

Fall 2022

RET – EXPRESS

From the Association President – Lisa Theriot



I believe we are finally finished with our unusually hot summer. As I write this message, we have entered the rainy season. Hopefully, we can avoid the monsoon season.

I've been busy this summer training our now, 9-month-old Australian Shepherd,

Maisie. She's a real handful. We finished puppy class and two Manners



classes this summer. Maisie is looking forward to trying Barn Hunt this fall. I'll let you use your imagination.

I'm looking forward to some exciting events this fall. Descriptions of planned events are listed in this publication. If you think of an event that you would like for us to host, please let us know.

We are also looking for a book to read for our book club. This summer we read *Where the Crawdads Sing*, and then attended the movie. It was fun! We don't need to have a book with a movie adaptation, but it was fun to compare the two. If you have a book you're thinking about reading that might have broad interest, please let me know.

We are looking for someone to step up and take on the remaining term of the Secretary position on our board. The Secretary takes minutes at Retiree Association board meetings; keeps a list of "Colleagues We Will Miss" for the RET Newsletter, mails sympathy cards to families of deceased retirees, sends thank you cards to businesses that provide door prizes to the Retiree Association, and retains RET Newsletters and Dallas College Retiree Association Directories. If you are interested in becoming a member of our board as Secretary, please contact me.

Lisa Theriot

Dallas College Retiree Association

President

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Dr. Justin Lonon, Chancellor



Between Conference Day 2022 and the start of the Fall semester, there has been no shortage of activity across Dallas College, and I've never been prouder to be a part of the gratifying work we continue to do.

Conference Day was a huge success with an enthusiastic crowd of almost 800 inperson attendees and more than 2,100 who joined us online. There were many highlights including our outstanding keynote speaker, John Quiñones. His personal journey from humble beginnings in San Antonio to his success as an esteemed broadcast journalist is nothing short of inspirational. I hope you'll take a moment and watch the recorded General Session.

We're very excited about the \$8.8 million biotech grant we received from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. This grant will help Dallas College change the face of biotech throughout the North Texas region. We also recently announced the creation of a new Workforce Development Training Center at the former Red Bird Mall as well as our paid Teacher Residency Apprenticeship program, which is designed to get well-trained teachers into more classrooms.

As we continue to build the Dallas College culture together, we are working with our community partners and helping create a relationship that is compassionate, inclusive, and innovative. Those partnerships are elevating Dallas College's readiness to meet the demands of our growing workforce.

We're also continuing to build our <u>Senior Adult Emeritus Program</u> which offers community members ages 55 and older the chance to enroll in any of Dallas College's 11,000 courses each semester. I'm excited to tell you that enrollment for the program has grown almost 40% since Fall 2021. We're proud to offer <u>life-long learners</u> the opportunity to be part of the Dallas College family and continue educational enrichment.

As you can see, we are moving toward an exciting future with a focus on inclusivity and innovation. Thank you for your support as we continue to "transform lives" and make you proud to be part of the Dallas College legacy.

Be Well,

Dr. Justin H. Lonon Chancellor

Jackie Reynolds



Retired, Richland College 2020

I just returned from a 2-week cruise through the Norwegian fjords with my husband, and a short visitation to Amsterdam. Beautiful cruise, cool weather (yea!). Unfortunately, I picked up COVID.

That is about all for me. I haven't been able to get back to my normal volunteer duties at the Eiseman Performing Arts or the Dallas Arboretum.



Chris and Kathy LaLonde, ECC Retiree

Chris LaLonde retired in 2018 from the food and hospitality program at El Centro and his wife Kathy retired in 2019. They have moved to Fort Worth and are avid cyclists on the Trinity River

trails. They enjoy cooking for large family parties, new parents, and themselves. They have been dabbling in gut microbiome research and enjoy making various fermented foods such as sauerkraut, kimchi, kefir, and yogurt. Their other hobbies include working out at the gym, camping, hiking, and traveling. They enjoy interacting with their combined five children and seven grandchildren (with two granddaughters born this month) and eagerly anticipate another granddaughter who is on the way.

They traveled as much as possible within the constraints of getting chicken and cat care. Trip highlights included hiking Tour du Mont Blanc and the Inca Trail to Macchu Pichu; touring Chilean wine country, Valparaiso, and Santiago during the mass protests; touring Cuzco and Rainbow Mountain; biking through castle country in the Loire Valley, eating tours of Amsterdam, Lima, Paris, Rheims, Lyons and Barcelona; dancing at a music festival on the beach in Tisno Croatia, and at Tommorowland in Belgium, an autobahn and biking tour through Germany; and their favorite: enjoying the blue Aegean Sea on the Peloponnese coast with the fantastically fun Gus Katsigris (multiple times).

They hope everyone is enjoying retirement as much as they are!







Tuck Minnett, ECC Retiree

Tuck and Betsy Minnett spend their time divided between their Dallas home and their ranch in Bosque County. This year, their ranch was threatened by wild land fires, but they narrowly escaped damage, thanks to Texas A&M Forest Service professionals like Susan Turner's grandson, Adam Turner.

Tuck and Betsy traveled to Phoenix and Santa Fe attending the Heard Museum and Southwest Indian Arts Assn. markets, visiting with old friends and enjoying their artistic creations.

Tuck and the Girls



Tuck and Family



Retiree Association Scholarship Recipient Spring 2022

The recipient of our \$1000

scholarship for the Spring 2022 was El Centro student Lizette Avila. I was in touch with her this summer, and she had been accepted to UT-Arlington for this fall semester. Below is the essay she wrote that was a major part of why she was selected to receive our scholarship.

Scholarship

Ms. Avila responded to the questions asking why she was applying for the scholarship, as well as describing her academic goals and future plans. Lizette was further asked to share any community service activities in which she participated and any leadership roles she has held. To these questions she responded:



My two years of being a Phi Theta Kappa member has also allowed me to cause change in my community. Leadership, Fellowship, Scholarship, and Service are the four hallmarks that we as members recognize and encourage throughout our member body. Therefore, the focus on 'Service' stimulated me to help alongside the North Texas Food Bank to offer free food and meals for those in need. In Dallas, the percentage of homelessness and low-income families continues to increase over the years which causes many families to suffer from hunger and malnourishment. So, I work continuously with my fellow officer team to establish new ideas for volunteer services such as acquiring non-perishable foods for the Honey Comb Food Pantry located in Eastfield College, partnering with, "For the Love of the Lake" an organization that helps diminish waste throughout White Rock Lake in Dallas, distributing gently worn clothing and canned food at "Sharing Life" to families in need, and so much more. This year our chapter from El Centro, Psi Eta, was able to achieve the Golden Metal of Service by completing over 1,000 hours of community service which is an honor for me because 160 hours were contributed by me alone. More so, to further my knowledge in becoming a Health Educator, I reached out to five different doctors across the Metroplex who agreed to mentor me in the right path to success. Each visit was a memorable one where I learned the basic techniques of what a physical therapist does, and how each of them managed the workload of studying in school. Also, I did not limit myself to one location for my field of study, but instead I visited a nursing skilled facility, outpatient clinic, hospital, and pediatric clinic to view the different options that have always interested me. Nevertheless, I began this journey when I was 17 years old and have continued for the past four years, since I am committed to accomplishing my dream of becoming a Health Educator. At the moment, I have already received my associates of science with a 4.0 GPA, and am now taking continuation courses for the Spring of 2022, in order to transfer over to the University of Texas at Arlington to receive my Bachelors in Education. In total, I have succeeded in completing over 230 hours of community service.

Museum Visits





Bob Chambers, Museum Event Coordinator, is having hip surgery and will not be leading museum visits this fall. We look forward to Bob's return and future visits.



This summer we tried a different kind of activity. Knowing that many of our members are avid readers, we created a Book Club/Movie Outing. We read the book, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens.

"A painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature....Owens here surveys the desolate

marshlands of the North Carolina coast through the eyes of an abandoned child. And in her isolation that child makes us open our own eyes to the secret wonders—and dangers—of her private world."—The New York Times Book Review.

The group attended the book club on Zoom to discuss the book, then attended the movie at Studio Movie Grill in Richardson. After the movie the group went to dinner at the original Spring Creek Barbeque to compare the book to the movie.

Unfortunately, we missed the deadline to get the information about this event on the Summer RETExpress, so we only posted it on the Dallas College Retiree Association Facebook page.

Many thanks to Mari Caratini, Norm Howden, and Lela Evans for helping with this event.





A group of retirees attended the musical production of *The Wiz* at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts on September 11th. This reimagined version of L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* with a dazzling mix of rock, gospel and soul music. The fun, family-friendly, modern musical was enjoyed by Don Baynham, Rosie Steffan, Cassie Bowell, Lisa Theriot, and Barbara Murry. After the show they had dinner at El Fenix downtown.

Enjoying the Wiz



Old City Park Tour



Old City Park is home to the largest and finest collection of 19th century pioneer and Victorian homes and commercial buildings in Texas. These buildings, moved from throughout North Central Texas to Dallas' first city park, line the tree-shaded 20-acre setting of Old City Park. Stroll the grounds and discover what life was like over 100 years ago for ordinary Texans.

Located on the grounds of Dallas's first city park, Dallas Heritage Village is the perfect place to step back in time. You can immerse yourself in the lives of Texans during the pioneer and Victorian eras. The buildings are all part of North Texas history and give you the opportunity to see and experience nineteenth century life. As you stroll through the grounds, you'll discover how crops were grown, how animals were cared for, how family life progressed, and how the sense of community developed for ordinary Texans over 100 years ago. The Village hosts multiple family events throughout the year and visitors can participate in daily activities led by History

Hosts.

Old City Park

Our Retirees enjoyed the free admission and the opportunity to greet and socialize with friends throughout the District on September 30th. They also enjoyed the meal at Matt's Rancho Martinez's restaurant.





Dallas College Retiree Website

We are currently updating our Retiree website so it will be the "go to" place to obtain up-to-date information about people and events for those who have retired.

Bookmark the Retiree website at https://www.dcccd/retirees.

Dallas College Emeritus Program

Message from Greg Morris, Senior Vice Provost, Academic Services



I am so excited to be able to present Dallas College's Emeritus programming for the upcoming semester.

Over the past two years, we have seen fundamental and far-reaching change as we have transitioned from seven independently accredited colleges to the now, singly accredited, Dallas College. The impact of the global pandemic created even additional unique and challenging aspects that have informed our efforts in delivering programming for all the citizens of Dallas County.

Emerging out of these challenging times has surfaced a renewed commitment to our senior adult communities. As we underpin and grow our traditional Emeritus programs at specific campuses, we also seek to expand these amazing opportunities to other regions of the metroplex. I look forward to working with the Emeritus team and each of you to continue to grow and expand our Emeritus program to the residents of our community.

What is Dallas College's Emeritus Program?

The Dallas College Emeritus program is designed for community members 55 years of age and over who want to stay mentally sharp, physically fit, become more technologically savvy, attend interesting lectures on current events and more.

Offerings include:

- Custom courses for seniors in fitness, arts, technology, genealogy and more
- Affordable, quality learning activities and instruction
- Volunteer and mentoring programs
- Social opportunities
- Access to more than 12,000 credit and noncredit college courses
- Waived tuition for qualifying seniors aged 65 or older who meet residency requirements

What is the Senior Tuition Waiver?

Dallas County senior residents may be eligible for a tuition exemption for up to six college credits per semester. This exemption allows these students to take credit classes for free, with the waiver being applied at the time of class registration. To qualify, an individual must be 65 at the time of registration (not on the first day of class), must have lived in Texas for at least 12 months and must currently live in Dallas County with proof of residency.

Contact the Dallas College Emeritus Program dallascollege/edu/emeritus@dcccd.edu or call 972-238-6972.

The catalog for available courses



Retiree Association Business Meeting

Spring Luncheon/Business Meeting

March 31, 2022

Forty members and their ten guests attended in addition to our three honored guests: Dr. Brad Williams, President El Centro; Karen Settles-Lee, Managing Director Operations; and Luis Merino, Director Digital Experience.

Dining room opened at 11:30 a.m.

President Lisa Theriot welcomed all attendees, thanking them for attending. She then introduced Dr. Brad Williams who welcomed all attendees to El Centro and this event. He expressed strong support of the Retiree Association.

Lunch was served with a Florida themed menu.

After dessert, Lisa resumed the business meeting. Chancellor Dr. Justin Lonon was not able to attend; we watched his welcome on video. He also expressed strong support and a working relationship with the Retiree Association.

Lisa introduced honored guests. She also asked all new retirees since January 2021 to stand and be recognized.

Diane Graifemberg, treasurer, gave a brief financial report (copies of the report were also on all tables) with a balance as of February 28, 2022, of \$31,821.12. She also reported that as of today the Association has 438 members and encouraged all present to invite retirees to join the association.

Georgia Francis spoke about upcoming events with the Association – encouraged attendance, introduced Motion made by Rodger Bennett to approve the financial report; second by Don Baynham. Report approved.

The event coordinators and Georgia Frances invited members and guests to visit the Paxton Moore Art Gallery at El Centro.

Rosie Steffan thanked Georgia Francis for all her help during the year. Rosie Steffan gave details for Derby Day at Lone Star Park on May 7; encouraged members to register soon. Rosie then distributed door prizes to those members in attendance with winning tickets.

Lisa recognized and thanked all culinary students and staff for an excellent event and job well done.

Meeting adjourned.

Notes taken and submitted by

Diane Graifemberg, Treasurer

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President	Lisa Theriot
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l	

Retirees Association Event Coordinators			
Theater	Donna Strain <u>dstrain50@qmail.com</u> 972-780-1413		
Special Events/ Luncheons	Rosie Steffen 972-699-9649 and Georgia Francis asfrancis@aol.com 214-505-1766		
Museum	Bob Chambers <u>bchambers101@verizon.net</u>		
Historical Tours:	Don Baynham <u>donbaynham@outlook.com</u>		

Dues Reminder

The annual dues for the Retiree Association cover January through December. Annual dues received after September 1 will apply to the next calendar year.

If you are unsure if you have paid, you are welcome to call Diane Graifemberg, Treasurer, at (972) 816-0546 or email her at dgraifemberg@gmail.com.





How to Age Well in the Time of Pandemics, Insurrections, Wars, Recessions, Crazy Politics and Personal Life Crises

By Dr. Bettie Tully, Retiree of ECC

I hope you read the subject of this message with the irony I intended. Aging well is almost a non-sequitur for me since I have just celebrated my 86th birthday by

learning to walk all over again. In fact, my last three years have been spent relearning many other things plus brand new learning of what growing into this mysterious stage of life requires of me. I tried to find a tutor, but no one claimed to be an expert of how to age well. So, I will share my own observations by first telling you about the context of my life during the last three years of growing older. Then I will describe a few of my personal experiences, and finally say a few words about my learning of better ways for me to age at this point in my life.

About a year and a half ago, my husband, Tom, died from a combination of heart disease, Alzheimer's, and Covid. He had been in a wonderful Day Care for almost a year at CC Young and then as his dementia caused more serious disabilities, he moved to Memory Care just as Covid 19 arrived with its quarantines and other constraints.

All I can say is that losing a beloved husband after being married for 61 years is awful. Aging well? I don't think so. Anyhow, those of you who have had similar experiences know the trauma of trying to grieve without stressing out totally.

A few months after that, I had a bad fall and broke my femur and hip, resulting in surgery, rehab hospital, and now at home with weekly physical therapist visits.

I have graduated from a walker, to a cane, and I am now progressing to walking with no aid.

This entire broken leg surgery turned out to be a primitive, but painful learning experience. (An example of my family's gallows humor..."Mom, we know you have always wanted to be a cliche... help, I fell and I can't get up". Isn't this a bit too much?" Yes, it was! I have always been an optimist, but at this time, I had a hard time convincing myself that my glass of hopefulness was even half full. Against my will, my obsession for learning took over, for better or for worse.

My huge insight was that my commitment as a Counselor to self-actualizing suddenly fell aside, and was totally replaced by a strong need for common sense and self-comfort. I was faced with so much pain and so much concern about the level of care I was receiving...good intentions, but poor communication and collaboration... I realized, I had to be my own problem solver.

I needed to enlist my caregivers in my authentic "show some love for Bettie's project by becoming kindred spirits with each other". Being good humans, they mostly responded favorably to my overtures, and we started learning from each other. Needless to say, as many of you know, that kind of affirmative civility is a most effective relationship builder. We all want the same things from each other i.e., trust, love, sense of humor and respect. I want this from lovers, friends, acquaintances, doctors, nurses, house keepers, cashiers, delivery persons, yard men...everyone with whom I intersect.

I learned about the power of AFFIRMATIVE civility decades ago from a writer and union organizer named Studs Terkel. He describes it as the act of positively acknowledging the presence/existence of another human being by extending a courteous, friendly overture. While this is not exactly radical or new, he reminds us that in the busyness and single-mindedness of meeting personal objectives, we are losing the skills needed for developing positive short-term relationships, and in fact are forgetting how to make human connections outside of our primary groups.

For me, Affirmative Civility means that I intentionally "see" every person and extend a simple greeting like a nod, a smile or a pleasant observation. Learning a person's name might be important, but for short term or one-time relationships, most people feel acknowledged with a friendly overture.

The key word here is Affirmative, and it means that I have to initiate the contact. Remembering this old habit has so far made my long journey not only tolerable but at times, enjoyable! I also started again to feel the pleasure of making another person smile. It is so rewarding to see a person who looks sad, or surly, or indifferent suddenly smile when their existence is acknowledged unconditionally.

(Bettie Tulley's Story continues on page 11)

(Bettie Tulley's Story continued)

I cannot say enough about the physical healing power of short-term loving relationships. Endorphins flow through the blood streams of all involved, just as they do after heathy exercise.

As you can see, I have found that for me, authentic loving relationships take first prize as the most effective complement to medical procedures and pills in terms of my own healing process. I also discovered some other important healers that helped me immensely: offer empathy and encouragement to others who are in pain; be considerately assertive with all medical personnel; gently insist on good rest, good food, good pain meds, and good physical therapy; double check on decisions made by computer programs about time and dosage regarding meds; do not dwell on the past or worry about the future; live in the present as much as possible because this is the only time over which you have any control; pay attention to your instincts, intuition, hunches, feelings, and your heart; do not overthink your problems; while healing, enjoy making temporary friends in your medical facility.

Since aging has become my new context, I know that for now, my good life depends almost entirely on loving relationships with other humans. I need to love them more, and be more open to receiving love from almost everyone with whom I interact.

I know from experience that my family's amazing sense of humor and love for one another will see us through whatever future crises we face individually or together. I also inhale with gusto the life stories and the love sent by many of you on Facebook and Email...all of which are healing and encouraging.

I had no idea how many 'adopted' sisters and brothers I had gained from my DCCCD Family. Please don't stop! I need your love, and I need to send you my love more often.

Feel free to send me, Glenda, or Lisa your own story or letter that could be published in the Newsletter.

Love, Bettie

Bettie Tully (214) 563-8829

btully1914@aol.com



A Global Culinary Experience

SOME Funds from this fundraiser will go into the Endowments that the program has at the Dallas College Foundation.

Follow the link below for ticket information:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-culinary-experience-tickets-413311625197





The Texas Community College Teachers Association ("TCCTA") is a broad-based professional association for community college faculty and administrators. It also offers many benefits to retirees. TCCTA is vigilant in the area of retirement and health benefits.

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas ("TRS") is one of the largest and most financially stable defined benefit retirement systems in the United States. With more than \$150 billion in assets under management, TRS is not only a state agency, but a major financial institution in its own right, with attendant internal management complexities, external economic stresses, regulatory obligations, and political exposure. As a defined benefit system, with its obligation to pay earned benefits to retirees for life, TRS has to be administered with a long-term view to serve both present and future retirees. Its mission is vital to the financial lives of members depending on their monthly payments, faculty working toward retirement, and recruitment of the next generation of college teachers.

Often, however, the imperative for long-term public policy for TRS is challenged by volatile, short-term strategies in financial markets, evolving financial accounting regulations, and short-horizon politics. The management of TRS is, in fact, a constant dynamic flow, with a host of social and technical issues demanding review and attention by both TRS and its stakeholders. Without solid engagement by a host of parties, TRS could tip toward the unviable path travelled by so many other retirement systems in recent years.

TCCTA is part of the core team of stakeholders fully engaged in TRS policy. Through its lobby and consulting team, TCCTA engages in collaboration with TRS senior staff, communication with the TRS board, and lobby efforts on TRS-related bills in the Texas Legislature. The association has worked on a diverse array of retirement issues, from broad ideological challenges to the very idea of defined benefit systems, to very technical issues that, though seemingly esoteric, fundamentally affect the policy and stability of the retirement fund. TCCTA maintains a strong commitment to strong, ongoing work on retirement issues, based on its values of long-term policy formation, factual analysis, and clear, constructive engagement with all parties.

As an example, TCCTA is currently in the core stakeholder group reviewing actuarial valuation reports and recommendations for assumptions of actuarial returns. Though some might view the content as esoteric, the setting of the expected rate of return is critical to the success and legal operation of the fund. A rate set too high would create too high a "paper" value for the benefit fund, inhibiting sound financial decisions and threatening future financial problems. A rate set too low could immediately drive the fund out of statutory and accounting compliance, triggering unnecessary benefit cuts. Work to set the right rate of return is ongoing, with TCCTA engaged as a strong stakeholder in the process.

These and many other issues will challenge the TRS benefits structure on an ongoing basis, and will be discussed in detail in the upcoming legislative session. TCCTA will work in all of the relevant venues to bring its institutional knowledge and the interests of its members to the table. As noted, the TRS benefits fund is very strong relative to most other defined benefit systems. The good faith efforts of many stakeholder groups, including TCCTA, the TRS staff, and the legislature as a whole have helped to maintain our critical record of stability. The price of that stability, however, is constant vigilance.

TCCTA provides additional benefits to its members including travel, supplemental Medicare insurance, medical air services, long term care, discounts on car rentals such as those at Avis, Budget, and Hertz, as well as the Passport savings on upscale restaurants. Being a member of TCCTA allows discounts on Apple products, cruises, and vacation benefits also.

TCCTA must be maintained by members interested in maintaining this diligence and seat at the table with ERS through its annual membership of \$35.00 a year. Many retirees think that joining TCCTA after retirement is not in their best interest, but retirees benefit immensely from negotiations between TCCTA and TRS.

To join in the fight to maintain your current benefits, join TCCTA today by clicking https://www.TCCTA.org and clicking on Member Login.



By Lela Evans, Retiree of ECC

With more than 180,000 members in 3,000 chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution is an inclusive lineage and service organization consisting of women with an ancestor who was a patriot of the emerging United States of America. There are members whose ancestor served in the military, provided support for the fledgling country, served as a government official, or supported a military unit. There is currently a trend of proving female and ethnic ancestor's service during the revolution.

Founded in 1890, DAR members contribute millions of volunteer service hours in their local communities each year supporting veterans and active-duty military, awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships and financial aid to students and supporting schools for underserved children.

The DAR Museum in Washington DC was created in 1890 for family treasures, it now contains over 30,000 historic DAR Library was founded in 1896 for historical and decorative and fine arts from 1700-1850 in America. The genealogical publications. It is mainly used by staff genealogists who are verifying application papers, but it is open to the public and is a popular stop for genealogists and family historians visiting Washington, DC.

The DAR petitioned Congress to create a celebration of the Constitution between September 17 to 23 each year.

The resolution was adopted and signed into Public Law on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is celebrated on Sept 17 since the Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787. The DAR promotes education about the Constitution during this time period and every educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year is required to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students. Many libraries take on this responsibility by providing displays either in the library or in other parts of the campus.

As a DAR member and genealogist, another reason I chose to join the DAR was to become a better researcher. Applying for membership and then submitting supplemental papers (additional ancestors) holds my research to a higher standard of accuracy.

For more information about DAR, visit their website at: dar.org You can find out if your ancestor is already an approved patriot at: https://services.dar.org/public/dar research/search/?Tab ID=1

Did You Know?

If you elected HealthSelect Medicare Advantage as your health plan, did you know that you can participate in the **SilverSneakers** Fitness program at NO cost?

SilverSneakers*
Fitness Program

SilverSneakers helps millions of people on Medicare defy the odds, shatter stereotypes and answer every challenge with, "I can do this!" Membership includes access to

every participating gym and fitness center in the network. That's a membership at more than 15,000 locations. SilverSneakers also offers fitness classes for all abilities led by trained instructors at gyms and other locations. If you prefer to exercise at home, you can use your SilverSneakers membership to log into SilverSneakers live online classes, and the ondemand video library of classes, workouts, and how-to videos. Here's a small sample of the live online classes offered this week: Standing/Seated Yoga, Yoga Flow, Line Dancing, Strength Training, EnerChi, Cardio Mix, Gentle Stretch, Zumba, Circuit, Mindfulness and Meditation, and Brain Health. So what are you waiting for?

For general information about SilverSneakers and the participating fitness facilities near you, visit the website www.silversneakers.com.



Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13, 2022
Check in and Chat, 11:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Luncheon and Meeting, 11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Maggiano's Little Italy, North Park Center

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, November 29

Reservation form is on page 23 of this newsletter

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

Guests welcome.

Cost: \$40/person

Parking: Ample free parking or complimentary valet parking. If you choose valet, you may either leave your cell phone number or request 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: Grilled Chicken, Tomatoes & Basil
- Entrées: Grilled Salmon, Lemon & Herb
- Bread: Freshly Baked Ciabatta Rolls
- Desserts: Apple Crostada and Tiramisu
- Drinks: Iced Tea, Hot Tea, freshly brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee, Sodas

Credit card bar will be available in the dining room for those who would like to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Rosie Steffen, Coordinator

Save the Date



We're headed to the Horse Races on May 6, 2023. Additional information and registration forms will be available in the Spring Retiree Newsletter.

Share with Dallas College Retirees

Do you have any news or events you would like to share with fellow colleagues? If so, please send an article and pictures, if available and the article can go in the next edition of RET EXPRESS. Any articles and/or pictures may be sent to Glenda Easter at geaster@retiree.dcccd.edu. The deadline for submission is Friday, January 21, 2023. Also, many retirees did not know the DC had given them a new email address: name@retiree.dcccd.edu. If you need help getting this set up, provided.



Dallas College Retiree Association Facebook



In an effort to provide more opportunities to connect with retirees and find out about awesome events sponsored by the RA, a Retiree Association Facebook group has been created. If you are an RA member and have not joined, we invite you to search for the Dallas College Retiree Association and catch up on the latest news and notice of upcoming events. If you have questions, please contact Norman Howden at rrgrandad@gmail.com.

Taking Care of Your Health? Don't Forget to Get Rewarded!



We all know that staying active and taking care of our health is its own reward, but why not get a little something extra for your effort?

Your retiree health plan includes incentive programs for completing certain wellness-related activities like having an annual physical or completing a health assessment. If you haven't checked out these programs, you'll want to do

so soon for the best opportunity to accumulate points or credits during the plan year. Visit your plan's website or log in to your member account to learn more.

HealthSelect of Texas® or Consumer Directed HealthSelectSM: The Blue PointsSM program from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas awards points for activities like completing a health assessment. You can redeem points in an online shopping mall. Log in to your Blue Access for MembersSM account to track your points.

HealthSelectSM Medicare Advantage Plan: Credits earned for certain activities, such as having an annual physical or wellness visit, are added as funds to a reloadable Visa reward card. To see the rewards that are available to you, log in to your member account, click the "Health & Wellness" tab and then the "Renew Rewards" button. More information at https://ers.texas.gov/news/taking-care-of-your-health-don-t-forget-to-get-rewarded.



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

Retirees of Dallas College Who Have Passed Away

- Kenneth Permenter, a retiree of Richland College, passed away February 2, 2018.
- Kathy Yates, a retiree of Richland College, passed away October 18, 2018.
- Margaret Hanson, a retiree of Brookhaven College, passed away on September 6, 2019.
- Pauline Slovak, a retiree from Eastfield College, passed away on January 26, 2020.
- Bill Proctor, North Lake College, passed away on July 31, 2020.
- Robert "Bob" Little, a retiree of Brookhaven College, passed away December 29, 2020.
- > Annette Wimberley Flowers, a retiree of Richland College, passed on October 25, 2021.
- Janet C. Ward, a retiree of LeCroy Center, died on December 10, 2021.
- Wesley (Wes) Hayes, a retiree from Richland College, died January 23, 2022.
- > June Cheatham, a retiree from Richland College, passed away on February 9, 2022.
- Gerald F. Kozlowski, a retiree from Eastfield, died on February 10, 2022.
- Millicent (Mitzi) Werther, a retiree of Richland College, passed away on February 19, 2022.
- Margaret W. Adams, a retiree of Richland College, passed away on February 24, 2022.
- Carla Peacock, a retiree from Brookhaven College, passed away on March 5, 2022.
- > Juan H. Sanchez, a retiree from Brookhaven College, passed away on March 21, 2022.
- William L. Evans, a retiree from North Lake College, passed away on March 29, 2022.
- Lou Beene, a retiree of the District Office, died April 11, 2022.
- Ralph Pstarza, a retiree of Richland College, passed away May 1, 2022.
- Mike Howard, a Bill J. Priest Institute retiree, died on June 8, 2022.
- ➤ Harriet Crews, a retiree from El Centro, passed away on July 19, 2022.
- ➤ Dianna Smith, a retiree from El Centro, passed away on August 30, 2022.
- > John Ferguson, a retiree of Richland, passed away on October 3, 2022.

Retirees Who Have Lost Family Members

- Virginia Hayes, a retiree from Brookhaven College, lost her husband Wesley (Wes) Hayes on January 23, 2022.
- Dianna Kozlowski, a retiree from Richland, lost her husband Gerald Kozlowski, on February 10, 2022.
- Nancy Harrison, a retiree of the District Service Center lost her father, Robert David Lundgren, on April 22, 2022.
- > Johnyce Alders, a retiree of Brookhaven College, lost her husband, Richard Alders on June 20, 2022.
- > Perry "Pete" Reininga, husband of Donna Richards Reininga, Mountain View College, passed away July 12, 2022.
- > Terrel Blair, a retiree of El Centro College, lost her husband on August 29, 2022.
- Ann Faulkner, a retiree of Brookhaven College, lost her husband of 53 years, Bill Faulkner on August 30, 2021.

If you are aware of the death of a retiree, please contact any member of the Leadership Team

Retiree Association Membership Roster

2022 LIFETIME MEMBERS

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

Jim Handy

Velma Hargis

Nancy Harrison

Tricia Harrison

Nathan Ivey

Karen Laljiani

Lindle Grigsby Olivia Novelo Abreu **Dottie Clark** Patricia Acrea Glenn Clayton Sandy Groom Jonathan Haight **Thomas Adams** Jean Conway Mary L. Adams Tammy Cooper Susan Hall

Johnyce Alders Mary Cooper-Wallace Ramona Hamilton

Ken Alfers **Lionel Cortez** Monique Amerman Joe Cortina Lois Ames Charles Dale **Thomas Anderson** Brenda Dalton

Casandra Bowell

Richard Cinclair

Joy Arndt Merry Ellen Daniel Kathy Hegar Brenda Arnold-Darensbourg Joe David Tom Henderson Mary Lou Avera Alberta Davis Patricia Henry

Linda Baker Patricia Davis Jimmie Henslee Ella Barber Vivian Dennis-Monzingo Jerry C Henson Nancy Barlow **Edward Des Plas** Ruby Herd

Don Baynham Barbara Dogger **Dorothy Herndon** M. Sharman Beasley-Vesecky Karen Doss-Harris Marilyn Herridge

Marvin Bechtold William Drake Maria Hinojosa Mildred Bell Irene Dryden Margot Hirsch Rodger Bennett Deborah Dutschke Linda Hoffman Vernon Beuke Glenda Easter Martha Hogan **Peggy Biegler** Ines Eishen R. Chris Holland Martha Black Marvin Elke **Beverly Holmes** Frank Ellis Mike Howard

Reba Blackshear Phyllis Elmore Chris Boldt Norm Howden Lisa Erich Patricia Bollin Martha Hughes Dru Bookout Roz Ewalt **Ted Hughes** Glen Bounds Patricia Ewert Pamela Ice

Larry Felty Cynthia Bowlin Sarah Ferguson Mary Alice Jacquez Darlene Branscome **Delryn Fleming** Claralyn Jefferson Dee Brock Marcia Funnell Jamie Jenkins

Zina Gardner Jacqueline Burden **Hector Jimenez** Patricia Byars Susan Garza Carole Johnson Claude Caffee Mary Frances Gibbons Rosa Johnson Susan Calhoun Herlinda Glasscock **Becky Jones**

Luis Camacho **Tony Gobar** Jesse C. Jones Mariaelena Godinez **Beverly Carpenter** Virginia Jones **Robert Carpenter** Angela Gomez Mahon Justice Jacquelyn Caswell Linda Gomez Carol Karsteadt **Enrique Chamberlain Robert Gonzalez** Costa Katsigris **Robert Chambers** Stephen Gooch Susan Klutts Maria Chobany **Guy Gooding Betty Kovac** Carol Cinclair Carole Gray Cindy Krause

David Gregory

Dallas College Retiree Association 2022 Lifetime Members (Continued)

Dan Perkins Patricia Spence Chris LaLonde Mary Petterborg Hal Spiegel Anita Landenberger James Picquet Susanne Starling Nancy LeCroy Jennie Pollard Rosemarie Steffen Alice Lee Rodger Pool Dava Stephens **Judy Pouncey** Wanda Stimson Barth Loe Victoria Magee Maria Caratini **Becky Stinson** Diane Martin **David Preston** Donna Strain Fred Martinez Pam Quinn Jimmie Strain Rick Maxwell Reva Rattan Marilyn Sullivan Tim Sullivan Marilyn Mays Marty Ray Robert McArthur Calvin Richard Lisa Theriot John Trickel Mary Metcalf Donna Richards Reininga Gay Michele Linda Richardson Robert Trotter, Jr **Bobbie Trout** John Millemon David Riehl Ellen Miller Margaret Riley Kathrvn Tucker Susan Miller Cynthia Risher **Bettie Tully** Vic Rizzo Susan Turner Frank Millsap Stephen Twenge John Minnett Claudia Robinson Diana Moore Maria Rojas Travis Ueoka Michael Moore Pamela Rouze Ronald Van Gordon Pierrette Mouledous Lonnie Roy Bethene Vance George Mount Viola Ruck Cheryl Dyer Vargas

Finney Varghese Lou Myers Susan Russell Rosemary Neiman Sally Satterwhite Alice Villadsen Gina Nelson Herlinda Savage Carolyn Vines Sandra Newton Jerome Scardina Tarrilynn Wall Annetta Norwood Patricia Scardina Janet Ward Spencer Olesen **Dawn Segroves** John Wells Carole Olson Philip Shelp Don Welsh

Carole Shlipak Kay O'Neal Monica Wenthold Francis Osentowski Anahita Sidhwa Ellen Whitaker Mary Osentowski Jane Slone Jill Ann Williams Jerry Owens **Ronald Slone Becki Williams** Ursula Palmer Bea Smith John Williamson Tim Smithart Joan Parent John Willis, Jr. Nanette Pascal **Beth Sonnier** A. Burlene Wilson Jane Penney Maaa Tony Sookoor **Robert Young**

Angela Perez-Michael Debbie Speck

2022-2023 Annual Members from January 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

Mel AndersonMichael BellBetty L. BrownJanice AndrewsJoanett BlackburnLinda B. BrownDonnine BalanceBart BlaydesVicki BufordDavid BartleyEarlene BondLeslie Burkel-PowellHeidi BassettRehecca BoriskieHelen Butler

Heidi Bassett Rebecca Boriskie Helen Butler
Nancy Beaver Carolyn Boshart Ray Canham
Joan Becker Jacquie Bradley Chris Cantrell
Delfina Bedarte Sheila Brock Patsy Caropresi

2022-2023 Annual Members from January 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022 (Continued)

Joan Carroll Thomas Hilmer Sandra Mogollon Jean Chapoton Trina Ho **Betty Moran** Jo Holland **Dennis Cheatum** Traci Morin Tina Chin Helen Howard Larry Mosby **Rich Chumbley** Ora Howard Tom Motley Mary Ciminelli Robert Hueston Bette Neeley-Plog **Howard Clapper Bobby Nieman** Sarah Hutchings Adriana Cobo-Frenkel Linda Noblin Debbie Hutchison Kathleen Cook Mary Kay Jacobson Gwen Oliver Glenn Currier Daisy Ollie **Robert James** Tonya Daily Patti Jennings Sue Parks Millie Davidson Sharlee Jeser-Skaggs Tony Pecina **Dorothy Jean Disher Sherry Jessup** Julienne Pendleton Dianna Drury Maylene Johnson Carthy Perez Lynda Edwards Jerry C. Jones Jackie Peterson **Delores Elder-Jones** Pat Jones Jane Peterson

Margaret Etheredge Shirley Kaczka Jack Pierce Vallye Ezell Doug Keenan **Guy Pollock Nancy Faris Ida Keller** Rose Pope Barbara Field Dorothy Keylon Joyce Powell Linda Kleen

Peggy Fleming Katherine Pritchett **Ernest Rager** Bill Fowler Frank Korman Georgia Francis Cecilia Kornegay Sulema Ramos Jerry Francis Judith Lambert Diana Reding Alice Fulbright Len Larsen Josie Regnault

Betty Fuller Jackie Reynolds Annie Lee Ed Garcia Terry Lefler Frances Rhodes Elaine Gardner-Morales **Doris Leigh** Cheryl Roach Kim Garrett Rita Lewis **Nancy Roberts** Sue Lichten Judith Garza **Peggy Rodgers**

Michael Garza Paul Lindsey Cynthia Ann Rogers Claire Gauntlett William Lineberry Jeanette Rogerson Jacquelyn Glee Peggy Little Lincoln Rolling Larry Goff Veda Little Theresa Rose Katherine Gonnet **Sharon Loftis** Jane Rowe

Claudia Goodson Scott Longacre Janie Rubalcava Regina Gowens Anne Schroeder Marie Maness Diane Graifemberg Deanie Martin Adrianne Settles Karla Greer Ivan Martinez Isa Shores

Linda Groves Marco Martinez Bill Slonecker **Sharon Grubbs** Paul McCarthy Kathy Slonecker Tony Hall Jerry McElveen Dianna Smith Virginia Hayes Judy McMullan **Rosemary Smith**

Vera Estelle Haynes Earldene McNeill **Lupe Solis** Mary Jo Henry Marti Mendiola Marilyn Stacy **Gus Herring** Norma Mendoza Brenda Stevenson

Janet Stiles Harold Hill Rosalinda Minnis Rose Marie Hilmer **Rose Talbot** Jana Myer

2022-2023 Annual Members from January 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022 (Continued)

Martha Timberlake **Thomas Walsh** Jim White **Elena Torres** Janet Ward Charle Wickersham Irma Tovar Joan Washington Jerome Williams Jeanice Weatherford Jennifer Wimbish **Charlotte Tunnell** Stephanie Venza Clifton Weaver Linda Wimbish Laura Waddle Joel Weiner **Becky Witherspoon Sharon Wagoner** Bill Wells Shirley Woelfle Jo A. Walker Bill White **Evelyn Wong**

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 2022 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 2022 Annual member. If <u>you</u> 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.

Association Association DALLAS COLLEGE this your	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 Association."		
Today's Date: Last Name: First Name:		13656 Janwood Ln.	J.
Address:		2023 Meml	•
State:		Annual Membership Dues OR	\$10
* Phone:		Lifetime Membership Dues	\$100
* Email: 🗆		Scholarship Donation	
Retirement Campus:			
*Please note: If you do <u>NOT</u> want your phone number and/or email address to appear in the retirees' directory, please indicate by placing a √mark in the appropriate box.		TOTAL Enclosed \$	
Questions about membership dues? Contact Diane Graifemberg at 972-816-0546 or email dgraifemberg@gmail.com			

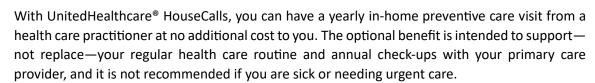


Please welcome our **new retirees who retired May 2022 through August 2022.** We know you've looked forward to the day where you didn't have to get up early to go to work. Relax, you can now sleep as late as you want, take all those exciting trips that you've planned, and simply enjoy the good life of retirement. Our retiree association welcomes you to retirement, and hope you will join our organization.

Name	Location		
Becker, Joan	ECC	Name	Location
Carr, Laura	EFC	McGraw, Timothy	NLC
Coffman, Susie	ВНС	Parr, Lona	NLC
Ehrich, Lisa	внс	Personett, Rebecca	BHC
Farley, Pamela	ECC	Samuel, John	ECC
Fleming, Martha	EFC	Simmons, Guy	RLC
Gadre, Vasant	RLC	Slaight, Samanthia	RLC
Glee, Jacquelyn	LCET	Taylor-Yearwood, Jessie	ECC
Gordon, Adam	RLC	Tinker, Minkyong	MVC
Idicula, Idichandi	ECC	Tyler, David	DSC
Loke, Ling	RLC	Wentz, John	ECC
Mays, Anna	DO	Wheeler, Joseph	NLC
McAtee, Jennifer	ECC	Wittel, Frederick	RLC
Meyer, Michelle	NLC	Zabojnik, Saundra	DSC

House Calls Revives

You may think physician house calls are part of a bygone era, but if you're enrolled in HealthSelectSM Medicare Advantage Plan preferred provider organization (MA PPO), a health care provider on your doorstep is no longer a thing of the past.







ERS Benefits After Your Death

Important information for your survivors

Discussing financial matters with loved ones you will leave behind when you die is difficult, but necessary. Read this refresher about the <u>State of Texas benefits that may be available to your survivors, and the steps they should take upon your death</u>. You are also encouraged to download the Group Benefits Program (GBP) Retirees group term life insurance manual.



Protecting Member MyTRS Accounts with Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

As you may know, we've launched a new and improved MyTRS. Along with a new look and feel to the MyTRS portal, we're also continually enhancing the features available to you. The initial upgrade allows you to update and manage your account information in real time. This means the way you can engage with us is now more personal than ever!

The MyTRS upgrade offers significant improvements to technology. Compare it to making the switch from using a flip phone to a smartphone – exciting and new opportunities to adapt to the change. As we work to increase the number of services we provide electronically, we must continue to ensure strong security measures are always in place. One of these, Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), adds another layer of protection so that only you can access your online account. MFA is a leading industry best practice widely used by banks and lenders to protect personal information. Learn more information about the Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).

Federal, Texas Laws Day Say "No Way" to Surprise Medical Billing

When doctors, hospitals or other health care providers join an insurance plan network, they agree to charge certain prices for certain services, known as the allowable amount. HealthSelectSM network providers agree to provide discounts that are often not available to other plans or the general public, which means the allowable amount is a very valuable benefit.

When a health care provider isn't part of your plan's network, there is no set agreement on the allowable amount. Balance billing happens when you are expected to pay not just the out-of-network deductible and/or coinsurance or copay amount, but also the difference between the plan's allowable amount and what the out-of-network provider charges. Sometimes, the difference can be hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Balance billing becomes surprise billing when the patient didn't have the opportunity to choose an in-network provider. For medical care you get or have gotten on or after January 1, 2020, Texas law protects you from balance bills in certain situations, such as when you don't have a choice in the provider. You will still need to pay your plan's deductibles, copayments and coinsurance—but you shouldn't have to pay the balance bill in those situations.

The law, which applies to all Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP) health plans, prohibits surprise medical bills from various Texas health care providers for services you have received on or after January 1, 2020, including:

- out-of-network providers who are practicing at in-network facilities such as hospitals, birthing centers, ambulatory surgical centers and freestanding emergency rooms;
- out-of-network physicians and facilities, including hospitals and freestanding emergency rooms, that provide care in emergency situations; and
- out-of-network diagnostic imaging and laboratory services that are provided in connection with a service from an in-network provider.
- It's important to know that some providers in situations like those described above may ask you to sign a form, known as a waiver, before they provide any care. This waiver would allow them to balance bill you. It is very important that you read all paperwork that a doctor or facility asks you to sign. In Texas, providers are not allowed to use this waiver in emergency situations.
- This legislation only applies when services are performed in Texas. Providers outside of the state are not required to follow Texas law. Additionally, this legislation does not apply to services ordered by a provider within Texas if performed outside of Texas. This legislation also does not apply to any out-of-network services you may have received before January 1, 2020.
- Learn ways to take charge of your health care costs at https://www.ers.texas.gov/Avoiding-Unexpected-Health-Costs.



Holiday Luncheon and Meeting



Event Date: Tuesday, December 13

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, November 29

NAME:		PHONE #
ADDRESS		Make check payable to:
EMAIL ADDRESS		DCCCD Retiree Association
GUEST NAME(S):		Mail to:
		Diane D. Graifemberg, Treasurer
Enclosed Amount:	_ (no. of persons) x \$40 (per person) =	Retiree Association
		13656 Janwood Lane
		Farmers Branch, TX 75234
		1

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

Retiree Association Events

Be on the lookout for events posted on the <u>Retiree's Website</u> and the <u>Retiree</u> <u>Facebook page</u>









































































There are many events and opportunities to meet with friends and former coworkers through the Dallas College Retiree Association. Come and enjoy the events with us.