



DISTRICT 18 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Hello District 18:

Well what a busy last couple of months this has been and hasn't the year just gone by too fast. If you are like me, I wish that I could unplug 2020, plug it back in to see if there would be different results, but that's not the way it is.

I've been so proud of each local unit the way you have continued to make the effort to stay in contact with your members. Some have done Zoom, others by newsletter and others by phone tree calls. Keep up the good work!

The 2020 Fall Conference by Zoom attendance was good. I know that the zoom meetings have been a challenge to some and others just are not comfortable doing zoom meetings. But a big thank you to those who accepted the challenge and found a way to make it work.

Some of the guest speakers in attendance were Representative Brooks Landgraf, Senator Kel Seliger and Senator Pete Flores. Each legislator still wanted to assure us that they are standing by their commitment to support SB 12 and HB 3. They said that the promise to retirees had to be kept. Each one voiced their concern that a COLA this year would probably be unlikely due to the difficulty of balancing the budget for the next 2 years. It's not that retirees do not need it, but that it was going to be a challenging year. Ricky thank you for getting this part put together.

The District gave Ricky Chandler a plaque of appreciation and a scrapbook for his 2-year term service to District 18. Ricky did an outstanding job and we as a District appreciate his hard work.

TRTA Past Immediate President, Patricia Macias attended the Fall Conference. She commended the local units for going forward as much as possible with TRTA business. She mentioned how important it was in staying connected with your unit, so that your members stayed informed on how TRTA is still operating with business as usual. Due to technology TRTA has been able to do business as usual.

The power behind TRTA is you, the local unit members. Without you there is no TRTA. Without TRTA our voice isn't heard. (That's your District Presidents thought and words).



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Words of Encouragement:

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. IT DOES”

You are braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

Merita Zoga and Dale West were the TRS Representatives. They laid out a great presentation on the pension fund and TRS Care. You may go District 18 Website to see the TRS power point presentation.

D’Anna Baucom from AMBA is the representative for our area. She highlighted the benefits of AMBA and how they are here also to help our District grow.

Each year all twenty districts have the opportunity to nominate a person to receive the E.L. Galyean Award. This person has to have shown leadership and involvement at the Local, District and TRTA State level. District 18 has such a person that meets all of the requirements. District 18 nominated Martha Kallus to receive this award. Her name has been sent to TRTA to be considered for the 2021 E.L. Galyean Award.

Pam Buckley asked for input concerning the Retirement Seminar that usually is held in February. She and Beth Tuxhorn has attended zoom meetings and already put in countless hours. So be looking to hear more about the possibility of District 18 Retirement Seminar this coming February.

Judy Crawford did an outstanding job on the Memorial Service this year. We still were able to honor the memory of the local unit members that are no longer with us.

Ricky Chandler gave an update on the Legislative Priorities for 2021. He gave 3 main state issues and 1 Federal issue that we need to keep in front of our legislators. They are:

TRs Pension Fund – Preserve the funding plan enacted during the 86th Legislature.

TRs-Care – Maintain contribution for TRS Care retiree health insurance.

Sunset Review- Adopt TRS Sunset Staff Report and additional TRTA recommendations.

Then the Federal Issues:

Social Security – Ensure earned Social Security benefits are paid to retirees.

Well that about wraps up the Fall Conference. If any of you would like to hear the Fall Conference on Zoom, I did record it, so email me and I will send it to you. Please make sure you check District 18 Website, Michael Landrum does an outstanding job of keeping it updated

I want to encourage each of you to stay strong, stay healthy and stay safe. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Shirley Johnson
District 18 President