



MARSP NOVEMBER 2024

November MARSP Program

Officer Chane Blandford of the Midland Police Department was the guest speaker at the November 14th meeting of MARSP.

Officer Blandford is a member of the Crime Prevention Unit and Community Relations. He gave a very relevant presentation on Senior Defense.



MARSP HEALTH

There are three key nutrients to decelerate aging: Coumestrol - found in foods like Brussels sprouts, spinach and some legumes. Benefits against heart disease and diabetes.

Beta-carotene - found in foods such as sweet potatoes, carrots and cantaloupe. Supports eye health and boosts the immune system. Arachidic acid -found in peanuts, peanut oil and cocoa butter. Helps prevent heart disease and lowers risk of type 2 diabetes. Eat healthy.

Feel better. **Yummy !**

A Special Farewell

After living in Midland for 42 years, we have decided to move to San Antonio to be closer to our family. We hate to leave everything we have known as home for so many years, but are looking forward to a new chapter in our lives. I want to thank everyone in MARSP for helping make my job easier, by being so faithful to make reservations. I have enjoyed doing this job and getting to know so many of you as friends over the many years, I have done this. I will certainly miss saying "Hello" to each of you on the first Thursday of every month (& taking your money) .

I will take reservations through the December meeting & hopefully we will have someone in place by January. A special thanks to Eileen Corley, who has assisted me at this position. She has so efficiently kept track of the money & helped me out so much.

We will miss many things about Midland. I will continue to keep up with MARSP & TRTA. I consider it a privilege to have been a teacher in MISD and a member of MARSP.

God Bless all of you as you continue to support teachers.

Gratefully,

Anita Patton



Texas Teacher Foundation

November embodies thoughts of pumpkin pies, stuffed turkeys, and friends and family gatherings, all surrounded by thankfulness and gratitude for all. TRTA challenges members with another thought.

NOVEMBER is Texas Teacher Foundation (TRTF) fund-raising month, an opportune time to express thankfulness and gratitude. TRTF is the charitable non-profit partner of TRTA that works to support TRS annuitants and active school personnel with financial assistance. A donation can provide resources to TRS annuitants experiencing hardships due to a natural or a life disaster. A donation can support an experienced or a first-year teacher seeking additional classroom resources.

You may designate your donation to a specific Foundation program: "A Helping Hand," Disaster Relief, Classroom Assistance Grants, First-Year Teacher Scholarships. Or The Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund. Donations are tax-deductible. For additional info go to www.trtf.org. Your gift can show you care. **YOUR GIFT CAN CHANGE LIVES!**

WEP/GPO Update!

P A G E 3

Social Security Vote Happens This Week

TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee continues to fight for the passage of House Resolution 82 (HR 82), which will repeal WEP and GPO if passed. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) unfairly strip away Social Security benefits from teachers and other public servants and make it difficult or nearly impossible for many to retire. A proposal that would finally make things right for teachers' Social Security benefits by bringing back the Social Security benefits that all our collective members earned throughout their working careers, is scheduled for a vote on Tuesday, November 12. There is majority support for this bill in the Senate for full repeal. Retired members of public education organizations are encouraged to continue our advocacy and speak up for a repeal of WEP and GPO.

LATEST UPDATE: The Repeal of WEP &GPO **was approved** by the House and now it advances to the Senate for approval. Positive outlook for the overall repeal of WEP & GPO. Stay tuned as TRTF works for the good of all teachers!

President's Note

MARSP Members:

It's close to the holidays and we are thinking about gifts we need to get and food we need to make. With all these items on our minds, we need to remember it's time to make a tax-deductible contribution to TRTF. Our foundation gives financial assistance to active and retired teachers, and it has given a lot of financial assistance to teachers in the Panhandle within the fire zone and to teachers in the flood areas after the hurricanes. Mail your donation to MARSP. P O Box 4954, Midland, Texas 79704.

For the first time the legislature is recognizing how WEP and GPO has impacted teachers, firefighters, and policemen. Please, please, please email Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz and Senator Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to vote for the repealing of these provisions. All you have to look up is: Email for Senator _____. Then put your information in and briefly tell the senator how WEP and GPO must be repealed. Teachers (current and retired) are a huge voting bloc; our voices will be heard. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy your families.

Deborah Jordan, President

2024 VOLUNTEER HOURS

1/1/24 - 12/31/24

The 2024 year for reporting volunteer hours is in the 4th quarter for Midland Association of Retired School Personnel! Your participation speaks volumes when reported to legislators making decisions about your retirement benefit. Please report a maximum of 12 hours per day for time you volunteered in 2024. The volunteer hourly rate for 2024 reported by the Independent Sector is \$33.49. If you haven't already started calculating your hours, please make a plan to do so. There is a Volunteer Hour Form on the MARSP website for your convenience and there will be volunteer hour reporting tickets on the table at the regular monthly meetings. You may submit your cumulative totals anytime during the year and with any format that is convenient for you. Please submit all cumulative hours for 2024 by 1/31/2025 to:

Helen Whitehead

hlwhite54@gmail.com

Or text to 432/553-3924

Remember:

Volunteer hours may be counted for any service that is provided without pay to an individual or group. Record hours spent in volunteer work from the time you leave home until the time you return. Also count the time you spend preparing to do the volunteer work, i.e., preparing a speech or baking cookies. Combine all volunteer hours regardless of type of service performed.

Make a habit of recording the activities on a regular basis. A calendar is ideal for keeping track. A Community Volunteer Record form is also available on the MARSP webpage.



MARSP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MARSP membership is now at 249 members. This is great, but let's get way more than 250 members. This is possible by current members inviting retired education personnel friends to join our organization. Let them know about our monthly luncheon meetings where they can eat, socialize and learn valuable information. As members are updated or added to the MARSP roster, their information will be right here in the MARSP Membership Newsletter article. Please update or add the following members to your 2024-2025 yearbook (which was mailed to members in the first week of November):

1. **Renewed Member: Cheryl Bains**, cheryl.bains@yahoo.com, 6823 Island Cir., Midland, TX 79707, 11/27
2. **New Member: Christina (Tina) Ortez**, tinaortez83@gmail.com, 553-6211, 1615 Ventura Ave., Midland, TX 79705, 10/11

Please try to attend the next MARSP meeting on December 5, 2024, and be ready to sing along with a concert of seasonal favorites. Remember to reach out to other retirees!

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.--Maya Angelou

Thank you!

Paula Knight

MARSP 1st VP/Membership

pvknight432@gmail.com

