

RFSA Luncheon and Business Meeting
Texas Exes Building, Connally Ballroom
Wednesday, October 23, 2024, Noon to 2:00
Meeting Minutes – Draft 1



On behalf of the Board, President Bob Lawrence welcomed the group (with over 160 confirmed guests) to the RFSA luncheon and Business Meeting and invited them to serve themselves at the buffet and wine bar. Bob spoke briefly about our new QR codes and Recommendation forms, and thanked the groups from the Office of People and Talent who had tables around the room:

- Marlo Kibler, Director of HR Service Center
- Patrice Louis, HR Service Center Representative
- Kelly Lomasney, Interim Director for Benefits and Leave Management
- Laura Mackey, Senior Benefits Specialist, specializing in retirement
- Nosse Ovienmhada, Work Life Balance and Wellness Manager
- Susan Harnden, EAP
- Sonja Simmons, Victims Advocate Network

Due to audio issues (the speakers were heard throughout the entire building, not just in our room), we had a delay of about 15 minutes before our featured speaker could start. This gave the group more time to socialize and to visit the Office of People and Talent tables.

Featured Speaker: Roger Cude, Vice President for People & Talent

Roger discussed UT Retiree Benefits and Medicare Overview. He presented the new HR Service Center Portal which rolled out on October 15. This portal is for employees, supervisors and retirees, and will allow users to get immediate feedback for submissions (via email receipts), and also allows users to check the status of their requests at any time. There is a pre-retirement checklist that is continually updated, as well as a 24/7 UT Care line. UT CARE Enrollment begins on November 1.

UT CARE Plan Development – It took 8 years to launch the plan, ensuring benefits were equal to or exceeded UT SELECT. UT CARE is richer than Medicare Advantage plans available in marketplace, and there is no out-of-pocket cost for covered services. First year UT CARE Cost savings was \$20 million. Second-year savings were \$48 million. Overall, UT plan underfunding is \$200 million. UT CARE has a contract with MD Anderson to ensure that MD Anderson will accept the plan.

You cannot have multiple Advantage plans. Only one may be chosen. You can drop out of UT Care at any time, but you will lose the advantage provided by part D coverage.

When asking if a Provider accepts UT Care, ask two questions:

- 1) Will the Provider accept Medicare?
- 2) Will they bill BCBS (Blue Cross Blue Shield)?

If the answer is “yes” to both, they WILL accept UT CARE.

Question: How is access to the portal for those who have already retired?

Response: If you have an EID/password, you can access the portal.

Question: ID cards are not issued to the UT system administration group. With no cards they are unable to enjoy the benefits.

Response: The lack of cards is likely for security purposes. Roger will research this issue and get back to the RFSA board. When we receive information, we will share with you (and these notes will be updated). EAP does not need ID cards to access – simply call them and tell them that you are a retiree.

Question: Is there a process for providers to join the network?

Response: Ask the providers to join Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Question: There are a large number of competitive Advantage Plan ads on television, offering free dental, free vision and other things. Why should we choose UT's offering?

Response: UT Care may not provide all of the same things that competitors offer, but there are other advantages. Research is required for people to make their own decisions.

Additional presentation slides can be viewed on the RFSA website. Look under Photos tab.

Guest Speaker: Sonja Simmons, Victims Advocate Network (VAN) Volunteer Coordinator

VAN is looking for volunteer advocates and would love to have an RFSA member on the team. Victim advocacy includes support for traumatic events or crimes against the victim. VAN helps with access to campus resources (UTPD asks if support is needed). Licensed social workers support the volunteer advocates. Advocates are available 24/7 on call, with advocates agreeing to work three 6-hour shifts per month. Online training is available for volunteer advocates.

Guest Speakers: Kathy & Richard Armenta, RFSA Travel Committee Chairs

The Travel Committee includes 11 members. An email survey will come out soon asking about trip preferences for 2026.

Click the links below to explore itineraries and detailed information about **Mystical Peru**, **Historic Trains of the Old West** and **Treasures of Tuscany**!

- **Mystical Peru**: April 29 - May 7, 2025, for a “bucket list” trip to “Mystical Peru”, featuring a visit to Machu Picchu and many other excursions. Hurry to take advantage of a TWO for ONE airfare promotion before December 31st.
- **Historic Trains of the Old West**: June 2 - 10, 2025, a trip through Colorado and New Mexico, featuring three historic train rides and many sights in between. We will experience 3 different historic railroads along the way.
- **Treasures of Tuscany**: October 1 - 10, 2025, ten days in the beautiful Tuscany region of northern Italy, with Florence and Siena as hubs for several excursions. Hurry to take advantage of a \$100 travel savings if you book before November 30th.

Watch Zoom Trip Preview Meetings: www.relaxedescapes.com/groups

We can link you to other interested SOLO TRAVELERS who are interested in finding a compatible roommate so you can take advantage of the lower double rates on our trips.

Business Meeting:

Speaker Series (Phil Kelton, Alice Reinarz):

Upcoming Speakers:

- **October 30, 1:30 PM: “Hospice Services for Both Patients and Caregivers”**, Howson Library Branch (2500 Exposition); **Dr. Sandra Frellsen** (Hospice Austin Medical Director) and **Dr. Kate Tindall**, Hospice Austin Palliative Care Medical Director), Howson Library Branch (2500 Exposition). Our speakers will focus on both palliative care for the patient as well as providing assistance to caregivers. Keisha Jones, Director of the Austin Christopher House, will also be in attendance. Questions will be encouraged about specific situations that attendees may have.
- **November 13, 2:00 PM: “Medical Directives”**, **Ginny Erboe**, Howson Library Branch (2500 Exposition). This will be a follow up meeting to our October speakers from Hospice Austin. Our speaker will be Ms. Ginny Erboe of Hospice Austin. She has expertise in a number of areas, including palliative care, medical interventions, and advanced care planning. Ginny will focus on medical directives and how to approach this topic with family.

Treasurer’s Report (Mary Knight, Treasurer)

End-of-August report is expected soon. The budget and actuals shown were through May 31, 2024. Link to view Treasurer's Report: <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/treasurers-report-rfsa/>.

Approved Minutes of the last Business Meeting (Spring luncheon) are on the website.

Scholarship Information:

One of our most important activities is the funding of awards for our UT Austin students. This year, thanks to your generosity, we were able to give 24 awards at \$3,000 each.

Scholarship Recipients in attendance at our luncheon:

- Soriah Montemayor
- Arnav Jain
- Jonathan Simon
- Mattea Gallaway

Speaker: Mattea Gallaway (scholarship recipient)

Mattea is a sophomore RTF major in the Moody College of Communication. She comes from North Richland Hills near Fort Worth. Mattea appreciates the world-class education provided by UT and the \$3,000 RFSA scholarship increased her security and confidence.

What is the RFSA Board working on?

- RFSA Legacy Membership (in testing stage) - \$400/\$550 (Individual/Joint) Lifetime membership
- Increasing Participation, Special Interest Groups (new group suggestions are welcome)
- Special Graduation Volunteers
- VAN Volunteer Opportunities (Victim's Advocate Network)
- Committees:
 - FAQ committee – working with Roger Cude and the Office of People and Talent
 - Legacy Membership Benefits Committee
 - Table Topic Revisit Committee
- Ongoing Meetings with the Provost Office and Office of People & Talent (Pres., Incoming Pres., Past Pres., Treasurer, 2 Members-At-Large)
- RFSA Website (goal of always being up-to-date), monthly email blasts and Facebook (Holly Thompson)
- Trying new things (QR Codes, Recommendation Forms, Tabling)
 - QR Codes – We included 2 documents for the QR codes (Treasurer's Report and Agenda) and had them on all tables. Paper copies were also offered if desired. Our goal is to save the amount of paper that gets thrown away.
 - Recommendation Form – Nominate yourself or someone else for open RFSA positions.
 - Tabling by the Office of People and Talent – the groups had tables all around the edge of the room and were there for us to visit with before and after the meeting.

New RFSA Members – introductions

- Gayle Hight – Retired in May after 35 years
- Michael Clement – Retired from McCombs School of Business in August after 27 years
- Allison Beck – Retired after 45 years
- Harriett Chaney



New RFSA Members: Gayle Hight, Michael Clement, Allison Beck, Harriett Chaney

Thanks and Recognition:

Events like these and the management of our organization, RFSA, take a lot of people to make it work. Bob recognized several groups:

- President Hartzell and his staff for hosting our luncheon today and for their support of RFSA.
- Members of the student service organizations, including the Blazers and Orange Jackets for their assistance with our event.
- The staff of the Texas Exes for their support and assistance all year round, especially the IT and Administrative staff. Special thanks as always to Carol Barrett.
- Cecil Martinez and Jim Crook are the co-chairs of our Sponsorship committee. Our sponsors are very important to the financial stability of RFSA and our Scholarship program. We are grateful to our sponsors for their continued support.

Our sponsors include:

- Rox Covert of Covert Chevrolet, Buick, GMC
 - Mary Hoyt from FastPark and Relax
 - Vince Martinez from Martinez Real Estate
 - Molly Sherman & Lisa Trahan of St. David's Healthcare
 - Lacey McDaniel from Stan's Heating and A/C
 - Derion Jackson from University Federal Credit Union
 - Laurens Fish III of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes
 - Jordan Bleeker and Tessa Cannon from Westminster Senior Living Community
 - NEW sponsor: Johanna Stahl-Mandel & Meredith Loewen from Capital City Village
- Representatives from the Office of People and Talent working at the tables.



- RFSA Volunteers: The RFSA is fortunate to have dedicated and involved members that volunteer to serve on the Board and various committees. Bob recognized the following volunteer groups for their time, effort and energy put into the organization:
 - Executive Committee
 - Full Board
 - Anyone that served on a committee
 - Past presidents in attendance.

McKetta Awards:

The late Dr. John McKetta was a strong supporter of RFSA. The McKetta Foundation continues to provide funds enabling us to give 5 attendance awards of \$100 each at our luncheons.

Congratulations to our Award Recipients:

- Brenda Barron (Social Work)
- Jonathan Simon (Student, RFSA Scholarship recipient)
- Peggy Rhea (Accounting)
- Carolyn Wylie
- Sally Van Sickle



Martha Hilley (President-Elect) came forward to accompany the assembly in singing “The Eyes of Texas” as they stood and faced the Tower. The meeting was adjourned by Bob Lawrence. Attendees were invited to visit with friends and representatives from the Office of People and Talent until 2:00.