

## NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Odessa Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association Newsletter May, 2024**

This month's meeting will be held on May 20 at 11:30am at Highland Church, 1808 N. Dixie, Odessa. This meeting is our annual banquet, and the executive board has a very exciting menu planned. If you have not yet made reservations, you may send a check made out to ORT/SPA, and mail it to Retired Teachers, P.O. Box 1645, Odessa, TX 79760. The cost is \$12.00 and covers everything from soup to nuts. Bring a prospective new member.

The five members who attended the state convention had a great experience and came back with much information for the chapter. In total, there were 736 members in attendance, from all over the state. One bit of information we learned is that TRTA is the largest organization representing retired teachers in the state and the nation. TRTA has approximately 96,000 members.

There were three amendments to the bylaws that were discussed and voted on. All amendments were approved by the house of delegates.

Amendment One: membership dues shall be based on a rate established by the board of directors and approved by the house of delegates.

Amendment Two: The First Vice-President shall be called the President Elect, and the Second Vice-President shall be called the Vice-President.

Amendment Three: Membership/Volunteer/Services Committee shall be called the Membership/Community Involvement Committee.

Elizabeth Barlow, the Health and Wellness chair, is having surgery on her spine to remove a cyst. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you are a mom, I hope you had a fantastic Mother's Day. To all the dads, I hope you have a fantastic Father's Day.

The books for the book project may need to be donated to the two school libraries rather than individual students, due to the lateness of their arrival from Scholastic Books. There should be enough books left over to donate to one school next year.

For those of you who enjoy traveling I have three websites you might want to check into. Some of you may be familiar with these already. Road Scholar, [roadscholar.org](http://roadscholar.org); Boscov's Travel, [boscovstravel.com](http://boscovstravel.com), and Bilbrey Tours, [bilbreytours.com](http://bilbreytours.com). Bilbrey Tours is based in Abilene, TX.

This is the last newsletter of my biennium as your president. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve in that capacity. I would like to thank all the members of the executive board for all their hard work and dedication. They have all done an outstanding job. Thanks also to everyone who showed up month after month to support the organization. Without you, ORT/SPA would not exist.

Karen Telk  
ORT/SPA President

Membership: from Sandy Ramage, First Vice-President:

May is here, and summer is on its way! We are looking forward to seeing you at the MAY 20, 2024 Spring Luncheon. Shirley Johnson District 18 TRTA President will be there to install the new officers for 2024-2025.

We have 102 members that have renewed their membership for TRTA and ORT/SPA and have their name entered in the drawing for \$100 at the summer birthday party in July. Have you sent in your membership card and cheque for \$50 for the state and local dues? Will you be the lucky winner? If you need a membership card or if you know someone who is interested in joining, please call me (432-634-6020) or you can pay your dues at the May meeting. See you on May 20th and bring a friend! TRTA has accomplished a lot this year but there is still more to do. REMEMBER YOU NEED ORT/SPA AND ORT/SPA NEEDS YOU.

May Birthdays: May 4th Donna Prima, 15th Marsha Dry and Amelia Lyons, 20th Margie Gillette and Betty Love, 29th Lou Ann Rabe and Patsy Yielding

Members we will miss: Floy Hinson, Amy Jo Marshall

Friends of education we will miss: Jayne Sandate, Kim Williams, R.N., Margaret McBee, Jean Raley, Tammy Ricks, Calvin Moore

\*\*\*\*\*

**Odessa Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association  
Newsletter  
April, 2024**

Members,

I hope everyone had a great Easter, with lots of Easter eggs to be found. I was cleaning up in my backyard yesterday and found three toys, in the watering can, that my husband hid and my granddaughters didn't find. I'm just glad they weren't hard boiled eggs.

There will be five of us, from the chapter, attending the TRTA convention, so the April meeting has been moved to April 22nd, still at 11:30 at Highland Methodist. Those attending the convention are Betty Lively, Mary Alice Ramos, she will be representing the district, Rick and Cathy Chandler and myself. We will give reports about our experience at the April 22nd meeting. I hope to see several people there and everyone bring a friend.

The TRTA District XVIII (18) Spring Leadership Conference will be held at the Region 18 Education Service Center on May 7, 2024. Registration will begin at 8:30AM with refreshments available and the meeting will start at 9:00AM. Marcy Cann, the TRTA state president will give us an update on the state of TRTA. There will be training sessions for new officers and committee people. AMBA representative, D'Anna Baucom will be there and, as always, Michael Landrum will be there to take group pictures. After lunch will be the installation of the new

district officers and presentation of various awards. The cost of lunch is only \$10.00 which includes everything from the soup to the nuts. Everyone should have their registration in by April 30, 2024 and you will be able to register at the April 22nd ORTA meeting. If you are unable to attend that meeting email me at karen.telck@att.net or text to 432-770-9363. I would love to have a grand showing of members.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Eclipse, it was pretty amazing, even in Midland and Odessa.

Sincerely,

Karen Telck  
ORTA/SPA  
President

From Sandy Ramage, First Vice President:

Happy April Everyone! It is enrollment time for the coming 2024-2025 year for TRTA and ORTA. Sixty-two members have enrolled so far and I have their names entered in the drawing for a \$100 early bird award to be given in July .... have you sent your membership in? If you did not receive a membership card or if you need another card, please let me know. You can send your membership and check in the mail, the address is on the membership card, or you can bring it to the ORTA meeting April 22, 2024.

April Birthdays: April 2nd Berna May, 3rd Carol Hill, Gail Potter, 7th Dorothy Johnson, Grace Crumley, 11th Cindy Slack, 12th Julie Brown, 13th Danny Keener, 14th Mary Alice Ramos, 21st Frances Hall, 23rd Harold McKelvain.

Members we will miss: Marilyn Chatham and Barbara Davidson.

As always, make sure you get your community service, volunteer hours turned in to Ester Sofge at tooold@aol.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Odessa Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association  
Newsletter  
March, 2024**

This month's meeting is March 18, 2024. Registration starts at 11:00am with lunch following at 11:30pm.

The April meeting of the ORT/SPA will be held on April 22, 2024. **Please note the change of the date!!** The April meeting date has been changed to accommodate those people attending the state convention, which starts on the 15th. The meeting will still be held at the Highland Methodist Church, 1808 N. Dixie, Odessa. Registration begins at 11:00am with lunch being served at 11:30.

There are five members, of ORT/SPA, attending the convention. Karen Telck, Kathy and Ricky Chandler will be attending as delegates. Mary Alice Ramos is attending as a delegate for District 18 and Betty Lively is attending as a member of the chapter. It is not too late to register to attend the convention. Go to the TRTA website and scroll down, you will find information on the convention and the hotel.

The officers for next year are as follows;

- Sandy Ramage, President
- Ricky Chandler, 1 st Vice President, membership
- Lupe Molina, 2 nd Vice president, programs
- Jannine Seymour, Secretary
- Corlyce (Corky) Barth, Treasurer

I would like to personally thank all of these members for stepping up to volunteer their time and talent to serve the chapter.

The Retirement seminar was held on March 2nd. Odessa had approximately 20 people attend. There were five people from the chapter who attended. Kathy and Rick Chandler, Mary Alice Ramos, Sara Easley and myself. I will receive the names and email addresses of those people interested in retiring. We will then be able to contact them and invite them to become members.

**Information from Sandy Ramage.**

From Sandy Ramage, First Vice President: Happy March everyone! March begins the new enrollment period for the 2024-2025 year for TRTA and Odessa Retired Teachers and School Personnel. You will be receiving enrollment information soon.

March Birthdays: March 3rd Denise Meador, 6th Jamie Gilliam, 15th Ester Sofge, Amelia Lions, 16th Teresa Bryan, 20th Tammy Jones, Juanita Silva, 24th Ola Pride, 25th Regina Yarbrough.

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating your birthday this month.

Let’s hope the weather decides to be warm or cool, but not both in the same week!!

Karen Telck  
President ORT/SPA

\*\*\*\*\*

**Odessa Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association  
Newsletter  
February, 2024**

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well.

The February meeting will be held on the 19th registration will start at 11:00am with dinner being served at 11:30. The meeting place is Highland Methodist church, 1808 N. Dixie.

If you are interested in attending the TRTA state convention, it is not to late to register. The registration fee is \$50.00. The convention is April 15 through April 17, 2024, in Corpus Christie. For more information go to [www.trta/2024](http://www.trta/2024) for the hotel go to [www.trta.org/omni](http://www.trta.org/omni) or call the hotel at 1.800.843.6664.

I will be forming a committee to update the ORT/SPA history books. If you would to be part of the committee, or just help, please let me know. Also, if you have pictures, you would be willing to share, please let me know, or just email a copy to [karen.telck@att.net](mailto:karen.telck@att.net).

The retirement seminar will be held on March 2nd at Odessa College from 8:30 to 12:30. It is in Saulsbury Campus Center. If you know anyone who is interested in retiring this year, please pass the information on to them.

To cut down on the cost of postage, the chapter is trying to email as many of the newsletters as possible. Elizabeth Barlowe has undertaken this project. If you did not receive an emailed news last month, please send your address to [karen.telck@att.net](mailto:karen.telck@att.net).

From Sara Easley, chair of the nominating committee. This year we are electing new officers for the following positions; President, first VP, 2nd VP and Secretary. If you would like to put your name in the hat for one of these positions, please contact Sara at 432.307.0059 or [64lacie@gmail.com](mailto:64lacie@gmail.com).

From Sandy Ramage, First Vice President. February birthdays; 1 Arlene Ragan, 3 Margie MacMurdo, 7 Barbara Hall, 18 Mary Jaramillo, 21 Olga Hernandez and 24 Rosa Heredia. Please keep in remembrance, Miss Edith Elaine Koerlin.

I hope each and everyone of you have a great week and that we get rain. I look forward to seeing everyone at the February 19th meeting.

Sincerely,

Karen Telck  
President  
ORTA/SPA

\*\*\*\*\*

**Odessa Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association  
Newsletter  
January, 2024**

The January meeting will be held on January 15, 2024 at Highland Methodist Church, 17th and Dixie. Registration begins at 11:30 with lunch being served at approximately 12:00.

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Don't forget that ORT/SPA needs to elect new officers for the 2024-2026 Biennium. The slate of officers includes, President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other positions it would be nice to have are parliamentarian and a legislative chair. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Sara Easley, [64lacie@gmail.com](mailto:64lacie@gmail.com) or myself Karen Telck at [karen.telck@att.net](mailto:karen.telck@att.net). Without new people willing to step up and take on leadership positions, it will be very difficult for the chapter to move forward and be prosperous.

If you are interested in attending the TRTA State Convention it will be held in Corpus Christi, from April 15 thru April 17. More information is available in the Voice. District 18, of which we are a part, has 2 \$500.00 scholarships available if you might need financial assistance to attend the convention. For information email Shirley Johnson, the district president, at [st\\_1951@yahoo.com](mailto:st_1951@yahoo.com).

Other upcoming dates, the District 18 Retirement Seminar will be held March 2, 2024 at Odessa Jr. College. If you know someone who plans to retire in 2024, please give them this date. Times will follow later. The Spring Leadership Training is planned for May 7th at Region 18 Service Center. Any member of ORTA is welcome to attend. The meetings are very informative, with speakers from TRTA attending.

Sincerely,  
Karen Telck  
Chapter President  
[karen.telck@att.net](mailto:karen.telck@att.net)

Thanks go to Sandy Ramage, first vice president, for the January birthdays: 1st Elizabeth Sommers, Linda Slater, 4th Lillian Hodges, 9th Amy Darg, Carol Horton, Janyth Hutson, Kay Prouix, 12th Marilyn Andjulis, 13th Frizella Whitiker, 15th Wayne Bird, 16th Dorothy Jenkins, 18th Corlyce Barth, 23rd Libby McCrone, 27th Martha Mitchell.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Odessa Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**September 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Telck. Sandy Ramage gave the opening prayer before a hamburger lunch. Melody Drinkard led pledges to the U. S. and Texas flags. Helen Kirk read the poem TREES by Joyce Kilmer for the word of inspiration. Rick Chandler gave a report on the status of the retired teachers' raise. The stipend approved by the legislature was received in mid-September.

He then discussed Proposition 9 which will be on the ballot in the November general election. This will give the Texas retired school personnel a cost of living adjustment if passed by the voters. He said that most people did not know that retired school personnel had not had a raise in 20 years, 96% of Texas school employees are not covered by Social Security and the COLA will give a 2%, 4% or 6% raise to retirees based on how long they have been retired; the 6% will go to those retired the longest period of time. He then showed the election materials he had brought to be used by members to support the COLA of Proposition 9. There are lawn signs, lapel buttons and push cards which point out the need for the COLA. He said it is our job to bring the facts about the needs of retired school personnel to the voters so that they will vote FOR Proposition 9. We cannot print our own materials; we must use the materials provided by TRTA; we also cannot copy the TRTA materials. We can put the information on social media. The COLA will not raise taxes for anyone because the money is already available. Those not already registered to vote have until October 10 to register. No money from the TRS fund will be used for the COLA. This could help future retirees in the event of a future COLA. We should try to get ten people to vote with us FOR Proposition 9 so that we will have a good chance for it to pass. Every TRS retiree will receive the COLA if it passes. Do not put out your lawn signs until after October 1. Contact Rick for these election materials.

Secretary Davisson read the minutes of the May meeting. Sandy Ramage gave the membership report of 141 current members and pointed out that extra membership cards are on the table for us to use to recruit new members. Sandy then read the names of members we had lost recently. She then went over the current Treasurer's Report as well as the new year proposed budget as recommended by the Executive Board. President Telck asked the members to vote to accept the proposed budget, no motion needed as it

came as a recommendation from the Executive Board. The members approved the new budget.

Candy bars were passed out to the members who have a September birthday. Esther Sofge had the drawing for volunteer hours, and Marilyn Andjulis won. Elizabeth Barlow had the drawing for healthcare, and Ed Gonzales won. She reported that the mail order pharmacy will change from CVS to Express Scripts in January. There will be an in-person health fair at the Marriot Hotel on September 21. It was announced that Ed Gonzales and Patricia Gonzales will take over the mailing of birthday cards. Then the door prizes were given out.

Sandy Ramage pointed out that the antique books decorating each table came to Sandy through her daughter-in-law who had them given to her by a Sul Ross professor. President Telck went over the TRS Newsletter. Members were reminded that our local website can be read at <https://ortspa.wixsite.com/retiredteachers>

President Telck announced that the District 18 district meeting will be held at Region 18 ESC on October 3 from 8:30 to 2 p.m. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. Speakers will be from TRTA. Lunch will be \$10. Please sign up with Karen if you plan to attend. This meeting is open to all members and you are encouraged to attend. Rick Chandler is making name tags for those who attend. Sara Easley reminded us that those attending this meeting can car pool if they wish; we will meet at the back side of Westminster Presbyterian Church on Maple Avenue across the street from Nimitz Middle School.

Rick Chandler reported that the TRTA State Convention will be held in Corpus Christi next year on April 15-17.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

---

Elaine Davisson, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*