

HART BEAT

August 2011, Vol. 11-12, No.1

Awards and Installation of 2011-2012 Officers Highlight May Meeting



Judy Harwell, President, installed the 2011-2012 officers at the May meeting using a cereal theme. She described the duties of each office and gave the officer a box of cereal designed to help them complete their task. The 2011-2012 officers are President Jane Eixmann, President-elect Rosalind Haynes, 1st Vice President (Membership) Brewster Rogers, 2nd Vice President (Public Relations) Joan Williams, 3rd Vice President (Programs) Erna Joy Dempsey, 4th Vice President (Legislative) Jim Lyons, Recording Secretary Judy Bristol, Corresponding Secretary Dorene Drake, and Treasurer Tom Sanders. Jane Eixmann, chair of the Awards Committee, recognized the Awards Committee members Judy Bristol, Marcy Cann, Virgil Fisher, Jeanette Lindley, Anne Holloman, Dora Scott-Nichols, Ben Freiler, and Judy Harwell. She then announced the following recipients of TRTA Awards:

- HART received the **Basic Unit Award** (for having planned programs, officers and committees; being represented by at least 80% of eligible officers and committee chairs at the previous TRTA Spring Leadership Training Conference and most recent TRTA convention; and having at least 80% membership in TRTA), the **Silver Retention Award** (for retaining 90% of its members), the **Outstanding Recognition and Achievement Award** (for contributions and services to the community)
- **Silver Star Award** for recruiting five or more new TRTA members—Alice Ott, Marcy Cann, Brewster Rogers, and Janet Wicker
- **Twenty-first Century Award** for rendering outstanding service to the community or to HART—Lillian Dennis, Tom Sanders, Rosalind Haynes, Janice Gabriel, Anne Holloman, Judy Harwell, Bill Young, and Henry Lindley
- **Appreciation Award** for unusual service to TRTA—Dora Scott Nichols, Alice Ott, Marcy Cann, Dottie Gardner, Tom Sanders, Gary Tuma, Sandra Torres, and Ben Freiler
- **School Bell Award** for news media who have portrayed a positive viewpoint on education or educators, or who have promoted the interest of retired school personnel in some exceptional way—Greg Densmore, editor of The Leader
- **Volunteer Service Award** (member who logs the most volunteer service hours)—Mary Lee Cook



LET'S LOOK AT OUR LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

People said THE 82nd Texas Legislative session would be difficult, and they were right, but we did have some successes –because of your work.

- There is **no increase in health care premium for this biennium!**
- The state will contribute **6.4% to the TRS Fund for one year** of the biennium and 6.0% for the other. Active employees will contribute 6.4% for both years.
- We **keep defined benefit.**
- HB 2120 by Representative Doug Miller gives retirees the opportunity **for a second education retiree on the TRS Board.** This bill was cosponsored by District IV Representatives Charlie Howard, Dan Huberty, and Ron Reynolds. The bill passed both houses and **was approved** by the governor.

HB 3542 by Representatives Larry Gonzales and with District IV Representatives Dan Huberty, Dwayne Bohac, Sara Davis, and Ron Reynolds as cosponsors sadly was finally defeated. It was still alive even in the special session. Our representatives really did try to get us that 13th check. I know everyone wanted this, but it just didn't happen. Let's talk this year about what is required for us to get any annuity increase.

This was a long (I thought it might never end) hard session, but let's look at our successes and get ready for the next session. When you have a chance, please **thank** our District IV legislators who worked so hard for us.

HART members thank you for all your hard work with our legislators and our TRTA Day in Austin. You were heard and made a difference!

Marcy

mcann@att.net

HART/TRTA Members' Benefits

HART members who are also TRTA members can receive multiple benefits from companies and agencies who offer discounts and other plans to retirees. Need insurance? We've got it, or I should say, we've got 'em: dental, professional liability, long-term/home health care, Medicare supplement, final expense, cancer, and dread disease insurance. Planning on a trip? Members can receive discounts on car rentals, hotels/motels, cruises, resorts, and escorted tours. Apple and Dell computer companies offer special pricing for retired members. Other discounted services include hearing, vision and stroke screening, driver safety programs, and medical alert systems. You can contact TRTA at 1-800.880.1650 or www.trta.org, or Virgil Fisher, HART Benefits Chairman, at virgfisher@att.net for more information.

Books for Children Donations - April/May

Sharon Brown	Pat Middaugh
Charlotte Chandler	Sofia C. Mouzi
Betty Courtin	Alice Ott
Shirley Cousins	Ann Parrish
Jane Eixmann	Mary Ann Patterson
Yolande R. Eugere	Elaine Peterson (in honor of Dana Kimmey)
Harriet Grossman	Toni Robbins
Stuart Grossman	Mrs. Johnnie Robinson
Janice D. Hampton	Gloria Schwartz
Kenneth Harrell	Shirley Semler
Susan Hofer	Marilyn Speer
Betty Howell	Terry Stoger
Dana Kimmey	Marilyn Sweeten

All donations benefited Shearn Elementary Students.

**Houston Association
Of Retired Teachers
P. O. Box 6727
Houston, TX 77265-6727**

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to another year as HART and TRTA members! It is an honor to serve as your president for the 2011-2012 year. My focus this year can be summed up this way: **ACE**. With your help, I hope to accomplish the following goals:

- **Add members.** There is strength in numbers, and we have a great organization that helps active educators through the HART Continuing Education Fund, retired educators through the Kate Bell Assistance Fund at Stilwell Memorial Residence, college students studying to be educators through the HART Scholarship Fund, and HISD elementary students through the Books for Children project. The more members we have, the more we can help others and ourselves. There is a membership application included in this newsletter. If you have already paid your 2011-2012 dues, pass the form to another prospective member!
- **Communicate our objectives and activities.** Through use of the new website (www.houstonarearetiredteachers.org), the HARTbeat newsletter, the Telephone Committee, the Public Relations Committee, community newspapers, personal testimonies, we can promote the accomplishments and goals of our local and state organization.
- **Engage members.** The more you are involved in this organization, the stronger we become. By planning interesting programs and activities, we hope to increase attendance and membership participation. You can help by signing up for committees, attending meetings and functions, and submitting your community volunteer hours (TRTA Community Volunteer Hours) and the steps you take (TRTA Walks-a-Million Program) on the forms found in your membership directory.

I look forward to working with you for the 2011-2012 membership year! *Jane*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS
JUNE 1, 2011 – MAY 31, 2012
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.	HART Membership ONLY	\$10 OR	
11.	HART and TRTA Membership	\$35	
12.	Additional donation to HART		
13.	Amount Enclosed(Check payable to HART)		
14.	How would you like to receive your HART Directory?	At a meeting or by mail	YES NO
		Electronically	YES NO
15.	How would you like to receive your copies of the HART Newsletter?	By mail	YES NO
		Electronically	YES NO
16.	Would you like to receive monthly meeting reminders?		YES NO
	If yes, by telephone?	YES	NO
	Or by email?	YES	NO
17.	Are you willing to serve on a HART committee?	YES	NO
18.	Is this your first time to join HART?	YES	NO
19.	IF this is your first time to join, who encouraged you to become a member?	Name	

PLEASE MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:
HART MEMBERSHIP P.O. BOX 6727
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77265-6727