

Your District 18 Newsletter

April 23, 2018

Welcome from District 18. Is everyone trying to keep up with all the events that have happened? It was great seeing all the Local Delegates at the TRTA State Convention in San Antonio at the La Cantera Resort and Spa. TRTA out did itself again with all the wonderful events and great information. If you were not able to attend this year, please start planning your trip for the next convention in Austin that includes Rally Day with the legislators.

Your Executive Board, District Officers, District Committee Chairs, and Local Unit Presidents had a meeting at the Centennial Library in Midland on April 16, 2018, to plan for the District 18 Spring Leadership Development Conference to be held at Region 18 Education Service Center on May 11th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Conference will include training all officers and committee chairs in the district and local units. If you are an officer or committee chair this training is for you so please make plans to sign up and be there. If you are thinking about an office or committee position, please attend so you can find out about the duties of the positions. Our organization needs you. The Spring Leadership Conference emphasizes team building throughout the district and state. The lunch will be catered so we will need you to sign up before May 4th to be sure there will be enough food for everyone. Training breakout sessions will be presented by the delegates of the state convention or the present member(s) in that position. Please make your plans to attend with your local units so a head count can be determined to get material ready.

Review of the State Convention

The twenty District Presidents met at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 8th with Nancy Byler. She provided great information to present to the delegates in the caucus later that day. Tim Lee, our executive director, informed all members about the opening ceremonies surprise Speaker, Lt. Governor, Dan Patrick. The twenty district presidents now represents over 88,200 TRTA retired educators across the state of Texas.

District 18 delegates and attendees met for the caucus on Sunday, April 8th at 4:45 pm to discuss the schedules, the breakout sessions, and the proposed amendments to the state bylaws. The drawing for the "Each One Bring One" membership drive was won in District 18 by Tommy Dittberner from Andrews/Gaines County Retired School Employees Association. Everyone start bringing in those new members for the 2018-2019 year so you can win the \$100.00 drawing in 2019. The group was then off to meet and greet at the evening reception.

Monday, April 9th started with the Opening Ceremonies, Breakout Sessions, Luncheon, and more Breakout Sessions. The Evening started with a fantastic dinner and the Big Band Sound Gala until around 10 pm. The E. L. Gaylean Service Award Recipient was Dr. William "Corky" Pence.

Tuesday, April 10th brought everyone together at the Stilwell Breakfast then off to the First House of Delegates until it was time for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation Luncheon and then back to the Second House of Delegates.

The installation of officers at the state level included:

President:	Patricia Macias
First Vice-President:	Leroy Dehaven
Second Vice-President:	Marcy Cann
Secretary/Treasurer:	Ella Gauthier (Pronounced GoShay)

There were seven proposed amendments to the State Bylaws to be passed or opposed.

Amendment 1, 2, and 3 were not passed and amendments 3,4,5,6, and 7 were passed.

Nancy Byler did a great job rounding up all 1022 delegates for all the meetings.

Austin, District 13, invited everyone to the 66th State Convention to be held Sunday, March 31 through Tuesday, April 2 at the Hilton Austin, located at 500 E 4th Street. ROAR during Rally Day at the Capitol while the 86th session of the Texas Legislature is in session. Mark your calendars and start planning this event now.

District Presidents from the 20 districts across Texas will meet in Austin July 9, 10, and 11, 2018, for training and setting future district conference dates.

One date set last year is September 28, 2018 for the District 18 Fall Conference at Region 18 ESC located at 2811 La Force Blvd, Midland, TX. Time is 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Our TRTA guest speaker will be Marcy Cann.

The next legislative session will be crucial for our pension and health care. Our organization of 88,200 TRTA members represents the interests of approximately 325,000 Texas Retired School Employees. Your opinions need to be voiced to the legislators that control your pension COLA'S and your insurance premiums. During the 2019 Legislative session, TRS may be asking for another 300 to 500 Million just to keep the TRS Care on an even scale.

Just last week the TRS Board could not come to a decision to change the assumption fee rate to be dropped from 8% to either 7.25% or 7.5%. We were told this does not impact our current annuity but would impact any future (COLA's)—Cost of Living Adjustments or thirteenth check in a negative way. It would be much harder to approve the increases in the above for many years if the assumption rate is decreased from the 8%. Tim Lee, The TRTA Executive Director, writes an excellent newsletter, [The Inside Line](#), that you can access on the TRTA Website, trta.org. Please read and stay updated to all the possible changes and how the changes will affect your pension and insurance.

District 18 is very fortunate that our legislators support active educators and retired school personnel but they need to be constantly reminded that TRS has not been able to give a COLA in approximately thirteen years and the insurance premiums have greatly increased due to lack of legislative funding to TRS. Do **not** let your legislators forget about you! [The Texas Tribune](#) is a good source to access on line to find out what is happening in our legislature?

District 18 Local Unit Members please let me know what you would like to see in the District Newsletters. Information from your local units would help spread the good events coming out of your local units. Any special visitors, any legislators, any superintendents, pictures of your activities, and all good things being planned to happen in your organization.

New District 18 officers to be installed at the May 11th event for 2018-2020 are:

District 18 President	Ricky Chandler	Odessa RT/SPA
District 18 1 st Vice-President	Lauri Farber	Odessa RT/SPA
District 18 2 nd Vice-President	Kaye Barr	Big Spring ARTA
District 18 Treasurer	Shirley Johnson	Andrews/Gaines Cnty RTEA
District 18 Secretary	Phyllis Anderson	Crane REA

Your TRTA organization needs you to serve in your local unit and we need you to serve in district 18 also. Please do what you can to make it happen!

If you know a member who does not go on line, please share the TRTA information with them. It is vital to our health as an organization that everyone stays informed about what is happening to our pensions, health care, local units, district units, and state organization.

Ricky Chandler, District 18 President
r_chandler@grandecom.net
5205 Redbud Ave
Odessa, TX 79762
432-631-1039