

# NEWSCASTER

Dallas Retired Teachers Association

## Mission Statement

The Texas Retired Teachers Association promotes the professional, economic, intellectual and social well-being of retired school personnel.

President: Cynthia Hawkins-Bowland, 972 850-9718 [chbowland@swbell.net](mailto:chbowland@swbell.net)

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## President's Message

We welcome you to the Dallas Retired Teachers Association new year! This year we have some new officers to introduce to you. The first change is that there are now Co-Presidents; Alice Martinez and Cynthia Hawkins-Bowland will be splitting the job responsibilities. We also have a new First V.P. and Membership Chair, G.T. Bendy. Our new Third V.P. and Program Chair is Sonya Palmer. DeLorise Gay will be acting as our Social Chairperson and will be arranging the committees to bring refreshments to our meetings.

This spring we celebrated Dallas I.S.D. May retirees by co-hosting a reception with DISD at the Administration Building. We had an exceptional turn out and we gained some new members, so we look forward to participating again in May of 2026. Thank you to Verna Mitchell for spear heading that event. We also had a great time at the *Delta Dears* Meeting in May. Not only did we get some membership renewals, but we got some new members as well. We also learned "Boots on the Ground" and had a terrific time popping our fans!

We have some excellent speakers and presentations lined up for our meetings already. Be sure to attend our first general meeting on Friday, September 12, to hear from Thomas Poore, District 10 Legislative Chair about how TRTA worked with legislators in the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. On Friday, October 10, Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, Dallas I.S.D. Superintendent, will present on how the last Legislative Session affected public schools. Come meet our new officers.

Please be thinking about any committees you would like to join to help with our efforts. At our first meeting we will have information about signing up to help. We have the Book Project, Membership, Teacher Assistance Grants, Programs, Legislative, Communication and other activities. Bring your enthusiasm, ideas and willingness to serve on a committee. Watch DRTA continue to grow in every way.

Are you registered to vote? Do you know someone who needs to register to vote? We have a Constitutional Amendment Election that is very important coming up on November 4, 2025. Please go to [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org) for a list of these propositions as well as their number on the ballot, ballot language and description of what each one means.

Hoping you all had a lovely summer and are ready to move into fall and perhaps cooler weather!

Warm regards,

Cynthia Hawkins-Bowland, Co-President  
Alice Martinez, Co-President

## Children's Book Project

Esther Stoker, 2nd VP, Book Project Chair  
469 360-2639, [esread@aol.com](mailto:esread@aol.com)

We are back! Back with all the JOY of serving Dallas ISD students in the area of READING! When children can read at their levels and interests with their very own book, there is nothing better than that.



Experiencing this reality as a gift from teachers who have retired makes it extra special! There are schools that await a connection through Library Services. Our teams will immediately complete the task of seeing that each detail is followed through with all we've got! It is "life changing" and something students will never forget.

Thank you for giving to make sure this happens. We're back ... for the JOY of READING!

Ann Bevel, Mailing Chair, 214-537-4599  
[ann.bevel@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.bevel@yahoo.com)



## The Worker Bees



You are missing out on the *Newscaster* folding party held the third Wednesday of the month at the Credit Union of Texas, 3305 Ross Ave, Dallas, TX at 10 a.m. We are usually finished with our task by 11:30 a.m.

Come join the fun as the first session will be August 13, 2025! You can sign up for this committee also at our first general meeting on September 12.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative session has ended with TRTA monitoring new legislation that would directly or indirectly impact our Teacher Retirement System (TRS) pension fund.



- HB 2 and SB 3 would have a negative actuarial impact of over five billion dollars to TRS actuarial liabilities and add a projected eight years to the actuarial funding period. This would take the TRS system out of actuarial soundness, which means the Legislature would not grant retirees a cost-of-living increase because the fund will be at a 36-year level, not below the 31-year funding period threshold.
- The budget included a directive for TRS to conduct a pension benefit design study comparing the TRS standard defined benefit plan to other types of retirement plans, including defined contribution plans. In 2012 and 2018 TRS conducted similar studies, and both showed that defined benefit plans are more stable and provide a lasting retirement.
- HB 3221 would have allowed charter schools to pay less into TRS than traditional public schools. This would have added nearly a year to the funding period. An amendment was added to the bill that would have required the Legislature to provide funding to implement it. This bill passed the house but did not make it through the Senate.

Know your Texas Representative and Senator; remember the above issues are state related, not federal.

While I am acting as interim Legislative Chair, we would like YOU, if you are truly interested in legislation, to “apply” for the job as Legislative Chair. Requirements below:

- Be able to follow legislation that deals with our goals of a sound pension fund and affordable health insurance via “The Voice”, “The Inside Line” as well as Tim Lee’s live broadcasts, Raise Your Hand, Texas website and others.
- Attend two to four District 10 meetings during which information is given about Legislation. Attend board meetings and general meetings.
- Ability to use technology to access bills on the Texas Representatives website as well as use that source to help members know who their Representatives and Senators are
- Write a monthly submission to the *Newscaster* regarding information that affects our pension, health care and public education.

If interested, please contact Cynthia Hawkins-Bowland at [chbowland@swbell.net](mailto:chbowland@swbell.net).

## How to Survive a Disaster A Brief Guide to Disaster Preparedness

### Home Evacuation Plan

Your Home Evacuation Plan must contain all possible exit locations from your home, where to meet, designation of responsibilities, and out-of-area family contacts. When the family must evacuate the neighborhood or city, list multiple options for travel to the location. Household pets should be considered in the plan. If a hotel is an option for the evacuation location, generate a list of hotels that are pet friendly.



### Disaster Emergency Kit

Prepare a Disaster Emergency Kit with essential supplies for survival. A basic emergency kit includes water, a first aid kit, non-perishable food, a flashlight, extra batteries, a battery powered, hand crank or solar powered radio, cell phone charger bank, and important papers. Include communication devices, sanitation and personal hygiene items, extra clothing.

### Management of Personal Records

Make a copy of all health insurance cards, home and car insurance documents, ID cards, driver’s licenses, wills, passports, powers of attorney documents, deeds, social security cards, credit cards, bank account information, tax records, passwords to online accounts etc.

Create a list of names, phone numbers, home and email addresses for everyone in your personal network. Generate a contact list for all family medical providers. Store all copies of lists, documents and records in a waterproof container. Copy photos of all important information on a flash drive, CD or in the cloud. Cellular phones and computers have cloud storage. Cloud storage can be accessed with a username and password.

### Helpful Websites

<https://www.ready.gov>

[www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

<https://sbtexas.com/disaster-relief/>

Rosa Brooks, Chair, 214- 351-1985  
[rosalb97@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosalb97@sbcglobal.net)

## DRTA Teacher Assistance Grants



If you would like to contribute to this fund in honor of or in memory of someone, please send your donations and all pertinent information to

Rosa Brooks  
5335 Drane Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75209-5501

Lisa Delatour, Volunteer Chair, 214-356-1513  
lpdelatour@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Your journey as educators and public school employees may have transitioned, but your impact and influence can continue to thrive through volunteerism. You possess a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion that is invaluable. The community still needs your wisdom and guidance to nurture the next generation. By volunteering, you can continue to inspire, mentor, and make a difference in the lives of students and fellow volunteers alike.



Consider sharing your expertise in local schools, community centers, or through programs designed to support those in need. Your contributions can help foster a love for learning, ignite curiosity, and encourage people of all ages to reach their full potential. Sharing ourselves to help others is at the very heart of what we do. Let's create a ripple effect of kindness and inspiration!

Feel free to send me your volunteer hours. I will remind you each month to keep track of the time you spend volunteering. Cooking for others, carpooling, helping a friend in need, babysitting, animal sitting, and so much of what we do is volunteering our time to help others. Take time to reflect on the time you spend helping and caring for others. We all must take care of each other.

Be Kind!

Mary Jo Evans, Necrology Chair, 214-376-3565  
profevans2004@yahoo.com

## In Memoriam

### Members of DRTA



Charles Etta Bell  
Grace Delatour  
Nolan Estes  
Peggy Martin  
Fannie McClure

### Non Members of DRTA

Barbara Barrow  
Joan Biahary  
Donna Matsamura  
Eleanor Otto  
Donald Rieke  
Marguerite Romamcheck

Pearlie Wallace Corresponding Secretary  
214-337-8091; paw2151@sbcglobal.net



Sympathy cards were sent to the following: Fannie McClure on family, Alice Martinez on her brother-in-law, Ann Bevel on her sister, Grace Akbar on her daughter, for the Charles Etta Bell family and Lisa Delatour on her mother-in-law.

Get Well cards were sent to the following: Debbie Dukes, Lucious Newhouse, Richard Stoddard, Margaret King, Thalia Matherson, Carrie Wilson, and to Linda Tokoly.

Thinking of you card was sent to Lisa Delatour on her husband. A birthday card was sent to Ruth Turner.

DeLorise Gay, Social Committee Chair  
214 793-6834; delorisegay@att.net

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We look forward to seeing you at the first general meeting on September 12. Refreshments and fellowship will be provided before the meeting begins.



We encourage you to select a month to provide refreshments. Sign-up sheets will be available at our September 13 meeting. Looking forward to seeing you then.

G. T. Bendy, 1st VP, Membership Chair, 972 475-9424  
gtbgt13@outlook.com

## MEMBERSHIP WELCOME BACK!

We are on our way to getting to the "boiling point" in regards to building the Membership for DRTA 2025/2026. The Bigger we Get, the Stronger Our Voices and we need STRONG Voices to keep what we have and to get more of what we need.

We want to welcome the following eleven new members: Janice Beavers, Vickie Cook, Natalie Crittendon, Kay Davis, Gabriela Garcia, Deborah Harper-Dudley, Phyllis Harris, Ginger Pipkin, Rhonda Rutherford-Odom, Loretta Simon, and Myra Wilson.

Our membership now is less than five hundred; when DRTA meets on September 12, let's make it possible for it to be announced that membership is above five hundred.

If you need the form or have questions or concerns, call: G. T. Bendy (972-475-9424 or Patricia Boren (214-348-5992). The September General Meeting will be at the Turney W. Leonard Governance and Training Center, 5151 Samuell Blvd.



Dallas Retired Teachers Association  
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Dallas, TX 75238

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**Dated Material**

Verna Mitchell, Healthy Living Chair, 214-334-0431  
grangran@swbell.net

## BETTER HEALTH FOR THE FALL

If you haven't done so:

- ☞ Schedule your annual physical
- ☞ Continue to monitor your numbers
  - blood pressure
  - cholesterol
  - blood sugar
  - BMI
- ☞ Have a goodnight's sleep and exercise 15-30 minutes a day.



Know the benefits and rewards offered by your Health Insurance Company. I can only share United Health Care. They provide the following rewards:

- \$25 for each for preventive screenings and annual wellness physical
- \$15 for at home wellness visit
- \$40 every 3 months

These amounts are placed on your membership card. You will see UCard in the upper right hand corner. These funds can be used at Walmart/Walgreens. Sign in to United HealthCare to the "Welcome Dashboard" and click link on Learn more on the block How to use your UCard, then play the videos on how to use this service. Connect with UCard Hub if, you have used it before, then click Shop Online. It's very easy. We hope that you use these rewards and save money!

To keep all members aware of earned benefits, share what other health companies provide in the way of rewards. Let's stay healthy and in the know.

## On The Horizon

Executive Board Meetings 10:00 a.m.

September 5, 2025  
Credit Union of Texas, Allen Branch

October 3, 2025  
North Oak Cliff Library  
302 West 10th Street, Dallas, 75208

General Meetings 10:00 a.m.

☞ September 12, 2025, Thomas Poore,  
District X Legislative

☞ October 10, 2025  
Stephanie Elizalde, DISD Superintendent,  
"Legislative Sessions affecting Public  
Schools"

Turney W. Leonard Governance and  
Training Center, 5151 Samuell Blvd.,  
Dallas