



DISTRICT 18 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



DISTRICT 18 PRESIDENT

Hello! For those of you that do not know me, I am Shirley Johnson and I will be serving as the 2020-2022 District 18 President.

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Welcome District 18 old and new members to a new way of doing things. The 2019-2020 District 18 year ended very unusually and 2020-2021 has started the same. I want to assure you even though the times are different, TRTA is still working hard to make sure that each of you stays informed. Many Zoom meetings have taken place in order that we can be informed and pass the information on to District 18 members.

TRTA has suspended all face-to-face meetings for the rest of the 2020 year. We are thankful that we have the technology to continue moving forward with business as needed. For the most part Zoom has become everyone's new way of staying connected with their Local Unit and the District. **If your local unit is not meeting by Zoom please let me know and the reason why you are not meeting.** Let me know if it's due to the internet service that is in your area, or because you do not use the computer, iPad or cell phone to this degree. State is trying to come up with a solution for each of us, but they need to know the why 😊. Although, for many of us working with technology is a challenge, be assured with practice and help from your friends or grandchildren we can overcome this challenge. There are many tutorials for beginner Zoom users, I know because I've been checking them out.

Speaking of Zoom meetings----- Tuesday, October 20th will be the District 18 Fall Conference via Zoom. The Fall Conference will start at 10:00 a.m. and be over by 12:00. Please plan to log on for the conference and let your unit President know that you will be attending. Speakers will be:

- TRS –
 1. TRS and Covid-19
 2. TRS Pension Trust Fund Update
 3. Discuss TRS-Care Changes
 4. Review Long-Term Space Planning
- TRTA – Immediate Past President,
- TRTF Board Trustee – Maridell Fryar
- AMBA
- Legislators
- Winner of Each One Bring One Membership

Each of us has faced some challenges for 2020 but together we can and will get through this. That is the reason it's so important for us as District to continue to reach out to each other. This is the only way we can stay informed and stay strong.

A Legislative Forum is being planned to encourage electoral candidates to interact directly with our retired school personnel. Nancy Byler and Larry Yawn will be sharing legislative information with us by Zoom the next couple of weeks to help us with the right questions to ask the candidates. District 4 was kind enough to share the questionnaire for 2020 Candidates that they had compiled. I've included that on the following page for your use.

I want to leave you with a Quote from TRTA 1st Vice President – Marcy Cann

“Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape”

Let's be flexible, patient, loving and we will all get through this together.

Getting on Track with TRTA Express – State President, Leroy DeHaven's Thread of things that we will need:

- **3 bundles of peas:** Passion, Performance and Persistence
- **3 squash:** Squash gossip, squash indifference, squash critics
- **3 crates of lettuce:** let us be true to our commitment, let us be unselfish, let us be loyal.
- **4 bunches of turnips:** turn up when needed, turn up with determination, turn up with a vision, turn up with a smile!
- **Thyme:** One of the hardest spices to grow: time for fun, time for family, time for friends and time for self.

Remember each local unit is important and local unit meetings are important. We are the LIFEBLOOD of TRTA. If TRTA doesn't survive, we as members lose. You are needed, you are important, **YOU** are TRTA. **Be a VOICE !!!!!**

TRTA has not been silenced by the Coronavirus.

SEE YOU AT THE ZOOM 2020 **FALL CONFERENCE**, OCTOBER 20TH AT 10:00 A.M.

Look for your Zoom Invitation the first of October to join the Fall Conference meeting. Invitation will be sent to each Local Unit President and they will forward the invitation on to you 😊