

Fall 2024

RET – EXPRESS

From the Association President – Lisa Theriot

It seemed we went from blistering summer to fall in just one day. (Fake Fall). Now we are marching back up the thermometer! Ah, North Texas weather...ya gotta love it!



I'll be leading the group to see the musical *On Your Feet* at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts on Saturday. These kids always do such a phenomenal job. I'm really looking forward to it. I also found a new place to have an early dinner after the show. It's The Playwright Irish Pub and it's right across the street from the school. I stopped in one day in July and had lunch. It was very cute. The food was

good and not as expensive as you'd think for the Arts District. We are still looking for someone to step up and join our other events coordinators to develop theater events. If you want more information, please contact me.

I'm looking forward to Don Baynham's tour of the Aldredge House on Swiss Avenue on October 18th. Don's tours are always so thought-provoking and a peek into the history of Dallas.

Our Holiday Luncheon and Business Meeting is scheduled for December 10th. Rosie Steffen, Georgia Francis, and I did a tasting this summer. Everything was delicious. We did settle on changing the menu slightly to keep the cost at \$50. I don't believe we are losing anything on taste. I can't wait to see everyone!

As you consider your charitable giving this year, please consider including the Dallas College Retiree Association Student Scholarship. You can contribute directly by sending a check to our Treasurer, Diane Graifemberg at 13656 Janwood Lane, Farmers Branch, Texas 75234, or pay online using Zelle at this phone number 972-816-0546.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Message from the President | 1 |
| Message from Dr. Justin Lonon | 2 |
| About Us (Cynthia Bowlin, Gene Pouncey, Bette Plog, Bettie Tully, Don Baynham) | 3-6 |
| Events..... | 7-9 |
| Dallas Museum of Art | 7 |
| The Aldredge House Museum | 8 |
| Booker T. Washington Theater | 9 |
| Interested Events | 9 |
| Alzheimer's Disease | 10 |
| Introducing Buena Vida..... | 11 |
| Learn to Live..... | 11 |
| TCCTA | 12 |
| Retiree Association Executive Board and Event Coordinators | 13 |
| ERS to Take Action on COLA | 14 |
| Important Information (Norm Howden) | 14 |
| Requesting State Funds to Secure Your Benefits..... | 15 |
| Minutes of the Spring Luncheon and Meeting..... | 16 |
| 2024 Scholarship Recipients | 17-18 |
| Dallas and Tarrant County Pact to Fill High-Demand Careers | 19 |
| Welcome New Retirees..... | 20 |
| Dallas College Website..... | 20 |
| Opportunities..... | 20 |
| Fall Benefit Enrollment Begins | 21 |
| Holiday Luncheon | 22 |
| Retiree Members | 23-26 |
| Joining the Association | 26 |
| 2025 Retiree Membership Form | 27 |
| Plan 9 from Outer Space! (Theater) | 27 |
| Retirees and the State Fair of Texas | 28 |
| Tuition Change for Dallas College 2025..... | 29 |
| ERS Discount Program..... | 30 |
| ERS Prescription Drug Coverage Vs Medicare Part D | 31 |
| Chancellors Lonon, LeBlanc Receive NTC Education Leadership Award | 32 |
| Colleagues We Will Miss | 33 |
| Holiday Luncheon Reservation Form | 34 |
| Retiree Events | 35-40 |

Dr. Justin Lonon, Chancellor



Welcome to the new academic year at Dallas College! I hope you're all enjoying the Fall weather and looking forward to more to come.

We started our new semester with Conference Day, with a focus on the innovation and changes happening at Dallas College. We were inspired to hear about student and employee success stories, and I shared specifics around our intention to reimagine the higher education experience.

For example, we have now rolled out our second baccalaureate program. This time we focused on closing the talent gap in nursing and are now providing the necessary educational resources to help fill positions that are essential to our healthcare industry. Our students can now earn their bachelor's degree without ever leaving their "home" at Dallas College. We're not stopping there. In fact, we are already building our next bachelor's degree program in Applied Technology.

To serve our students and give them the best chance to succeed, we've welcomed 145 new faculty members. Our faculty are the backbone of what we do, and without them, we would be unable to serve those who need us most. We are proud to welcome all our new team members to the Dallas College family.

Also, we welcomed two new Campus Presidents recently: Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins at our Brookhaven campus and Dr. Macario Hernandez at Mountain View. I am inspired by their passion and expertise, and we look forward to seeing them guide their respective campuses as we continue our Dallas College mission of busting barriers and moving forward with innovation and promise.

Finally, you may have heard that our Board of Trustees unanimously approved our 2024-2025 budget which included a projected tuition increase of \$99 per student credit hour. The new rate passed on Sept. 10, 2024, and will be effective for Spring 2025 enrollment. Besides providing fundamental resources like DART and Uber passes and access to food pantries and clothing closets, our tuition remains lower than the statewide average and is all-inclusive of books and course materials. Dallas College has not increased tuition since 2019, and by doing so now, we're better positioned to continue providing the vital wraparound services our students depend on. I am thankful for our Board's diligence in ensuring Dallas College can continue serving as a lifeline for those who are counting on us.

We are at the forefront of bringing higher education to everyone who wants a college degree, to those who are looking to upskill, and for anyone looking to earn a certificate while gaining skills they need to fill the gaps in our workforce. We're not just a community college. For those we serve, we are a life-changing organization that is helping them succeed. I am proud to serve Dallas College and to see the positive impact we are making in so many lives.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a valued part of our Dallas College family.

Be well,

Dr. Justin H. Lonon, Chancellor

About Us:

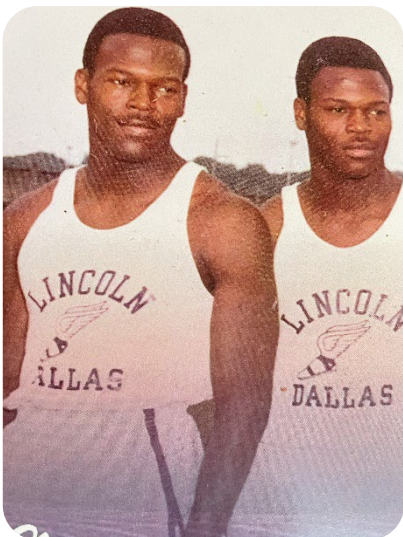
Cynthia Bowlin, a Retiree of El Centro

Grady Hinton and I enjoyed a wonderful summer vacation on the Oregon coast and in San Diego during the summer of 2024. One of the highlights of the trip was visiting with my youngest grandson, Ryan Levins, as well as my youngest great-grandson of four, Connor. Grady and I were able to do some additional travel on the West Coast and enjoyed a cool and relaxing vacation. It was a good escape from the Dallas heat. My grandson and his family made the vacation one of the best we've ever taken, but the extra time in Oregon made it even better.



Gene Pouncey, a Retiree of El Centro

El Centro retiree, Gene Pouncey, who passed away on April 21, 2020, was honored posthumously by being inducted into the Dallas ISD Athletic Hall of Fame, class of 2023-2024. There was a total of nine, including Gene's identical twin brother, Joe, inducted in the 2023-2024 class; the induction ceremony was held on April 12, 2024. To be selected for this honor the person must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character. Gene and Joe ran track and played football at Lincoln High School and Humanities/Communications Magnet. Achieving national records in sprint and mile relays, they earned the title of "track & field royalty" by The Dallas Morning News. At the 1969 state championships, the duo, joined by John Delley and Rufus Shaw, set a national record in the 440-yard relay with an impressive time of 40.7 seconds. That same year, Gene won state in the 100-yard dash with a time of 9.4 seconds, and Joe won the 220-yard dash at 21.2 seconds. After graduating from Lincoln in 1970, the Pouncey twins attended Southern Methodist University (SMU), where they won Southwest Conference (SWC) Championships and achieved All-American status. The brothers helped set the SWC sprint relay record. Gene won the 100-yard dash outdoor and 60-yard dash indoor title three times each, nearly qualifying for the 1972 Olympics. Gene is on the all-time list of best 100-yard dash sprinters in America. Inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame in 1998, the twins also received the "Black Alumni Award" from SMU in 2012 for their substantial contributions to the university's community.



Bette Plog, a Retiree of El Centro

My Rhine Getaway

In May 2023 I embarked on a Rhine Getaway Viking cruise only to be removed from the river cruise after the first day when I tested positive for Covid. I spent the next ten days recovering before being able to return to the USA. During the summer of 2024, I was able to resume that cruise and some of the highlights of the trip will follow.



The journey began in Basel, Switzerland located where Switzerland, Germany, and France meet. The city straddles the Rhine at the river's farthest navigable point. After embarkation, we sailed to Breisach, Germany, the home to Europe's largest wine cellars.

A morning scenic drive took us through prolific vineyards, undulating hills, and woodlands through the Black

Forest. During a stop, we were able to attend a cuckoo clock demonstration, watch a glass blower at work, and learn how to make Black Forest cake. The afternoon was spent visiting the Colman Pocket Memorial World War II Museum and several memorials honoring US forces who fought with the French Army to overthrow the German occupation of this region.



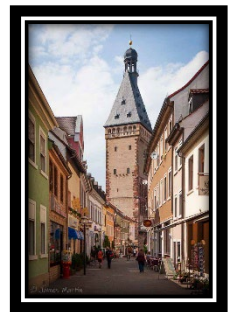
Day three included a visit to Strasbourg, France.

One of the highlights was the Cathedral Square

and the magnificent Gothic-restored Strasbourg Cathedral. That evening I enjoyed another drive along the Alsatian wine route and a stop at a winery where we enjoyed some tastings.



The next morning included a walking tour of Speyer, home to much history and magnificent architecture. We then sailed to Rüdesheim, Germany. That evening we boarded a mini-train that took us to the 15th-century Drosselgasse (a narrow pedestrian-only walkway) and enjoyed a fun-filled evening with a typical German dinner, wine, and traditional music.



Sailing through the Middle Rhine we had many opportunities to view picturesque medieval castles, ancient towns, and vineyards along a 40-mile stretch. There are more than twenty-eight castles which were strategically placed to maximize a defensive position against feudal lords who controlled trade along the river in olden days.



Day five we arrived in Koblenz, a traditional German town where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. Our options included a tour of the medieval Marksburg Castle and Moselle wine tasting. On to Cologne, Germany where we embarked on a walking tour of the city. The highlight for me was a stop at the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe. This magnificent church has two giant spires and beautiful stained-glass windows. Construction

began in 1248 and continued in stages over the next seven centuries. Thankfully, it survived the Allied bombings that ravaged the city and the rest of Germany during World War II.

Day seven we sailed to the Dutch countryside of Kinderdijk. There we boarded a 125-year-old restored cargo vessel, adapted to carry passengers to the Blokker windmill, which dates to 1630. We met the miller who told us what it takes today to preserve these windmills. He took us on a tour of the windmills and outbuildings and demonstrated how the sails were regulated. A history of water management in the region and the vital role played by the windmills was provided by our guide.



We docked in Amsterdam early on the last morning and were escorted to the airport for our return home. This was my sixth Viking River cruise, and I highly recommend them if you enjoy traveling. Each cruise features one included shore excursion in each port of call and a variety of optional excursions to further enhance your experience. Viking also offers ocean cruises and expeditions.



Bettie Tully, a Retiree of El Centro

I have been thinking about my many years at the DCCCD or now Dallas College, and how it has evolved from a 70's culture of a free-thinking, communal organization to a business model over time. This contrast has not yet served well as an environment for students and faculty to grow together as learning partners.

I was reminded of my early years at Brookhaven where a selected group of teachers and administrators instinctively began building a community of mutual learners, not separate, individual groups. We all became one integrated body of work where loving relationships were the foundation for learning and offered the necessary support for smaller groups. Here is one example of how a real communal group nourished me.

Jane Wood was my Sister Friend for many years...ever since the early 80's. We were in love with teaching and in love with our students at Brookhaven. We created one of the first Human Development classes for adult women returning to college, and over the years, we fell in love with each other as colleagues, as mutual lovers of music, art, and literature, our gentle and amusing husbands, our children, and our grandchildren. Later, we became lovers of Estes Park and life in the mountains. Every summer we celebrated that love by communing with our mutual best friends...Ruth Shaw and Dianne Horton...while hiking, listening to our favorite music, singing along with Cowboy Bob, walking our dogs, slow drives on Trail Ridge road to the Continental Divide, and evenings in our cabin drinking wine and martinis, laughing, telling stories and sharing our lives in ways that we can only do as best friends. These were indeed the halcyon days, and I would love to do them all over again with Jane. But as we miss her, the wonderful memories of her love will come back into our lives with gusto!



Since many of you knew Jane and the role she played in the saga of Four Superb Women, I thought you might want to read this late-night reminiscing from me.

Love, Bettie

Don Baynham, a Retiree of Eastfield

In August we escaped the heat with an Alaskan cruise on Holland America's Norden. For seven days we sailed from Whittier, stopping in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan, and disembarking in Vancouver. And, of course, seeing glaciers along the way.

Cruising in Glacier Bay



Rush Hour in Skagway



Vancouver at night, from the harbor



UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum Visits, Anyone?



Frida Kahlo Exhibit

Folks, I would like to propose that we visit the Dallas Museum of Art's show entitled "Frida: Beyond the Myth" later this fall. Due to the success of its 2017 exhibition featuring some works by Frida Kahlo, the DMA is presenting a new showcase focusing on Frida, running through mid-November. This exhibit will include approximately 60 works by Kahlo and her contemporaries. I have submitted a request for our group to attend this show on Tuesday, November 12, and I have requested a docent. It seems that the museum is somewhat short on docents at this time, and I am told that they will try to supply one for us; however, they cannot be sure about this until nearer the time set. Our tour is set for 12 noon, which is the earliest time for docent tours now. The price for the exhibit is \$18 (free for members, of course), and \$50 for the docent. I am told that, since we are participating in a group tour,

we do not need to make reservations in advance individually. I thought we might have lunch at about 1 at the Mi Cocina across the street in Warren Park if that appeals to the group. I will try to have complete details when I send out a reminder at the beginning of November. I hope to see you there!

Bob Chambers, Museum Coordinator

FALL TOUR:
The Aldredge House Museum



West Texas Rancher William J. Lewis, a native of Maryland, and his wife, Willie (Newbury) of Dallas had the House constructed from 1915 to 1917. Designed by architects Hal Thomson and Marion Fooshee, it features influences of English Georgian and French Renaissance styling.

In 1921, the home was purchased by George E. Aldredge, a prominent banker. He and his wife Rena (Munger) were active civic leaders and major contributors to the arts. In 1974, Mrs. Aldredge and her family gave the House to the Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation to be used as its headquarters.

Except for the kitchen facilities, the house is virtually unchanged since 1917...a true trip back in time.

- Where: Aldredge House, 5500 Swiss Avenue, Dallas.
- When: Friday, October 18, 11:30 am.
- Cost: \$15 per person; parking is free.
- Followed by lunch (on your own) at El Fenix in Casa Linda.

If you're interested, let me know (donbaynham@outlook.com; 214-287-7948). Limited to 30 people.



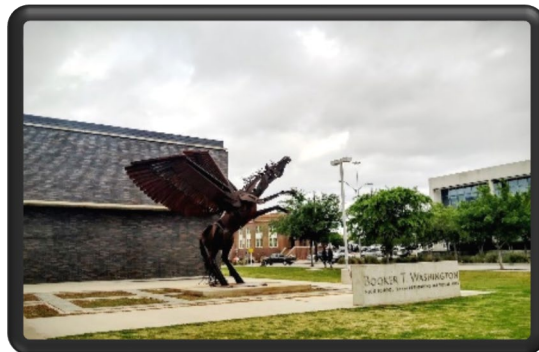
Theater Event

Once again, a group of retirees attended the musical ***On Your Feet*** at the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts on Saturday afternoon, September 16, 2023. It is the story of Gloria Estefan and her coming to America from Cuba to rise to become a superstar in pop music.

After the event, the group enjoyed an early dinner at the Playwrite Irish Pub.



Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts



Are You Interested in the Retirees Sponsoring a Special Event?

The Retiree Association is always looking for events in which the retirees would like to participate. Do you have any ideas that you would like considered? We're always interested in events that would appeal to our retirees. If so, please contact Lisa Theriot at lmtheriot@msn.com or by calling (214) 537-4294.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

As people age and become concerned about their failing memory and other signs of cognitive problems, many worry they may be getting Alzheimer's Disease.

"One symptom alone does not necessarily indicate that a person has Alzheimer's or dementia," cautioned Raj C. Shah, M.D., of the Rush Memory Clinic at Rush University Medical Center, in Chicago. He told **Health.com** that there can be multiple causes of memory loss and other issues, so don't self-diagnose.

Here are seven signs that indicate a visit to the doctor may be in order:

1. Some memory issues are normal, not just with aging but in daily life. But if memory issues interfere with daily life, such as forgetting recently learned information, that can be a warning sign, says the [Alzheimer's Association](#). Watch if you find yourself repeating the same information or need to leave reminder notes or electronic devices to remember everything.
2. If familiar, daily tasks become hard to complete, that can be a warning sign. "Sometimes, people may have trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget at work or remembering the rules of a favorite game," says the Alzheimer's Association.
3. Conversation becomes challenging or understanding words as people speak, says WebMD. "Vocabulary becomes hard. Can you find the right word you're looking for? Or do you call things by the wrong name?"
4. Agitation and quickly changing moods can be indicators of an issue, says [Health.com](#). "They may constantly move around and pace, get upset in certain places, or become fixated on specific details." In addition, "agitation usually results from fear, confusion, fatigue, and feeling overwhelmed from trying to make sense of a world that no longer makes sense," explains (Lisa P.) Gwyther.

ALERT: These 7 Things Activate Alzheimer's in Your Brain

5. Changes in judgment, such as giving away money you normally wouldn't have, can indicate Alzheimer's onset, says WebMD. "Have you made poor decisions lately? Are you showering as often? Do you take less care of yourself? Do you dress for the wrong weather?"
6. "Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships," says the Alzheimer's Association. "For some people, having vision problems is a sign of Alzheimer's. They may have difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast, which may cause problems with driving."
7. Confusing time and place can be another issue as Alzheimer's begins. People with Alzheimer's may have a difficult time understanding something or may lose track of dates or passage of time. Some people may forget where they are or how they got there.

By,

By Morgan Chilson, March 11, 2024, *Newsmax Health*

Introducing Buena Vida

Buena Vida, brought to you by the Employees Retirement System of Texas, is a brand-new program starting in October that helps you take control of your well-being. Designed for Texans who serve Texans, Buena Vida is here to help you grab your health by the horns and achieve what matters most to you.



Your health, your goals, your way

Buena Vida is more than a wellness program. It's a judgment-free community committed to helping you live your best life. Whether you want to reach a fitness goal, improve your mental health, or work toward financial wellness, Buena Vida is here to support every part of your well-being.

Build community and enjoy rewards

Buena Vida makes improving your well-being simple. We offer easy-to-use tools that allow you to manage it from one convenient place.

On the Buena Vida online portal, you'll be able to:

- learn about your overall health,
- track progress toward personal goals,
- join statewide fitness challenges,
- connect with your co-workers and
- earn rewards when you complete healthy activities.

Make sure your well-being is headed in the right direction with Buena Vida, launching October. 1! Look out for details this fall.



Learn to Live is an online, on-demand, self-paced mental health service grounded in cognitive behavioral therapy. This style of therapy focuses on thoughts and actions and how adjusting those can positively impact an individual's state of mind. All Learn to Live programs can be accessed online via desktop, tablet or mobile device and use videos and interactive lessons to engage participants.

Learn to Live provides online, coach-supported programs to help participants overcome depression, insomnia, panic disorder, stress, anxiety, and social anxiety. Participants can also work with a Learn to Live Coach via their preferred communication method after completing an initial assessment.

HealthSelect of Texas® medical plan participants who are age 13 and older and living in the U.S., including those enrolled in Consumer Directed HealthSelectSM or HealthSelectSM Secondary, administered by BCBSTX, are eligible to participate.

[Enroll today!](#)



Texas Community College
Teachers Association

Maximize Your Benefits: Why Retirees Should Join TCCTA

J. P. Winston, Executive Director of the Texas Community College Association (TCCCA), sends greetings to the retirees of Dallas College on behalf of the Texas Community College Teachers Association (TCCTA). TCCTA is the premier professional organization for community college faculty, administrators, and retirees in the state of Texas, and part of TCCTA's mission is to ensure that members enjoy retirement and health benefits of the highest quality.

As many of you know, TCCTA successfully fought for the first cost-of-living increase for Teacher Retirement System (TRS) recipients in 20 years during the 88th Legislature in 2023. This would not have been possible without the credibility and respect that the association enjoys among decision-makers in Texas higher education. That respect increases due to the vast number of members the association enjoys throughout the state of Texas.

Future political and economic uncertainty may again require TCCTA to voice the needs of our members, and when that time comes, TCCTA will be ready to answer the call. TCCTA members can track legislative issues and obtain legislative information online through membership.

TCCTA also enjoys a close partnership with [AMBA](#), a trusted insurance provider specializing in coverage for retired educators and public employees. With partnerships across 70 associations in 35 states, AMBA has a longstanding history of offering quality insurance at competitive rates. They provide a comprehensive range of discount and low-cost Medicare solutions, along with other health products that are designed to meet the needs of retirees. There are many other benefits to TCCTA members listed on the TCCTA site.

TCCTA draws its strength from its members. Historically strong membership and support from the Dallas College community have been a significant factor that has made TCCTA successes possible. You can make a valuable contribution to TCCTA as the association continues to advocate on retirees' behalf through your associate membership.

To our current members, we thank you once again for your support. To our future members, please visit us at [TCCTA.org](https://tccta.org) to learn more about how you can join! Glenda Easter, former president of TCCTA, has consistently encouraged membership among college faculty, administrators, and now Dallas College retirees. She has accepted the role of Campus Representative working with retirees across Dallas County. We encourage you to reach out to her about renewing or joining the TCCTA organization. She may be reached by phone at (214) 532-6733 and by email at geaster@retiree.dcccd.edu. Her belief and support of the organization stretches from 1981 – to the present. In addition to serving as TCCTA past president, she also served as Vice-President and Secretary of the organization. She has been a campus representative since 1982. She encourages you to strengthen TCCTA's membership through your membership and support.

Retiree Association Executive Board and Event Coordinators

| <i>Retirees Association Executive Board</i> | | <i>Retirees Association Event Coordinators</i> | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <i>President</i> | Lisa Theriot Lmtheriot@msn.com (214) 537-4294 | <i>Theater</i> | Vacant |
| <i>President-Elect</i> | J.D. Haight jonhaight@att.net (469) 323-7650 | <i>Special Events/ Luncheons</i> | Rosie Steffen rosie.steffen.rn@gmail.com (972) 699-9549 and Georgia Francis gsfrancis@aol.com (214) 505-1766 |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Linda Savage ljsavage50@gmail.com (972) 989-0032 | <i>Museum</i> | Bob Chambers bchambers101@verizon.net |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Diane Graifemberg dgraifemberg@gmail.com (972) 816-0546 | <i>Social Media</i> | Norm Howden rrgrandad@gmail.com |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i> | Glenda Easter geaster@retiree.dcccd.edu (214) 532-6733 | <i>Historical Tours</i> | Don Baynham donbaynham@outlook.com |
| <i>Past President</i> | Rodger Bennett rpbfape@gmail.com (214) 886-6893 | | |



ERS Board to Take Action Related to Cola in Next Meeting

This December, the ERS Board of Trustees will review the actuarial valuation of the ERS Retirement Plan as of August 31, 2024. Their findings will determine whether the Plan meets the statutory standard to grant a permanent, one-time cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for regular service and law enforcement and custodial officer (LECO) retirees who have been retired 20 years or more as of December 31, 2024. Eligible retirees' monthly annuities would increase by 3% or \$100, whichever is less, starting with their Jan. 31, 2025, payment. Surviving beneficiaries of regular service and LECO retirees who retired on or before December 31, 2004, also will receive the COLA.

If the Board verifies that the Plan meets the standard for the COLA, ERS will implement it to comply with Section 814.064, Texas Government Code, enacted in 2013. ERS estimates that about one-quarter of retirees and surviving beneficiaries, almost 30,000 people, will be eligible for the COLA. More than 90% of those eligible will get the full 3% increase. There are no provisions in the statute to provide any other COLAs.

The Board meeting will be on December 10 and 11. As always, we will livestream the meeting so people can watch from their computers or other devices. The full meeting agenda and Livestream link will be available on the ERS website in early December.

ERS will provide more information about the COLA as it becomes available.



Norman Howden, a Retiree of El Centro

Facebook and Don't Be Bait

You are welcome to join with all of us on the Dallas College Retiree Association Facebook page. Information about events, relevant news, and member updates are posted there – so it's a quick one stop way to stay up to date.

Over the last few months there have been more people trying to post commercial ads and material that is not relevant. To counter that we've gone to having admins approve posts – which is done fairly quickly. It's maybe a little flattering to see that entrepreneurs see us as a potential market . . . don't take the bait!

If you have any thoughts or questions about the Facebook page, please send them to me at rrgrandad@gmail.com. If you're at the State Fair on the right days you might catch me conducting the garden trains behind the Discovery Garden (29th, 6th & 8th).

Norman Howden



Requesting State Funds to Secure Your Benefits

The beginning of a new legislative session is almost here, and ERS is hard at work on our biennial Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). Times like these make me look back to all we have accomplished over the past two sessions. Some people say,

“The only time you should look back is to see how far you’ve come.” Well, we’ve come a long way. In 2021 and 2023, the Texas legislature made great strides in its efforts to place the ERS Retirement Trust Fund on the path to actuarial soundness. With increased state funding, the plan is now on track to be fully funded by 2054. Not only that, but in January 2025, ERS will be in position to pay a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to retirees who have been retired for at least 20 years, as outlined in the statute.

Having a sound fund is important for all members of ERS, whether you’re a current retiree or a beneficiary who might be getting payments for the next few decades.

Now that the Retirement Fund is back on stable footing, we expect there might be more focus on health insurance in the upcoming 89th Texas Legislature.

Little change in members’ share of health costs, despite inflation

The health insurance benefits the state provides to retirees are a valuable benefit that’s increasingly rare from employers. Both the HealthSelect of Texas[®] plans administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and the HealthSelectSM Medicare Advantage preferred provider organization, insured by UnitedHealthcare[®], were designed specifically for Texas retirees and employees. They remain popular with high satisfaction ratings.

At ERS, we’re proud to administer benefits that truly enhance the lives of our members. We’re even more proud that we’ve been able to maintain and even improve the benefits without significant cost increases, even as healthcare costs have risen elsewhere across the country. In the last decade, 2015 – 2024, ERS’ health plans had only a 16% average increase in premiums. In the overall U.S. healthcare market, average premiums increased approximately 45%—almost three times as much. We accomplished this while maintaining the plan design, with no increases in copays, coinsurance, or deductibles. In general, U.S. employees had increases in out-of-pocket expenses over the same period.

While the cost of the HealthSelect Medicare Advantage Plan will go up on January 1 by a small amount, the cost is still less than it was in 2020. We’ve kept costs stable through many measures—such as competitive bidding plan administrators who have negotiated discounts with in-network providers; requiring referrals and prior authorizations in some cases; and taking full advantage of revenue from federal programs, rebates, and refunds. With these and other tactics, ERS reduced potential costs in the HealthSelect of Texas plans from about \$16 billion to “just” \$3.3 billion in Fiscal Year 2023.

Despite these savings, costs have gone up in our health plans, but the increases haven’t had much impact on retirees and employees because the state has taken on the brunt of those increases. Over the last decade, annual costs in the HealthSelect of Texas plans have risen from about \$6,200 per participant to about \$8,200. But members’ costs—paid out of your pocket for copays, coinsurance, and, for some, premiums—have remained stable. Members’ share of overall health costs has decreased by 4.5 percentage points. This is because the state has consistently taken on the rising costs, with its share of overall costs growing from 85.1% to 89.6%.



El Centro Spring Luncheon

Minutes

March 21, 2024

President Lisa Theriot called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Welcome

Lisa Theriot, President, DCRA welcomed the members to the luncheon and business meeting. She introduced current board members and honored guests and Scholarship awardees, including Dallas College personnel who have been instrumental in working with the DCRA. The minutes from the Holiday Luncheon & Business Meeting were supplied to each attendee. There was a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Membership and Financial Report

Diane Graifenberg, treasurer, provided a list of current members present at the luncheon, and the financial report, as of March 21, 2024. After Diane Graifemberg reviewed the Treasurer's Report, it was also approved.

Announcements

Norm Howden discussed a survey he recently sent to members regarding possible events and asked everyone to please respond to suggestions and provide additional ideas.

The 2024-25 Directory will be available in PDF format online soon. A printed copy of the Directory will be mailed to those current members requesting a printed newsletter. Other Members who wish to have a printed copy will be mailed one at the cost of \$3.40 (postage cost). Contact Linda Savage to request a printed copy.

The El Centro Culinary staff were recognized for the excellent lunch and service provided.

Event Coordinators discussed upcoming activities.

Door Prizes

Door prizes were distributed by Lisa and Rosie Steffen.

President Lisa Theriot, adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,

Diane Graifemberg, Treasurer

2024 Scholarship Recipients



The scholarship selection committee was comprised of John Wells, Georgia Francis, and others appointed by Lori Tatsch, Dallas College Scholarship Coordinator. There were several good applicants. We were able to give two \$1,000 scholarships for the Spring 2024 semester. Our recipients were Sana Fatima and Emily Le. In addition to their pictures, their answers to the questions they had to answer to complete the application are included here.



ESSAY

Emily Le

Why are you applying for the Dallas College Retirees Association Scholarship? Why do you believe you are a good candidate to receive this scholarship? Describe academic goals and future career plans. Include community service activities you have participated in and/or leadership roles have you held. Provide any further information in support of your application.

As a first-generation college student, I believe that having an opportunity to receive the Dallas College Retirees Association Scholarship would help me immensely by providing the financial and academic support to further push me beyond my limits and challenge myself to successfully gain more valuable experiences at Dallas College through my academic endeavors and journey of earning my associates degree. Not only would the scholarship help in lifting a portion of my financial burden by potentially covering my tuition and textbooks for my upcoming spring semester courses, it could also be invested in other educational materials that would assist me in my areas of study and perhaps even towards my living expenses or daily necessities as well. With a much less financial stress load, I could not only maintain my current grades and honors, but also be able to direct myself more towards my career and educational goals.

I'm currently completing my Associate of Arts in Business Administration and Management at Dallas College. After receiving my associates, I'll transfer to a 4-year college in Texas (ideally, at UTD). Upon acceptance, I'll pursue a Bachelor's in Accounting and hopefully become a certified accountant.

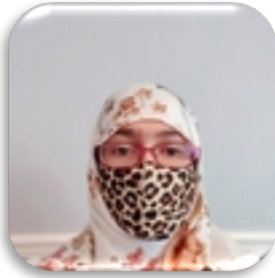
I believe that I am a good candidate to receive this scholarship because I'm an individual that likes to challenge myself and further improve my abilities. I believe this scholarship will provide me with a window of opportunity that'll help me in continuing to achieve that personal goal. I value myself in attempting to find ways to be more knowledgeable of my field of study while also seeking to stay involved in the community at Richland campus.

During high school, I was a part of Teen Learning Wizards (TLW), Berkner Advanced Academic Ambassadors (BAAA), and NHS. TLW and BAAA mostly focused on me mentoring students that need help in specific subject areas. The opportunity to guide and provide assistance to other students was an amazing experience for me since I developed my communication skills and a deeper understanding of others while also being more in-depth with the subjects that I'm teaching as well. I was also fortunate enough to intern at a marketing innovations company called Idea Planet. This internship left me with a ton of new knowledge and skills while also broadening my perspective of business as a whole.

Currently at Richland campus, I'm a member of Phi Theta Kappa and am engaged in various events and volunteering activities such as PTK's recent Honors in Action project. There are also other organizations that I'm extremely interested in partaking in, but with my tight schedule of balancing school and aiding my parents with financial and personal issues, I'm unable to be as active as I would like to be. With the scholarship, I can direct my utmost attention into improving my education and expanding my involvement at Richland campus. I want to spend my last semester at Dallas College making precious memories and gaining new experiences that'll make a positive impact and change for both myself and my community.

ESSAY

Sana Fatima



Why are you applying for the Dallas College Retirees Association Scholarship? Why do you believe you are a good candidate to receive this scholarship? Describe academic goals and future career plans. Include community service activities you have participated in and/or leadership roles have you held. Provide any further information in support of your application.

Provide any further information in support of your application.

Collin Powell famously said, "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work." His quote has been the driving force for my success. I'm applying for the Dallas College Retirees Association Scholarship because I believe I am the right candidate as I am a hardworking, responsible, and dedicated individual, aspiring to attain a degree in Education and become a teacher, who genuinely cares for others while working hard and dedicating free time towards community help.

I have always had a passion for learning and would like to go into the field of education. Until now, other life events had taken priority in my life, and I was not able to pursue my education. However, I have now been able to find the time to put effort back into my passion. I'm in the first semester of my junior year of the Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education program at Dallas College. Even though English is my second language, I have worked hard and maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout my program. I hope to continue progressing toward obtaining my degree.

I aspire to become a teacher for low-income communities, one who is dedicated, nurtures and uplifts students' morale, and helps them accomplish their goals. A teacher who creates a lasting impression on young minds, showing them that there is security and stability in the school system and helping build in them a sense of empowerment to become highly educated. I want to be a role model who instills the love of learning and prevents them from dropping out while increasing their knowledge so that they can become leaders of our nation.

While maintaining a busy schedule being a wife, a mother to my four school-age children, and a full-time student, I have taken the time to volunteer in community services in my neighborhood. I continue to volunteer at my children's school, helping the school administration and assisting them in organizing book fairs, including coordination of inventory, sales, and record keeping. Apart from volunteering in the school, I also volunteer at my local community center by helping them prepare and hand out food packages for their biweekly food drives.

Being approved to receive this scholarship will go a long way in helping me reach my career and educational ambitions. It will help me to maintain my focus on my academics by supplementing my tuition expenses, thereby, helping me to attain my goal of becoming a professional teacher. I wish to continue to work hard and endeavor to become a role model for my children as well as those I will teach in the future. Attaining my professional goal will allow me to pay back into this system thereby completing the circle that made it all possible.

Dallas College and Tarrant County College Ink Historic Pact to Fill Region's High-Demand Careers

Media Contact: Debra Dennis; DDennis@DallasCollege.edu

(DALLAS) — The two largest community colleges in North Texas cemented an agreement Wednesday to address the region's record-breaking job creation and boost economic vitality.

Dallas College and Tarrant County College (TCC) will consider economic development centers for emerging technologies and a consortium to fill healthcare vacancies. Think biotechnology, cybersecurity, and semiconductor hubs as well as shared opportunities to meet the clinical training needs of medical professionals regionwide.

"There is no question that when community colleges work together, our students and workforce win big," said Dr. Justin Lonon, Dallas College chancellor. "By strengthening our partnership with TCC, we are creating new opportunities for our students to gain the relevant skills and credentials to succeed now and in the future."

"We're proud to fortify our long-standing collaboration with Dallas College," said TCC Chancellor Elva LeBlanc. "Together, we're creating a powerful support system with far more capacity than would be possible for any single organization."

On average, the colleges serve a combined 115,000 credit students each semester and offer 500-plus degrees and certificates.

As part of the pact, the colleges will consider reciprocal tuition for degree and certificate programs available at only one location, and they will explore joint collaborations with Texas A&M University System institutions. Seamless pathways will enable TCC students to transfer to Dallas College for a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

"One vision, two community colleges, countless possibilities," said Teresa Ayala, president of TCC's board of trustees. "Organizations that combine perspectives and expertise create a remarkable synergy. We and Dallas College will build stronger communities and create more opportunities to better serve our students."

In concert with House Bill 8, which ties state funding for community colleges to student outcomes, the Legislature recognizes that the degrees and credentials offered at two-year institutions are instrumental in meeting current and future workforce needs and growing the economy. Community colleges in Texas serve approximately half of all students pursuing postsecondary education.

"We must continue to forge partnerships — like this one today — that connect accessible, affordable higher education opportunities with gainful employment," said Dallas College board Chair Paul Mayer. "The social and economic health of our students and our region depends on it."

In 2025, both Dallas College and TCC will celebrate 60 years of community engagement and academic excellence.



Dallas College Chancellor Justin Lonon and Tarrant County College Chancellor Elva LeBlanc shake hands as they celebrate an agreement to boost regional economic vitality.

New Retirees Welcome



New Retirees: Welcome! We know you've looked forward to the day when you didn't have to get up early to go to work. Relax, you can now sleep as late as you want, take all those exciting trips that you've planned, and simply enjoy the good life of retirement. Our retiree association welcomes you to retirement and hopes you will join our organization. We welcome those who have retired from January 2024 through August 2024.

| NAME | LOC | NAME | LOC | NAME | LOC | NAME | LOC |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Bartz, Gerald | BHC | Davis, Sharon | DO | Mansour, Hassan | ECC | See, Dana | EFC |
| Benezue, Steven | NLC | Fry, Michael | RLC | McGregor, Lula | DO | Smith, Debbie | ECC |
| Blankenship, Eva | DSC | Guinn, Sonja | DSC | Pierre, Cencelia | MVC | Smith, Mary | EFC |
| Brock, Mari | CVC | Judd, Teresa | DSC | Robertson, John | DSC | Szabo, Zoltan | RLC |
| Brockman, Bob | DSC | Langer, Elizabeth | DSC | Salmi, Daven | CVC | Wilkins, Pieper | DO |

Dallas College Retiree Website



Our Retiree website is the "go to" place to obtain up-to-date information about people and events for those who have retired.

Have you visited the Dallas College Retiree Website? If not, there is a wealth of information. You can stay informed on Retiree events. Read the latest newsletter, with

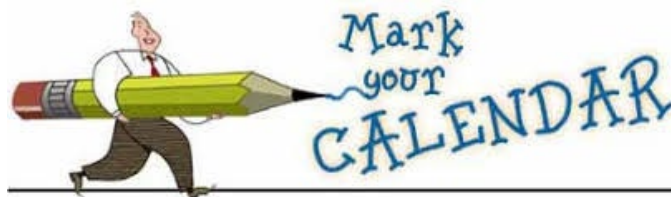
information on how to contact the Retiree Executive Board and coordinators for any questions about the association or activities.

Whether you are considering retirement or are a current retiree, you will be provided with the telephone numbers and web addresses for Teacher Retirement (TRS) and Employee Retirement Services (ERS). There is even information regarding Medicare. If you have never visited this site, you want to make sure you can obtain the information you need. Bookmark this website at

<https://www.dallascollege.edu/employees/retirees/pages/default.aspx>

Opportunities...

The Aldredge House Museum..... 10/18/2024
 Dallas Museum of Art, "Buddha, Shiva, Lotus, Dragon" exhibition 11/12/2024
 Holiday Luncheon..... 12/10/2024





Fall Enrollment Begins October 28 for Medicare-Eligible Retirees

If you are a Medicare-eligible retiree in the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP), Fall Enrollment is your chance to enroll in or change coverage for yourself and/or your [eligible dependents without a qualifying life event \(QLE\)](#). You will have from October 28 through November 15 to make changes. The changes you make during this period are effective January 1.

What's New for 2025?

Slight increase in Medicare Advantage premiums

Due to rising health costs, those who pay premiums for [HealthSelectSM Medicare Advantage](#) will pay about 4.5% more starting Jan. 1. This is still lower than premiums in 2020 before UnitedHealthcare became the insurer.

Changes to out-of-pocket maximums

The [HealthSelectSM Secondary](#) plan's total annual in-network out-of-pocket maximums will increase to align with IRS maximums. Premiums for HealthSelect Secondary are not increasing but are still significantly higher than the premiums for HealthSelect MA PPO.

Don't forget to check your mail

Keep an eye out for your Fall Enrollment packet in the mail. It's important to open any mail with an ERS logo on it. Your Fall Enrollment packet will be delivered in October and will have helpful information about your benefits. If you're not sure what benefits you're currently enrolled in, ERS will list them on your Personal Benefits Enrollment Statement (PBES).

If you misplace or lose your packet, you can also visit the Fall Enrollment page on the ERS website to view the guide, premium rates, and information from plan administrators. This site will become available at the start of Fall Enrollment.

Enrolling in new coverage

If you don't enroll in new coverage during Fall Enrollment, you cannot enroll in coverage after Fall Enrollment unless you have a QLE (Qualifying Life Event), such as marriage, divorce, or loss of other coverage. If you are a retiree who is not eligible for Medicare, your enrollment period ended in July, and you cannot enroll in new coverage without a QLE.

Dropping/reducing coverage

You can drop any coverage, reduce [optional life insurance coverage](#), or change from one health plan to another any time of year without a QLE. You also can take dependents off your coverage at any time of the year without a QLE.

No changes? No problem.

If you are keeping the same coverage, you don't have to do anything, and your coverage will carry over into the new plan year (January 1 – December 31).

ERS Newsletters:



Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Check-in and Chat, 11:00—11:30
Luncheon and Meeting, 11:30—2:00
Maggiano's Little Italy, North Park Center

Reservation Deadline: Thursday, December 5

The reservation form is on page 34 of this newsletter

Enjoy seeing friends and former colleagues, chatting over lunch, and maybe win a door prize!

Guests welcome.

Cost: \$50/person

Parking: Ample free parking or complimentary valet parking. Valet parking will use your cell phone, if you have one, instead of giving you a ticket.

Menu

The service is family-style.

- Appetizers: Stuffed Mushrooms, Crispy Zucchini Fritte
- Salad: Maggiano's Salad
- Pastas: Four Cheese Ravioli with Pesto Alfredo Sauce
- Entrées: Chicken Francese
- Entrées: Parmesan Crusted Tilapia
- Bread: Freshly Baked Ciabatta Rolls
- Desserts: Apple Crostada and Tiramisu
- Drinks: Iced Tea, Hot Tea, freshly brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee, Sodas, and water

A credit card bar will be available in the dining for those who would like to purchase an alcoholic beverage

Look forward to seeing you there!

Rosie Steffen, coordinator23
972-699-9649

Retiree Association Membership Roster

2024 LIFETIME MEMBERS

Contact Diane Graifemberg at dgraifemberg@gmail.com or call Diane at (972) 816-0546 if you have questions about your membership status.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Olivia Novelo Abreu | Robert Chambers | Angela Gomez |
| Patricia Acrea | Maria Chobany | Linda Gomez |
| Thomas Adams | Carol Cinclair | Robert Gonzalez |
| Mary L. Adams | Richard Cinclair | Stephen Gooch |
| Johnnyce Alders | Glenn Clayton | Carole Gray |
| Ken Alfery | Jean Conway | David Gregory |
| Gemmy Allen | Tammy Cooper | Lindle Grigsby |
| Monique Amerman | Mary Cooper-Wallace | Sandy Groom |
| Lois Ames | Lionel Cortez | Jonathan Haight |
| Thomas Anderson | Joe Cortina | Susan Hall |
| Joy Arndt | Charles Dale | Tony Hall |
| Brenda Arnold-Darensbourg | Brenda Dalton | Ramona Hamilton |
| Mary Lou Avera | Merry Ellen Daniel | Velma Hargis |
| Linda Baker | Joe David | Nancy Harrison |
| Ella Barber | Alberta Davis | Tricia Harrison |
| Nancy Barlow | Patricia Davis | Virginia Hayes |
| Don Baynham | Vivian Dennis-Monzingo | Kathery Hegar |
| M. Sharman Beasley-Vesecky | Edward Des Plas | Tom Henderson |
| Marvin Bechtold | Barbara Dogger | Patricia Henry |
| Mildred Bell | Karen Doss-Harris | Jimmie Henslee |
| Rodger Bennett | William Drake | Jerry C Henson |
| Vernon Beuke | Irene Dryden | Dorothy Herndon |
| Peggy Biegler | Deborah Dutschke | Marilyn Herridge |
| Martha Black | Glenda Easter | Maria Hinojosa |
| Reba Blackshear | Lisa Ehrich | Margot Hirsch |
| Chris Boldt | Ines Eishen | Linda Hoffman |
| Patricia Bollin | Marvin Elke | Martha Hogan |
| Dru Bookout | Frank Ellis | R. Chris Holland |
| Casandra Howell | Phyllis Elmore | Mike Howard |
| Cynthia Bowlin | Roz Ewalt | Norm Howden |
| Darlene Branscome | Patricia Ewert | Martha Hughes |
| Dee Brock | Larry Felty | Sarah Hutchings |
| Jacqueline Burden | Sarah Ferguson | Pamela Ice |
| Patricia Byars | Delryn Fleming | Nathan Ivey |
| Claude Caffee | Marcia Funnell | Mary Alice Jacquez |
| Susan Calhoun | Zina Gardner | Claralyn Jefferson |
| Luis Camacho | Susan Garza | Jamie Jenkins |
| Ray Canham | Mary Frances Gibbons | Hector Jimenez |
| Robert Carpenter | Herlinda Glasscock | Ann Johnson |
| Jacquelyn Caswell | Tony Gobar | Carole Johnson |
| Enrique Chamberlain | Mariaelena Godinez | Rosa Johnson |

Dallas College Retiree Association 2024 Lifetime Members (Continued)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Becky Jones | Carole Olson | Maas Tony Sookoor |
| Jesse C. Jones | Kay O'Neal | Debbie Speck |
| Virginia D. Jones | Mary Osentowski | Patricia Spence |
| Mahon Justice | Jerry Owens | Hal Spiegel |
| Carol Karsteadt | Ursula Palmer | Susanne Starling |
| Costas Katsigris | Joan Parent | Rosemarie Steffen |
| Susan Klutts | Nanette Pascal | Dava Stephens |
| Cindy Krause | Angela Perez-Michael | Wanda Stimson |
| Karen Laljiani | Dan Perkins | Becky Stinson |
| Chris LaLonde | Mary Petterborg | Donna Strain |
| Anita Landenberger | James Picquet | Jimmie Strain |
| Lawson, George | Jennie Pollard | Marilyn Sullivan |
| Nancy LeCroy | Rodger Pool | Tim Sullivan |
| Alice Lee | Judy Pouncey | Trudi Swedlund |
| Rita Lewis | Maria Caratini Prado | Lisa Theriot |
| Peggy Little | Pam Quinn | Darrell Thompson |
| Barth Loe | Reva Rattan | John Trickle |
| Kathleen Long | Marty Ray | Robert Trotter, Jr |
| Victoria Magee | Calvin Richard | Bobbie Trout |
| Diane Martin | Donna Richards Reininga | Kathryn Tucker |
| Willadean Martin | Linda Richardson | Bettie Tully |
| Fred Martinez | David Riehl | Susan Turner |
| Marco Martinez | Margaret Jackson Riley | Stephen Twege |
| Rick Maxwell | Cynthia Risher | Travis Ueoka |
| Marilyn Mays | Vic Rizzo | Ronald Van Gordon |
| Mary Metcalf | Claudia Robinson | Cheryl Dyer Vargas |
| Jana Meyer | Maria Rojas | Finney Varghese |
| John Millemon | Pamela Rouze | Alice Villadsen |
| Ellen Miller | Lonnie Roy | Carolyn Vines |
| Susan Miller | Viola Ruck | Laura Waddle |
| Frank Millsap | Susan Russell | Tarrilynn Wall |
| John Minnett | Sally Satterwhite | Janet P. Ward |
| Diana Moore | Herlinda Savage | John Wells |
| Michael Moore | Jerome Scardina | Don Welsh |
| Georgeann Moss | Patricia Scardina | Monica Wenthold |
| Pierrette Mouledous | Dawn Segroves | Ellen Whitaker |
| George Mount | Kelly Sexton | Charles Hale Wickersham |
| Susan Muha | Philip Shelp | Jill Ann Williams |
| Lou Myers | Carole Shlipak | Becki Williams |
| Rosemary Neiman | Anahita Sidhwa | John Williamson |
| Gina Nelson | Jane Slone | John Willis, Jr. |
| Sandra Newton | Ronald Slone | A Burlene Willson |
| Annetta Norwood | Bea Smith | Jennifer Wimbish |
| Spencer Olesen | Tim Smithart | Robert Young |
| | Beth Sonnier | |

2024 Annual Members from January 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Eva Anderson | Margaret Etheredge | Pat Jones |
| Mel Anderson | Vallye Ezell | Margarette Jones-Davis |
| Janice Andrews | Nancy Faris | Shirley Kaczka |
| Angela Auzenne | Pamela Farley | Doug Keenan |
| Donnine Balance | Barbara Field | Ida Keller |
| David Bartley | Peggy Fleming | Dorothy Keylon |
| Bartz, Gerald | Juanita Flint | Linda Kleen |
| Heidi Basett | Bill Fowler | Frank Korman |
| Nancy Beaver | Georgia Francis | Cecilia Kornegay |
| Joan Becker | Jerry Francis | Judith Lambert |
| Delfina Bedarte | Alice Fulbright | Len Larsen |
| Michael Bell | Betty Fuller | Annie Lee |
| Cindy Berry | Ed Garcia | Terry Lefler |
| Joanett Blackburn | Elaine Gardner-Morales | Doris Leigh |
| Bart Blaydes | Kim Garrett | Sue Lichten |
| Earlene Bond | Michael Garza | Paul Lindsey |
| Rebecca Boriskie | Claire Gauntlett | William Lineberry |
| Carolyn Boshart | Jacquelyn Glee | Veda Little |
| Branscum, Charles | Larry Goff | Sharon Loftis |
| Barbara Branum | Katherine Gonnet | Scott Longacre |
| Sheila Brock | Claudia Goodson | Marie Maness |
| Betty L. Brown | Una Gordon | Monique Mannering |
| Linda B. Brown | Regina Gowans | Ivan Martinez |
| Vicki Buford | Diane Graifemberg | Joan McAdams |
| Leslie Burkel-Powell | Karla Greer | Paul McCarthy |
| Helen Butler | Linda Groves | Adrienne McClain |
| Chris Cantrell | Sharon Grubbs | Jerry McElveen |
| Patsy Caropresi | Eileen Harding | Judy McMullan |
| Joan Carroll | Vera Estelle Haynes | Earldene McNeill |
| Jean Chapoton | Mary Jo Henry | Marti Mendiola |
| Dennis Cheatum | Gus Herring | Norma Mendoza |
| Tina Chin | Rose Marie Hilmer | Rosalinda Minnis |
| Rich Chumbley | Thomas Hilmer | Sandra Mogollon |
| Mary Ciminelli | Trina Ho | Betty Moran |
| Howard Clapper | Jo Holland | Traci Morin |
| Cynthia Clements | Helen Howard | Larry Mosby |
| Adriana Cobo-Frenkel | Ora Howard | Tom Motley |
| Liz Craddock | Robert Hueston | Barbara Murray |
| Pamela Crawford | Debbie Hutchison | Claudia Neeley-Plog |
| Glenn Currier | Mary Kay Jacobson | Bobby Nieman |
| Tonya Daily | Robert James | Linda Noblin |
| Millie Davidson | Patti Jennings | Gwen Oliver |
| Dorothy Jean Disher | Sharlee Jeser-Skaggs | Daisy Ollie |
| Dianna Drury | Sherry Jessup | Clara Sue Parks |
| Lynda Edwards | Christa Jones | Tony Pecina |
| Delores Elder-Jones | Jerry C. Jones | Julienne Pendleton |

2024 Annual Members from January 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024 (Continued)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Rose Pope | Lincoln Rolling | Jo A. Walker |
| Guy Pollock | Janie Rubalcava | Thomas Walsh Carolyn |
| Jane Peterson | Anne Schroeder | Washington |
| Jack Pierce | Ladan Scott | Joan Washington |
| Cathy Perez | Adrienne Settles | Jeanice Weatherford |
| Jackie Peterson | Isa Shores | Clifton Weaver |
| Joyce Powell | Kathy Slonecker | Joel Weiner |
| Katherine Pritchett | Rosemary Smith | Bill Wells |
| Ernest Rager | Lupe Solis | Bill White |
| Sulema Ramos | Marilyn Stacy | Jim White |
| Diana Reding | Jeff Stagner | Jerome Williams |
| Josie Regnault | Brenda Stevenson | Kay Wilson |
| Jackie Reynolds | Janet Stiles | Linda Wimbish |
| Frances Rhodes | Rise Talbot | Becky Witherspoon |
| Cheryl Roach | E. Simone Thaxton | Shirley Woelfle |
| Nancy Roberts | Martha Timberlake | Evelyn Wong |
| Peggy Rodgers | Elena Torres | Joseph Wong |
| Cynthia Ann Rogers | Irma Tovar | Hugh Wood |
| Theresa Rose | Charlotte Tunnell | Linda Youmans |
| Jane Rowe | Stephanie Venza | Marla Ziegler |
| Jeanette Rogerson | Sharron Wagoner | |

Are You Interested in Joining or Renewing Membership in the DC Retiree Association?



If so, go to the Retiree Website at <https://www.dallascollege.edu/employees/retirees> and complete the necessary information. Submit the application online. In addition to submitting the application online, you need to pay your membership fee. Annual membership fee of \$10.00. Lifetime membership is \$100.00. You may pay by check or online with Zelle. If writing a check, it should be made out to Dallas College Retirees and addressed to Diane Graifemberg, Dallas College Retiree

Association Treasurer, 13656 Janwood Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234. To pay online using Zelle, enter this phone number as the recipient in the Zelle app: (972) 816-0546. To get help with Zelle: <https://www.zellepay.com/get-started>. Contact Diane Graifemberg at dgraifemberg@gmail.com or call Diane at (972) 816-0546 if you have questions about your membership status.

All 2024 annual memberships expire on December 31. If your name does not appear on either list shown above, consider joining the Association now as a Lifetime or 2024 Annual member. If you choose there is a membership form online on the Dallas College Retiree Web Site. You may also use the membership form to make a donation to the Retiree Association *student scholarship on the Dallas College Retiree website.*



To join the Retiree Association or donate to the Retiree Association student scholarship, please print or replicate this form. Insert your personal information, and mail it with your check or money order made payable to the "Dallas College Retiree

Today's Date: _____
Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Mail to Diane D. Graifemberg,
Treasurer
13656 Janwood Ln.
Farmers Branch, TX 75234
OR
Pay with Zelle (972) 816-0546

* Phone: ☐ _____

* Email: ☐ _____

2025 Membership

(January – December)

Retirement Campus: _____

*Please note: If you do not want your phone number and/or email address to appear in the retirees' directory, please indicate by placing a ✓ mark in the appropriate box.

Questions about membership dues? Contact Diane Graifemberg at (972) 818-0546 or email dgraifemberg@gmail.com

Annual memberships are renewable on January 1st of each year.

Annual Membership Dues \$10

OR

Lifetime Membership Dues \$100

Scholarship Donation _____

TOTAL Enclosed \$ _____



Dallas College Events

Plan 9 from Outer Space! by Ed Wood



Have you seen the worst movie ever made? It's a film that has been described as "an unintentionally hilarious sci-fi 'thriller' from anti-genius Ed Wood that is justly celebrated for its staggering ineptitude." Dallas College very proudly presents a brand-new stage adaptation of Plan 9 from Outer Space! "My friends, can your hearts stand the shocking facts about grave robbers from outer space?!" Join us for this hilarious retelling with aliens, zombies, and flying saucers at the Mountain View campus, October 16-19, 2024, all showings 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Suitable for all audiences.

Directed by Nic McMinn

FREE and open to the public

Location: **Mountain View Campus**, Performance Hall (E127)

Retirees Are Encouraged to Go to the State Fair of Texas



The State Fair of Texas offers so much for retirees. The theme for the 2024 State Fair of Texas is "24 Days of Fun". The fair's goal is to create 24 days of memories for guests. There are discounts so that more senior citizens can attend. There is the Big Tex Insider Discount: \$10 online tickets with a special code you get if you sign up to be a Big Tex Insider. There is a Senior Day Discount: \$5 dollar admission for fairgoers 60 and older. Thrifty Thursdays: Fair food lovers can stretch their coupons on Thursday. Any adult can pay kids prices after 5:00 p.m. There is a Friday State Fair of Texas Discounts. \$5 off at the gate with a coupon from participating McDonald's or using the [McDonald's code at online checkout](#). Click on the link to obtain your McDonald's code. You can obtain \$10 off at the gate if you [bring two 16 oz. jars of peanut butter](#) to donate to the North Texas Food Bank.

FOOD & DRINK DEALS AT THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

Once you're inside, you'll need to trade your cash for coupons to fill up on fair food or have fun on the Midway. Coupons cost \$1 and they never expire - so hold on to any extras for next year! Just like admission, the State Fair is offering deals inside the gate on rides, games and food.

2-COUPON WATER

Look closely at the signs to find stands scattered throughout the fairgrounds selling water for two coupons.

SODA REFILL SAVINGS

A collectible Big Tex cup sold by concessionaires unlocks discounts on refills. If you have one from your last trip to the fair, bring it along to get the same discount.

BRING YOUR OWN!

Fairgoers can bring their own snacks and drinks into the fair. Just be sure to leave glass, metal utensils and alcohol at home. New security rules in 2024 will place some limitations on coolers [to follow the updated bag policy](#). Only soft-shell coolers that are 9 in. x 10 in. x 12 in. or smaller are allowed into the fair, and fairgoers should avoid loose ice in coolers.

SAVE YOUR COUPONS!

If you have coupons from past State Fair trips lying around your house - they're still good! Coupons don't expire, so be sure to hang onto any extras you have leftover for next year's trip.

This year, the State Fair of Texas runs from Friday, September 27 through Sunday, October 20. The annual event spans 24 consecutive days, making it the longest-running fair in the country.





Tuition Change for Spring 2025

Beginning with the Spring 2025 semester, tuition at Dallas College will increase for all credit students, by \$20 per credit hour for Dallas County residents. The change takes effect when Spring registration opens in October, and later for classes starting December 13, 2024 (the “Wintermester”).

| Residency | Old rate | New rate | Increase | Cost for 9 hours | Increase for 9 hours |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------------------|
| Dallas County | \$79 | \$99 | \$20 | \$891 | \$180 |
| Out-of-county | \$135 | \$169 | \$34 | \$1,521 | \$306 |
| Out-of-state and international | \$200 | \$250 | \$50 | \$2,250 | \$450 |

**Average course load is 6-9 student credit hours. For international residents, 12 student credit hours is considered full-time.*

The adjustment addresses inflation. Base tuition has not changed in 10 years. Dallas College strives to remain one of the most affordable options for a college education.

Dallas College’s value to students:

- Textbooks and course-required supplies are included with tuition, saving students \$835 per academic year.
- Dallas College does not charge fees for free [student resources](#) such as DART passes, parking, tutoring, wellness services, mental health counseling, emergency aid and food, child care and emergency housing assistance.
- The Department of Education has recently increased Pell Grant awards. While everyone’s financial need and financial aid are unique, students can expect Pell Grants to cover the tuition increase without any additional out-of-pocket expenses. Undocumented Texas residents, eligible to pay the in-county rate, may apply for state financial aid.



Discount Purchase Program

Employees and retirees in the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP) and their immediate families are eligible to participate in the Discount Purchase ProgramSM. Administered by Beneplace, this online marketplace offers discounts on products and services ranging from computers and theme park passes, to wireless service and education programs.

How to Participate

To access discounts, register on the [Discount Purchase Program website](#) using your work or personal email. (A small number of discounts are available to active employees only, and you must register with a current work email to redeem.)

Once you've registered, log in to the site with your email address and password. Browse hundreds of discounts from local and national merchants and service providers. Search for a specific item or view discounts by category and filter results. Follow the link for each discount to redeem the offer. Check the site frequently—new offers are added often.

About the Offers

ERS does not endorse or sponsor any Discount Purchase Program service or service provider, and it does not benefit from members' participation in the program. ERS continually evaluates the overall use of the program to ensure employees and retirees find the offers helpful.

Employees and retirees should work directly with a merchant for any questions or issues with an order. Beneplace can assist with general information about an offer and any escalated customer service inquiries.

Website:

Visit the [Discount Purchase Program website](#) to register for the program and view offers.

[View Discount Purchase Program FAQs](#)

Phone:

(512) 346-3300 (TTY: (800) 683-2886)

Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. CT

[View More Contact Information](#)

ERS does not approve, operate, or control, in any respect the terms of use, privacy policies, or any other agreements of third parties found on the Beneplace website or portal. ERS is not responsible for the information, software, products, or services offered.



Your Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP) Prescription Drug Coverage -vs- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D)

In September 2024, ERS mailed participants a leaflet “Notice of Creditable Coverage Plan Year 2025” explaining the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP) prescription drug coverage and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (sometimes called Part D). The following information is taken from that leaflet.

Seniors have been getting a number of calls recently offering to explain the “new” benefits available through Medicare. ERS advises, however, that “most Medicare-eligible participants in the GBP should NOT enroll in private Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage because, for most people, the GBP prescription drug coverage will provide better benefits at a lower cost. If you qualify for financial assistance, you could benefit from private Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, and you would get savings on premiums, copays, and coinsurance.”

“To determine if you qualify for financial assistance with private Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, you should contact the SSA toll-free at (800) 772-1213. Or visit SSA online at www.socialsecurity.gov.”

Additional information is available in the *Medicare & You* handbook which you may have received in the mail from Medicare. It is also available at www.medicare.gov for personalized help.

If you enroll in private Medicare Prescription Drug coverage, it will affect the HealthSelect Medicare Rx plan. Medicare rules do not allow you to be in two different Medicare prescription drug plans at the same time. If you enroll in a private Medicare prescription drug plan, you will no longer be eligible for the HealthSelect Medicare Rx plan and will lose all prescription drug coverage through ERS.”

The prescription drug coverage offered by the GBP is, on average for all plan participants expected to pay out as much as standard Prescription Drug Coverage pays. ***The GBP with ERS is considered to be creditable coverage and has lower costs.***

You may request a copy of this notice by calling ERS toll-free at (877) 275-4377.

Chancellors Lonon, LeBlanc Receive NTC Education Leadership Award



(Dallas College Chancellor Justin Lonon and Tarrant County College Chancellor Elva LeBlanc today received the North Texas Commission 2024 Education Leadership Award. A public-private partnership established in 1971, the commission addresses regional challenges and opportunities to spur economic development, promote innovation and improve quality of life.

The commission's annual membership lunch recognized the chancellors for their lasting impact on North Texas.

"To receive this prestigious honor with my friend and fellow community college champion, Chancellor Elva LeBlanc, is fitting," Chancellor Lonon said. "It

represents the commitment of our colleges to create viable opportunities that enable our students, our workforce and our economy to thrive. When we work together, our communities win big."

Dallas College and TCC last month signed a historic agreement to help fill the region's high-demand jobs and boost economic vitality. Among other initiatives, the colleges will consider economic development centers for emerging technologies and a consortium to fill health care vacancies.

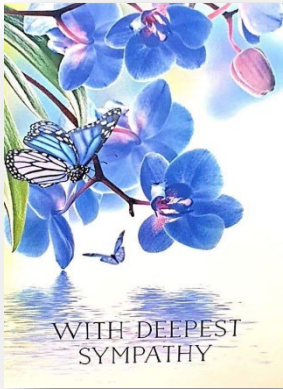
Dr. LeBlanc: "What an honor to share this award with my colleague Dr. Justin Lonon. Together we are working with business, community and education partners to create a powerful support system with far more capacity than would be possible for any single organization."

In 2025, both schools will celebrate 60 years of transforming lives and communities.

"There is no question that when community colleges work together, our students and workforce win big," Dr. Lonon said. "By strengthening our partnership with TCC, we are creating new opportunities for our students to gain the relevant skills and credentials to succeed now and in the future."

Media Contact: Emily Mercer; EMercer@DallasCollege.edu

Colleagues We Will Miss



We Extend Our Sympathy to the Families of Those Retirees Who Have Passed Away

Retirees of Dallas College Who Have Passed Away

- Kate Kelley, a retiree of EFC, passed away on 09/29/2023.
- Katherine Gonnett, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 01/04/2024.
- Susan Wyatt, a retiree of EFC, passed away on 01/25/2024.
- Lee Bacon, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 01/29/2024.
- Sue McLelland, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 02/08/2024.
- Richard Means, a retiree of MVC, passed away on 02/14/2024.
- Jane Penney, a retiree of EFC, passed away on 03/26/2024.
- Joy Davidson, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 03/31/2024.
- Jim Handy, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 05/03/2024.
- Dr. Ruby Herd, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 05/06/2024.
- Bruce Coad, a retiree of MVC, passed away on 05/08/2024.
- David Preston, a retiree of EFC, passed away on 06/02/2024.
- Beverly Jean Holmes, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 06/28/2024.
- Carol Speyerer, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 07/02/2024.
- Diane Duncan, a retiree from RLC, passed away on 07/11/2024.
- Sue Kornfeld, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 07/25/2024.
- Beverly Carpenter, a retiree of BHC, passed away 07/26/2024.
- Charlotte Green, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 08/07/2024.
- Paul McCarthy, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 09/12/2024.

Retiree Family Members Who Have passed

- Donald Warren Jacobson (Jake), husband of Mary Kay Jacobson, a retiree of RLC and LCET, passed away on 01/03/2024.
- Margaret Minnett Hooton, sister of Tuck Minnett, a retiree of ECC, passed away on 01/11/2024.
- Lee Bacon, husband of Patti Bacon, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 01/29/2024.
- Marita Greer, mother of Karla Greer, a retiree of EFC, passed away on 02/22/2024.
- George Ward, husband of Janet Ward, a retiree from ECC, passed away on 04/27/2024.
- Jim Hatch, husband of Ann Hatch, a retiree from DO, passed away on 05/24/2024.
- Temple Pouncey, husband of Judy Pouncey, a retiree of ECC passed away on 07/17/2024.
- Beverly Carpenter, wife of Robert Carpenter, a retiree of EFC, passed away on 07/26/2024.

RESERVATION FORM



Holiday Luncheon and Meeting



Event Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Reservation Deadline: Thursday, December 5

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

GUEST NAME(S): _____

Enclosed Amount: _____ (no. of persons) x \$50 (per person) = _____

Make check payable to:

DCCCD Retiree Association

Mail to:

Diane D. Graifemberg, Treasurer

Retiree Association

13656 Janwood Lane

Farmers Branch, TX 75234

OR

Pay by Zelle to (972) 816-0546

If you do not wish to print this form, please write this information on a sheet of paper and send it to Diane Graifemberg.

Retiree Association Events

Pictures below are from events that the retirees enjoyed with their friends and colleagues in the Retiree Association.

On Your Feet

Retiree Association members attending as shown below are **Lisa Theriot** and **Rosie Steffen**



Hall of State



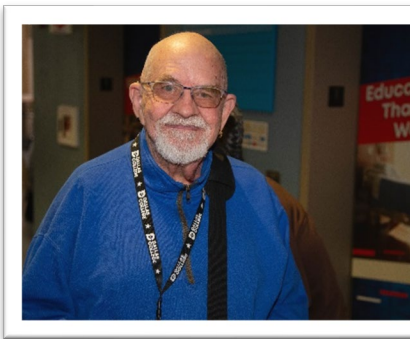
Scottish Rite Cathedral



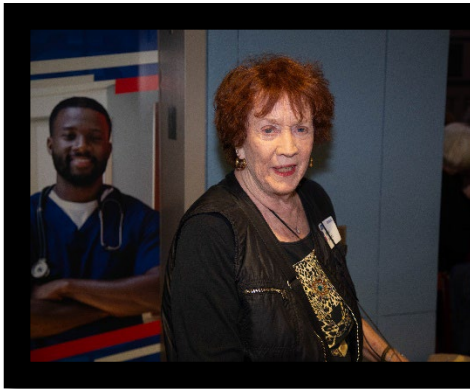
Scottish Rite Cathedral



The Spring 2024 Luncheon



The Spring 2024 Luncheon



The Spring 2024 Luncheon



The Spring 2024 Luncheon



You don't want to miss future Retiree Association events. Be on the lookout for events posted on the [Dallas College Retiree Facebook page](#). For help joining contact Norm Howden at rrgrandad@gmail.com