

District 18 E- Newsletter Information

State and District Connection to Local Units

March 2018

Thank you for voting in the Texas Primaries and now looking forward to voting in the run-offs that will be May 22, 2018. The run-off elections need your vote as much as the primaries in some cases more so to get ready for the November Elections. Most local units have sent me their delegate lists and are ready to attend the TRTA STATE CONVENTION in San Antonio in April. They will bring back information that will be used to prepare for an effective Spring Leadership Conference in May. I am looking forward to a great training session for the new District and Local Unit leaders. Ricky Chandler, TRTA District 18 President

The TRTA State Convention will be held at La Cantera in San Antonio on April 8-9-10, 2018. Events will include the District 18 Caucus at 4:45 pm Sunday afternoon to kick off the meetings. This will be followed by the Welcome Reception at 6:30 pm. Monday members will attend the Opening Ceremonies, informational sessions, breakout sessions, a luncheon, more breakout sessions, social hour, and the Big Band Sound Gala that evening. The Exhibits are a must to visit. Tuesday starts with the Stilwell Breakfast, House of Delegates, the Foundation Luncheon and returning to the House of Delegates before concluding the convention. District 18 has awarded 4 scholarships to local unit delegates to help with expenses to the state convention. Everyone is looking forward to attending the convention.

The candidates running for TRTA state office are:

Patricia Macias for State President
Leroy DeHaven for State First Vice-President
Marcy Cann for State Second Vice-President

Ella Gauthier for State Secretary/Treasurer

Earl Wall for State Secretary/Treasurer

This is for a 2 year term, 2018 – 2020

TRS Retirement Seminar was held at Bonham Middle School in Odessa. We would like to thank Bonham for letting District 18 use the Library at Bonham. Our seminar was held on February 3, 2018. The District 18 Retirement Committee is chaired by **Lauri Farber** and included committee representatives from all seven local units. The retirement committee would like to give a big thank you to **Sekethia Tejeda** from TRS for giving great information to the future retirees. There were **75** future retirees in attendance from the following cities:

Andrews – 5

Coahoma—1

ECISD—32

Forsan-- 6

Greenwood—6

Iraan-Sheffield—2

Midland—20

Monahans—2

Presidio—1

District 18 would like to thank all local units and attendees for being at the TRTA Retirement Seminar this year. Please let your District, Local Unit, or TRS answer any questions that may need clarification.

District 18 is encouraging all local units to continue the Membership Drive of 2018-2019. If the District 18 can help your local unit in any way please contact district 18 membership chair or the district 18 president. TRTA is running a contest for the local units that adds the most new members and past members that did not renew but renews this year. \$500.00 will be awarded to 8 Local Units in the state of Texas that recruits the most new or reenrolling past members.

The Spring Leadership Conference will be held at Region 18 Education Service Center May 11, 2018, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Our TRTA speaker will be Leroy DeHaven, likely the new State First Vice-President of your organization. There will be a legislative update and reports by the committee chairs. We will have breakout sessions for training the

officers and committee chairs with the information members will be bring back from the State Convention.
The afternoon will include the installation of our officers for 2018 – 2020

Pictures from the Fall Convention held in September 2017



Darlene Peel getting local unit members signed in at registration.

Concerns were high about the changes in TRS Care.



Our TRS speaker, Ray Spivey, letting us know about all the changes in TRS.

Our TRTA State President, Nancy Byler, is letting us know all the wonderful events taking place in TRTA.



Maridell Fryar and Shirley Johnson ganged up on Ricky Chandler to surprise him with a superman cape. Debbie Treadaway from the Crane local unit made the cape. What a surprise it was and a perfect fit.

Carol Horton handed out information from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas for the death claims benefit checklist at the Odessa Retired Teachers and School Personnel Association meeting on March 19, 2018. This information may be of interest to many members in our District.

Teacher Retirement System of Texas

Death Claims Checklist

Being familiar with how to request TRS death benefits can greatly ease matters for your beneficiaries at a difficult time in their lives. The following checklist should assist with this process:

1. If you die as a TRS member or retiree, a close family member or friend should notify TRS.

Your employer or funeral home may offer to assist in this process. TRS should be notified of the death even if the monthly annuity will continue to be paid to your beneficiary under an option plan. Prompt notice allows TRS to make the necessary changes for tax purpose and to disburse valuable death benefits.

TRS may be notified by calling toll-free at 1-800-223-8778. TRS will require the family contact's name, address, and telephone number as well as your date of death. At that time, TRS will request a copy of your death certificate when it is available for verification purposes.

2. After receiving notification of the death, TRS will mail out benefit information and forms. If your death occurs while you are working for a TRS-covered employer, then TRS must receive salary documentation from your employer to determine the actual benefit to be paid.
3. When TRS receives all properly completed documents, the claim will be processed and the death benefit payment will be requested. Payments are mailed out the same day that they are received from the State Comptroller of Public Accounts (unless your beneficiary has instructed TRS to do otherwise).

When important member records are not kept up to date, a longer time may be needed to process a claim. To expedite processing, TRS records should be updated with the current names and addresses of *your beneficiaries*. Please use form TRS 11 ("Designation of Beneficiary"). To ensure that *your* address is updated in TRS records, please complete form TRS 358 ("Change of Address"). Both forms are available toll-free from TRS (1-800-223-8778) and from the TRS Web site (www.trs.state.tx.us).

NOTE: TRS benefits including death benefits are not assignable and may not be assigned to a funeral home to cover burial expenses.