

HARTbeat

An affiliate of the Texas Retired Teachers Assn.

Love Our COLA, but Our Work Is Not Done

By Debbie Hall, Legislative Affairs

I can't wait to see that COLA money in our next paycheck. We will all be smiling on January 31st. It was great to celebrate with our HART membership on January 18th. The victory is ours and I am so proud of the fact that our Proposition garnered the most votes in the election. We did it. We posted signs, sent emails, contacted our legislators, and talked it up to our friends, neighbors, and families. It was a team effort by TRTA and all of the local chapters. HART, of course, did a fabulous job.

We are not done yet. The reality is that supporting public education and retired educators is ongoing. There will always be homework. There will be calls to make and letters to write. It is a great cause and the knowledge that this work helps us, helps our educator friends, and helps preserve the future of public educators across the state, makes it clear that this work is important.

At our recent celebration on January 18th, we were visited by Alma Allen, our state representative for District 131. Alma's support of education is legendary. She is a former educator and her daughter is on the HISD Elected School Board. Her grandchildren are teachers. She is an exemplar. We need more like-minded supporters in Austin. Let's vote for them in 2024! Working together we can make a difference. Stay tuned for more information from TRTA about how we can support our retired teacher friends across the state.

HART members attended a Holiday Luncheon at the Junior League on Dec. 8, 2023. For more photos, see page 8.



HART Scholarship Donations 2023

Jane Eixmann, Treasurer

In 2023, HART Scholarship Fund, Inc., received donations totaling \$2640. Of this amount, \$485 was from the poinsettia sale and \$1535 was from member donations at the Holiday Luncheon. The remaining \$630 came from member donations throughout the year. Thank you for your generous support. These contributions fund 1 3/4 scholarships of \$1500 each. Members can make donations to the HART Scholarship Fund, Inc., any time during the year for birthdays, anniversaries, or special events.

Donor	In Memory of	In Honor of
Allen, Dr. Patricia		
Anderson, Lenora		
Argieard, Lin		
Bell, Patti		Grandchildren
Blue, Stephanie		
Bonner, Patricia	Dr. Billy Reagan	
Bristol, Judy	Dr. Billy Reagan	Johnnie Robinson
Brown, Kathryn		
Brown, Sharon		
Bruce, Howard & Juliana	Rose Gee	
Burch, Linda	Anne Holloman	
Cann, Marcy		
Coffey, Jeanie		Rosalind Haynes
Cummins, Colleen		
Darrington-Davis, Lois	Cheryl Emanuel	
Davis, Melvin		HART
Eixmann, Jane		
Dr. Billy Reagan	Marcy Cann, George Havran, Rosalind Haynes, Margaret Preston, Johnnie Robinson, & Richard Smith	
Ellsworth, Leland and wife		
Espinosa, Rosa		
Estes, Ruthie	Tommy Clark	
Faulkner, Patti	Bill Vaughn	
Gauthier, Ella		Marcy Cann
Gayle, Alice		Johnnie Robinson
Green, Jon		Rosalind Haynes
Hall, Deborah	Dr. Billy Reagan	
Harris-Roach, Monica	Sabrina Harris	
Harwell, Judy		
Havran, George	Laverne Havran	
Haynes, Rosalind		Marcy Cann, Jane Eixmann,
Debbie Hall, Margaret Preston,		
Johnnie Robinson		
Hendrix, Ann	Ruth Red	

Howard, Esther		
Kelly, Laurel	Eva Fake	
Kidd, Dagmar		Ruthie Estes
Jim Lyons		Marcy Cann
Mattison, Mary		
Mellum, Mary		
Murphy, Charlie, Jr		
Page, Linda		
Parrish, Ann	Hattie and Jeff Marshall	
Patterson, Dr. Gary		Patricia Boner
Peterson, Glen	Kathy Peterson	
Pischel, Linda	Gwen Rutledge	
Preston, Margaret	Dr. Billy Reagan	
Richard Smith		
Putman, Susan		Gail Rosenthal
Robinson, Johnnie		Margaret Preston
Sakely, Jane	Jack Chiles	
Schauer, Darlene		Patricia Bonner
Schwartz, Gloria	Paul Patterson,	
Dr. Billy Reagan		
Selig, Cappy		Marcy Cann
Semler, Shirley		
Shipp, Carol		Margaret Preston
Stalnaker, Joy		
Westoreland, Dolores	Robert Westmoreland	
Widmier, Dr. Mary		Rosalind Haynes

HART Members Celebrated Cost of Living Adjustment Vote

Jan. 8 at Bayland Community Center





President's Corner

Can you believe that the last time our beloved city, Houston, had so many recorded below freezing days was in the 1950's? Well, you'd better believe it. Check your thermostat, feet and nose.

How about our Prop 9 Celebration? Hooray! We had a fabulous time at Bayland Community Center on January 18th. Many of us have received our first letter concerning our upcoming COLA increase. The second one should be in our hands near the end of this month that will give us more specifics about our dollar amount. My extra funds will be directed towards my car insurance increase. Can someone tell me why this all happened around the same time? Could I have enjoyed the extra funds for a few months before someone else decided to hog it all for their company? I need to check out the bicycle shop to purchase a bike. Oops! I can't do that because the weather is so unpredictable, I'll probably get sick from exposure, while riding miles to go to the grocery store or to church. Or, worse than that, I'll probably be involved in a hit-and-run.

Well, so much for another alternative to driving a car with sky-high insurance. Yes, of course, I have checked out other car insurance companies, but my people answer the phone and deal with my issues the same day. Yes, a real-life person not only answers the phone, but they can identify me as soon as we are connected. Is that cool or what?

To wrap things up, HART is looking forward to the following to happen within the next several months: Receiving our TRS annuity checks with our COLA increase; (for those who qualified); Expanding Horizons Field Trips; Officer Nominations in February; special speakers each month; voting in the March primary (both Democrats and Republicans will be held together); attending the TRTA Annual Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, April 15-17, 2024 and paying our new dues of \$50, for HART and TRTA.

Serving with gladness,
Johnnie Robinson

Mark Your Calendar

April 15-17, 2024 Texas Retired Teachers Association 69th Convention in Corpus Christi's American Bank Center, 1901 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Feb. 9 HART General Meeting at JCC

March 8 HART General Meeting at JCC

March 19 Expanding Horizons field trip to Museum of Illusions

April 12 HART General Meeting at JCC

April 15-17 TRTA Convention in Corpus Christi, American Bank Center on 1901 North Shoreline Boulevard. Let's celebrate TRTA's 79th anniversary!

April 18 Expanding Horizons field trip to Ivory Bill Neches River boat tour

May 7 Expanding Horizons field trip to the Gandhi Museum

May 10 HART General Meeting, Presentation by Tim Lee and Installation of Officers and Awards ceremony at JCC

May 13 Executive Board Meeting, Bayland Park

July 22 Executive Board Meeting, Bayland Park

Oct. 7 Executive Board Meeting, Bayland Park

Howard Bruce asks that members continue to send him a record of their volunteer hours.

Volunteer credit may be counted for caregiving, going to HART meetings, making sandwiches at Kids Meals, worship practice, and other work at charities. Send to howardbruce@sbcglobal.net.

HART EXPANDING HORIZONS DAY TRIPS 2024

TRIP DATE & TIMES	TRIP DESCRIPTIONS	TRIP INFORMATION	LUNCH	MAXIMUM PARTICIPANTS	Payment Deadline to Guarantee Place
Feb. 20, 2024 LV: 11:00; RT: 3:30	Black Cowboy Museum	Tour time: 1-2:30 Admission: \$15	Larry's Original Mexican Restaurant	18 (set by Museum)	General Mtg. Feb. 9, 2024
Mar. 19, 2024 LV: 11:00; RT: 3:15	Museum of Illusions	Tour time: 11:30 Admission: \$12	Cleburne's Cafeteria	23 (set by Museum)	General Mtg. Mar. 6, 2024
Apr. 18, 2024 LV: 10:00; RT: 6:00	Ivory Bill Boat Tour- Beaumont, Texas	Tour time: 2:00 Admission: \$16	Sam's Southern Eatery	30 (set by Boat tour)	General Mtg. Apr. 12, 2024
May 7, 2024 LV: 10:30; RT: 2:30	Gandhi Museum	Tour time: 11:00-12 noon Admission: \$12	China Wok Cafe	38	General Mtg. Apr. 12, 2024 (for convenience, since Gen. Mtg is not until May 10)

NOTES:

1. Regarding Trip admission payments, please make checks payable to HART, or exact cash. At this time we're unable to accommodate online payments. Confirmed registrations must include admission payments by the stated deadline. Registrations without full payment by the stated deadline will be placed on a waiting list. All payments are to be submitted to HART Treasurer, Jane Fixmann.

2. Although our final General Meeting is in May, if any members wanted to tour the downtown newest campus for the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, it could be scheduled in mid May or early June, in consultation with Pat Bonner, who leads the tours. There would be no cost other than lunch for this trip.

The date needs to be submitted to Harris County Precinct 4 as early as possible.

HART Expanding Horizons Committee
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Additional photos from HART's Holiday Luncheon

