



MARCH 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I retired in 2004. Since I knew Glenn Porter, the founder of TREDDA, I joined the TREDDA Board and soon became the treasurer. That was about 18 years ago. Eloy Arguello Jr. was the president then.

With arthritic thumbs, it became painful to write checks (the December 1<sup>st</sup> award plus Christmas checks totaled 38+ checks just for that month.) I informed the Board that I wanted to step down from the office as treasurer. Then Eloy had the brilliant idea that he and I just change positions. He has years of experience in finance and I have years of experience leading various community boards. At the December Annual Meeting, that was agreeable with the Board.

So that brings TREDDA to 2023. The Board is receiving more applications for awards as our TRS co-workers who "worked for less" are experiencing an increase in living expenses. TREDDA has a strong financial position with money in the bank and diversified assets held in CD's, money market, stocks and bonds.

Glenn Porter would hold garage sales buy and sell small pieces of property all the while securing TREDDA memberships to raise money for our award payments. He did invest in some church bonds which turned out to go bust, but TREDDA survived that loss. Under Eloy's leadership, we were fortunate that TREDDA received property at Canyon Lake which was sold. His 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Miss Helen, put TREDDA in her will to receive her property and stocks; all which increased our assets. Note: There is a dues envelope in this mailing as we still need the support of our many members.

I thank Eloy Arguello, Jr. for his many, many, years of leadership. I hope I am able to move TREDDA along in years to come.

Charlotte Travis, Ph.D.  
President

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Serving as president of TREDDA has been a truly rewarding experience. I have worked with many Board members who are dedicated to helping public school educators and support staff who are in financial need. TREDDA exists because the Teacher Retirement System pension fund relies heavily on funding decisions from the legislature. Previous legislatures have opted for other priorities. Now, record high sales tax revenues and \$40 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act have created a substantial financial cushion for Texas. Today we are on the threshold of a golden opportunity for an infusion of monies to the pension fund:

- There will be a budget surplus of almost \$33 billion for the fiscal year ending on August 31, 2023.
- The Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) will increase to \$27 billion by August 31, 2023.

Source: Glenn Hegar, state comptroller

Notwithstanding the competition from the usual efforts of the moneyed lobbyists, the current push by TRTA for a once in a generation cost-of-living increase has an excellent chance of succeeding.

Finally, while I was looking at TREDDA member yearbooks published over the last thirty years, I noticed the names of some of my former teachers. They are among the many teachers who, together with my parents, guided and influenced me. I want to thank the following teachers: Francis McLarty, 1<sup>st</sup> grade; Helen Brannum, 6<sup>th</sup> grade; John Probes, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Drafting; Glenn Porter, 8<sup>th</sup> grade History; Evelyn Hansen, 10<sup>th</sup> grade History; Charles Bender, 10<sup>th</sup> grade Biology; Antoinette Moore, Latin; and Lionel Gregory, Algebra II and Geometry.

Eloy Arguello, Jr.  
Immediate Past President



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Mary Arnold Fox

We have 337 members in TREDDA.

### Deceased Members:

Patricia Biry  
Ophelia Ernst  
Mary B. Haerr  
Andrew Stepanski  
Sadie P. Wade

Naomi Brown  
Mary Alice Garza  
Rudy Hernández  
Irene Thompson

Joyce E. Chamberlain  
Jo Gibbens  
Bessie M. Hiltbold  
Patricia Tillman

### New Life Members:

\*Any member may become a life member of TREDDA. Life membership is \$500.00. Payments can be made in five equal installments of \$100.00 each year over the five consecutive years. Payments may be made in ten payments of \$50.00 each over ten consecutive years.

None

### New Members:

Tracey Alaniz  
Gerald Lamping

Michele Herbst  
Senator José Menéndez

Richard Herbst  
Sylvia R. Reyna, Ph.D.

### Extra Contributions:

Sonya Acosta  
Dr. Stella Carreón  
Carolyn Farmer  
Kay Lynn Hill  
Mary A. Lysinger  
Shawn O'Donnell  
Gloria Quiroz  
Carmen Rivas  
Ann Sefcik  
Cynthia J. Warner

Larry Adamson  
Katheryn Cox  
Adela García  
Nancy Jeffrey  
Johnnie McBee  
Janice Pohlars  
Peggy Ramsey  
Betty Rodríguez  
David Splittek  
Armella Woods

Ollie Burnett  
Beatrice Demitre  
Jody Harkrider  
Trudy Kinnison  
Georgia McCarley  
Johnnie L. Porter  
Sylvia R. Reyna Ph.D.  
Sid Sablow  
Edward Vara  
Nancy York

## TREASURER

Eloy Arguello, Jr. Incoming Treasurer

Checking Account: \$5,656.83

Savings, CD's and Money Market: Total investments

Investments in Stocks and Bonds: \$931,103.51

Fundraiser: \$2,766.00

Awards: We now have 26 awardees whose monthly income is \$1,980.00 or less.

Last year, 2022, we sent \$51,745.00 to our awardees. The next award will be sent April 1<sup>st</sup>.

TREDDA awardees receive a check on April 1<sup>st</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, they receive \$50.00 on their birthday and at Christmas.

**MEMORIALS**

Margaret Garcia

Memorial for:

George Walling  
Glenn Porter  
Alicia Wilson  
Felicia Rodriguez  
Jenitta Dworaczyk

Memorial from:

Sharon Walling  
Stella P. Carreón Ph.D.  
Barbara Holdsworth  
Betty Rodriguez  
Nancy York

Memorial for:

Mary Esther Bernal  
Milton Albrecht  
Glenn Porter  
Glenn Portero

Memorial from:

Sharon Walling  
Carolyn Farmer  
Stella P. Carreón Ph.D.  
Pat Schmitz

In Honor of: Dorothy McCain      From: Trudy Kinnison  
In Honor of: Teachers in need      From: Sid Sablow

Thanks and in Honor of Dianna Buxkemper      From: Dorothy McCain

For more information on donations or memorials, view our website at [www.tredda.org](http://www.tredda.org) or call Margaret Garcia at (210)-213-9962.

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**TREDDA'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH/FUNDRAISER 2022 RESULTS**

Our Annual TREDDA Fundraiser/Lunch took place on September 24, 2022 at Acadiana Café. Thanks to all of you who had a huge part in making this fundraiser a success. Together we raised \$2,766.00 for our awardees.

**Congratulations to the raffles winners!**

- \$500.00 VISA GIFT CARD.....Nora Winkler
- \$250.00 HEB CARD.....Bea Demitre
- \$150.00 AIR FRYER.....Juanita Felder
- \$130.00 FOOD MIXER.....Senator José Menéndez
- \$100.00 Gift Basket.....Sharon Walling

## NOTES FROM OUR GRATEFUL RECIPIENTS

"I want to thank TREDDA and its board members for the monetary gift. I truly appreciate their birthday wishes. I will indulge in something for myself."

"Just a few lines to thank the TREDDA Board for your birthday wish. I appreciate your concern for my health and well being. I am doing fine physically and mentally and so is my family. May you all be in good health."

"TREDDA BOARD Members, thank you one more time for all the help you have given me. I really appreciate it. Now I can keep up with my bills and my God bless you all for everything you are doing to help others. Thank you so much."

"Thank you for the check you sent me. It will help with expenses."

"TREDDA, thanks to each of you who care so much for others. You are a blessing to me. God Bless You!"

"This monetary award is very helpful."

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## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES

Texas Retired Educators Deferred Dividend Association, TREDDA, is an IRS section 501(c) (3) charity. We provide financial assistance to any Teacher Retirement System retirees who meet National School Lunch Program income criteria for Reduced/Free Lunch Guidelines.

We invite all public school retirees who believe that they qualify to submit an application for help. If you know someone who may qualify, ask them to call Ann Sefcik at (210) 842-5058 for an application form.

Visit our website, [TREDDA.org](http://TREDDA.org), for more information about TREDDA.

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## MEMBERSHIP/ANNUAL DUES

Why does TREDDA continue to hold fundraisers you might ask? On the 990, IRS expects us to show community support for our mission. It means so much to our awardees that TREDDA continues and the TREDDA Board thanks you, our supporters, for your continuing support of our mission.

Enclosed is your membership envelope for 2023. The annual dues of \$25.00 for TREDDA is open to everyone, current or retired educators, and to friends of education. You may also use PayPal on our website, [www.tredda.org](http://www.tredda.org), to pay for your dues or make a donation.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of TREDDA!

Questions about the newsletter? Contact Karen Hawkins email: [thgil@juno.com](mailto:thgil@juno.com)

