

ARSEA

Newsletter

September 2025
Volume 53, Issue 1

President's Pen

Dear ARSEA Members,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! I hope you enjoyed a fun and refreshing summer. We're looking forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with programs and opportunities you won't want to miss.

This year, our focus is **"Renew and Recruit."** If you haven't renewed your membership yet, now is the perfect time. We also encourage you to invite friends and colleagues—whether they're renewing or joining ARSEA for the first time—to be part of our growing community.

Mark your calendars!

Our September meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 23**, featuring a special guest: Mayor Jim Ross. He'll share updates on what's happening in Arlington, and we're honored to have him with us.

We'll continue our tradition of recognizing new members at each meeting. If you know retirees who haven't yet joined ARSEA, please extend an invitation—they'll be warmly welcomed.

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Ways to Keep in Touch with ARSEA:

- Email
arlingtonrsea@yahoo.com
- Website
<https://arlingtonrsea.wixsite.com/arsea>
- Volunteer Reporting 2025
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yzuQmaN3T8cyxw3xchpgOmDzbzclwSRiX22W2i7xchY/edit?usp=sharing>

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
1:30 p.m.

Pizza with Mayor Jim Ross

Location: PDC
1111 W. Arbrook Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76015

President's Pen Continued

Meeting details

Location: Mac Bernd Professional Development Center
1111 W. Arbrook Blvd.

Social time: 1:30 p.m. | Meeting begins: 2:00 p.m.

We can't wait to see you there!

Remember: *We are Educators. We Advocate. We Inform.
We Vote.*

With appreciation,

Cynthia Waller

ARSEA President

Health and Safety Report

Three articles are included in the newsletter email. The topics this month are:

- 15 Ways to Protect Yourself from Fraud
- ADT Information
- Norton Stay Safe on the Web

Please open the link in the newsletter email to access this information.

Martine Thomas
Safety Chair
mthomas9230@gmail.com

Healthy Living News

In the newsletter email you will find a link to the article "Keeping a Healthy Brain and Clear Mind." Please open the link in the newsletter email to access this information.

Franya Wilhelm
Healthy Living Chair
fwilhelm49@gmail.com

Membership News



Thank you to all the members who have renewed their membership in ARSEA and TRTA and thank you to all our new members or returning members for their membership.

Encourage your friends who are not members to join ARSEA and TRTA. Memberships support TRTA's work for our benefits and ARSEA memberships support our active teacher grants, scholarships for two AISD students, and the Children's Book Project that provides books for AISD students.

If you know of an ARSEA member who has passed away, please contact an ARSEA officer or email to arlingtonrsea@yahoo.com.



Please continue to keep track of your volunteer hours. These volunteer hours represent our commitment to service. You may turn in your hours at the regular ARSEA meetings or you may use the online form found in the ARSEA newsletter email.

Sincerely,
Leticia Graham
1st VP Membership
ARSEA
School922@yahoo.com
817-798-4910

Sunshine News

A card was sent to offer condolences to Gaby Krumm for the passing of her father.

As the Sunshine Chair, please keep me informed of any needs for words of encouragement, get-well, or sympathy cards for our members and/or families.

Carole Lemonds
Courtesy Committee Chair
cjlemonds44@gmail.com
817-991-7076



ARSEA Book Project at AT&T Stadium Back-to-School Event a Big Success

On August 3, at 7:30 a.m., seven intrepid members of ARSEA met in the parking lot of AT&T Stadium and unloaded 28 boxes of children's books to give away to students coming to collect their new school backpacks. The August heat was already warm at 7:30 a.m.



Cindy Calaluca, Leticia Graham, Jo Kelley, Jo McGovern, Cynthia Waller, and Polly Walton rolled onto the stadium concourse and found ARSEA's tent-covered booth among 120 other booths. Happily, the ARSEA Book Project booth was closest to the stadium doors where the backpacks were located. There were several advantages to our booth's location. We were first to intercept the crowds of kids and parents coming out of the stadium with new backpacks, and our booth stayed shaded by the huge AT&T Stadium dome until 10:30 AM.

ARSEA gave away around 1650 books, hard cover and paperback, to hundreds of enthusiastic kids to put into their new backpacks. There were happy smiles and lots of thank-yous from kids and parents.

ARSEA plans to give out books again next August 2026, and we are already gathering books for next year's Book Project. We would greatly appreciate you donating gently used children's books that you or your grandkids are no longer using to this project. Polly Walton, Book Project Chair, will gladly pick up your donated books. Contact Polly at pwalton88@yahoo.com.

Polly Walton
Book Project Chair
pwalton88@yahoo.com

Retirement News

New Enrollment Opportunity for TRS-Care Medicare Advantage

You may enroll, and you may also add eligible dependents at the time of enrollment. This limited-enrollment opportunity ends **March 31, 2026**.

Changes to Surcharges Assessed to Districts

House Bill 2 repeals the requirement that school districts pay surcharges for retirees who return to full-time work. Now, retired teachers who return to full-time work could be responsible for paying surcharges of **\$13,000 or more**.

Dick Powell

Retirement Education Chair

powell050@gmail.com

Foundation News

Greetings ARSEA,

Are you ready for fall? I certainly am!

Don't forget November is Foundation Month.

I want to be sure that everyone knows the President of our Foundation, Bill Barnes, lost his precious wife Janice on Sunday, August 31. The funeral was a true blessing as we said goodbye to our dear friend. I will miss Janice so much!

If you would like to send Bill a card, his address is 516 Lonesome Star Trl., Haslet, Texas 76052.

Thank you for being a fantastic chapter for Texas Retired Teachers Association!

Best Regards,

Jeanne Paull-Turner

Innovative Outreach Specialist TRTA

Foundation Chair ARSEA

214-783-2914

jptprincipal@yahoo.com

Legislative News

Greetings ARSEA, fall will be here before you know it! YEA!!

This Legislative Session in its third go round ended Wednesday, September 3. I am listing just a few bills which were passed.

SB 10 Requires public schools to display the Ten Commandments in every classroom. There was a lawsuit ending with a temporary block of this bill.

SB11 Creates time for organized prayer in schools.

SB 12 Bans K- 12 public teachers and student groups from discussing or supporting topics related to race, gender, or sexual orientation. There is a lawsuit at this time.

SB 13 Bans broad categories of books in public school libraries and puts school boards, instead of trained librarians in charge of determining the books that students can read.

HB 2 Raises for teachers and how they qualify and who qualifies...no one understands at this time.

HB 8 Testing begins 2027-2028. Requires beginning and middle of year tests from TEA.

This does not eliminate A-F ratings. Will have stand-alone writing tests, eliminates English II exam, limits districts' benchmarks, requires rescoring in some cases and allows certain national exams and state exams to substitute for end-of-course tests.

HB 8 orders a study of broader indicators such as student engagement, advanced coursework, and parental involvement, but adding these to ratings will require future legislative actions. The legislature also directs TEA to develop an annual growth measure, though its role in accountability remains uncertain until lawmakers review a report due no later than the 2029-30 school year. Tests may be shorter.

There was also a redistricting bill passed.

Best Regards,

Jeanne Paull-Turner
Innovative Outreach Specialist TRTA
Legislative Chair ARSEA
214-783-2914

jptprincipal@yahoo.com

ARSEA AT&T Stadium Back-to-School Event and District 11 President's Council



ARSEA at the AISD Back-to-School event with Mayor Ross. With him are Leticia Graham, Polly Walton, Rob Johnson, Cynthia Waller, Cindy Calaluca, Jo McGovern, and Judy Johnson.



Jo McGovern and Judy Johnson helping students pick out free books.



District 11 Historian, Pamela Elza, doing her thing at the District 11 President's Council meeting.



ARSEA officers at District 11 President's Council are Jeanne Paull-Turner (District 11 Legislative chair), Patti Belknap, Cynthia Waller, Leticia Graham, and Martine Thomas (District 11 Safety chair).