



# The TRTF Ledger

February 16, 2010

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

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

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

In this issue, learn about the latest developments with our new charitable program, "A Helping Hand."

Learn more about our upcoming plans for **the 57th Annual TRTA Convention in our special feature (page 5)**.

The deadline is nearing for the 2010-2011 Student Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant programs. Read more on page 3!



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](mailto:info@trtf.org)

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## **"A Helping Hand" Ready to Launch in Pilot Districts**



The Board of Trustees for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is pleased to announce the official launch of "A Helping Hand" in four pilot districts. "A Helping Hand" is a grant program designed to assist Texas public education retirees with emergencies or short-time hardships.

In February, Districts 8, 12, 17 and 20, along with their local units, participated in conference calls to learn how to begin the program in their respective areas. These districts are now ready to accept applications for "A Helping Hand."

If you are a member of District 20, please note that a live training is available on February 18th at 10:00 a.m. at the Harlandale ISD Parent Ed Center in San Antonio. Please contact Barbara Soto for more information ([jbsoto@swbell.net](mailto:jbsoto@swbell.net)).

If you are a Local Unit President or Foundation Representative, or a District Foundation Liaison in District 8, 12, 17, or 20 and have not received training on the program, please contact the Foundation office ([help@trtf.org](mailto:help@trtf.org)) or your District President immediately.

Your assistance is vital to ensuring the success of "A Helping Hand." TRTA Local Units are the backbone of the program. If you are a member of one of the aforementioned districts, and someone you know needs help, please let them know that this program is available to them. Applications for "A Helping Hand" are available from and should be submitted through your Local Unit President or Foundation Representative.

"A Helping Hand" will launch statewide by the fall of 2010. At that time, training for all districts will be scheduled.

***Thank you for helping TRTF make "A Helping Hand" a reality.***

## **Looking for Talking Points to share with your local TRTA members during local unit meetings?**

Please send an email to Cindee Sharp at [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org) or contact her at 1-800-880-1650 x 102 to request a copy.

**NOTE: Talking points have been updated as of January 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](http://www.trtf.org) on the Resources page.

The password to download the Training Guide is: *guidetrtf1*



Learn more about TRTF's Convention fundraising activities benefitting "A Helping Hand" on page 5!



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## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Students who are relatives of a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA), and

who are pursuing an undergraduate or masters degree in education at a Texas university or college are eligible to apply for the TRTF Student Scholarship. Transcripts must be included with each application. Recipients must provide proof of enrollment before funds will be awarded.

**Applications Due March 18th!**

## CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Classroom Assistance Grants are awarded to public school teachers who on a daily basis demonstrate commitment to public education and Texas



children through the creation of programs, events, or other learning platforms. Teachers may apply as individuals or as a team, must be public school teachers in the state of Texas for the 2010-2011 school year, and must have handwritten approval of the project by the school principal.

## 2010-2011 TRTF Student Scholarships & Classroom Assistance Grants!

The 2010-2011 TRTF Student Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant applications are ready! **Please note** that applications for both programs have undergone significant changes since the 2009-2010 award year, and it is advised that all applicants download the newest applications.

For the 2010-2011 school year, **TRTF will award 10 \$500 student scholarships and 10 \$500 classroom assistance grants** (6 more than last year)!

**The deadline is fast approaching: all applications are due to TRTF by Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 5:00 pm.** The names of the 2010-2011 scholarship and grant recipients will be announced at the 2010 Convention of the Texas Retired Teachers Association during the Foundation luncheon. The convention will be held in Arlington on April 13, 14, and 15. Winners do not need to be present and will be notified by telephone and/or by e-mail after the convention.

As a Foundation liaison or representative, your help informing TRTA members about the availability of the new scholarship and grant applications is needed! **Please announce that the new applications are available at your next local unit meeting. So far, we have received 8 scholarship applications and 22 grant applications.** Feel free to direct individuals to the TRTF website or to send applications to interested parties.

*Additional information next page*



## ➔ How Do I Get A Scholarship or Grant Application?

### 1. Download one from the website!

Go to [www.trtf.org/apply](http://www.trtf.org/apply)

Both Microsoft Word and PDF versions of the applications are available

### 2. Send an email to [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org)!

Use one of the following subject lines: Scholarship or Grant

### 3. Call 1-800-880-1650 x 102

(or ask for Cindee Sharp)!

She will be happy to mail a hard copy of the application to you

### Memorial: Anna Brodie

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the family of Anna Brodie, who passed away in January 2010. Ms. Brodie served the Foundation as the District 12 Liaison. At the 2009 TRTA Convention, Anna presented a check to Foundation President Tom Pritchard on behalf of District 12 and in memory of Jack Felts.

Mrs. Brodie was a 1950 graduate of Temple High School. She received her A.A. from Temple College, her B.S. from Southwest Texas State University and her M.S. from Baylor University. She also attended Harvard University and Texas A&M University.

Mrs. Brodie taught in the Temple Independent School District, where she was an elementary school principal. At Texas A&M University, she was an elementary and middle school principal, and in Brazosport, she was the director of elementary education.

She was the first National Distinguished Principal recipient for the State of Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. At her retirement, Mrs. Brodie had taught for over 43 years.

Our thoughts are with her loved ones and friends.

## February Fun Facts!

February is Black History Month in the U.S.A. and Canada serving as a remembrance of important people and events in African American history.

February is also National Cherry and Chocolate Month, which explains all those Valentine's Day gifts of chocolate-covered cherries.

February 2 is Groundhog Day. Since 1886, many people have gathered in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania and elsewhere to see a groundhog climb out of his hole and predict the season's forecast. If the groundhog sees its shadow, winter will be prolonged for 6 more weeks. If the groundhog does not see his shadow, winter will end soon.

In February 1847, the United States Post Office introduced adhesive stamps, which simplified post office operations along with one's mailing process for Valentine's Day, February 14th.

Anna Brodie, pictured below with Tom Pritchard at the 2009 TRTA Convention in Dallas.



# 2010 TRTA Annual Convention . . .

*Volunteers Needed!*  
*See bottom of page . . .*



## Looking Forward to the 2010 TRTA Convention

TRTF is looking forward to April 13-15, 2010 when the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Retired Teachers Association Convention takes place in Arlington. As in years past, TRTF will host its annual luncheon on Wednesday, April 14. You may see this year's luncheon menu to the right of this page.

Tickets should be purchased in advance. To pre-register for the luncheon as well as other Convention activities, please see your most recent issue of *The Voice*. We look forward to having you as our guest!

### Foundation Luncheon Guest Speaker: Dr. Barry Thompson

Our guest speaker for this year's luncheon is Dr. Barry Thompson. You may recall hearing Dr. Thompson speak at the Foundation luncheon in 2008. We are so pleased that he has agreed to return.

Dr. Thompson has 44 years of experience in Texas education, including 13 years in public schools and 31 years in higher education. He holds degrees from Tarleton State University, Texas Tech University, and Texas A & M University, including a Doctorate of Philosophy. He is President Emeritus of Tarleton State University and Chancellor Emeritus of the Texas A & M University System. He is also a member of TRTA.

We look forward to hearing Dr. Thompson speak about his passion for education and philanthropy. We hope you will join us!

### Convention Fundraising Activities!

This year, the Foundation will be raising funds for "A Helping Hand" at the Convention through two fundraising activities. TRTF will have a booth in the Exhibition Hall where members of the Board of Trustees will be available to answer your questions about the Foundation, as well as provide up-to-date materials. Trustees will be accepting donations at the booth. **For a suggested donation of \$5, guests will receive a woven red bag commemorating TRTA's 2009 Day at the Capitol.** Supplies are limited, so be the first to stop by the booth! Exhibits open at Noon on Tuesday, April 13.

TRTF will also host a photo booth in the exhibition hall. **For a suggested donation of \$15, guests will receive one 5 x 7 photograph commemorating their experience in Arlington!** Memorabilia from the Texas Rangers and Dallas Cowboys will be displayed in the photo booth. Individuals wishing to participate should stop by the Foundation's exhibitor booth and schedule a time to have his or her picture taken. Please note that TRTF will be accepting cash and check only as forms of payment for the bags and photos. Photos will be mailed to guests after the convention.

### TRTF Luncheon (\$28 per person) Wednesday April 14, 2010

12 pm—1pm

Arlington Convention Center  
Ballroom

#### Menu

Salad: romaine lettuce with  
tomatoes & parmesan cheese

Main course: chicken breast filled  
with onion, garlic, tomatoes, green  
olives & mozzarella, & topped with  
an herb sauce, orzo pilaf,  
& grilled squash

Dessert: cherry cheesecake



**Will you be attending the TRTA Convention in Arlington?** The Foundation is looking for volunteers to assist in manning the Exhibitor Booth on Wednesday, April 14 and Thursday, April 15. Please contact Cindee Sharp ASAP (info@trtf.org or 1-800-880-1650) for more information or to volunteer!