

**The University of Texas at Austin
Retired Faculty-Staff Association
Spring Meeting and Luncheon
Tuesday, April 24, 2018
12:00 Noon
Etter-Harbin Alumni Center, Connally Ballroom**

RFSA President Tany Norwood welcomed all to the Spring meeting and made the following announcements as members began their lunch:

- Welcome and thanks to representatives from the UT Austin ID Center, Thomas Gutierrez and Christine Longoria, who will be making retiree IDs for any UT Austin retirees needing an ID card;
- Remember, if you parked in the Manor garage, have your parking tickets validated at the name tag table before leaving;
- Tickets for the McKetta Attendance Awards are available from the staff at reception area in the lobby;
- This year's UT Remembers ceremony will be held on Friday, May 4, the last class day of the spring semester. This special day of remembrance for the retirees, staff and students who have died in the previous year will include a flag lowering ceremony on the Main Mall in the morning followed by a program in the Tower Garden in the afternoon. RFSA annually participates by assembling book marks and ribbons. Today we will be assembling bookmarks after the luncheon in the Legends Room of this building. We can provide rides back to the parking garage if needed. Volunteers are still needed next Monday, April 30 at the Littlefield Home from 10am to noon or from 1 pm to 3 pm. Please sign up with Peggy Mueller if you can help that day; and
- Thanks were given to the Orange Jackets, Texas Cowboys and Silver Spurs for their help with the luncheon today. Members were also asked to personally thank them for their services.

BUSINESS MEETING

The business portion of the meeting began at approximately 12:30 p.m. Tany expressed appreciation for the support of President Fenves' Office and their staff for hosting this RFSA luncheon. She acknowledged RFSA's long-time support from the President's Office started in 1982, when President Flawn officially created RFSA to recognize and thank UT retirees for their past and present service. She also thanked the Texas Exes for all they do to support RFSA, including the use of the building for our luncheons, board meetings, and Bridge Interest Group meetings; design and technical support for our RFSA magazine; and administrative support, especially for the outstanding assistance provided by Carol Barrett, Director of Special Services. As Carol is out of town today, standing in for Carol are Courtney Eads and Jane Marie Agnew.

She also thanked the business sponsors who greatly contribute to RFSA's financial stability and to the scholarship fund. She asked the attendees to please consider using the goods and services of our sponsors and to thank them for their support of RFSA.

Business sponsors attending were:

- Denise Bradley and Molly Sherman with St. David's Healthcare
- Adam Higley with FastPark and Relax
- Dr. Margaret Hutchison and Ron Herzfeld with Austin Hearing Service
- Cheryl Dozier and James Gallego with University Federal Credit Union
- Ernest Pena with Weed-Corley-Fish

All received a hearty round of applause from the attendees!

She then recognized Milly Lopez, from the UT Hearts of Texas Capital Campaign, and Reagan Stone, the Capital Area Campaign Manager for the State Employee Charitable Campaign. They were invited to the podium where they made brief remarks followed by awarding the Lyndon B. Johnson Award to UT for the most retiree contributions. They thanked RFSA for their support.

New members and recent retirees were recognized and asked to introduce themselves and the department from which they retired. Each new retiree receives a free membership to RFSA for their first year of membership. Eight new retirees were honored at this meeting.

President Norwood introduced Areefa Rahman, one of this year's RFSA Scholarship recipients. She is a sophomore Chemistry major.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2018-2019

Tany recognized the members of this year's nomination committee and thanked them for their service. Cecil Martinez, past president, chaired the committee which included Sharon Justice and Peggy Kruger.

Executive Committee Officers presented for vote by membership:

PRESIDENT: Ruth Rubio was elected last year and will serve as president

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Eleanor Moore

SECRETARY: Corky Hilliard will continue to serve

TREASURER: Clemith Houston will continue to serve; John McKetta is our Treasurer Emeritus

HISTORIAN: Barbara Frock will continue to serve; Martha Boyd is our Historian Emerita

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Bill Lasher and Sharon Justice will continue. Jim Vick will replace Terry Martin.

PAST PRESIDENT: Tany Norwood

The slate of Executive Committee Officers was elected by unanimous vote of the members present. Congratulations were offered to all.

Other Officers:

Activities Calendar: Barbara & George Frock

Membership: Peggy Kruger and Peggy Mueller

Magazine Editor: Linda Peterson

Photographer/IT: Miles Abernathy and Joyce McClendon

Scholarship Fund: Eleanor Moore
Sponsorship Chair: Cecil Martinez

Interest Group Chairs:

Bridge: Kathey Ferland and Mary Kay Hemenway
Discussion: Don Davis and Alice Reinarz
Exercise: Carolyn Wylie
Fine Arts: We still need a chair. Please let Ruth Rubio know if you are interested
Foodies: Sharon Justice
Health: Linda Millstone and Cecil Martinez
Investment/Finance: Phil Kelton, Pauline Lopez, and Lewis Myers
Travel: Marcia & Mike Arn and Karen & John Harrison

Tany thanked everyone on the Board for their work for RFSA. She asked anyone interested in serving on a committee or interest group to contact one of them.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER – Executive Vice President and Provost Maurie McInnis

Tany introduced today's speaker, Dr. Maurie McInnis, Executive Vice President and Provost at UT Austin. Provost McInnis is the university's chief academic officer. She leads strategic planning for the university's academic mission and ensures that the academic programs are world-class and aligned with the university's commitment to diversity and equity.

Dr. McInnis spoke at length about her two years here at UT. She said one of her biggest surprises was learning the scope and scale of research here at UT and its powerhouse research reputation. Her priorities as provost include:

- Student Success – to address their success in entering, retention and career preparation;
- Diversity – especially welcoming and inclusion for diverse populations;
- Global Engagement – to address international research and opportunities for faculty and alumni engagement;
- Faculty Compensation – to return to national competitiveness levels to support recruitment and retention;
- Planet Texas 2050 Initiative – UT-wide interdisciplinary research challenge which addresses water, energy, ecosystems, and population as Texas adapts to change.

Her remarks were followed by a lively question and answer session with questions including topics of student mental health issues, undergraduate integration into interdisciplinary studies and campus facilities. She also thanked RFSA members for their contributions to the successes and energy at the university. Tany thanked the Provost for sharing her time with RFSA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Minutes: Minutes from the Fall Luncheon are posted on the RFSA website.

Treasurer's Report and Scholarship Fund:

So far in 2017-18, we have had income of \$23,022 and expenses of \$15,340. This positive financial report is the result of several years of hard work toward the goals of increasing our

financial stability and increasing our contributions into the scholarship fund. RFSA's progress in both of those goals is due, in great part, to our generous business sponsors.

At last year's Fall Luncheon, we announced that RFSA had set aside \$10,000 to be used as matching dollars for any contributions to our scholarship fund. Due to the generosity of donors and members, \$5,000 has already been matched. Further donations to take advantage of this matching opportunity are encouraged and welcome.

Travel Interest Group:

Upcoming Trips in 2018-19 include the Alaska Cruise, June 10 -23, 2018; the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks Tour, September 3-9, 2018 (space is still available for this trip); and two river cruises, Magnificent Europe – Danube, September 19 – Oct 3, 2019, and the Danube River Cruise, Oct 3 – 10, 2019.

Watch the RFSA Website for more information or contact one of the Travel Interest Group co-chairs for additional information and upcoming trips.

McKetta Attendance Awards: Tany reminded the members of Dr. John McKetta's gracious and generous support for \$200 attendance awards which are given to 5 members or spouses at every luncheon, awarded by drawing attendance tickets. The winners today were:

- Thomas Barnes
- Janie Gavenda
- Peggy Mueller
- Peggy Rhea
- Phillip Schwartz

Presidential Transition: At this point in the meeting, Tany asked Ruth Rubio, the new RFSA president, to join her on the dais as she introduced Ruth to the members:

Ruth was born and raised in San Antonio and moved to Austin at attend St. Edward's University. She earned a Master's degree from the School of Social Work here at UT. She was part of the clinical faculty at the School of Social Work, where she taught in field education. She also helped create the first Maymester program, the "London Maymester Focused on Social and Economic Justice." Ruth and her husband Larry Sclerandi have established a scholarship for an undergraduate student in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work.

Tany then turned the podium over to Ruth.

Ruth expressed her excitement to be part of and to lead this wonderful organization. She has been a member of RFSA since 2012 when she retired. She thanked Tany for her leadership this past year.

Ruth offered the theme of "connection" for the upcoming RFSA year. Connection to UT, to one another, and to RFSA. She asked that the connection be 'active' by taking actions like:

- Attend monthly interest group get togethers
- Volunteer for one of the service projects

- Send a contribution to the RFSA magazine for publication - a poem, photo, story.
- Connect with people where you are seated
- Come back to the general membership meeting in the Fall

She then introduced member pianist Barbara Myers who played the 'Eyes of Texas' while the members sang.

Ruth adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.