

Greetings, Texas Retired Teachers Foundation Liaisons, Representatives and Friends!

Welcome to the October 2010 issue of *The Ledger*.

This issue features important information about the statewide launch of “A Helping Hand,” including training dates and resolving technical difficulties associated with webinars! **Please read it carefully for action items that may pertain to you as a District or Local Unit officer!**



TRTF appreciates your feedback. Please let us know if the newsletter is helpful to you as a representative of the foundation. Send feedback to info@trtf.org

Next month is Foundation Month! Are you ready? *See pages 3 and 4!*

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The next meeting of the TRTF Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Drury Inn, Austin, Texas. The Drury Inn is located at 6711 IH 35 North. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at approximately 2:00 p.m.



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The latest news and updates from the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation!

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"A Helping Hand" Statewide Training: 2 Dates Left, RSVP Today!

TRTF is continuing its training program for the statewide launch of "A Helping Hand" throughout the month of October. Cindee Sharp has been hosting webinars (which require access to a telephone, computer, and the internet) to train district and local unit presidents and foundation representatives. The first three dates (October 1, 4, and 12) were successful, though some technical difficulties did occur.

Space is still available for the following dates, so RSVP today if you have not scheduled your webinar:

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 **2:00 p.m.** (RSVP by October 18)

Thursday, October 28, 2010 **10:00 a.m.** (RSVP by October 26)

The following information may be helpful to you to **prevent technical difficulties** when you participate in the webinar:

1. Perform a system test to make sure your computer is compatible with the service. To run this test, click here: www.freebinar.com/systemtest.

2. At times, screen settings prevented participants from being able to see the presentation. Make sure you adjust your **screen resolution settings**. If the screen setting is too large, parts of the presentation are hidden. A good screen setting for the webinar is 1024 X 768.

To adjust your screen resolution, go to My Computer, Control Panel, Display (or Appearance and Themes). Then select the Settings Tab. You should see a section called Screen Resolution with a sliding bar (one side reads "Less," the other side reads "More" and the word "Pixels" appears below the bar) that lets you adjust your setting. Be sure to save the new setting after you have adjusted it.

3. Please note: if Cindee has not yet started the webinar from her computer, it is possible that when you try to log on the system you will receive a false message that the webinar was cancelled or is unavailable. Try again after a couple of minutes. Cindee will try to start webinars 10 minutes early to let people have a chance to log on and get accustomed to the environment. Note, this means the 2:00 p.m. webinars will open for "practice" at 1:50 p.m.

4. If after doing all of this you are still experiencing problems, you may download a PDF version of the webinar here: http://www.trtf.org/TRTF/assets/File/A_Helping_Hand_Training_Session_ALL_statewide_PDF.pdf. You will still need to dial the conference call number and PIN to hear Cindee presenting: Conference Call Number: Toll Number: 1-218-339-2409 Attendee PIN: 1483684.

Thank you for bearing with us as we attempt to use this new technology to bring information to you!

DISTRICT 3
representatives will be meeting at the Region 3 Service Center on Wednesday, October 20 at 2:00 pm and will be viewing the webinar together. For more information, please contact Dr. Martha E. Jones (marthaejones@suddenlink.net) or Maxine Ross (Maxine_ross@earthlink.net).



Foundation Month is Right Around the Corner!

November 2010 is Foundation Month! This is the time of year that the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) asks for your help in increasing awareness of what our organization does and how we do it. Specifically, we are asking you to inform the members in your local unit about our activities and to consider making a donation for one of TRTF's three charitable programs.

WHAT WE DO:

As most of you know, TRTF is the charitable arm of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. **We are in the business of helping public educators and auxiliary personnel of the past, present, and future!**

Our three distinct programs are Student Scholarships, Classroom Assistance Grants, and the newly launched "A Helping Hand"

emergency assistance program for retirees in critical need.

The TRTF Board of Trustees is excited about promoting all three programs, but especially the opportunity to launch "A Helping Hand" statewide in conjunction with Foundation Month and our second annual appeal letter. We have good news to share about the progress of the program and are proud to make it available to all TRS annuitants in the state.

HOW WE DO IT:

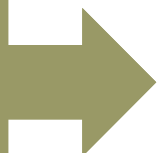
As foundation representatives and liaisons, your help is vital in spreading the message about what we can do to help retirees in your area. At your next local unit meeting, please share the **TRTF Talking Points** that you think are most pertinent to your members (see the Resources page of our website to download Talking Points or email Cindee Sharp at info@trtf.org).

Additionally, please feel free to utilize one of the simple fundraising techniques found on page 4 to raise donations for Foundation Month. Many of you are creative and offering unique Foundation programs in your area: we'd love to share your story here in *The Ledger*! Contact Cindee to share innovative ideas and pictures!

THANKS TO YOU:

TRTF trustees are grateful for all you have done to promote the Foundation. It takes all of us working together to improve the lives of education retirees. We couldn't have come this far without you, and we hope to go even farther in the future!

See some simple
fundraising
techniques for
Foundation
Month on the
next page!



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Participate in Foundation Month by Hosting a Local Fundraising Campaign!

Simple, Cost-Effective Fundraising Ideas

Reverse Raffle: A reverse raffle is a raffle your local unit members will not want to win! At your fall local unit meeting, provide every member with a free raffle ticket. Tell them they are automatically eligible for a special prize. If they don't want to be eligible, they can "sell" their ticket for \$1 to \$10. Why would they want to get rid of their ticket? Because when their ticket is drawn, they will have to perform an embarrassing task, such as singing a silly song or wearing a funny hat or costume. All ticket stubs are placed in a container from which one "lucky" number is drawn. Hold the drawing early to ensure that the "lucky winner" is present!

Donation Container: This is a straightforward cash collection fundraiser. You may use old coffee cans or purchase plastic containers from your local dollar store, and cover them in bright colored paper or place a label on them. Some district and local unit presidents place a container on every table at meetings to collect funds for the foundation!



Adult Spelling Bee: A classic childhood competition could be a great fundraiser. Many TRTA members may enjoy a grown up spelling bee! You can either collect an entry fee to raise money, or charge an "admission fee" to the audience. You may even use the official spelling bee rules, such as asking for a definition of a word and using it in a sentence! (www.spellingbee.com/contest-rules). You can use easier words for the first few rounds, and use more difficult words as the bee progresses. For ideas on what words to use in your competition and study guides, visit *Spell It!* at www.myspellit.com.



Craft Fair/Bake Sale: Craft fairs and bake sales are common fundraising techniques that call for your members to create an item or bake a delicious goodie. The proceeds earned from selling wares and snacks could then be donated to the Foundation.

Grab Bag: Have members donate inexpensive items, anything from used books to gag items. Place each item in a paper bag and seal all the bags. No feeling or shaking of bags is allowed! Decide what to charge per bag—a few dollars is appropriate. Supporters pay the fee and then choose a bag. They won't know whether they're getting a real treasure like a great cookbook, or a silly item like a rubber ducky. That's part of the fun! You can even include scratch-off lottery tickets to make the buying more competitive and fun!

Bake-less Bake Sale: The bake-less bake sale is exactly what it sounds like! Other organizations have used the following terminology to promote their bake-less bake sale: "You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies. You do NOT have to find the recipe. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to wash dishes. You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen. You can write a check for \$10.00 to the *Texas Retired Teachers Foundation* and stay home and enjoy doing something yourself or with your family instead!"

More ideas featured on www.trtf.org under Resources.

November 2010 is Foundation Month . . .

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation and You . . .



Helping educators
of the

PAST

(through "A Helping Hand" emergency assistance grants)

PRESENT

(through Classroom Assistance grants for public teachers)

& FUTURE

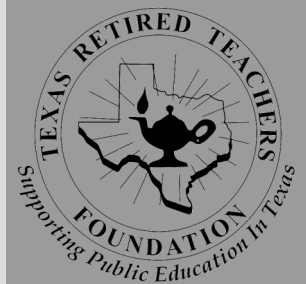
(through Student Scholarships).

When we come together, we can help each other!

Designate your fall meeting for increasing awareness of the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation.

Contact us to learn more on how your local unit or district may participate.

1-800-880-1650 x106 • info@trff.org • www.trff.org



Fill out this Local Unit/District **Foundation Month Donor Card and send it in with your donation, and we'll announce your gift in the next issue of *The Ledger*!



Our local unit/district celebrated Foundation Month!

Together, members of

_____ (Local Unit or District name)

raised \$ _____!

We would like to designate our gift for (check one)

_____ "A Helping Hand"
_____ Student Scholarships
_____ Classroom Assistance Grants

This donation is being made in **HONOR** or **MEMORY** (circle one) of:

_____ (name of honoree)

For HIS or HER (circle one)

_____ (Example: dedication to education)



Requesting Foundation Speakers

Many local units request a speaker from the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for local unit meetings. Should your local unit have such a request, please contact Cindee Sharp at info@trtf.org or call 1-800-880-1650 x 106 and let her know the date, time, and location of the meeting. Please indicate how long the speaker will need to talk, as well as how many Foundation brochures you would like for the speaker to bring. Not all requests can be met. Please expect a response within 2 to 3 weeks from the date of your request.

Looking for Foundation Talking Points to share with your fellow TRTA members during local unit meetings?

Please send an email to Cindee Sharp at info@trtf.org or contact her at 1-800-880-1650 x 106 to request a copy.

NOTE: Talking points have been updated as of September 2010.

They are also available in the **Training Guide**. The most updated version of the Training Guide is now available online through www.trtf.org on the Resources page.

