

HARTBEAT

An affiliate of the Texas
Retired Teachers Association

HART Calendar of Events for Spring, 2022

February 11: The General Meeting features Susan Marsh, a published author, teacher, school administrator, and family and relationship coach. After suffering a health crisis, she shifted to a plant-based diet and turned her life work to helping others through education and support as they transition and maintain a healthier lifestyle.

February is *Books for Children* month. Please consider donating to this worthwhile project.

February 12: There will be a Drive-Through Food Drive in the parking lot of the Bellaire United Methodist Church, on the corner of Bellaire Boulevard and Newcastle. Drive through and we will unload your donations. 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

March 11: The meeting will feature Laura Conely, founder of Urban Paths Wellness. Laura will share her research and strategies for using walking in nature to overcome life's challenges. A special collection will be made for the HART Continuing Education Fund.

April 11-13: The TRTA State Convention in Dallas. If you are interested in attending, get the full details from the latest issue of *The Voice* or at trta.org.

April 15: The meeting speaker will address senior safety. Please note that this meeting is a week later than usual due to scheduling conflicts. We will also receive a report from our TRTA convention delegates.

May 13: General meeting and installation of officers.

All meetings will be in in-person and on Zoom.

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 S. Rice Ave.
10:00 a.m.

The Zoom link will be emailed to you several days before the meeting.

Make Extra Cash by Tutoring

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) now offers in-person and online tutoring opportunities with Texas school districts. TRTF is an approved vendor with the Texas Education Agency's tutoring program. Retirees interested in helping Texas students recover from COVID-19 learning deficits and putting some extra money in their pockets should enroll today. TRTF's corporate partner for its online platform is *joinknack.com*. Paid tutor positions are plentiful. There will be no penalty to your TRS annuity. With a few exceptions, there is no limit to the number of hours you may work. Go to *trtf.joinknack.com* to register.

2022 Primary Election Schedule

Primary elections are right around the corner. This is when political parties choose the candidates that will run in the general election to be held on November 8, 2022. Now is the time to begin researching the issues and the candidates, apply for a mail-in ballot if that is how you choose to vote, and most importantly, make sure you are registered to vote. The primary election is March 1, 2022.

For information on voting, mail-in ballot applications, and timelines, go to [votetexas.gov](https://www.votetexas.gov). TRTA also has excellent resources online at trta.org or subscribe to *The Inside Line*, a blog by Tim Lee.

First day to apply for a ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).	Saturday, January 1, 2022
Last Day to Register to Vote	Monday, January 31, 2022
First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Monday, February 14, 2022
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received , not Postmarked)	Friday, February 18, 2022
Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Friday, February 25, 2022
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, March 1, 2022 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m.

Message from your President



I sincerely thought we would be celebrating the end on this stupid virus this year, but obviously, I am not the seer I thought I was. After polling members of the HART board and reading as much as I could stand about COVID precautions, the decision is to go ahead with in-person meetings for members vaccinated and willing to properly wear their masks. All others are invited to join us on Zoom. My biggest regret is that we will not have drinks or snacks for the foreseeable future. I'm getting hungry!

On a brighter note, by the time you get this, you should have received your 13th check which was mailed or deposited on January 14. TRTA members, and especially HART members, fought hard for this benefit for all retirees. We wrote letters, called our legislators, visited their offices, Zoomed and Zoomed, and wrote more letters. I want to emphasize these points: HART has 430 paid members. TRTA has just over 94,000 members. But 429,000 Texas retired teachers will receive this benefit. You are doing a wonderful job working for all retired teachers. THANK YOU for all you do. Now, let's get out there and sign up all those other teachers!

I will not repeat all the news you can read in this issue of the HARTbeat, so please read and keep this issue. Thank you to all who have reached out to me through email, the website and the Facebook page. I value each member and hope we can all connect and share and support each other. I will be sending out a survey to question what you value in our organization, and what you would like to see us do for our members. TRTA is a powerful voice for our needs in relation to the Texas legislature. But HART is also a social organization that wants to provide fun activities, interesting programs, and whatever our members value. We will find a way to have fun, even in a pandemic!

State Convention

The 68th TRTA Convention is April 11-13, 2022, in Dallas. Rooms are available at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. Registration is \$50 and due by March 1. You can register online at www.trta.org/2022convention or use the paper form in *The Voice* and mail it to TRTA, 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200, Austin 78701. A meal bundle costs \$100.

HARTbeat is the newsletter of HART, edited by Howard Lindsay, hhlindsay@comcast.net. Please consider contributing photos, articles or letters. Your presence at HART events implies approval for us to use your photographs for publicity purposes.

2021 HART Scholarship Donations

HART Scholarship Fund, Inc., received donations totaling \$1,782 in 2021. Thank you for your generous support. These contributions fund 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ scholarships.

Donations have been received from the following persons:

Alma Allen	Ruthie Estes	Edna Navarro
Leonora Anderson	Melinda Friou	Paul & Sue Olfield
Lin Argieard	Maria Garcia Rameau	Alice Ott
Charlyn Auzenne	Ella Gauthier	Linda Page
Lucille Barrera	Pat Green	Donna Patch
Sharon Brown	Linda Gutmann	Dr. Gary Patterson
Beverly Cage	Deborah Hall	Linda Pischel
E. Frances Callender	Ardath Harris	Margaret Preston
Margaret Campbell	Judy Harwell	Susan Putnam
Marcy Cann	Rosalind Haynes	Dr. Billy Reagan
Renee Canizaro	Anne Hendrix	Johnnie Robinson
Jan Cooper	Esther Howard	Sharon Saenz
Colleen Cummins	Evelyn James	Jane Sakely
Lois Darrington-Davis	Dagmar & Wayland Kidd	Darlene Schauer
Melvin Davis	Howard Lindsay	Mary Schlett
Mary Ann Dolezal	Ann Mahan	Cappy Selig
Dorene Drake	Mary Mattison	Shirley Semler
Jane Eixmann	Georgia McGlasson	Joy Stalnaker
Charlene Ellsworth	Robert & Helen Morgan	Dr. Kaye Stripling

Dolores Westmoreland

Dr. Mary Widmier

Donations have been received in honor of the following persons:

All HART past presidents.

Lawrence Allen

Lucille Barrera--daughters

Pat Bonner

Carlotta Davis-Williams

Estella Ferrell

Rosalind Haynes

Margaret Preston

Dr. Billy Reagan

Dora Scott-Nichols

Donations have been received in memory of the following persons:

Norma Abrams

Mary Burgert

Jack Chiles

Tommy Clark

Cheryl Emanuel

Michele Friou

Charles Gabriel

Adelma Graham

HART members who died in 2019, 2020, 2021

Nelda Jett

Dorothy Kelly

Rita Kimball

Martha LaRue

Jeffery Meadows

Ruth Red Ann

Sledge Bill

Vance

Dr. Bill Young

A random home inspection revealed low levels of carbon monoxide leaking into my sister's home. She got it resolved, but our mother couldn't help asking the obvious: "Why didn't you have a working carbon monoxide detector?"

"We did," my sister replied, "but it wouldn't stop beeping, so we took it out."

My young son and I were walking in the cemetery when we came upon an ornate mausoleum. New to reading and interested in words, my son pointed to the name carved at the top and asked, "What does that say?"

I told him the family name: Eaton.

Now horrified, he responded, "By what?"

HART held its Annual Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 10 at the Junior League of Houston. Dora Scott-Nichols sponsored the event. Smart Financial donated poinsettias as table centerpieces, which were sold to members to benefit the HART Scholarship Fund to support college education majors.



Texas Retired Teachers Association Priorities

The long-awaited 13th check was delivered by mail or direct deposit in January. According to TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee, “This is a payment that YOU, through your membership, phone calls, emails and personal grass roots advocacy, helped win.”

Important items on the TRTA priority list were achieved in 2021: SB1 increased funding to the TRS pension fund; HB1585 created changes in TRS to improve service to retirees and removed all financial penalties and restrictions on teachers who retired before January 1, 2021, and wish to return to work; HB2022 allows certain retirees to rejoin TRS Care if they left between 2017 and 2019; SB1356 allows TRTA to offer tutoring services to districts; and SB8 put an extra \$286 million in the TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare programs.

These are just the highlights but are all positive results for retired teachers. Executive Director Tim Lee said “Hard work pays off and more needs to be done to help retirees. All TRS retirees need to join TRTA and get involved!” Please share this message with your friends and colleagues.

For more information, attend HART meetings and read TRTA’s *Inside Line* at <https://trta.org/the-inside-line>.



Volunteer Hours

Each year, HART reports to the State the number of hours its retirees contribute to the community, such as Kids Meals, which provides food to hungry preschoolers. To make sure your hard work is recognized, please inform Howard Bruce, either at the next meeting or send to:

Howard.bruce@sbcglobal.net

Houston Association of Retired Teachers
P.O. Box 6727
Houston, TX 770265--6727

Thank you – Thank you – Thank you!

- To all members who contributed to the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation over the past year. Besides the regular distributions for “Helping Hands,” Classroom Assistance Grants and Beginning Teacher Scholarships, the TRTF Disaster Relief Fund disbursed \$165,000 to public education employees and retirees affected by winter storm Uri. Your generosity is genuinely appreciated.
- To all who contributed to the HART scholarship fund at the Holiday Luncheon. Five scholarships will be given to St. Thomas University students majoring in education at our April meeting. HART scholarships encourage more young people to become teachers.
- To Smart Financial, who year after year, have donated over 20 poinsettias as centerpieces for the Holiday Luncheon. The flowers are then bought by attendees with all the money donated to the HART Scholarship Fund.
- To all who contributed food, socks, and undies at our charity drives; who bought items at the Stilwell table; who donated to Books for Children; who showed up Wednesdays at Kid’s Meals to make sandwiches and snacks; and who led us in song, lifting our spirits along with our mask-muffled voices!