



**AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026**

Theme: COLLABORATION

WELCOME—WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

Refreshments provided by the ARTA Executive Board

As you arrive at the gymnasium, enjoy refreshments, greet “old” and new friends, find a seat, and start the first activity: getting to know your tablemates as you work together on the puzzle provided. If your team is missing pieces, send one person to another table to see if they have what you need.

9:45 a.m.: Meeting called to order

Pledge to the U.S. and Texas flags

Moment of Reflection 9/11

Dr. Marsha Gray

Ellen Bell

Dr. Marsha Gray

Program

Introduction of our Guest Speaker

Dr. Gloria Cisneros Lenoir

Texas Teacher Retirement – What’s Happening?

Brock Gregg, Associate Director, TRTA

After Brock Gregg’s presentation, continue working on your puzzle and take breaks as needed.

Collaboration Discussion

Dr. Marsha Gray

Business Meeting

Minutes from May 8, 2026

Treasurer’s report, May–August 2026

Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

Audit Report

Membership Committee Report

Technology Committee Report

Wild Apricot Technology

Marcia Caldwell

Tony Dishner

Tony Dishner

Anne Hyzak

Terry Morganti-Fisher

Judy Wallace

Terry Morganti-Fisher/

Judy Wallace

Legislative Committee Report

Dr. Gloria Cisneros Lenoir/

Joe Ramirez

TRTA Children’s Book Project

Norma Jost

Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Committee

Garland & Marsha Gray

Social Committee

Barbara Wilson

Courtesy and Yearbook Committees

Marilyn Gregory

Standing Rules Committee

Marilyn Gregory

AMBA

Jessica Marchi-Andrews

In Memoriam

Glenda Black / Linda Harvey

Door Prizes

Catherine van Zanten

Adjourn

Dr. Marsha Gray

LUNCH AT EL MERCADO AT 7414 BURNET ROAD

TRTA Photo Policy: *Full text is located in today’s meeting packet.*

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



Austin Retired Teachers Association Meetings

Serving all Travis County school districts: Pflugerville ISD, Manor ISD, Del Valle ISD, Lake Travis ISD, Eanes ISD, Leander ISD, Lago Vista ISD and Austin ISD.



2nd Friday of each month



Meeting Location:

The gym of Faith Lutheran Church,
6600 Woodrow Avenue,
Austin, Texas 78757



9:15 a.m. starts with
social time and snacks



Access resources



Hear from speakers
about issues that
impact retired
educators at the local
and state levels



Join Educators from
across Central Texas



Come build community with us





Austin Retired Teachers Association
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
Friday, May 8, 2026
Via In person/Zoom



The regular monthly meeting of the Austin Retired Teachers Association was held May 8, 2026, in person and via Zoom. In attendance there were 80 in person and eight present on Zoom for a total of 88 attendees.

GATHERING

Committee Fair: Members visited tables around the room from 9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. finding out about current ARTA committees and how to join them for the 2026-2027 year.

Call to Order/Announcements: President Norma Jost called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. She made the general announcements about cell phones and that dues are due. She also announced that ARTA members served as membership recruiters at three retirement celebrations.

Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags: Tony Dishner led the pledges.

Inspiration: Patty Young spoke about the book *Valiant Companions* written in 1959 by Helen Elmira Waite. It inspired Patty through demonstrating perseverance and love as unconventional teaching methods from the mid -twentieth century.

Recognition of Outgoing Committee Chairs: President Norma Jost recognized Craig Campbell, Maria Martinez, Liz Abrahams, and Marsha Lyons-Gray as committee chairs stepping down from their positions.

PROGRAM: ARTA Foundation President Glenda Black and Treasurer Linda Harvey introduced the 2026 ARTA Scholarship winners. All but two of the AISD high school campuses were represented. All recipients and family members were invited to attend today's meeting. Students receiving ARTA scholarships were Colleen Foley from Anderson HS, Natalya Gomez from Austin HS, Ruby Jay from Bowie HS, Karolin Cruz Perez from Crockett HS, Chrissandra Costilla from Eastside Early College HS, Linda Rosales Perez from Garza Independence HS, Simon Windler from LASA, Jose Mojica from LBJ Early College HS, Ana Sofia Hernandez Barbaras from Navarro Early College HS, Jose Emilio Araujo Rodriguez from Northeast Early College HS, Isabella DeLeon from Ann Richards HS for Young Women Leaders, and Anna Treviño from Travis HS. Iris Nicholson and Gisselle Ramirez received second-year continuing scholarships; Angelica Chu, Dulce Nolasco, and Devonna Sterling received third-year continuing scholarships. A special thank you went to Glenda Black for her time and determination serving as president of the foundation.

Door Prizes: were awarded by Catherine van Zanten.

BREAK/Ice Cream Social

Introduction of Guests and New Members: Betty Zschiesche reported that at least ten parents and family members of the scholarship recipients attended the meeting. She also welcomed her daughter to the meeting.

ARTA Foundation Report/Memorials: ARTA Past President Joe Ramirez shared his video presentation honoring the 25 members who passed away over the year.

BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS

Approval of April 10, 2026, Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.

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

Installation of 2026-28 Officers: Past President Joe Ramirez borrowed the inspiration for the theme of the ceremony from Patty Young's April 2024 article in the *ARTA Newsette* and the May edition of the *ARTA News* that described ARTA as a "Garden of Inspiration." The new officers are President Dr. Marsha Lyons-Gray, Second Vice-President Judy Wallace, and Assistant Treasurer Al Weber. Joe gifted new, existing, and outgoing officers with live plants selected for symbolic qualities.

Membership Report: Bonnie Cross reminded members that their job is to renew their membership and sign-up new members.

Merchandise: Gladys Havel announced that all proceeds from ARTA red vests and other merchandise go to the ARTA Foundation.

Legislative Report: Craig Campbell urged members to vote in the May 26 runoff election.

Announcements and Reminders: President Norma Jost shared that as outgoing President she feels "richer because of ARTA and has grown because of ARTA." Norma also reminded members that several new committee chairs are needed for next year.

Door Prizes: Additional door prizes were awarded.

Adjournment: President Norma Jost adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Marcia Caldwell, Secretary

Norma Jost, President

AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report May 1–August 31, 2026

Account	FY 2025–26		FY 2026-27	
	May	June	July	Aug
A+ Checking				
Initial Month Balance	\$ 14,861.20	\$ 16,824.41	\$16,632.87	\$ 18,710.67
Deposits	\$ 5,399.21	\$ 4,297.83	\$4,428.16	\$ 4,901.70
Expenses	\$ (3,436.00)	\$ (4,489.37)	-\$2,350.36	\$ (4,098.76)
Ending Balance	\$ 16,824.41	\$ 16,632.87	\$18,710.67	\$ 19,513.61
Member Savings				
Initial Month Balance	\$ 549.43	\$ 553.73	\$557.89	\$ 562.19
Dividend	\$ 4.30	\$ 4.16	\$4.30	\$ 4.30
Ending Balance	\$ 553.73	\$ 557.89	\$562.19	\$ 566.49
Money Market				
Initial Month Balance	\$ 2,174.24	\$ 2,174.89	\$2,175.52	\$ 2,176.17
Income/expenses	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.63	\$0.65	\$ 0.65
Ending Balance	\$ 2,174.89	\$ 2,175.52	\$2,176.17	\$ 2,176.82
Start-Up CD				
	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
12-month CD				
Initial Month Balance	\$ 2,404.60	\$ 2,412.63	\$ 2,420.42	\$ 2,428.50
Dividend	\$ 8.03	\$ 7.79	\$8.08	\$ 8.11
Ending Balance	\$ 2,412.63	\$ 2,420.42	\$ 2,428.50	\$ 2,436.61
24-month CD				
Initial Month Balance	\$ 2,391.33	\$ 2,399.46	\$2,407.35	\$ 2,415.53
Dividend	\$ 8.13	\$ 7.89	\$8.18	\$ 8.21
Ending Balance	\$ 2,399.46	\$ 2,407.35	\$2,415.53	\$ 2,423.74
TOTAL	\$ 25,365.12	\$ 25,194.05	\$ 27,293.06	\$ 28,117.27

Tony Dishner
ARTA Treasurer

AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

		Adopted Budget 2025-2026	Actual Expenses 2025-2026	Proposed Budget 2026-2027
1	OFFICERS			
2	ALL OFFICERS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 838.80	\$ 500.00
3	STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES			
4	Archives	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00
6	Bulk Mailing	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	Roll Over
	Children's Book Project	\$ 50.00	\$ 45.99	\$ 50.00
7	Communication/Volunteer Services	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
8	Contingency/Miscellaneous	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00
9	Convention (Not scheduled this year)	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
10	Courtesy	\$ 75.00	\$ 73.70	\$ 100.00
11	Health & Safety	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
12	Historian	\$ 300.00	\$ 237.06	\$ 300.00
13	Identification	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
14	Legislative	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 5.00
	Luncheon	\$ 100.00	\$ 238.00	Roll Over
15	Meeting Packets/Lunch Program	\$ 600.00	\$ 593.76	\$ 600.00
16	Meeting Place (Faith Lutheran Church)	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,120.00
17	Member Benefits	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
18	Membership	\$ 585.00	\$ 577.30	\$ 400.00
19	Newsletter	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,618.83	\$ 1,245.00
20	Post Office Box/Safety Deposit Box	\$ 460.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 360.00
21	Program/Door Prizes	\$ 200.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 5.00
22	Records	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
23	Retirement Education	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
24	Scholarship Memorials	\$ 300.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 300.00
25	Social	\$ 225.00	\$ 221.64	\$ 250.00
5	Standing Rules (formerly Bylaws)	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00
26	Technology	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 916.40	\$ 1,000.00
27	Telephone	\$ 25.00	\$ 15.60	\$ 20.00
28	Yearbook	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,010.45	\$ 2,200.00
30	TOTAL	\$ 11,665.00	\$ 12,127.53	\$ 9,000.00
34	Projected Income FY 2026-2027			
35	Memberships - 600 X \$15.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
36	Reimbursement from District 13	\$ -	\$ 950.00	
37	Reserve Fund @ A+FCU	\$ 2,665.00	\$ 2,665.00	
38	Total Projected Income	\$ 11,665.00	\$ 12,615.00	\$ 9,000.00

Budget Committee: Tony Dishner-
Chair, Rudy Munguía, Wendy Abel, Joe
Ramirez, Gladys Havel, Norma Jost

↑
Tony Dishner - Chair,
Wendy Abel, Joe
Ramirez, Debbie
Sansom, Marsha Lyons-
Gray, Al Weber, Terry
Morganti-Fisher, Judy
Wallace



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome To ARTA

On behalf of the 2026-27 Austin Retired Teachers Association (ARTA), I welcome you.

During the past four or five months, I have been seriously thinking about ARTA and what it means to be a retired and a current teacher. This includes determining what will make the greatest positive impact on our current membership and determining what we need to do to increase our membership and increase active participation among our members.

We are here to support our members to solve issues related to the Texas Teacher Retirement System. There are those who want to make major changes from a *defined benefit* plan where our benefits are consistent from month to month to what may become a *defined contribution* plan where benefits fluctuate from month to month. Currently, we have a defined benefit retirement plan where our benefits are consistent and for life. Now is the time to prepare for the 90th legislative session that runs from January to May 2027. Our priorities are to return our Texas teacher retirement system to actuarial soundness, improve TRS-Care health benefits, and support enhancement benefits, preferably cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). As retired public-school employees, each of us should read the policies of state candidates running for office. Ask if they support a defined benefit retirement plan or not. A top legislative priority should be to support public schools and fully fund them.

If you have not renewed or joined TRTA and ARTA **membership**, now is the time. Either visit with Terry Morganti-Fisher, Bonnie Cross, Tony Dishner, or Al Weber at the membership table today or go to the Austin Retired Teachers Association website at <https://www.austinrta.org/membership> to join or renew.

2026-2028 State President Frana Patterson encourages every member to "Add Your Piece to the Puzzle" as TRTA advances its work in advocacy, community, and empowerment. The

dedication and work of **each member** will continue to shape the future of TRTA, ARTA, public schools, and our retirement.

If It Is Not Me, Who Will It Be?

***We** encourage our members to volunteer and report their hours to their local chapter, who, in turn, reports them to the state. Our state leaders listen to our contribution to the Texas economy through volunteerism.

***We** work with our state organization to strengthen TRS actuarial stability and protect retiree funding.

***We** encourage future educators by providing scholarships through the ARTA Foundation, and through the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF), encourage new teachers by providing grants to those who show innovation and success in the classroom.

THINK POSITIVE.... BECOME INVOLVED

Marsha Gray
ARTA President

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.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

At our last board meeting, First and Second Vice-Presidents Terry Morganti-Fisher and Judy Wallace proposed moving our website from GoDaddy to Wild Apricot, a platform designed specifically for membership organizations. ARTA has outgrown GoDaddy's website builder



for managing members and events. The board approved this transition.

Wild Apricot consolidates website management, event registration, member communications, and dues processing into a single system. Its automated features will reduce volunteer workload, provide members with a centralized portal, and ensure long-term sustainability without requiring specialized technical skills. We plan to complete the transition for members by December 1, 2026.

*Judy Wallace
Chair, Technology Committee*

TRTA CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

Collection for 2027 begins now! Last year 1,303 books were DONATED! Let's beat that record!

Please bring your donated children's books to our upcoming ARTA meetings.

A special **THANK YOU** to **Joe Ramirez** for generously providing storage space for our boxes of books!

See you September 11!

*Norma Jost
TRTA Children's Book Project Coordinator
Bonnie Elliott, Co-Chair*

COURTESY COMMITTEE

WE need YOUR help! Members of the Courtesy Committee serve as greeters at each meeting and prepare and distribute special goodies bags to new ARTA members. Committee members also send cards to bereaved families of members or ill ARTA members. **We can't do this without your help.** If you know of a member that is ill or who could use a special card, please text Marilyn Gregory, Courtesy Chair, at 512-507-6981, or email her at marilyngregory8@aol.com with the information so we can communicate with them.

*Marilyn Gregory
Chair, Courtesy Committee*

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The 2026-2027 ARTA Yearbook is completed. All current paid ARTA members will receive their yearbook by postal mail in early September. Read through all parts of the yearbook to learn about ARTA and use it as a

reference for our officers, committees, programs, local and district meeting dates, membership, foundation, and other information you will need throughout the year. If you did not receive your yearbook, please text Marilyn Gregory, Yearbook Chair, at 512-507-6981.

*Marilyn Gregory
Yearbook Editor and Chair*

ARTA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you know that ARTA represents retirees from eight school districts in Travis County? Annual ARTA and TRTA membership dues support **ALL** retired school personnel in Austin, Del Valle, Eanes, Lago Vista, Lake Travis, Manor, Leander, and Pflugerville Independent School Districts. The upcoming 2027 legislative session will address key issues that directly affect our retirement, and the larger our membership, the stronger our collective voice will be in advocating for our benefits! **Please help us by sharing a membership form and our website link with a retired friend.**

Dues may be paid online at our ARTA website: <https://austintrta.org/membership> and at our ARTA meetings. We appreciate you!

*Terry Morganti-Fisher & Bonnie Cross
Chair and Co-Chair, Membership*

WELCOME, NEW ARTA MEMBERS!

Welcome to the first-time ARTA members who joined after our May 8 regular meeting! Your fellow members are honored that you are now part of our organization. Soon, we will invite you to a special brunch where you will enjoy "yummy" treats, meet our executive board and hopefully find a new "home" as a retired educator.

We have opportunities for you to become involved. Activities are directly involved in ARTA through committee work and activities and far beyond with service to our community that you might consider joining. Do not hesitate to contact me at marsha_gray@att.net if you have questions about ARTA and opportunities for self and others, I will be glad to talk with you about ARTA and the promises it holds for each of us.

*Marsha Gray
ARTA President*



Monica Allen	Ann Jenkins
Lynda Andrus	Bonnie Lang
Joanne Antrim	Francisco Lara
Sandra Brown	Karen Loveday
Cindi Carroll	Pamela McKinney
Donald Casey	Thom McNeil
Kowsillia Cavallaro	Lisa Mielke
Christine Cluchey	Sharryl Mitchell
Sylvia Corwin	James Ockleberry
Gracie Esquivel	Marliann Park
Daniel Fuentes	Patrick Patterson
Melba Fuentes	Erik Pedersen
Kathy Genet	Melissa Prepster
Cheryl-Lyn Gibson	Andrea Ramirez
Jennifer Graf	Mark Robinson
Garland Gray	Alice Scott
Elvira Guerra	Meredith Siler
Leticia Hallmark	Bonnie Singerman
Carolyn Hanschen	Patricia Stone
Deborah Hanson	Patricia Swanson
Cathy Heath	Deena Telley
Ralph Henley	Amy Turnage
Kenn Heydrick	Lisa Yanez

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

As we begin our 2026–27 year and celebrate our 75th anniversary, we will continue our “Getting to Know You” series that was introduced in the September 2026 issue of the ARTA News.

Tony Dishner, ARTA Treasurer

Tony grew up in a small rural town in Virginia, where his interest in education began early. At age nine, he volunteered with a summer special education program, an experience that sparked his lifelong commitment to supporting students with diverse learning needs. From what I know of Tony, that same willingness to help extends to anyone in need.

I seem to have a way of making memorable introductions to ARTA treasurers, and my first encounter with Tony was especially embarrassing. With my arms full of materials, I was walking from the church parking lot to our new meeting entrance when a man behind me offered to help. Without turning around, I declined and kept walking—somewhat faster. I had no idea he might be part of ARTA. Once inside, I went to my table and later noticed an

unfamiliar face across the room. It was Tony, the same person who had kindly offered his help.

As noted, Tony developed a passion for special education at an early age. He turned that passion into a career, graduating from the University of Virginia with a degree in Special Education. Life eventually brought him to Texas, where he accepted a teaching position with Austin ISD. While teaching, he continued his own education, earning a master’s degree in educational administration from Southwest Texas State University, now Texas State University.

Tony is incredibly proud of his 37-year career with AISD. Over nearly four decades, he has had the privilege of working with wonderful students and staff across the district, teaching at Harris Elementary, Martin Junior High School when it was truly a junior high, and Cook Elementary. He transitioned into administrative roles, serving as a Special Education Coordinator and Administrative Supervisor. He ultimately spent his final 22 years before retirement as the Principal of Clifton Career Development School. As Tony said, a deeply rewarding capstone to his full-time career.

Retirement has not kept him out of the school system entirely, as he currently works part-time, providing leadership support and mentorship to middle school principals as they navigate the challenges of school closure. He is looking forward to connecting with fellow educators in the group and sharing their collective passion for the field that shaped their lives.

Al Weber, ARTA Assistant Treasurer

Al joined ARTA in May 2025 after retiring from Austin ISD’s Finance Department. I still remember his first day: while preparing community involvement materials, I spotted a new face near the front of the room. Without introducing myself, I handed him a stack of papers and asked him to place one on each chair. He did—and from then on, Al became an active ARTA member.

Al grew up in Port Lavaca, on one of the large bay systems along the Texas coast. He remembers spending time at the local fishing pier and beach. That beach, interestingly, was



once home to the largest port in late 19th-century Texas before hurricanes destroyed it. It also served as a major arrival point for German immigrants and camels in the late 1800s.

The Weber family has a strong history of educators and engineers. Al's paternal grandfather and great-uncle were university professors, his paternal grandmother taught in Austin ISD, and his mother taught in each of his hometown's segregated schools. Although several relatives were engineers, Al was most interested in his great-uncle's stories about helping build Austin's water system. His uncles often said nothing is new—only trends that return every 50 to 70 years and are rediscovered by later generations. That sounds like an education story, too.

After high school, Al attended UT but soon realized he was not “bleeding burnt orange” and left for what became a long sabbatical. Over the next decade, he took occasional classes and held various jobs, including nurse's aide, construction worker, filling station cashier and manager, and IRS data transcriber. He later worked at UT as a GED and Correspondence Studies testing officer, where a trench-coated cutout on his door joked, “Pssst! Want to buy a test?” Eventually, Al earned an accounting degree and worked with volunteers in Austin ISD's Community Education Department, broadening his perspective on people and politics.

Al has also remained active in his neighborhood association, serving in roles from newsletter editor to president. Like his work in Austin ISD, that involvement has broadened his view of people and politics.

Listening to Al, we learned he still looks ahead: he hopes to buy a saltwater fishing license and return to fishing. He fondly remembers having flounder for Christmas dinner once and thinks it would be a welcome tradition to revisit.

Judy Wallace, ARTA Second Vice-President

Judy Wallace is a second-generation Austinite whose parents were both teachers in Austin ISD. Judy swore she would never be a teacher, but after a short stint in nursing school, she changed her major to elementary education.

Judy's teaching career began in Elgin ISD at the Elgin Primary School where she taught

kindergarten, then prekindergarten. That year was 1981, the year the Primary School burned down a week before the Christmas holidays. Judy likes to say that she really was indoctrinated by fire to her education career. That almost two-year-long experience taught her that flexibility was one of her best skills.

In 1985, Judy was hired by the Austin Independent School District to teach in one of Austin ISD's newly designated priority schools, the old Campbell Elementary School, teaching prekindergarten. Then in 1990 Judy was “surplused” to Wooldridge when the enrollment at Campbell dropped. She taught at Wooldridge for the next 16 years. In 2006, when Lucy Read opened as the Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten Demonstration School, Judy was hired as the campus-based instructional coach. She stayed at that school for 12 years until the demonstration school closed in 2018, which is when she retired.

Although she never married, Judy has always been devoted to her family. Her father passed when Judy was in her twenties, and, as a result, she and her mother became very close. Judy was her mother's primary caregiver for the last ten years of her mother's life as she battled with Lewy body dementia. Judy spends much time with her brothers, sisters-in-law, six nieces, two nephews, and their children. She likes to joke that she doesn't have any grandkids; instead, she has five “greatkids,” her great nieces and nephews.

Judy loves to putter around in her garden, especially with wildflowers and other Texas natives, backyard birdwatching, and crafts. She also enjoys watching English murder mystery TV shows and reading J.D. Robb mysteries.

*Marsha Gray
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 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 award a \$15 paid ARTA dues for one year. The



winner needs to pay TRTA dues. In 2025-2026, 26 members had perfect attendance. Three on the list are Past Presidents who have dues paid by the ARTA treasurer each year. Twenty-three are eligible for the drawing at the September 2026 meeting.

Perfect attendance, 2025-2026:

Wendy Abel	Mary Alice Hatchett
Glenda Black	Heidi Langan
Wayne Bowen	Gloria Lenoir
Linda Burns	Lois Mayes
Marcia Caldwell	Elizabeth Newell
Craig Campbell	Diane Rogers
Trisha Davis	Terry Tannert
Tony Dishner	Catherine van Zanten
Sandy Doughty	Judy Wallace
Pat Emmert	Patty Young
Marsha Lyons-Gray	Gladys Havel (PP)
Laura Grayson	Norma Jost (PP)
Linda Harvey	Rosemary Morrow (PP)

Lois Mayes

Chair, Identification Committee

IN MEMORIAM

Susan “Susie” Hunter Barrows was born January 9, 1937, in Oak Park, Illinois. She taught in Corpus Christi ISD, Beaumont ISD, and in Austin ISD at Robert E. Lee Elementary, Oak Springs Elementary, and Norman Elementary. She died February 21, 2026, at age 89. Susie was an ARTA member from 2014 to 2025.

Maureen Elizabeth Ims Chase was born August 17, 1942, in Queens, New York. Her early years were spent in New York City. When she was a teenager, Maureen’s family relocated to Chicago and later to Rochester, New York. She attended Misericordia University and spent her summers in Ocean City, New Jersey, where her neighbor introduced her to her son, Larry, who Maureen married. They raised three children. Maureen began teaching elementary school while pursuing graduate studies at Rutgers University. She taught in New Jersey, Virginia, and Illinois before the family moved to Texas. Once here, she began her teaching career in Lela ISD in the Texas Panhandle. Later, she guided Leander

ISD teachers in supporting students with reading challenges. She completed 26 years in public education. In her later years, Maureen volunteered to teach adults learning English as a second language. She volunteered at the Texas Tribune Festival, attended lectures and classes at UT Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, where ARTA member Betty Clough served as her French teacher. Maureen also looked forward to listening to speakers at the Friends of LBJ Library events. She died April 12, 2026, at age 83 and was an ARTA member from 2015 to 2023.

Marilyn Diane Norris Crowe was born on May 16, 1939, in McAllen, Texas. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Southwestern University, a master’s degree from Our Lady of the Lake University, and a PhD in education from Nova Southeastern University. Diane began her teaching career in Northeast ISD before coming to Austin to serve as principal at Winn, Casis, and Gullett elementary schools and at O. Henry Jr. High. She was hired by Round Rock ISD in 1996 to serve as principal of Purple Sage Elementary. After retiring from public education in 1999, she founded and operated Crowe’s Nest Farm, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to fostering public appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of agricultural and wildlife resources in Manor. She began Crowe’s Nest because of a growing collection of animals and gardens at each of her schools. She was an international speaker for the National Science Teachers Association of America, and she was the founding president of the Texas State Science Teachers Association. The Texas Land Commission gave Diane its Environmental Education Award, and she was recognized with the Distinguished Leadership Award in Science Education by the Texas Science Teachers Association. She passed away on May 21, 2026, five days after turning 87. She was an ARTA member from 2004 until 2023.

Cathy Elaine Whiting Kidd was born on April 30, 1949, in Dallas, Texas. A lifelong Christian and educator, Cathy devoted her



career to teaching elementary-school children. Education was one of the great passions of her life—not only for the young students in her care, but for everyone she encountered. She was a steadfast advocate for helping others reach important educational milestones, including completion of GED certifications. Cathy believed deeply that it was never too late to learn. Her commitment to service extended beyond the classroom through her dedicated work with women's and homeless ministries, where she offered both practical help and genuine compassion. Cathy died June 13, 2026, at age 77. She was an ARTA member from 2010 to 2022.

Mary Alice Cathey Bess was born August 14, 1931, in rural Bastrop County. Her family left Bastrop County when she was young and moved to Austin. She grew up on 13th Street in Austin's Rosewood neighborhood. In 1956, Mary Alice began her career as a special education teacher in Manor ISD before she was hired in Midland in 1965. She retired under disability in 1977 due to a hearing loss and eventually returned to Austin. She died July 11, 2026, at age 94 and was an ARTA member from 2001 to 2026.

Mattie Elaine Benton was born November 28, 1949, in Harlingen, Texas. Elaine graduated from Harlingen High School and Pan American University in Edinburg, where she studied education and music. She began her teaching career in 1971 as a teacher in Brownsville ISD and worked there until 1977 when she was hired by McAllen ISD. In 1980, Elaine was hired by Austin ISD and served at Spicewood Springs, Odom, Pecan Springs, and Blanton elementary schools in addition to Bedichek Middle School and LBJ High School before retiring as an assistant principal in 2004. She was a lifelong educator and fluent Spanish speaker; Elaine spent summers teaching ESL. She deeply believed that education was the great equalizer—that it could open doors of opportunities and lead to bright futures, especially for young people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. She died

August 8, 2026, at age 76 and was an ARTA member from 2018 to 2026.

Linda Ruth Gould Baker was born in the East Texas community of Jacksonville on December 4, 1943. She grew up in Llano and was a majorette at Llano High School. She earned a Home Economics degree from The University of Texas and spent 30 years with Austin ISD. She taught home economics and found a special call for teaching vocational education to students with disabilities. Following retirement, she and her husband Darrel, who was the former principal of Anderson High School, lived for 14 years in the mountains of Breckenridge, Colorado, enjoying the beauty of the Rockies. She died August 13, 2026, in Iola, Texas at age 82. Linda was an ARTA member from 2000 to 2024.

*Glenda Black
President, ARTA Foundation*

ARTA STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

Three amendments to the ARTA Standing Rules will be proposed at the Sept. 11 regular meeting for voting at the Oct. 9 regular meeting:

1. Add to Rule 4 (Meetings) the following: 4.1.2 A quorum for the transaction of chapter business shall be the members in attendance in person and online provided it is a regularly scheduled meeting or one that has been properly called.

Robert's Rules state that if a quorum is not included in the rules, it will by default be a majority of the entire membership attending the meeting. The amendment will limit the quorum to the number to however many are actually in attendance without regard to the total membership number.

2. Clarify language in Rule 6.2 (Election procedure): Strike ~~A majority of those present shall elect.~~ Insert: The election will be decided by a majority of those present and voting.
3. Add to Rule 8.2 (Responsibilities of the Executive Board) the following responsibility: f. be empowered to alter the budget after its adoption by the membership to deal with contingencies that may develop.

This responsibility will give flexibility to amending budget line items during the year. Otherwise, the membership has to vote on any



changes in amounts allocated to a specific category.

Jane Garner

Chair, ARTA Standing Rules Committee

MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Per a TRS newsletter: “Good News!, TRS-Care Medicare Advantage premiums are going down again thanks to the partnership with the Texas Legislature, Office of the Governor, and federal changes and TRS strong financial management of the TRS-Care fund.” “The TRS-Care Medicare Advantage combines medical and prescription coverage in one plan.” For further clarification on this information and explanation of benefits visit the UnitedHealthcare website.

Members who subscribe to electronic communications received this information in their inbox on August 14, 2026. If it’s not in your inbox, be sure to check the spam folder. If you do not subscribe for electronic communications and have not received it through U.S. mail, call the number on the back of the UnitedHealthcare card (1-888-347-9507) and request the information.

One of the benefits of UnitedHealthcare is SilverSneakers, a physical fitness program available at no extra cost. Classes can be taken in person by joining a gym or online by enrolling in the program. To enroll and learn more about what is available, visit <https://tools.silversneakers.com>.

Be sure to use your United Healthcare over-the-counter (OTC) dollars to purchase medical supplies, online or in person, before the end of the year. Deposits into the OTC account are made quarterly and will accumulate until the end of the year. All monies in the OTC account must be used before December 31, 2026. Whatever amount has accumulated will not rollover into the new year.

TRS is offering TRS-Care Health Education Fairs throughout Texas. In the Austin area, the in-person fair was held on August 13 at the AISD Performing Arts Center. ARTA members who missed the in-person opportunity can register for webinars to learn about TRS healthcare benefits by visiting the <https://trs.texas.gov> website. Once on the home page, scroll down to the “Health Events” link on the left side of the homepage, click on the link to find the webinars you wish to attend

and fill out the online registration form. Registration is free.

For TRS retirees eligible for Medicare and enrolled in TRS-Care Medicare Advantage, webinars covering 2027 benefits will be October 30 and December 2, 2026; for TRS retirees not eligible for Medicare and enrolled in TRS-Care Standard, the dates are October 26 and November 5, 2026.

TRS-Care Dental & Vision webinars, hosted by TRS and MetLife, will be September 9 and September 29, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

TRS members living in the Austin area have the ability to call TRS and make an appointment to visit with a representative in person. The TRS offices are located at 4655 Mueller Boulevard in Austin 78723. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For telephone counseling, call 1-800-223-8778 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TRS members have from October 1, 2026, until March 31, 2028, to enroll, re-enroll, or add eligible dependents to the TRS-Care Medicare Advantage plan. Learn more about your benefits by going to the <https://trs.texas.gov> website.

Laura Grayson and Lucia Facundo

Chair and Co-Chair, Member Benefits Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Join the Adopt-a-Texas-Candidate Program in Preparation for the 90th Legislative Session

The Texas teachers retirement plan is not actuarially sound. This status is stated in TRTA’s *The VOICE*: “Over the past year, TRS’s unfunded liability grew by nearly \$5 billion, reaching a total of \$64.9 billion.” Let us prepare well for the 90th Texas Legislative Session in 2027. To read the full article on the TRS Study, please refer to *The VOICE*, Fourth Quarter 2025, page 2.

The three main TRTA Legislative Priorities are for the next legislative session in 2027 are:

1. Restore TRS to Actuarial Soundness
2. Deliver a Meaningful Benefit Enhancement
3. Fund TRS-Care

Please refer to TRTA 2027 Legislative Priorities, which you can find:

https://trta.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/TRTA-Legislative-Priorities-Sheet_06.2026.pdf



There has been discussion about a “hybrid” defined contribution pension plan adopted in TRS like the one which was implemented in ERS (Employees Retirement System of Texas). We have had the TRS Defined Benefit Contribution Plan since 1937. To see the difference between the pension plans, please refer to: <https://trta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Do-You-Know-the-Difference-DB-vs.-DC.pdf>.

We ask you to please help and sign up to adopt-a-candidate of both parties or more. Get a friend to sign up also if possible. Acquaint yourself with them and establish a professional relationship. If they are already a friend, that is great! Share the TRTA Legislative Priorities and ask the Candidate Questions. Share that back to the ARTA Legislative Committee. You can find the Candidate Questions on: <https://austinrta.org/legislative>.

After the November 2026 General Election, let us continue the relationships and provide information as necessary and helpful during the 90th Legislative Session. The Day at the Texas Capitol is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2027. That is a good day to continue our relationships.

So far, we have had the following brave ones “adopt” a candidate. That means they can call, email, text, and just contact the candidate as they are able. They will share the TRTA Legislative Priorities and ask the Candidate Questions. They will report back to the Legislative Committee.

Gloria Cisneros Lenoir	Erin Zwiener HD45, D	Tennyson Moreno HD45, R
Norma Jost	Montserrat Garibay HD49, D	Ashia Papari HD49, Green P.
Emma Lee Mayton	Pooja Sethi HD47, D	Jennifer Mushtaler HD47, R
Sheila Sargent & Laura Grayson	Lulu Flores HD51, D	Jessica Martinez HD51, R

The candidate table is shown for your assistance so you can decide whom you wish to contact and work with. You do not have to do this alone. Get a friend and enjoy maintaining relationships and making new friends. These relationships are important as few work on the TRTA Priorities. We are eager to hear from you to know which candidate you wish to adopt.

Thank you for all you do!

*Gloria Cisneros Lenoir and Joe Ramirez
Chair and Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

1.2 Million Texans Land on Voter Suspense List Before Nov. 3 Election:

Here’s What To Do If You Are On It

More than 1.2 million Texas voters are sitting on the state’s suspense list just over two months before the November 3 midterm election, a status that does not strip anyone of the right to vote but does require extra paperwork to make sure that a ballot counts. The number represents roughly 6.5% of the state’s 18.6 million registered voters as of March 2026, and it means a lot of Texans could show up to the polls without realizing their registration has an asterisk on it. We have already heard from a few ARTA members that they are on this suspense list.

Landing on the suspense list is mostly an address problem, not a disqualification. Guidance from **VoteTexas.gov** explains that voters are automatically placed on the list when election mail — like biennial voter registration certificates or jury summonses — comes back undeliverable, or when someone files a postal mail-forwarding request without updating their county voter records. Being on the suspense list means the state simply has not been able to confirm a voter’s current address, which is a common byproduct of moves, apartment turnover, and routine mail hiccups rather than any wrongdoing.

Being on the suspense list does not prevent someone from voting, but it does require filling out extra forms on or before Election Day. Texas voters must update their address before the **October 5 deadline** to avoid complications, and the process varies depending on whether someone has moved. Voters who moved within the same county can still cast a regular ballot on Election Day after signing a Statement of Residence, while those who moved to a different county without re-registering in time are limited to casting a “limited ballot” during early voting. Limited ballots only cover statewide and district races that are common to both counties.

Voters identified as being on the suspense list at the polls must fill out a Statement of Residence form on the spot, and Texas voter



status can be checked ahead of time through the state's online portal. Updating that information online, however, isn't as simple as typing in a new street address. Under regulations tracing back to Texas Senate Bill 1, enacted in 2021, online address updates require cross-referencing with Department of Public Safety records, meaning voters need to supply their driver's license number, Social Security number, and Voter Unique Identifier Number.

For the November 3 general election, the address update and voter registration deadline falls on **Monday, October 5**, with **early in-person voting** running from **October 19 through October 30**. Election Day itself is now less than two months away, and Texas does not allow same-day registration, so voters who wait until the polls open to sort out a suspense flag may find their options narrowed to a Statement of Residence or a limited ballot rather than a standard one.

There's also a longer-term consequence for voters who ignore the flag altogether. Under Texas Election Code Section 16.032, if a voter remains on the suspense list through November 30 following the second state and county general election after being placed there, **the county voter registrar is required by law to cancel their registration** — a process often referred to informally as a **voter roll purge**. That statute is part of why officials are urging suspense voters to act well before Election Day rather than treat the list as a one-time inconvenience.

If you are registered to vote in Travis County, go to <https://votetravis.gov/voter-lookup/#VoterEligibilitySearch> to see if you are eligible to vote. Voters living in other counties will need to contact their local county voter registrar ahead of the October 5 voter registration deadline and filling out a new voter registration form with their updated address.

*Gloria Cisneros Lenoir and Joe Ramirez
Chair and Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

Comments to the Texas House of Representatives Pensions, Investments and Financial Services Committee Hearing, August 18

I submitted the following public comments online to the Texas House Pensions Committee that met on August 18 regarding the current

state of the TRS fund balance and the potential threat to our current defined benefit retirement plan:

As a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association Board of Directors and current president of TRTA District 13 that encompasses the 14 chapters and counties in Central Texas, I ask you to restore the \$5 billion “borrowed” from TRS for a teacher pay raise at the end of the 89th session. This action will make the fund balance actuarially sound again in less time than the 35-year period required to repay it back to TRS.

Without actuarial soundness, retired school employees have no chance to receive a cost-of-living adjustment or supplemental checks. In addition, there is speculation that the TRS report due to the state on September 1 may include recommendations of a “hybrid” defined benefit retirement plan for new TRS retirees. This “hybrid” plan supposedly will include characteristics of a defined contributions plan, which is not for life and tends to shift as the markets fluctuate. We don't know yet what elements of the defined contribution plan will be part of the hybrid DB plan, but TRS annuitants do not need this type of plan.

As TRTA District 13 President, I have had the opportunity to travel to our 14 chapters and personally visit with retired school personnel. We are hurting financially right now. Most retired educators whose pensions are through TRS are currently 30% behind the cost of living than other retirees in Texas. Members have shared stories with me about how they cannot afford to see doctors not covered by the current TRS health plan or must skip daily doses of expensive medication to make it last longer. Others can no longer afford the food and veterinarian bills for beloved pets that must be given away to family members or animal shelters. Still others have had to sell property that has been in their families for generations because they can no longer afford the upkeep and expenses needed to maintain their land. Savings accounts have been drained, and credit cards have been maxed out just to get by from month to month. Paying federal income taxes on TRS pensions that members were taxed on while they were still active employees has further



hindered their economic stability. These situations apply to members throughout my district in urban, suburban, and rural settings.

Please take the time now before the 90th session begins to make the necessary improvements that will improve the current economic well-being of retired school employees who receive pensions from TRS.

Joe Ramirez

*TRTA Board of Directors &
TRTA District 13 President*

Do You Know The Difference? Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution Retirement Plans

Do you know the difference between a defined benefit retirement plan and a defined contribution plan? Public school personnel in Texas participate in a defined benefit (DB) program. The DB plan is very important for members of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS), as our annuities are guaranteed for life by the Texas Constitution.

Our annuities are determined by number of years of service, age at retirement, highest salary, and a 2.3 multiplier. The state of Texas, by law, is required to contribute a minimum of 6% and a maximum of 10% of the active aggregate teacher payroll to the pension fund. The state contribution was 6.8% in 2019, increased to 7.5% for 2020 and 2021, increased to 7.75% in 2022, increased to 8.0% in 2023, and finally reached 8.25% in 2024. Active employees now pay 7.7% of their salaries into the fund, an amount that increased gradually from 6.4% in 2014. This amount increased again in 2022 to 8.0% and in 2025 to 8.25%. School districts contributed 1.5% through 2020, but this increased to 1.60% in 2021, to 1.70% in 2022, 1.80% in 2023, 1.90% in 2024, and then to 2.00% in 2025.

The increases are the result of the passage of Senate Bill 12 in 2019 during the 86th Legislative Session. TRS manages the plan, invests the funds, and pays out benefits to annuitants monthly.

There are groups, such as powerful investment management companies, that currently want to eliminate defined benefit programs and replace them with defined contribution (DC) plans. DC plans require individuals to make investment and contribution

decisions. Unlike DB plans, they are portable from job to job; however, this encourages job transition that is very costly for the workforce, especially public education. The employee must ride the ups and downs of the market. This shifts the responsibility onto retirees, who can outlive the benefits they receive or be faced with unpredictable retirement income.

In contrast, the DB plan assures a lifetime annuity. It is especially important for TRS to remain a defined benefit program as most Texas public school districts are not coordinated with Social Security, and TRS serves as their only form of retirement security.

Governor Abbott has mandated TRS to complete a study of our current DB plan by September 1, 2026. Part of this study address other options, including a “hybrid” plan that incorporates components of the DC plan for TRS annuitants. If the Texas Legislature moves forward to adopt this plan during the 90th session, we are still unsure if this will impact only new TRS retirees or affect all of us. One possibility is that current TRS annuitants may be grandfathered and continue with the traditional DB plan, while new retirees are placed under the “hybrid” plan.

Regardless of what happens after the TRS report is released and the Texas Legislature convenes in January 2027, we must encourage all retired school personnel to join TRTA and a home chapter. Currently, less than 20% of the over-five-million retired school employees and their beneficiaries are members of TRTA, and approximately 25% of 2025-2026 TRTA members still have not renewed their membership dues for the 2026-2027 year.

If we want legislators to take us seriously on the issues we lobby for, we must present a united front of a significant number of TRS annuitants. Please reach out to people you know who receive a TRS pension and persuade them to join TRTA and Austin RTA if they have not yet done so. Apathy, complacency, procrastination, and a lack of information are our own worst enemies.

The following table breaks down the highlights of defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans:

**Highlights of Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC) Plans**

	DB (TRS PENSION)	DC
Guaranteed for life	Yes	No
Managed by TRS investment professionals	Yes	No
Selling point for recruiting and retaining teachers	Yes	No
Generates predictable, steady retirement income	Yes	No
Sole guaranteed income for most Texas retirees	Yes	No
Allows retirement on predetermined and predictable formulas	Yes	No
Rewards years of service and stability	Yes	No
Provides secure disability and survivor benefits based on the individual's years of service and established formula.	Yes	No

*2026 TRTA Legislative Resource Guide
Supplemented by Joe Ramirez, District 13 President*

Mark Your Calendars: Key Dates Related to the November 3 Election

Texas voters need to be aware of key dates related to the November 3 Election. Please make sure to make note of these important dates:

- Last day to register to vote: **Monday, October 5, 2026**
- Last day to clear your name off the voter suspense list: **Monday, October 5, 2026**
- First day of early voting by personal appearance: **Monday, October 19, 2026**
- Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked): **Friday, October 23, 2026**
- Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance: **Friday, October 30, 2026**
- Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail: **Tuesday, November 3, 2026 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m.** if carrier envelope is **not** postmarked, **OR Wednesday, November 4, 2026** (next business day after Election Day) **at 5:00 p.m.** if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply).

Source: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/important-election-dates.shtml>

*Gloria Cisneros Lenoir and Joe Ramirez
Chair and Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

Austin/Travis County Area Texas Senate Races, November General Election 2026

Senate District	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Other Parties
SD14 Travis	Sarah Eckhardt Off cycle Next election 2028		
SD21 Caldwell, Guadalupe, Hays, S. Travis	Judith Zaffirini (I)	Julie Dahlberg	None
SD25 Blanco, Comal, Hays, E. Guadalupe, S. Travis		Donna Campbell Off cycle Next election 2028	



Austin/Travis County Area Texas House Races, November General Election 2026

House District	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Other Parties
HD19 Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, W. Travis	Vacant Kelly Hall (withdrew from race)	Ellen Troxclair (i)	None
HD20 Western Williamson	Matthias-Jonah Early	Terry M. Wilson (i)	None
HD45 E. Hays	Erin Zwiener (i)	Tennyson Moreno	None
HD46 NE. Travis	Sheryl Cole (i)	No candidate	None
HD47 W. Travis	Pooja Sethi Seat vacated by Vikki Goodwin	Jennifer Mushtaler	None
HD48 SW. Travis	Donna Howard (i)	Anthony Gupta	None
HD49 Central Travis	Montserrat Garibay Seat vacated by Gina Hinojosa	No candidate	Arshia Papari, Green Party
HD50 N. Travis	Samantha Lopez-Resendez Seat vacated by James Talarico	Howard Olsen, IV	None
HD51 SE. Travis	Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores (i)	Jessica Martinez	None
HD52 E. Williamson	Chris Jimenez	Caroline Harris Davila (i)	Gideon Jack, Independent
HD136 S. Central Williamson	John Bucy III (i)	Theodore Schramm	None

Austin/Travis County Area State Board of Education Race (State Executive Office)

SBOE	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Other Parties
SBOE 5 Bastrop, Blanco, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Hays, & parts of Travis & Williamson	Allison Bush Seat vacated by Rebecca Bell-Metereau.	Mica Arellano	None

U.S. Senate Race – Texas

Office	Democratic Party	Republican Party
US Senate	James Talarico	Ken Paxton Incumbent John Cornyn defeated in the May 26 primary runoff.

Other Key State Executive Offices

Office	Democratic Party	Republican Party
Governor	Gina Hinojosa	Greg Abbott (i)
Lieutenant Governor	Vikki Goodwin	Dan Patrick (i)
State Comptroller	Sarah Ekhardt	Don Huffines Interim appointee Kelly Hancock defeated in the March 3 primary.

(i) Denotes Incumbent.

Per Dr. Craig Campbell, the bolded state office candidates have endorsed ARTA's survey strongly supporting public education.

ARTA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you know that ARTA represents retirees from eight school districts in Travis County? Annual ARTA and TRTA membership dues support *ALL* retired school personnel in Austin, Del Valle, Eanes, Lago Vista, Lake Travis, Manor, Leander, and Pflugerville Independent School Districts. The upcoming 2027 legislative session will address key issues that directly affect our retirement, and the larger our membership, the stronger our collective voice will be in advocating for our benefits! **Please help us by sharing the membership form and our website link with a retired friend.**

Dues may be paid online at our ARTA website: <https://austintrta.org/membership> or at our ARTA meetings. We appreciate you!

Terry Morganti-Fisher & Bonnie Cross, Membership Co-Chairs



2026–2027 Membership Form:

AUSTIN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (ARTA)

ANNUAL ARTA & TRTA MEMBERSHIP DUES—Supporting *ALL* Retired School Personnel in Austin, Del Valle, Eanes, Lago Vista, Lake Travis, Manor, Leander, and Pflugerville ISD

To be a member of ARTA, you must **ALSO** be a member of the *TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION* (TRTA)

Please pay *BOTH* your membership dues online at our ARTA Website: <https://austintrta.org/membership>
or

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

****If your TRTA membership dues are 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****

QUESTIONS ABOUT PAYMENT: DADISHNER@ATT.NET

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

NAME _____

PHONE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please **CIRCLE** your preference:

Do you want to be contacted by the ARTA Telephone Tree for meeting reminders? **YES** **NO**

Do you want your phone number and address listed in the ARTA Yearbook? **YES** **NO**

Do you want to receive a printed copy of the ARTA yearbook? **YES** **NO**

Do you want to receive printed copies of the ARTA newsletters? **YES** **NO**

For new members only: Please list the name of your recruiter: _____

If you would like to pay by credit card, please provide your card information below:

Card Number: _____ **Expiration Date:** _____ **CVC Code:** _____

Select the amount: ☐ **\$52.00** (\$50.00 dues + \$2.00 fee) **OR** if you have your TRTA membership dues deducted monthly or annually, please pay ☐ **\$17.00** (\$15.00 dues + \$2.00 fee)

For treasurers' use only:

TRTA Member#

Payment Date:

Payment Amount:

☐ Check # _____

☐ Cash _____

☐ Credit Card/Debit _____