

Houston Association of Retired Teachers

TRTA Convention Ends with Legislative Success

Greetings to all!

I would like to thank the HART delegates who attended the TRTA State Convention in Austin last week. The format was a day shorter than in the past and the TRTA Legislative Rally Day was combined with the Convention, concluding the program on Wednesday. Thanks to those of you who came up for that one day to attend the Legislative Rally Day activities. The Convention began early each morning and included a full day of workshops, luncheons with relevant speakers, District Caucus meetings, and ended with a General Session for the House of Delegates Tuesday afternoon, all leading to the Legislative Rally Day on Wednesday. On Tuesday afternoon, all District 4 members at the Convention invited TRTA members to attend the 2016 TRTA Convention to be held in Houston, by serenading them with a take-off on the C&W song "Houston" by Larry Gatlin.

TRTA members were greeted warmly in the Senate and many compliments were made by several senators who spoke very positively about the difference one or more teachers had made in their personal adult life. Sen. Jane Nelson is a retired teacher and several of the other senators who spoke have either active or retired teachers (or both!) in their families. Sen. Joan Huffman introduced a resolution concerning the need for additional funding to support TRS-Cares for the next biennium. Our own Marcy Cann was present on the floor of the Senate as a representative of TRTA. When the vote was called for, it was passed unanimously by voice vote and we were informed that this funding, \$768,000,000.00 is scheduled to be in the Supplemental Budget. Of course the funding must be passed by both the House and Senate, then signed by the Governor, before it is enacted. Your contact with your local legislators thanking them, as a constituent, for their support of HB 2 and the corresponding Senate Bill still is very important.

Of course for HART, the highlight of the Convention was the awarding of the E. L. Galyean Award, the highest award TRTA can offer. This year's winner is Dora Scott-Nichols and she certainly deserves it! The award recognizes one who has provided outstanding service to TRTA throughout the years. Many of her family members were able to attend and she got a standing ovation even after her speech!! Dora received well wishes from HART and other District units and a beautiful bouquet of roses was presented to her.

I would like to express my appreciation of your voting for me for President this past year. It has been a great experience, I have learned a lot, and I know that HART will be in good hands with Mira next year. Thanks for your support!



Evelyn Wilson, Jane Eixmann, Kay Stripling, Marcy Cann and Johnnie Robinson enjoy time together at the TRTA Convention in Austin.



Dora Scott-Nichols receives the E. L. Galyean Service Award, pictured with Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director and Fran Plemmons, TRTA State President

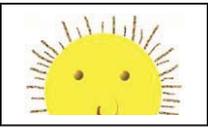
Rosalind Haynes, right, District IV Historian, at convention workshop.



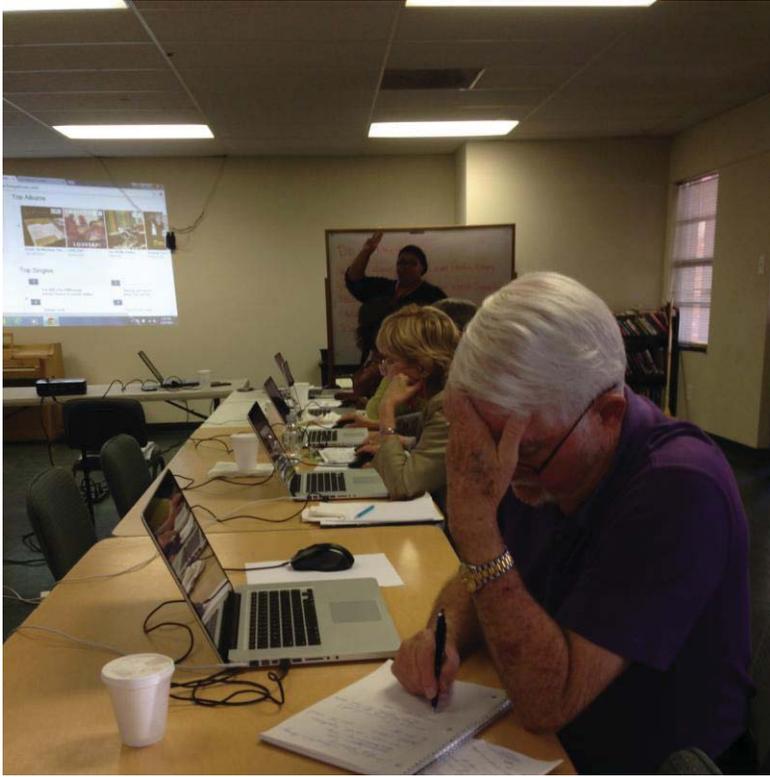
Jane Eixmann and Mira Baptist enjoy a rare moment of rest at the convention.



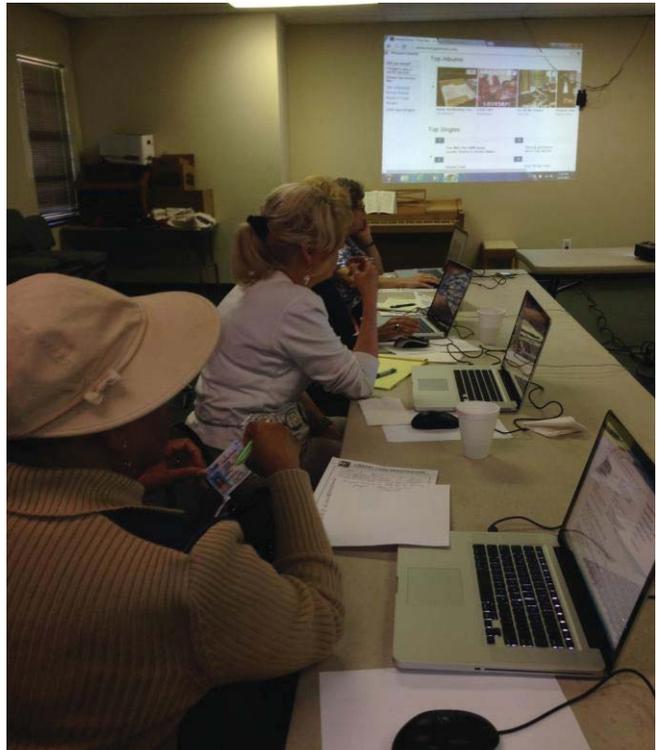
Left, Marcy Cann with Dora Scott-Nichols, and the beautiful bouquet of roses presented to her from District IV. Above, District IV members meet with Senator Rodney Ellis.



Expanding Horizons Educational for All



The Expanding Horizon Workshop was a productive learning experience for those of us needing help when it comes to technology. We received help with our smart phones from Carl Newton and Tevon Malone, IT employees for blinds.com, and help with general computer resources from Clementina Nunez from the Houston Public Library.



This was actually more fun than it appears. Who knew that the Houston Public Library has the coolest site in town? Virgil Fisher is obviously studying his notes for future reference.

Mark Your Calendar

May 8 – HART Meeting Installation of Officers

The March meeting featured a fascinating presentation from Jim Parsons, Director of Special Projects at Preservation Houston (pictured, right.) A non-profit historic preservation advocacy and education group, its mission is to preserve Houston's culture of diversity, invention, and vitality.

March Meeting Reveals Houston History



2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS AND
TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

1.	Last Name		
2.	First Name		
3.	Address		
4.	Apartment #		
5.	City		
6.	State		
7.	Zip code +4		
8.	Telephone #		
9.	Email address (Print)		
10.	Birthday (Month and day)		
11.	HART (Local) and TRTA (State) membership	\$45	If you are a member of TRTA's Diamond Plus Program, you only need to remit HART dues of \$10.
12.	Additional donation to HART		
13.	TOTAL amount Enclosed (Check payable to HART)		PLEASE NOTE: Banks will only accept checks written in blue or black ink.
14.	How would you like to receive your HART Directory?	Circle only one:	
		At a meeting	YES
		By mail	YES
		Electronically	YES
15.	Your HART Newsletter will be sent to you via email unless you request a mailed copy here!	Yes, please mail me my newsletter. (Circle)	

**PLEASE MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:
HART MEMBERSHIP
P.O. BOX 6727**

OR

**IF YOU WISH TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, SIMPLY GO TO THE HART WEBSITE
HOMEPAGE AND CLICK ON PAYPAL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.
houstonareateachers.org**

Urgent Need: Committee Members and Chairs

Do you feel the need to get involved, contribute, and do your part to make HART a vibrant, relevant and fun organization? Then volunteer for a committee! We really need someone to take over the Social Arrangement Committee, which coordinates our snacks for each meeting. Many members volunteer to bring snacks, we just need someone to remind people and coordinate the process. Call Marcia Pepper, 713-515-3575 or email her at mpepper52@gmail.com for all the details. This is a great way to do more than just attend meetings.

The History of Houston Schools Needs to be Preserved and You Can Help

The archives of Houston ISD were transferred to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) in 2011. This Center now houses back issues of HISD board minutes, photographs, records, and other memorabilia relating to the history of the school district. The material is cataloged and listed but not organized to facilitate searching. That task will require volunteers who would be willing to donate some time to make this a reality. This would be an excellent volunteer opportunity for a retired educator who is interested in Houston history. The work would include working on a computer, sorting and organizing, and scanning documents under the direction of an archivist. Ultimately, the digitized information would be available online through the HRMC website. If you are interested in volunteering to preserve the history of Houston schools, please contact Debbie Hall. My thought is that if I could find a small group to work on this project, we could meet and determine the best way to go about making this a reality. The HMRC is located in the beautifully renovated Julia Ideson building on 500 McKinney adjacent to the Jesse Jones branch of the Houston Public Library.

Relating to this project, do you have school history or records at home that might be donated to the HMRC? Old HISD yearbooks, phone directories, and other district/school publications are of interest to add to the collection. I will be happy to show you how to transfer your donations to the library by taking the materials yourself or by collecting and taking them

downtown for you. Contact information to donate is listed below.

Finally, I am trying to track down information on a quilt that was created by HART members in the late 1980's or early 90's. This quilt was presented to the district at a centennial celebration held at the Hattie Mae White building on Richmond Avenue. The quilt was quite large and depicted scenes from HISD's past and featured stitched images of old school buildings. It hung in the atrium near the elevator. I have been urging the district to display the quilt again somewhere in the new administration building. I am seeking information about the HART members who might have worked on that project. I think there needs to be an informational plaque next to the quilt to recognize the work of HART on this project.

To preserve the history of Houston Schools, contact Debbie Hall by e-mail (debhall945@gmail.com).

Debbie Hall

Don't Put Me at the Back of the Line

Don't put me at the back of the line.

I've got places to go and people to see, and furthermore, you don't even know me.

Don't put me at the back of the line.

I'm a mover and a shaker.

I can't stand still.

Put me at the back of the line, I don't think you will.

Don't put me at the back of the line.

Do you think I'm gonna stand back here and look at all these people's behinds?

Don't put me at the back of the line.

This poem was written by HART member Bill Vaugh and presented as our March Meditation. It was inspired by retired teacher Anna Barrett and one of Bill's students.



Books for Children committee members met to choose books for children at Burnet Elementary School. Books will be organized on April 29 at 10 AM at Burnet, 5403 Canal Street, and distributed on May 15, same time, same place. If you would like to participate, contact Bonnie Herst.

April Meeting News



Each year HART awards five \$1000 scholarships to students planning a career in teaching. This year's winners are all students at Texas Southern University. Congratulations to each winner and we look forward to your joining the ranks of teachers/educators when you complete your degree. From left to right: Dr. Ingrid Haynes, Department Head of Undergraduates, College of Education; Tashana Frederick, winner of the Hubert Walling Endowed Scholarship, majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies; Lenatha Settles, winner of the Scholarship honoring Gary Tuma of Smart Financial Credit Union, majoring in Special Education; Gregory McCalope, winner of the Sallie, Louise and Hazelle McCarty Endowed Scholarship, majoring in Human Performance; Shaina Gray, winner of the Margaret Rose McLelland Endowed Scholarship, majoring in Kinesiology/Teaching; Bill Young, HART Scholarship Selection Committee member; Sarah Felder, winner of the Pauline Moss Crouch Endowed Scholarship, majoring in Music Education, Dr. Viveca Grant, TSU Department of Counseling; and Jane Eixmann, HART Scholarship Selection Committee Chair. Jane would also like to thank Dr. Lillian Poats, Dean of the College of Education for helping with this process, and HART Scholarship Selection Committee members Marcy Cann, Debbie Hall, Ken Harrell, and Pat Johnson.

The April program featured Mary Ann Dolezal, District 4 Health Chair, who gave us easy suggestions for improving our health, weight, and well-being. Then she got us up and moving to the music of "YMCA". See the pictures below for proof that we've still got it!

President Erna Joy Dempsey presented several awards to HART members: The Silver Star Award for outstanding membership recruitment and encouragement went to Jo Ann Earnest and Cappy Selig; The 21st Century Award for outstanding unit or community service went to Dr. Bill Young, Virgil Fisher, Johnny Robinson, Jane Eixmann, Carole Green and Judy Bristol; and the ABCD Award (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty) went to Tom Sanders, who received a standing ovation.





Smart Financial Credit Union is a big supporter of HART and help us in many ways, including attending meetings (always with free items and goodies), printing the HARTbeat, and contributing to special events. This year one of our scholarships was named to honor Gary Tuma, Smart Financial CEO. **Thanks for all you do!**

***TIME TO RENEW HART and TRTA MEMBERSHIP
\$10 HART + \$35 TRTA = \$45 & Great Advocacy!***

We need your membership to represent us in Austin to protect our annuities and insurance now and in the future. To make it easy, just send Tom Sanders your check for \$45 made to HART with your name, address, phone contact, and email or better yet, download the [HART application form](#) and send it with your check. \$45 includes \$35 TRTA dues and \$10 HART dues. You can give it to us at the membership table at our meeting on May 8 or mail it to Tom Sanders, HART Treasurer, Bethany United Methodist Church, 3511 Linkwood Drive, Houston, TX 77025. You can also pay your dues online using the "Buy Now" button on the bottom of [the HART home page](#). If you are a Diamond Plus member of TRTA, using payroll deduction or bank draft for the \$35 TRTA dues, you can send a HART dues check for \$10 to HART.

TRTA MEMBER BENEFITS GEMS OF THE MONTH



MetLife Auto and Home® Insurance

TRTA members now have access to special group discounts on auto and home insurance. This new group insurance program makes members of TRTA eligible for savings and benefits that could help save hundreds of dollars a year.

- Members have the opportunity to apply for renter's insurance, condo, boat, motor home and RV coverage, among other policies.
- Members will also have access to value-added features through MetLife Auto and Home® Insurance such as convenient payment options, personalized service, and excellent driver and length of membership discounts, which are available in most states.
- For more information about the group discounts, please call 1.877.491.5089 and mention discount code CIC.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

MASA is an international emergency assistance association designed to return a person home after an illness or injury, and provide additional benefits that are outside most insurance company's realms.

- Helicopter transportation, ground ambulance transportation, mortal remains return, and escort transportation
- Minor children/grandchildren return, vehicle return, organ retrieval and organ recipient transportation
- For more information, please call 1.800.258.7041.

For more information on TRTA Member Benefits please visit: www.trta.org/memberbenefits



District 4 Delegates and Members at the TRTA Convention in Austin. It looks as if they are having a good time!

Houston Association of Retired Teachers
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This and That

- The last meeting of the year will be May 8, with social time beginning at 9:30 AM and the meeting starting promptly at 10:00 AM. All HART regular meetings are held at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3511 Linkwood, Houston
- To contribute to the next HARTbeat, contact Margaret Preston, HARTbeat Editor, mspreston1@gmail.com
- For information about HART, becoming a member, past issues of the HARTbeat, or the latest news, go to the HART website www.houstonarearetiredteachers.org
- Go to trta.org for information on state legislative issues and more.
- Don't forget to record and submit your volunteer hours. You can claim 2 hours per HART meeting, and more for committee duties, preparing snacks, etc. Send your hours to Patsy Silva, ptsilva@att.net.