

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

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

This issue is dedicated to the upcoming **57th Annual TRTA Convention!** See page 2 and 3 for the latest details.

Learn more about our luncheon plans, fundraising activities, and special Convention announcements!

*If you have received this newsletter in error, please contact Cindee Sharp at [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org).*



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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## 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.

Read more on this page and page 3 about TRTF's Convention plans, including the annual Foundation luncheon and new, exciting fundraising activities!

### Annual Foundation Luncheon, April 14!

*Guest Speaker: Dr. Barry Thompson*

As in years past, TRTF will host its annual luncheon during the TRTA Convention 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!

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!

### TRTF Luncheon (\$28 per person)

**Wednesday April 14, 2010**

**12 pm—1:30 pm**

**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

*Learn more about TRTF's  
Convention fundraising activities  
benefitting "A Helping Hand"  
on page 3!*



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

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## Scholarship and Grant Recipients to be Announced!

TRTF will also be announcing its 2010-2011 Student Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant winners during the Foundation luncheon on April 14.

This year, TRTF is awarding 10 \$500 Student Scholarships to Texas college students majoring in education. All scholarship recipients are related to members of TRTA.

The Foundation will also award 10 \$500 Classroom Assistance Grants to Texas public school teachers for innovative classroom projects or learning platforms.

Please join us in celebrating the successes of these committed educators and future teachers!

## 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](mailto:info@trtf.org) or 1-800-880-1650) for more information or to volunteer!

## 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 photo booth and schedule a time to have his or her picture taken. The photo booth will be open on Tuesday April 13 from Noon to 6 pm, and Wednesday April 14 from 8 am to 5 pm. 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.



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## *Spring is in the air!*

And there is no better time to enjoy the beauty of the Texas landscape!

April 24 is Texas State Wildflower Day. The bluebonnet is the Texas State flower.



Here are a few fun facts about bluebonnets . . .

Bluebonnets bloom between March and May, and are very fragrant. They typically grow to about one foot tall, but some bluebonnet species grow up to three feet tall!

Bluebonnet is also called wolf flower (from the Latin word "lupus"), buffalo clover and in Spanish, "el conejo," or the jackrabbit.

The Texas legislature chose the bluebonnet---specifically, *Lupinus subcarnosus*---as the state's flower in 1901. In 1971, they designated all species of *Lupinus* native to Texas as the state flower, which added five more species.

The bluebonnet (genus *Lupinus*) is a flower with more than 200 species. Its blooms are arranged on a spike with a white tip at the top. Certain species of bluebonnet native to Texas have been designated as the Texas state flower, but bluebonnets grow throughout the world. Some species of bluebonnets are found growing naturally **only in Texas** and nowhere else in the world.

## ***Coming in the April issue of the Ledger . . .***

TRTF will announce its first "A Helping Hand" grant recipient. We'll share more details about this individual's story, along with Convention highlights, next month!

## **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*

