

Humble Area Retired Teachers Association  
(HARTA)

September 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Instructional Support Center by president Linda Spiro.

Louis Mascola led the pledges to the flags.

Linda welcomed new retirees and passed around the clipboards to sign up for refreshments, door prizes etc. She reminded those who ordered red shirts to pick them up at the back of the room.

Janie Branham introduced State Representative Charles Cunningham and representatives from the offices of U. S. Representative Dan Crenshaw and State Senator Brandon Creighton. After the speakers' comments, James Ellis read questions for the legislators .

The meeting was paused in order to take a group picture outside. Pictures were also taken of those members who brought donations to the meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Roger Brown gave an update of district construction and events and took questions from the group.

## OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary Margaret Fahrenthold reported that the minutes had been reviewed by a committee and were posted on the HARTA website and on the white board in the meeting room.

Janet Orth presented the treasurer's report for John Widmier. The Business Checking Account-PNC Bank has a balance of \$22,640.89. The Certificate of Deposit-PNC Bank has a balance of \$10,091.81. The HARTA Endowed Fund-Humble ISD Education Foundation has a balance of \$36,702.

1st Vice President - Membership and Technology, Bobby McAndrews reported the latest membership numbers on the TRTA Portal, reviewed how to get information about HARTA from the TRTA website and reminded members that directories were still available. Bobby passed around a clipboard for members to list their preferences for being listed in the **new** directory: list all information, list name only or no listing in the directory. Bobby announced that eight people were interested in the Lunch and Learn; ten participants are needed for the luncheon to be held. Bobby asked the September birthdays to come forward and announce their names and birthdates.

2nd Vice President - Book Project/Public Relations, Chris Pieknik reported that the next book giveaway will be held

on October 25th in Town Center at “My Happy Place” from 10:00-5:00. She passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers. She also said that volunteers are needed to work at the Bear Branch Elementary Festival on October 24th. She reminded members about the Storybook Project for Incarcerated Women. She asked for donations to buy new books for the project. If members would like to buy a book themselves to donate, a list of appropriate books is listed on the HARTA website. Chris thanked those who brought large print books which will be given to the Stilwell Retirement Residence in Waco.

Readers Love Teachers chair, Jan Resell asked anyone interested in going to elementary schools to award teachers who were nominated by their students a certificate and \$25.00 prize to email her ([janresell430@hotmail.com](mailto:janresell430@hotmail.com)) or co-chair Patti Sano ([PatriciaSano63@gmail.com](mailto:PatriciaSano63@gmail.com)).

A report from Foundation chair Glenda Laney was read. Glenda reminded members to put their donations in the red envelopes on each table. The money goes directly to the Foundation for important projects for public school teachers and retirees. She highlighted several programs:

1. A Helping Hand-assistance with a one time need or other short term hardship
2. The Lehr-Pritchard “A Helping Hand Endowment Fund”- helps retired educators in times of financial crisis

3. Disaster Relief - assistance for a short-term hardship due to a disaster
4. The First Year Teacher Scholarships - assists recipients in purchasing materials for their classrooms
5. Classroom Assistance Grants - awarded to teachers who on a daily basis demonstrate commitment to public education through the creation of programs, events or other learning platforms

Member Benefits chair, Beckye Hendricks will share any new updates presented at the District 4 meeting she is attending on October 3rd.

Membership/Volunteer Services/Community Involvement co-chairs Patty Murphy and Artie DeHart asked members to list their volunteer hours on the index cards on each table. Members can also use the volunteer form on the Google drive ( on the website) or use the QR code which brings you to the form on the Google drive.

Newsletter chair, Marj Isgitt reminded everyone that the deadline for articles for the October newsletter is September 24th.

Retirement chair, Cindy McAndrews asked members who are substitute teaching to get HARTA business cards from her to leave in the teachers' lounges. On the back of the business cards are links that will help those who are planning for retirement.

Sunshine co-chairs Fran Simister and Angie Shepherd reported that a sympathy card was sent from HARTA to Patsy Spitzmiller following the death of her husband.

### Trips

September 28 (sponsor Carolyn Monroe) - Bernhart Winery

October 9 (sponsors Nancy Timothy/Anne Rice) - Asia town

October 10 (sponsor Michelle Wolf) Porky's Backyard Food Truck Park, Atascocita

November 19 (sponsor Brenda Pearson) Madisonville Christmas Store and Kim's Garden Center, Huntsville

December 17 (sponsor Carolyn Monroe) - play "Its a Wonderful Life"

February 17 (sponsor Linda Spiro) - "Million Dollar Quartet" - precinct bus will be provided

### Tours

Susan Burroughs reported for Carolyn Mashburn. The trip to Washington D. C. (April 27-May 1) has a waitlist.

The deadline to register for the Panama Canal trip ( September 18-23, 2026) is the end of September 2025.

Healthy Living chair, Dawn Meador led the group in exercises.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Linda announced that the next meeting will be held on October 13, 2025. The program will be “Women’s Storybook Project”.

The District 4 Fall Conference will be held on October 3rd at the Merrell Center in Katy. Members should contact Linda if they would like to view the Fall Conference online via Zoom.

Bill Bivin brought out his top hat to collect dollars for brags (\$1/brag).

Sandra Fountain drew names of the winners of the door prizes.

Linda thanked everyone who brought refreshments, door prizes and book donations. She gave a special thank you to the social committee (Ann Rice, Brenda Pearson, Chris Pieknik) and members (Patsy Holden, Diana Hancock, Sheila Lilley and Peggy Wilkinson) who worked hard setting up the room for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

---

Margaret Fahrenthold, secretary

---

Linda Spiro, president

