

**RFSA Full Board Meeting  
February 18, 2025  
Minutes approved on September 16**

**Attendees:**

Bob Lawrence, Martha Hilley, Charles Roeckle, Holly Thompson, Mary Knight, Tany Norwood, Federico Subervi, Robin Jarman, Alan Friedman, John de la Garza, Sharon Justice, Peggy Mueller, Cecil Martinez, Jim Crook, Lael Hasty (TEAMS), Hillary Hart, Madeline Sutherland-Meier (TEAMS), Mary Kay Hemenway, Alice Reinarz, Kathy and Richard Armenta, Gayle Hight

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Bob Lawrence.

Introductions were made, and we welcomed our NEW board member, **Gayle Hight**.

**Minutes from September 10, 2024 board meeting**

No changes requested. Approval motion made by Alice Reinarz, seconded by Martha Hilley. Minutes were approved, and Holly has added them to the RFSA website.

**Treasurer's Report with updates (Mary Knight)**

<b>RETIRED FACULTY STAFF ASSOCIATION</b> <b>2024-25 REVISED BUDGET TO ACTUALS, as of November 30, 2024</b> <small>(Compared to 2023-24 Budget to Actuals)</small>					
RFSA OPERATING ACCOUNT (GL 12639)	2023-24 BUDGET	Actual 9/1/2023 to 8/31/2024	2024-25 BUDGET, as REVISED	YTD Actual 9/1/2024 to 11/30/2024	
<b>Revenue</b>					
Dues	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,803.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,869.00	
Donations- McKetta Charitable Fdn	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Sponsorships (FastPark, Capital City Village)	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	
University Reimbursement - Luncheons	\$ -	\$ 14,237.27	\$ -	\$ 8,058.03	
Travel Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 22,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,840.27</b>	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,127.03</b>	
<b>Expense</b>					
McKetta Awards	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	
Scholarship donation in Honor of Carol Barrett	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Scholarship donation in Memory of James W. Vick	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Scholarship Donation in Memory of Hunter C. March	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal-Scholarships	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	
RFSA Past President Lunch 5/30/2024	\$ -	\$ 324.80	\$ -	\$ -	
Fall Luncheon	\$ -	\$ 7,326.68	\$ -	\$ 8,307.33	
Holiday Party (Musicians)	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 5,283.91	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 250.00	
Spring Luncheon	\$ -	\$ 8,058.03	\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal-Luncheons & Holiday Party	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 20,993.42	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,557.33	
Misc. (mints)	\$ -	\$ 15.96	\$ -	\$ -	
Postage	\$ -	\$ 496.47	\$ -	\$ 135.57	
Parking Validations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165.10	
Envelopes & Copier paper	\$ -	\$ 357.37	\$ -	\$ -	
Signage	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Annual Membership IT Additions (RFSA Legacy Memb+AutoRenew 1 Year)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,925.00	
UT CoOp Silver Bevo Vehicle Emblem	\$ -	\$ 19.47	\$ -	\$ -	
End of Office Gift for Susan Kessler	\$ -	\$ 27.05	\$ -	\$ -	
Operating Costs (mileage, office supplies, postage)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 139.20	
Sub-total-Operating Costs (mileage, office supplies, postage)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,066.32	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,364.87	
RFSA Fall and Summer Newsletter	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,905.20	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	
Sub-total-Magazine and Directory	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,905.20	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	
AROHE Membership Payment	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Donation - UT Outpost	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	
"Texas Connect" Ad	\$ 2,025.00	\$ -	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 1,350.00	
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 23,125.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,784.94</b>	<b>\$ 20,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,772.20</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (625.00)</b>	<b>\$ 3,055.33</b>	<b>\$ (1,525.00)</b>	<b>\$ (1,645.17)</b>	
<b>Operating Account (GL 12639)</b>					
Ending 8/31/24 Balance				\$ 26,109.78	
2024-25 Revenue				\$ 11,127.03	
2024-25 Expense				\$ (12,772.20)	
<b>Ending Balance as of 11/30/2024</b>				<b>\$ 24,464.61</b>	
<b>RFSA Match for Scholarship Donations (GL 12631)</b>					
Ending 8/31/24 Balance				\$ 19,293.00	
Transfer In				\$ -	
Paid to UT for Scholarship Match				\$ -	
<b>Ending Balance as of 11/30/2024</b>				<b>\$ 19,293.00</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 43,757.61</b>	

REVISIONS:

Travel Budget:  
\$8000 to \$4500

Newsletter  
Budget:  
\$8000 to \$7000.

## **RFSA Magazine (Donna Bellinghausen and Sharon Justice)**

The Fall/Winter 2024 Magazine has been delivered and posted on website! We are now working on the Spring/Summer 2025 issue. Due to the editor's travel schedule, **our final deadline for receipt of content will be May 15** for this issue. This change will result in an estimated magazine delivery date of late July and will enable us to include the April RFSA Peru trip article.



## **Membership (Martha Hilley, Bob Lawrence)**

4 Legacy members signed up so far.

## **Special Interest Groups**

### **Art & Culture (Hillary Hart & Madeline Sutherland-Meier)**

The Art and Culture Group has been very fortunate to have Laraine Lasdon resume conducting docent-led tours at the Ransom Center and the Blanton Museum of Art. On November 19, 2024, she led a tour of the exhibit "Visualizing the Environment: Ansel Adams and his Legacy." On January 14, 2025, members of the group joined her for a tour at the Blanton built around the theme "How artists engage us with storytelling with materials and symbols."

The first month of the new year was a busy one. On January 4, 2025, RFSA members attended a performance of the musical "Come From Away." The evening included a pre-performance dinner with speakers and a fundraiser for "Pay it Forward 9/11." On January 16, members attended a lecture at the HRC by Rebecca Senf, Senior Curator at the Center for Creative Photography, entitled "Ansel Adams' Photographic Legacy." On January 31, members enjoyed "Honor: An Artist Lecture" at the McCullough theatre on campus. Looking forward, several members plan to attend the last performance of "Jersey Boys" at Zach Theater on March 2.

The Spring listing of arts events will be posted soon.

View photos of past events on the RFSA website at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/arts-and-culture/>.

### **Bridge (Mary Kay Hemenway)**

The Bridge group met monthly from September 2024 through February 2025. Attendance numbers: September (8), October (11), November (10), December (12), January (15) and February (16). We plan to continue to play on the first Monday of each month, moving to the second Monday when there is a holiday.

We play party bridge, not duplicate, and players do not need to provide their own partner. Invitations are sent to those on the contact list a week in advance of each game. Photos from the games can be viewed on the RFSA website at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/bridge-group/>.

We appreciate the work of Carol Barrett in reserving the room and setting up the space for the monthly meeting of the group.

### **Exercise (Carolyn Wylie)**

A weekly class, designed for RFSA members, meets in Gregory Gym on Monday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. To participate, you must be a member of RecSports. RecSports membership is \$14/month, and there is an additional fee of \$10 per month to cover the cost for the class instructor.

Experienced exercise instructor Sandy Erickson leads us in a variety of exercises designed for all ages and fitness levels. She can adapt the exercises for anyone with special needs.

## Foodies (Bob Lawrence)

The Foodies group remains strong and keeps growing. We just had two more people join the contact list.

January's lunch at The Grove Wine Bar & Kitchen was the most well-attended lunch to date, with 43 RSVP's, and 33 showed up. Fortunately, the restaurant was able to accommodate the group. We may have to arrange an RSVP list with a wait list in the future, depending upon the restaurant. That will not need to happen this month, New Fortune 2 can accommodate a large group.

Starting this year, we will do a Foodies Review (survey rating of 1-5 on a few areas to be sent out). These will be printed in the magazine as an RFSA Foodie Review.

Photos from the Foodies lunches can be viewed on the RFSA website at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/foodies-great-meals-great-company/>.

## Scholarship (Lael Hasty)

\$1,875 in donations has been received since our October 23, 2024 lunch meeting. These donations are from 11 people of which three donors are our Board members.

Lael requested January 28, 2025 through Carol Barrett, Bob Lawrence and Mary Knight that the \$5,000 match to the endowment be done and to let me know when it is complete. Mary approved this and Carol delivered a check on January 31, so this is now complete.

24 scholarships in amount of \$3,000 each have been awarded to students for the 2024-2025 school year. Total amount given is \$72,000.

Mattea Gallaway one of our recipients made brief remarks about how much the scholarship meant to her at our Fall luncheon. Four students were in attendance.

Last Fall we received names and contact information from the Office of Student Financial Aid for 23 of our 24 recipients. Out of those 7 students provided information and their head shots. We did list all names in the RFSA magazine even if they provided no information. Students will be invited to our Spring April 15 luncheon.

## Speaker Series (Alice Reinarz)

Financial and medical topics have been very popular with RFSA members.

**Upcoming speaker:** February 26 (1:00 – 2:00 PM): **Dr. Mike Mackert, “Designing Effective Health Messages to Promote Behavior Change”**, Howson Branch Library (2500 Exposition).

Dr. Mackert is the Director of Center for Health Communication at UT College of Communication, as well as Professor in Population Health at Dell Medical.

*Note: This presentation will be given from 1:00 to 2:00 PM (different from our usual presentations).*

Photos and information about past speakers can be found on the RFSA website at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/speaker-series/>.

## Special Programs (Peggy Mueller)

**Orange Santa December 2024:** Orange Santa is a holiday giving program, begun in 1994, that provides gift assistance to children of UT staff, students and faculty who are experiencing needs this holiday season. Families who apply and are approved will receive a payment through payroll with assistance for all approved children. RFSA donations were made online and members also contributed \$740.00 during the Holiday Reception on December 11, 2024. President Hartsell matched all

contributions. In December 2024, Orange Santa served approximately 649 families including more than 1395 children with total campus donations of \$41,325 from more than 263 donors.

**40 Hours for the 40 Acres** - May 7-8, 2025 is when our members donate online to the RFSA Scholarship Fund. Contributions are matched by the RFSA operating fund. Other donations are made by individuals to campus departments and organizations. The online donation dates are May 7 and May 8, 2025 at <https://40for40.utexas.edu/>.

**UT Remembers:** April 25, 2025. This program recognizes and celebrates the contributions of students, faculty, staff and retirees who died in the previous year. UT is combining the flag-lowering and name-reading (with Tower bells tolling after each name is read) into one ceremony on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 11:00 AM. RFSA will not participate in making mementos as we have in the past. <https://utremembers.utexas.edu/>

RFSA supports **UT Outpost**, a free food pantry (and clothes closet) for UT students. "According to the fall 2023 National College Health Assessment, 43.7% of UT students have experienced some form of food insecurity; and 19.7% of those students experienced very low food security." Bring non-perishable food donations and drop off in the lobby prior to our spring luncheon meeting on April 15, 2025. UT Outpost will gather the items for distribution. Individual donations of gently used professional clothing can be arranged by appointment. <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sos/utoutpost.php>.

Correction to RFSA Magazine: Service Projects (We made 400 loops, not 40 as stated)

Name tags now have RFSA rather than Texas Exes (thanks to Carol Barrett).

### **Sponsorship (Cecil Martinez, Jim Crook and Gayle Hight)**

Jim is resigning from his co-chair position (thank you for all of your contributions, Jim), and it will be filled by Gayle Hight, who joined us at today's meeting.

One sponsorship request from a realtor was submitted to Holly and sent to Cecil.

We currently have ten sponsors – most have been with us for 12 years (since we started). We need to support our sponsors whenever possible.

Peggy Mueller suggested having sponsors present to the RFSA group at a luncheon or meeting (if they are interested in doing so). This helps sponsors and exposes services to members. Cecil will check with sponsors to see who would be interested in speaking (and will get back to Bob).

Our newest sponsor (brought in by Gayle Hight) is [Capital City Village](#) (non-profit organization). This is a connection of Village Network for Senior Citizens, with a focus on social fitness and connectedness and aging in place – living in our own homes and communities comfortably while maintaining healthy and active lifestyles.

Ribbons for sponsors might be useful so that members can recognize them.

Sponsor ads in the magazine: Half-page \$600, Full page \$1000 per year

### **Travel (Kathy & Richard Armenta)**

As of our last RFSA Board Meeting on September 10, 2024, our group has been working on several marketing efforts for the three upcoming 2025 travel adventures: Peru (April 29- May 9), Historic Trains (June 2-10), and Tuscany (October 1-10).

Our efforts have included:

- Presentation at the Fall Luncheon along with an information table and individual trip fliers for each attendee
- Trip photos provided and curated for RFSA Magazine accompanying articles
- Three Members provided 800 word articles for the last two editions of Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer RFSA Magazines along with updates from the Travel Interest Group for each edition
- Detailed announcements in each monthly email blast
- Announcements and brochures provided at each Foodie event and the genealogy Speaker event
- Information table at the Holiday party.
- Each of the three trips has had a zoom information meeting and those tapes are on the Relaxed Escapes website
- Reminder emails to over 150 previous travelers have been sent announcing important dates around zooms and registration deadlines

As of this date, we have 16 registrations for Peru, 9 for Historic Trains, and 11 for Tuscany. The Peru and Tuscany trips are exclusive tours just for RFSA at this time.

Additionally since our last Board meeting, and with support from Texas Exes staff, we designed and sent out a Travel Survey to the RFSA membership. At our most recent in person committee meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>, we reviewed the survey results and began our planning for 2026 trip offerings. We are providing a summary of that survey to be discussed following this report.

Our group is currently composed of 11 members (Robin Jarman, Billie Pierce, Karen Harrison, Robin Fradenburgh, Sybil and Keith Momii, Barbara White, Kathy and Richard Armenta, Federico Subervi and Lori Threatt). We've had five meetings in the past 9 months with 8-11 members in attendance at each one. Three meetings have been in person and two by zoom. Our meetings are usually 90 minutes in length.

Our committee continues to discuss and consider the many realities and challenges associated with Senior travel. For example, we often have couples and individuals registering for a trip and unexpectedly needing to cancel due to a variety of life circumstances.

In addition to our recent survey results, we have carefully reviewed all previous RFSA travel destinations and the numbers of confirmed travelers, in order to continue providing trips that seem of interest and feasible in cost. Our survey was a validation of our efforts thus far.

Recommendations from the Co-Chairs:

- The Travel Interest Group is functioning much more as a “working committee”, with ongoing needs for research, planning, assessment and reporting in order to offer successful travel opportunities for the membership – while additionally providing a consistent source of fund raising revenue for RFSA.
- Hence, this group is much more than a group who is “interested” in travel. The group requires members to be actively involved in all of the aspects listed above. So it is our recommendation that the RFSA Board consider discussing renaming the group the “Travel Planning Committee”, with a suggested two year term for chairmanship.
- Richard and Kathy will have suggestions for our next meeting. May be more of a working committee rather than an Interest Group.
- Federico – National Park situation may be bad in the future.
- Robin – Lori is good at forwarding requests for roommates.
- Lori's tenure with us is through 2026. We may need other travel agents in the future.

**Full Travel Survey Results** have been saved on the RFSA website, and this may be a good addition for the magazine as well: <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/files/2025/02/RFSA-Summary-of-Survey-Responses.pdf>

## Legacy Membership updates

Membership is up and running! Join from the RFSA website at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/membership/> (or with the RFSA brochure – fill out and mail in) or just send Carol Barrett your credit card number!

Possible ribbon for Legacy members to wear at gatherings: The group agreed to move forward with ribbons.

Error in RFSA Brochure – displays both LIFE and LEGACY – LIFE needs to be removed. (Update: RFSA brochure FIXED and sent to board members)



## Committees

### **Retirement FAQ (Robin)**

Working with Provost office and HR, the committee produced recommendations that have been implemented on the RFSA Website under “Resources” heading. Changes were also made on the “About RFSA” page.

John brought up UT “systems” lack of access to resources enjoyed by other UT retirees. Roger Cude (who is leaving) says that it is extremely complicated and that he is looking at it.

Peggy Mueller - Chuck Harris (ex-students) is retiring soon. We will have a new president and a new Executive Director of Alumni Association!

Post-meeting update from Robin: Roger Cude, VP of Talent and Management, leaves his post officially at the end of March. However, HR already has been moved to VP for Business Strategies portfolio and Tony Hunt is acting as Interim Associate VP of Human Resources. Tony was the director for HR in Moody College of Communications.

### **Table Topic Follow-up (Tany Norwood)**

Completed. Report is on the website (and was on blue paper for the board meeting). We have accomplished a tremendous amount over the past 3 years.

Martha Hilley asked whether there is a fee to be on Texas Exes website. We could add a link to our RFSA website. John de la Garza asked how many RFSA members are Texas Exes members. We are here because they support us, so perhaps RFSA members would be interested in joining. Carol will check on all of this.

Martha Hilley suggested that it would be beneficial to hear more about password manager, and that perhaps somebody could speak about this in the future.

### **Nominations Committee (Charles Roeckle)**

Committee meeting was held after the Board meeting. We are looking for a President-Elect, Member at Large (now filled by Alan Friedman agreeing to remain in this position) and Membership Co-chairs.

## Spring Luncheon Update

The speaker for our Spring luncheon on April 15 will be Terry Sullivan.

Sponsors will be mentioned earlier at the luncheon (while the sponsors are still there). Sharon Justice sat with several sponsors at the luncheon and said that they were frustrated because they had to go back to work. Cecil will continue to clarify to sponsors that the event starts at 12, but they are welcome to come early to meet members and other sponsors.

## **Other Business**

### **Membership Vacancy (Bob Lawrence)**

Liz Hastings has resigned, so we are looking for a replacement. Martha Hilley will be president so it's not realistic for her to remain in this position (unless she wants to). Staff and Faculty members desired as co-chairs. One suggestion is Michael Clement.

### **Texas Exes graduations (John de la Garza):**

It is questionable whether the minority graduation celebrations will remain in place. The Black Alumni Network, Pride Network, and Hispanic Network affiliations have some funding for this year (but not Asian – they are being encouraged to become a network). Update from Carol Barrett: Texas Exes will not be hosting the Cultural Graduations. Instead, the Black and Hispanic Alumni Networks are planning to hold their events off-campus. Pride's Lavender Graduation will take place at the Alumni Center, but will not be hosted by the Alumni Center itself.

### **Memorial donations (Sharon Justice).**

Define a process by which we make memorial donations from RFSA (current board members only, all who have ever been a board member, or all RFSA members). Non-board members have been approved recently, which was out of the normal routine.

Sharon recommended a \$100 donation from the RFSA Operating fund to move to the Scholarship fund upon the death of any current board member (Individual donations are always encouraged), as well as adding asterisks in the magazine for former board members (in the memorial pages).

Robin Jarman suggested an annual donation (of some amount agreed to by Mary Knight) that includes all who passed that year – a number that would not increase or decrease based on number of deaths. This could include deaths of any RFSA member (not just board members).

Bob asked for this to be an agenda item at the next board meeting.

### **Future plans as upcoming President (Martha Hilley)**

Martha would like to start an outreach to members, calling or texting them to get to know them and welcome them into the group. Complimentary NEW members should be contacted by somebody on the board. This could possibly be part of the Membership committee responsibility.

Gayle Hight wondered why complimentary members might not join after their free year – is there more that we can do?

Carol can send lists of new members out monthly.

### **Website, Facebook and email blast updates (Holly Thompson)**

The RFSA website has been kept updated as new information has come in (and expired items are removed). Great suggestions by Robin Jarman have been implemented (adding Travel Group trips to the calendar, updates on "Resources" page).

**RFSA Facebook group:** Lots of spammers attempt to join so that they can try to sell things. Approvals have been made simpler by having Carol send Holly the latest list of members (hopefully on a monthly basis).

**Monthly Email Blast:** Holly is including photos for interest (Interest Groups, etc.). Process: Holly requests any new info on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, submits form to UT (including changed and deleted items highlighted) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, publication target is the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Holly wanted to discuss how this was working for the group, but the meeting was running long, so she was axed... but please give feedback to Holly if you have any questions or suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at noon by President Bob Lawrence.