
Dividend	\$4.16	\$4.30	\$ 4.30
ending Balance	\$507.26	\$511.56	\$ 515.86
A+ Checking			
Initial Month Bal	\$15,562.86	\$18,394.98	\$ 18,335.91
Deposits	\$6,604.91	\$2,876.92	\$ 4,671.26
Expenses	-\$3,772.79	-\$2,935.99	-\$5,118.90
ending Balance	\$18,394.98	\$18,335.91	\$ 17,888.27
Start-Up Cert			
	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
24 Month Cert			
Initial Month Bal	\$2,305.49	\$2,313.07	\$ 2,320.93
Dividend	\$7.58	\$7.86	\$ 7.89
ending Balance	\$2,313.07	\$2,320.93	\$ 2,328.82
TOTAL	\$26,709.39	\$26,671.43	\$26,244.96

Tony Dishner
ARTA Treasurer

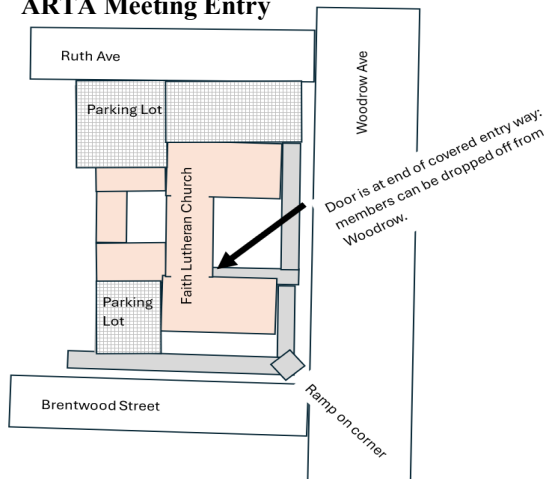
AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025-2026

		July 29, 2025	Proposed Budget	Expenses	Proposed Budget
			2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
1	OFFICERS				
2	ALL OFFICERS		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 563.57	\$ 1,100.00
3	STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES				
4	Archives		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
6	Bulk Mailing		\$ 900.00	\$ 354.00	\$ 800.00
	Children's Book Project				\$ 50.00
7	Communication/Volunteer Services		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
8	Contingency/Miscellaneous		\$ 1,175.00		\$ 1,000.00
9	Convention (Not scheduled this year)		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
10	Courtesy		\$ 75.00	\$ 130.15	\$ 75.00
11	Health & Safety		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
12	Historian		\$ 300.00	\$ 145.77	\$ 300.00
13	Identification		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
14	Legislative		\$ 400.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 200.00
15	Luncheon		\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
16	Meeting Place (Faith Lutheran)		\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,120.00
17	Member Benefits		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
18	Membership		\$ 500.00	\$ 632.59	\$ 585.00
19	Newsletter		\$ 2,200.00	\$ 725.14	\$ 1,000.00
20	Post Office Box/Safety Deposit Box				\$ 460.00
21	Program/Door Prizes		\$ 150.00		\$ 200.00
22	Records		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
23	Retirement Education		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
24	Scholarship Memorials		\$ 300.00	\$ 345.00	\$ 300.00
25	Social		\$ 250.00	\$ 201.16	\$ 225.00
5	Standing Rules		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
26	Technology		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 607.24	\$ 1,400.00
27	Telephone		\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
28	Yearbook		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,560.85	\$ 2,500.00
29					
30	TOTAL		\$ 12,420.00	\$ 8,725.47	\$ 11,665.00
31					
32	Budget Committee: Tony Dishner-Chair, Rudy Munguia, Wendy Abel, Joe Ramirez, Gladys Havel, Norma Jost				
33					
34	Projected Income FY 2025-2026				
35	Memberships - 600 X \$15.00		\$ 9,000.00		\$ 9,000.00
36	Reimbursement from District 13		\$ 800.00		\$ -
37	Reserve Fund @ A+FCU		\$ 2,620.00		\$ 2,665.00
38	Total Projected Income		\$ 12,420.00		\$ 11,665.00



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ARTA Meeting Entry



Dear ARTA Members,

Happy September! I hope all is well with schools as we transition into the hint of fall weather. I trust many of us have enjoyed a relaxing summer and are ready to dive into ARTA activities for 2025-2026. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the 1st ARTA Committee Fair at our May Meeting! ARTA Yearbook Chair Marilyn Gregory mentioned that the Yearbook Committee information was submitted well ahead of the June deadline. You can still join a committee; just let the committee chairs know you are interested!

This month, we kick off with our first ARTA Area Superintendent Luncheon on September 9 featuring Austin ISD, Manor ISD, and Del Valle ISD. We will have plenty to share about ARTA and learn how we can assist them! I will provide the results of this important luncheon at the September 12th ARTA meeting.

We are also excited to welcome Tim Lee to our September 12th ARTA meeting! He will share crucial updates from the 89th legislative session right after the meeting pledges are concluded. Please **arrive early** (starting at 9:15) to enjoy a delicious dish prepared by our ARTA Social Committee led by Patty Young! We will have fun Back-to-School exercise with Laurie Barber and draw for a few door prizes during the meeting, so please sign up as soon as you can!

Please remember the entry where we are entering the ARTA meeting location, Faith

Lutheran Church and Child Development Center at 6600 Woodrow Avenue. See diagram at left.

My Bridging to the Future goals this year will include:

1. **Membership and Volunteer Services**

Hours: We continue to attract as many Travis County retired educators as we can. Please remember this includes **EVERYONE** – bus drivers, cafeteria workers, secretaries, aides, superintendents, etc. – who have a TRS pension. Providing reasons for members to join and demonstrating how easy it is to keep track of your volunteer hours to show TEXAS how much we support the Texas economy is paramount to our survival as an organization.

2. **Members:** We have almost 700 members when all the dues come in. We are working with TRTA and technology to make dues reminders/collections easier. We plan to mentor our 51 new members and pledge, starting at our September 12th meeting, to meet and greet members as they enter the meeting, help them get their nametags, find someone they can sit with, get them to sign up for door prizes, check out the side tables, and enjoy the amazing food and drink provided by the ARTA Social Committee. There will also be a drawing for an ARTA vest for new members that attend!

3. **ARTA Leadership & Organizational**

Support: We need to support and grow ARTA leadership. We have some ARTA positions in need of succession planning, and we would like to establish shadow roles to facilitate knowledge transfer and learning. This includes the editor for the monthly ARTA meeting packet, an Archives Committee co-chair, and a co-chair for the ARTA Records Committee. The ARTA Foundation needs a Vice-President and to have their bylaws amended for the strength of ARTA in Travis County. We are looking for an ARTA Second Vice-President to be announced in January. Interested candidates should contact Joe Ramirez by the beginning of December. Please review the proposed ARTA Standing Rules amendments in this meeting packet for more information about



this ARTA position that will now align with the TRTA Bylaws.

Please see this amazing story of ARTA member Zeke Castro at the TRTA & Me Stories website: <https://trta.org/zeke-castro-leaves-a-legacy-as-an-influential-mariachi-instructor/> A wonderful quote from his story: “Mariachi music is playing the feeling of the music. That’s what you’re trying to get across,” Castro explained. He emphasized that every mariachi song has a hidden meaning, and that to truly perform it, musicians must discover and convey that meaning to their audience.

We are excited to attend the District 13 Fall Conference in San Marcos. All members are welcome to attend – I need your name and food choice (hamburger, cheeseburger, chicken sandwich, or salad) by September 10, 2025. Please email me ASAP (njost2@yahoo.com). We will be arranging the carpool at the September 12 meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to ARTA!

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 43 first-time ARTA members who joined after our May 9 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:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Joan Altobelli | • Robin Lind |
| • Renee Borders | • Sarah Markos |
| • Mitzi Boyles | • Ruben Martinez |
| • Beth Butcher | • Dru McGovern-Robinett |
| • Mary Campbell | • Morris McMahon |
| • Isabel Cano | • Sean McWhirter |
| • Sandra Causey | • Adam Miller |
| • Elia Cervantes | • Ralph Miller |
| • Lori Cokor | • Janis Montgomery |
| • Sandy Compian | • Mike Owens |
| • David de la Peña | • Ian Pearce |
| • Sandra de la Peña | • Beverly Piper |
| • Kelly DeVetter | • Punam Rana |
| • Susan Diaz | • Sharon Roy |
| • Chris Duarte | • Marcia Schuh |
| • Harishini Ernest | • Jeanne Ann Thompson |
| • Christina Estrada | • Leonor Vargas |
| • Joanne Fiore | • Pam Watson |
| • Gloria Franco | • Al Weber |
| • Lori Frels | • Gloria Williams |
| • Jeri Gabriel | • Adreayn Wilson |
| • David Levee | |

Norma Jost,
ARTA President

IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Name tags are provided for members to wear during meetings. The tags are collected at the end of the meeting. A list of members attending on Zoom is made. Attendance is recorded using the returned tags and the Zoom list. Perfect attendance is determined after the May meeting. A drawing is held at the September meeting to provide a \$15 paid ARTA dues award for one year. The winner needs to pay TRTA dues. In 2024–2025, 18 members had perfect attendance. Two on the list are Past Presidents who have dues paid by the ARTA treasurer each year. Sixteen are eligible for the drawing at the September 2025 meeting.

Lois Mayes. Co-Chair



ARTA members with perfect attendance:

Barbara Bell	Maria Martinez
Glenda Black	Lois Mayes
Marcia Caldwell	Terry Morganti-Fisher
Joyce Clendennen	Gloria Munguía
LaNell Coltharp	Rudy Munguía
Laura Grayson	Catherine Van Zanten
Gladys Havel	Judy Wallace
Norma Jost	Diane Wright
Heidi Langan	Patty Young

ART A MEMBERSHIP

Welcome back! Membership has been hard at work throughout the summer getting renewals by emails, phone calls (thank you Rachel Davila and Sheila Sargeant) and a massive mailout. We were very successful in getting our non-renewals very low. We are shifting our focus to getting new members as well as contacting the many (over 2000) Travis County at-large members to urge them to join our local chapter.

We are so excited to announce the \$25 HEB gift card winners for the “Early Bird Dues” drawing ARTA/TRTA Members: Glenda M. Black, LaNell (Helen) Coltharp, Lloy G. Lizcano, and Catherine M. Thomas and NEW ARTA Members: Joan Hampton and Punam Rana!

We need your help by sharing the membership form and our website link with a retired friend. Dues may be paid online at our ARTA website:

<https://austinrta.org/membership> or at our upcoming ARTA meeting.

Bonnie Cross & Terry Morganti-Fisher, Co-Chairs

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The 2025–2026 ARTA Yearbook is ready! Members that are listed in the yearbook directory should be receiving their copy in the postal mail. If your name or address is not listed in the yearbook, please come by the membership table at the ARTA meeting and pick-up your yearbook. All members joining throughout the year will receive a yearbook.

A special thank you to the committees for submitting their information and the proofers for helping in getting the yearbook ready for print. It was definitely a group effort.

Marilyn Gregory, Chair

IN MEMORIAM

Alice “Kay” Head was born December 15, 1940, in Dallas, Texas. At 14, she entered the convent and served 14 years. While there, she earned a music education degree. After leaving the convent, she earned a master’s degree in Special Education at UT-Austin, where she met and married Joe Head. They had two daughters, Kat and CJ.

She served in the Prayer Shawl Ministry; her shawls offered comfort and solace to those who received them. Through JustFaith Ministries, Kay stood with the vulnerable and the marginalized. She and Joe opened their home to those in need of housing—offering shelter, dignity, and a sense of belonging.

As a teacher, she nurtured her students, teaching her greatest lessons in love more than in words. She was a Special Education teacher in Austin ISD from 1970 to 1999.

She saw the best in others and stood by those who struggled. Because Kay believed in people, they believed in themselves.

Kay died September 1, 2025, at age 84. She was an ARTA member from 2001 to 2025.

MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Members received the TRS-Care newsletter mailed out on July 21, 2025. Information concerning healthcare coverage and opportunities to attend free and online information events are listed in the newsletter. Most convenient for members might be the TRS-Care Webinars for 2026 Benefits. All webinars are from 10 AM to 11:30 AM CST. The newsletter provides a QR code for easy registration to the online event or log on to **trs.texas.gov/health-benefits/events**. **Members may also enroll new dependents in TRS-Care Dental and Vision coverage between October 1st and December 8th, 2026.**

Most importantly, TRS-Care Advantage premiums will stay the same in 2026. This includes medical and pharmacy coverage. Members can call 1 (888) 237-6762 for further information. We encourage all members to subscribe to *The Pulse*, a monthly online TRS newsletter which provides news and updates about benefits and articles on healthy living.



As always, the AMBA representative is at our meetings and ready to answer questions about insurance coverage you might need and the multitude of discounts available because of your TRTA membership.

Laura Grayson & Lucia Facundo, Co-Chairs

CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

I wish to thank all ARTA members who volunteered at Cook Elementary School on May 5th in the completion of the Children's Book Project. ARTA members and partnering schools donated 873 books to the school.

We appreciate our members' contribution to making this project possible. We will begin our book collection for the 2026 school year. Your donated books will be collected at our ARTA meetings.

A big THANK YOU to Joe Ramirez, who offered to share his storage unit to house our boxes of books for this coming year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our September meeting.

Maria Martinez, Coordinator

VOLUNTEER SERVICES/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

It's Time To Keep Moving! Community Involvement

As teachers and other school personnel, we saw successes both great and small, cheered from the sidelines, and often offered a steady hand through the storms "our" kids faced. Now, as we step into a new phase of our life, the echoes of laughter-filled classrooms and heartfelt conversations linger in our memories. Though our roles have shifted, the impact we have made endures.

The journey continues, and there is still so much to give—new opportunities to explore, new passions to pursue, and new ways to inspire, both others and ourselves. We continue serving as we become more involved in our community, our families, and beyond.

Members of ARTA continue to serve. Please record the hours you spend giving to others without financial compensation. If you are serving outside your home, count the time when you leave your home until you return, up to 12 hours per day. Keep track of your time whether

participating in an ARTA group effort or through individual activities.

We are making one important change to reporting your hours for 2025. Report your time monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually to Marsha Gray using any method on the collection form. Of course, we will take them at the end of the year but highly encourage you to report as time moves forward. Remember we are already more than halfway through 2025.

By diligently tracking and sharing our hours, we not only recognize the value of our contributions but also inspire one another to reach further and dream bigger. Every story of time given and every act of service—whether small or large—adds to the powerful legacy we continue to build. Let us embrace this opportunity to reflect on our journey, acknowledge the impact of our efforts, and encourage our peers to join us in giving back.

As we continue to lift others, we uplift ourselves, discovering new meaning and connection in each day's service. So, let us keep moving, renewing our commitment, recording our volunteer hours, sharing our stories, and celebrating the difference we make, together and individually. The journey ahead is bright, and our collective efforts illuminate the way for generations to come.

Marsha Lyons-Gray, Chair

Pioneer Farms Volunteer Request

Volunteers needed to help guide student groups visiting Pioneer Farms. Training provided. Minimal or no walking required.

Contact:

Emma Lea Mayton
512-451-6876
emayton@gmail.com

or

Kristen Marstaller
512-565-5838
kristen.marstaller@gmail.com

Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) Grant and Scholarship Programs

TRTF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides resources and support to retired and active public-school personnel in Texas. It's also the charitable partner of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA). This is a shining



light on two of TRTF's most impactful programs for active teachers: the **Classroom Assistance Grant program** and the **First-Year Teacher Scholarship program**.

TRTF's Classroom Assistance Grants are awarded to teachers, librarians, coaches, and more who go above and beyond the basic curriculum, by creating programs, events, and other learning opportunities that enrich their students' lives. TRTF will award 50 \$1,000 grants for the 2026-2027 year.

First-Year Teacher Scholarships assist brand-new educators purchase the materials they need to set up their classrooms for success. This scholarship directly helps teachers create welcoming, well-equipped spaces for their students. TRTF will award 40 \$1,000 scholarships for the 2026-2027 year.

Applications are available now! Texas educators demonstrate their daily commitment to inspiring and enriching students' lives and fostering a love of learning, but many lack the resources to turn innovative ideas into reality. TRTF's Grant and Scholarship programs honor their dedication by providing funding to bring those ideas to life.

Please visit www.trtf.org/initiatives to download a grant or scholarship application today! The deadline to apply is January 9, 2026.

Many former grant and scholarship recipients are connected to TRTA members through family or friendship! Please continue to help us spread the word about these opportunities!

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://austinrta.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: _____

Please contact us at tamf5683@gmail.com or bonnie@bonniecross.com for questions about membership,

Thank you for your membership and support,

Terry Morganti-Fisher and Bonnie Cross, ARTA Membership Committee Co-chairs

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