

Humble Area Retired Teachers Association
(HARTA)
October 13, 2025

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

The pledges to the flags were led by Peggy Wilkinson.

Linda introduced Jerri Monbarron, Chief Community Engagement Officer, who brought greetings from superintendent Dr. Roger Brown. Jerri gave an overview of the Education Foundation scholarships, encouraged members to attend some of the many outstanding high school performances around the district and reported that Board member Marques Holmes does a “Board Brief” that is available online. She also took members’ questions.

Linda Spiro welcomed new retirees and then passed around the sign-up clip boards for refreshments, water, juice, door prizes etc. She announced that there would be an in-house raffle for a wine basket. The proceeds of the raffle will go to the TRTF. This raffle was held in addition to the regular door prize raffle that is held at each meeting. Proceeds from door prize raffles are used for scholarships.

Linda reported that ten HARTA members attended the District 4 meeting. The speakers included legislators or their staff members, TRTA’s Tim Lee, representatives from AMBA, TRS and Stilwell. Bob Herndon from Stilwell thanked HARTA for its donation of large print books.

The Nominating Committee chair Patty Murphy reported that they still need nominees for secretary and second vice-president. Anyone interested in these positions should contact Patty Murphy at 832.444.6630 or patty253@gmail.com.

Janie Branham introduced the program: Women's Storybook Project. The speaker Tiel Rainelli is the volunteer coordinator in Houston for Women's Storybook Project. She is a long-time advocate and organizer for system impacted families and believes literacy is a path to liberation. After the presentation Ann Rice and Janet Roberts presented Individual book bags to Tiel to use in the Women's Storybook Project. Chris Pieknik wheeled out a wagon with 218 books donated by HARTA members for the the Women's Storybook Project.

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary Margaret Fahrenthold announced that the minutes were posted on the white board in the meeting room and on the HARTA website.

Treasurer John Widmier reported that the Business Checking Account - PNC Bank had an ending balance (October 6, 2025) of \$23,251.89. The Certificate of Deposit - PNC Bank had an ending balance (September 22, 2025) of \$10,125.49. The HARTA Endowed Fund - Humble ISD Education Foundation had a balance of \$40,060.

1st Vice President Bobby McAndrews reported that the Lunch and Learn was held on September 30. There were twelve attendees. Bobby said there are still some directories available; he reminded everyone to designate their choice for their listing in the new directory: name only, all information or no listing in the directory. Bobby demonstrated how to find HARTA info online. He asked all October and November birthdays to come forward, introduce themselves and give their birthdate.

2nd Vice President Chris Pieknik reported that the next Book Giveaway would be held on October 25 at "My Happy Place" in Town Center. She reminded everyone that Bear Branch Elementary needed volunteers to help at their Fall Festival on

October 24. The final Book Giveaway for the year will be held on December 6, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Then Chris will prepare the final book count for the end of year report.

Readers Love Teachers co-chair Patti Sano announced that a visit was made to Hidden Hollow Elementary in September and in October HARTA members will go to Eagle Springs to recognize teachers nominated by their students . A certificate and cash award will be given to the teachers.

3rd Vice President Janie Branham announced that the KPark High School Choir will provide the music at the December 8th meeting. Linda asked for volunteers to bring one Christmas decoration for the tables.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Healthy Living chair Dawn Meador led the group in stretches and Carolyn Mashburn taught members some dance steps.

Safety. Tom Duffee, former Humble ISD Assistant Maintenance Director presented the Emergency Protocol for the Instructional Support Center. He explained when Lockdown, Shelter in Place etc. would be used in an emergency. He noted that there were more details in the HARTA newsletter.

Foundation chair, Glenda Laney thanked members who prepared the wine basket for the raffle. She reminded everyone about the red envelopes on each table; donations large and small are appreciated. She showed the newest brochure prepared by the Foundation: "Supporting Retired and Active School Personnel in Texas". A brochure was on each table. She shared that THE VOICE has excellent information about the Foundation.

Community Volunteer chairs Patty Murphy and Artie DeHart asked members to turn in volunteer hours by 1) placing hours on notecards and dropping them in the bag on each table 2) using the Google spreadsheet 3) using the QR code or calling/emailing Patty Murphy.

Legislative chair James Ellis reminded members that there were elections for 14 constitutional amendments and some local offices. Early voting will be open from October 20 -31. Election Day is November 4.

Member Benefits chair Beckye Hendricks reminded members to use their Ucard benefits by the end of December. If you've lost your card, you can access your United HealthCare account online and print a card. The rewards for the Wellness Visit and House Call are added to the Ucard and can be spent for other things beside FSA/HSA eligible medications

Newsletter chair Marj Isgitt reminded everyone that there is no newsletter in November. Articles for the December newsletter are due on November 19.

Sunshine chair Fran Simister reported that a Get Well card was sent to Trilla Cook.

Trips and Tours and their sponsors:

Madisonville's Christmas Country

Store and Huntsville's Kim's Nursery - Brenda Pearson

Play: "It's a Wonderful Life" - Carolyn Monroe

"Monumental Washington" - Carolyn Mashburn

District Schools tour - Dawn Meador

Million Dollar Quartet - Linda Spiro

New Business

Linda announced that the next meeting is December 8th at the ISC. The program is the KPark High School Choir. It is a Potluck

Luncheon. The District 4 Spring Conference is March 25th at the Berry Center in Cypress.

Bill Bivin brought out his top hat to collect members' brags (\$1 per brag).

Sandra Fountain distributed the Door Prizes; proceeds are used for scholarships.

Linda thanked the Social Committee (Ann Rice, Chris Pieknik, Brenda Pearson, Diana Hancock Peggy Wilkinson, Sheila Lilley and Patsy Holden) and everyone who brought refreshments, door prizes donations and books, She announced the winner of the wine basket raffle: Susan Clark.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Fahrenthold, secretary

Linda Spiro, President