

RFSA Full Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
 Approved – 2/17/2026

Attendees: Martha Hilley, Holly Thompson, Carol Barrett, Bob Lawrence, Robin Jarman, Mary Knight, Federico Subervi, John de la Garza, Sharon Justice, Lael Hasty, Gayle Hight, Kathy and Richard Armenta, Hillary Hart, Madeline Sutherland-Meier, Phil Kelton, Alice Reinartz, Mary Kay Hemenway, Tany Norwood (TEAMS), Alan Friedman (TEAMS). Not in attendance: Miles Abernathy, Donna Bellinghausen, George and Barbara Frock, Carolyn Wylie, Annela Lopez.

The meeting was called to order by President Martha Hilley at 10:00.

Board Minutes Discussion and Approval:

Meeting minutes were sent out and were reviewed during the meeting. Included were February 18, 2025 Full Board Meeting Minutes and the April 15 Luncheon and Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve was made by Kathleen Armenta and seconded by: Lael Hasty. Approved.

Holly has updated both drafts to “approved” and has placed links on RFSA website, under About RFSA → Meeting Minutes Archives.

Reports

Treasurer’s Report (Mary)

RETIRED FACULTY STAFF ASSOCIATION
2025-26 APPROVED BUDGET, as of 8/19/25

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 5/31/2025	2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET
Revenue					
Dues	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,803.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 13,075.00	\$ 9,500.00
Donations- McKetta Charitable Fdn	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Sponsorships (FastPark, Capital City Village, St. Davids, Weed-Corley Fish, Westminster, Martinez and Guilloteau Realtors)	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 7,000.00
University Reimbursement - Luncheons	\$ -	\$ 14,237.27	\$ -	\$ 8,058.03	\$ -
Pay it Forward Reimb - Kevin Tueff - CBR Invoice	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,090.18	\$ -
Travel Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Total Revenue	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 35,840.27	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 30,823.21	\$ 21,000.00
Expense					
McKetta Awards	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Scholarship donations in Honor or in Memory	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal-Scholarships	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
RFSA Past President Lunch 5/30/2024	\$ -	\$ 324.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pay it Forward	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,090.18	\$ -
Fall Luncheon	\$ -	\$ 7,326.68	\$ -	\$ 8,557.33	\$ -
Holiday Party and Musicians	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 5,283.91	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,620.36	\$ 6,000.00
RFSA Board Meeting Set-up	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 139.20	\$ -
Spring Luncheon	\$ -	\$ 8,058.03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal-Luncheons & Holiday Party	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 20,993.42	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 17,607.07	\$ 6,000.00
Operating Costs (Postage, mileage, Office supplies, and Printing)	\$ -	\$ 1,019.80	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,147.33	\$ 1,500.00
Parking Validations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 187.85	\$ -
Annual Membership IT Additions (RFSA Legacy Memb+AutoRenew 1 Year)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,687.50	\$ -
UT CoOp Silver Bevo Vehicle Emblem	\$ -	\$ 19.47	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
End of Office Gift for President	\$ -	\$ 27.05	\$ -	\$ 79.34	\$ -
Sub-total-Operating Costs (mileage, office supplies, postage)	\$ -	\$ 1,066.32	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7,102.02	\$ 1,500.00
RFSA Fall and Summer Newsletter	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,905.20	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,114.50	\$ 6,500.00
Sub-total-Magazine and Directory	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,905.20	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,114.50	\$ 6,500.00
AROE Membership Payment	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donation - UT Outpost	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Texas Connect Ad	\$ 2,025.00	\$ -	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Total Expense	\$ 21,125.00	\$ 32,784.94	\$ 20,525.00	\$ 30,173.59	\$ 18,850.00

Federico Subervi motioned for approval, Robin Jarman seconded, budget was approved.

Magazine Report (Donna & Sharon)

In 2023, Texas Exes asked us to be consistent with our page count. The Spring/Summer issue was 32 pages. The Fall/Winter issue page total is 36.

Sponsor ads are either half-page or full-page; so the total page count for ads is based on how many sponsors we have and whether the ads are half-page or full-page (for example, in the last issue we had 10 ads which required 7.5 pages to print).

We discussed the following requests from members (regarding the latest magazine):

- Print color could be made darker.
- Font size could be increased.

December 1 is the deadline for submission of articles for the Fall/Winter issue.

Membership Report

Membership meeting is needed to discuss issues and ideas! Martha will talk with Annela.

Membership Committee Members: Annela Lopez (Chair), Alice Reinarz, Liliana Merubia, Karen Kelton, Hillary Hart, David Rhea

Annela's email address may have gotten truncated (she may not have received the meeting notice). The correct email address is AnnalaLopezFalGal@gmail.com.

Issue: Membership has declined. 607 members in August, 476 now (complimentary members dropped). Issue: We don't have email addresses or home mailing addresses for members unless they "opt in" for it. We may need other methods to communicate with these members. Are we losing PAID members, or just complimentary ones?

Possible Solutions: More people are now on the Membership committee. We can divide and conquer the "possible new members" list to email or call, to try to convince potential members to stay in (or to join) RFSA. Talk up our special interest groups, luncheons. Focus on complimentary members (we lose too many of them).

Arts & Culture (Hillary & Madeline)

The Arts & Culture Interest Group had a busy spring semester. In January, members attended the play *Honor: An Artist Lecture* at McCullough Theatre. The performance was followed by a discussion with the author, Suzanne Bocanegra, and the actor Lili Taylor, who plays the part of the lecturer. Also in January, Laraine Lasdon led members on two tours: one of works at the Blanton Museum entitled "How Artists Engage Us with Storytelling, with Materials and Symbols," and a second through an exhibit on Ansel Adams at the Harry Ransom Center in February, and some members saw *Jersey Boys* at Zach Theatre.

There were two events in quick succession in April. On April 22, we had a docent-led tour of current highlights of the Blanton collection, including pieces in the gallery dedicated to Latino Art and the exhibit "*In Creative Harmony: Three Artistic Partnerships*," one of which is Arshile Gorky and Isamu Noguchi ("Outside In"). Then on April 24, Laraine led a tour through two exhibits at the Harry Ransom Center, "*Words and Wonder: Rediscovering Children's Literature*" and "*Freedom to Write, Freedom to Read: The Story of PEN*." The RFSA group for this tour was sizeable, there were 12 or 13 in attendance.

In May, we organized two outdoor gatherings. On May 22, we met in the clearing at St. Mark's Episcopal Church to hear and discuss readings from Paméla Overeynder's book *Sacred Kinship. Hearing the Call of the Earth*. The discussion was followed by a brief walk on the meditation trail. And Hillary Hart and Kathy

and Richard Armenta had a musical and fun time at the Wildflower Center watching the dancing and enjoying the music, Athena the owl, good food, and flowers.

What is happening this fall? A major exhibition of Hispanic Baroque art opened recently at the Blanton Museum. Made up of works from the Hispanic Society's collection, it is here until March 2026. Arrangements are being made for an RFSA tour with Laraine on October 21. Starting September 20, "Live from New York: The Lorne Michaels Collection" will be on view at the Ransom Center. On Sept. 25 (6-8pm), Susan Morrison will give a talk based on her 2025 book, "Lorne, The Man Who Invented Saturday Night Live" (2025). An RFSA tour of this exhibition will be arranged for later in the fall.

Bridge (Mary Kay Hemenway)

The RFSA bridge group meets monthly at the Alumni Center to play "party" bridge (not duplicate). We meet on the first Monday of each month from 1-4 pm, unless Monday is a holiday. Since we play in tables of four (usually two or three tables, but we can have up to four tables). Carol Barrett kindly sets up the room and provides coffee and soft drinks.

Past 2025 Bridge Dates (month/attendees): Jan/15, Feb/16, Mar/12, April/12, May/8, June/14, July/16, Aug/16, Sept/12.

Exercise (Carolyn Wylie)

The exercise group has lost one member, leaving only four. We will continue to support the group for as long as Carolyn chooses to continue being chair. Parking is an issue (they may be able to park at the ex-students building – Carolyn can discuss with Carol Barrett if interested).

Foodies (Bob)

The Foodies group continues to be strong and we had almost 30 people join our September lunch at County Line. A dinner option will be added soon (Issues: traffic, limited number with waiting list). We continue to gather ratings of our meals (food, atmosphere, service ratings) and will share this information in the RFSA magazine.

Scholarship (Lael)

- \$2,175 in donations has been received since our April 15 lunch meeting. These donations are from 14 people of which seven donors (half) are our Board members.
- 25 scholarships in amount of \$3,000 each have been awarded to students for the 2025-2026 school year. Total amount given is \$75,000. To date we have received approvals from 16 of the 25 students who agreed to release their information. Of those 16 students, Lael has received information and photos from 10 of them. We are still missing names of 9 students..
- David Livingston, Vice President for Development, provided Carol with a beautiful bound book of last year's recipients. The book includes much of the same questions/information that we asked of the recipients. We were unable to get information from some of them because they would not sign the form agreeing to let us have the information, yet the University's Development Office has this information.
- Mykal Montgomery, one of our recipients, will make brief remarks about how much the scholarship meant to her at our Fall luncheon October 15, 2025.
- We discussed ways to focus more on our scholarship attendees at the luncheons. One example was to make name tents for the scholarship attendees and spread them among different tables at the luncheons.
- Lael sent scholarship recipient info and photos to Holly (who edited them to remove phone numbers and to make each recipient fit on one page). It is linked from the [RFSA website front page](#) as well as on

the [About RFSA → Scholarships](#) link. The Scholarship Recipients document (that these links refer you to) can be viewed directly at: <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/files/2025/09/2526ScholarshipRecipients.pdf>.

Speaker Series (Alice & Phil)

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24, at 1:30 PM at the Howson Branch Library, 2500 Exposition. Our speaker will be Dr. J. Craig Wheeler, who will talk about his recently published book "The Path to Singularity." Dr. Wheeler is the UT Austin Samuel T. and Fern Yanagisawa Regents Professor of Astronomy Emeritus and a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. He is also a past president of the American Astronomical Society.

The subtitle is "How Technology Will Challenge the Future of Humanity". It is not about astronomy but rather about how current technology changes are shaping the future and the questions that arise from exponential developments in new technologies. It came about because of an undergraduate course which he taught at UT which examined questions related to issues like generic engineering, AI, biotechnology, robotics, and various others. This promises to be a most interesting meeting.

He offered to give a free copy of his 1986 sci fi techno-thriller "The Krone Experiment" to anyone who brings a copy of "The Path to Singularity" to the meeting.

October 29, Howson Library – speaker to be announced soon.

November 12, Liz Nielsen (Nielsen Law Firm) will speak on Estate Planning. More details will come as the date gets closer.

Special Projects

Peggy has stepped down from Special Projects. Do we want to continue with this position, or should it be retired based on the university's new rules? From Tany Norwood's report: *Recent changes in the UT organizational structure have ended some of our traditional volunteer efforts. We used to make ribbons and bookmarks for UT Remembers, and collect toys and gifts for Orange Santa, but those are no longer options. We will continue to look for other ways for our members to provide service to UT.*

UT Volunteer groups – Robin Jarman mentioned that she had received information from these groups. "Volunteerism" may be a new role (or it could just be the responsibility of all board members to suggest volunteer opportunities as they are found). We could ask one of the volunteer groups to provide a speaker.

Relationship with the community – Stacy Haley will try to get some meeting times scheduled with Martha Hilley, Bob Lawrence, Mary Knight and Carol Barrett to meet with Tony Hunt (HR) and Tasha Beretvas (Provost Office).

Sponsorship (Cecil & Gayle)

- Cecil will retire in December. Gayle Hight will be the sponsorship chair.
- We currently have 9 sponsors. We lost Stan's (company was bought out), so we will look for a replacement sponsor.
- December is the deadline for new ads.
- Gayle provided information on Capital City Village's "Keep Aging Weird" fundraiser on Nov. 5. There are some great raffle prizes, including a ride in the '57 Chevy Convertible across the Banjo/Loop 360 Bridge. Bob Lawrence is attending. Dr. Robert Prentice of the McCombs School is a great speaker. Capital City is a sponsor of RFSA. We help Austin seniors stay connected and active. Open to all as a member or volunteer.

- Nancy Guilloteau (member and sponsor) is interested in giving gifts (with advertising) at the fall luncheon, possibly taping gift coupons randomly under chairs. The coupon recipients would then just need to contact Nancy for a free holiday pie at locally owned Chez Zee. Pie coupons were unanimously approved by the board, and Holly notified Nancy, who will have her brokerage's design team to update my pie coupon to make it specific to RFSA members.

Travel (Kathy & Richard)

As of our last RFSA Board meeting (2/18/2025), our group has been managing the 2025 trips: Peru/Machu Picchu, Historic Trains, and Tuscany. The Peru trip had 19 travelers, Historic Trains had 9 travelers and the upcoming Tuscany tour on October 1st has 11 travelers for a total of 39 folks traveling with RFSA for 2025. Those totals should provide \$3900.00 to the RFSA budget.

Our group is currently composed of 10 members (Robin Jarman, Robin Fradenburgh, Billie Pierce, Karen Harrison, Sybil and Keith Momii, Kathy and Richard Armenta, Lori Threatt, and Federico Subervi).

2025 Trips Actions:

- Presentation at the Spring Luncheon, 4/15, along with the Information table and fliers for each attendee.
- Trip photos provided and curated for RFSA Magazine and website.
- 800-word article on Peru trip for the Summer RFSA magazine issue; articles on Historic Trains and Tuscany trips will be submitted for the Winter issue.
- Detailed announcements for each monthly email blast.
- Announcements at Foodie events.

2026 Trip Actions:

- Committee met for Three (3), planning meetings this year on: 2/5, 3/14, 5/12, to review potential 2026 destinations and tours that were strongly suggested by RFSA members on our Travel Survey last winter. We finalized the 2026 lineup as:
 - Danube River Cruise with Prague, March 29-April 7, 2026
 - Alaska Cruise and Land Tour, August 1-August 12, 2026
 - Adirondacks & Finger Lakes, Sept. 20-27, 2026
- Members attended zoom Trip Information meetings for each 2026 trip.
- Reminder emails to 150 previous travelers around zoom dates etc.
- Currently, we have 22 registered for the Danube trip, 6 registered Alaska, and 11 registered for Adirondacks tour.
- Several Committee members also met on July 19 th for a potluck social and a reflection on the trips over the past few years.

Marketing continues to be our focus going forward --- trying to advertise and spread the word about 2026 trips. Our tour offers are often also being booked by other Travel Advisors around the country, so it is imperative to encourage folks to register asap to reserve a spot at the group rates advertised.

And lastly, we are in conversation with some people about considering taking on the Travel Committee Co-Chair positions --- as the Armenta term concludes in March 2026, if we are successful in recruitment. Lori Threatt is committed as Travel Advisor through 2026 and is considering an extension of that commitment.

As Co-Chairs, we made a recommendation to the Board at the February meeting, and we would like to respectfully submit it again for consideration:

The Travel Interest Group is functioning much more as a “working committee,” with ongoing needs for research, planning, assessment, marketing and reporting 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 the aspects listed above. It is our recommendation that the RFSA Board consider discussing renaming the group the “Travel Planning Committee,” with a suggested two-year term for chair. Term ends in March/April.

Legacy Membership Updates

- Kathy and Richard Armenta
- Carmen and Norman Arn
- Tricia Berry
- Sally Van Sickle and Neil Crump
- Elizabeth Cullingford and Alan Friedman
- Lael and Obie Hasty
- Dr. Robert Hebner
- Martha Hilley
- Sylvia Huntsman
- Robin Jarman
- Mary Knight
- Robert “Bob” Lawrence
- Annela Lopez
- Sherry Melecki
- **Teeyia Mercer** (new member)
- Tany Norwood and Campbell McGinnis
- Alice Reinarz
- Charles Roeckle and Hermelinda Zamarripa
- William (Bill) Throop

Committee Information

Retirement FAQ (Robin)

Provost office doing a new fair (Faculty Retirement Information Fair) – for those with questions and interest. Martha has an invitation – hopefully, we can get some faculty members interested in RFSA for the future. October 25 – Robin will send the invitation.

Robert Jones

The new CEO for Texas Exes dropped by to visit.

- He retired from Pfizer (Sr. VP) and was on the Texas Exes board.
- Robert has 2 doodles and a wife (also a UT graduate).
- Robert will do anything for Carol Barrett (his words)!
- We spent some time chatting with Robert about his experiences, family, and about what RFSA can do to help his organization.
- Martha invited Robert to our October luncheon.



Operational Changes Resulting from “Table Topics” Suggestions (10/18/22) (Tany)

(insufficient meeting time to discuss – including report sent by Tany Norwood)

Membership

- A lifetime membership option ("Legacy membership") was introduced in December 2024. This involved significant time and expense for programming changes. However, those costs have already been covered by members who have signed up for the new Legacy membership option.
- The membership renewal process was modified during the programming to make renewals easier and less confusing. RFSA will need to assess the effectiveness of the new process – and make modifications, if necessary – after we have been using the process for one year, in Spring, 2026.

Communication/Technology

- To meet the additional time required to update and maintain electronic communications, the position of Webmaster was created and separated from the “Photographer/IT” position.
- The Webmaster has provided brief instructional talks to members during the Spring and Fall Luncheons to help members better understand how to use technology such as Facebook, websites, and QR codes.
- The RFSA website and Facebook page have been totally revamped to include historical data and photos dating back to 2012, as well as current updates.
- A monthly email blast to all RFSA members includes news, photos, calendar items and information about our sponsors. There are links to our website and to the sponsors’ websites.
- All electronic communications now include a link to the RFSA website and Facebook pages.

Scholarships

- Scholarship amounts increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000, with the number of recipients only dropping from 25 to 24. We anticipate that the number of scholarships will continue to grow at this higher amount and will continually work with the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid to make future adjustments.

Connecting with UT

- We have partnered with OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and joined AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education). Details, including Volunteerism and Service Learning, are available on the RFSA website under “Groups,” along with the Special Interest Groups.

Service / Volunteerism

- RFSA partners with UT Outpost, the food pantry and career closet, and collects food items for the pantry at one of our Luncheons every year.
- Members are encouraged to donate career clothing to UT Outpost and to donate funds to Orange Santa

Note: Recent changes in the UT organizational structure have ended some of our traditional volunteer efforts. We used to make ribbons and bookmarks for UT Remembers, and collect toys and gifts for Orange Santa, but those are no longer options. We will continue to look for other ways for our members to provide service to UT.

Other Business:

Officer Terms: Consider 2-year presidential term? Possible future discussion.

Membership categories: Bob Lawrence asked if non-UT folks are allowed to join RFSA (regarding a faculty member from the University of Wisconsin)? Yes – this is covered in one of the Constitution and Bylaws categories:

Membership in the Retired Faculty-Staff Association is open to:

- Retired employees of The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas System including their spouses and significant others;
- Retired faculty and staff and their spouses or significant others who were employed at another University of Texas component institution or other academic institutions;
- Retired persons or former employees who have been/are supporters of the Retired Faculty-Staff Association; and
- Spouses or significant others who are members of RFSA, but whose circumstances change (due to death, illness or divorce) are eligible to continue their own membership and may apply for membership in RFSA for a new spouse or significant other.

Meeting issues: Speaker was not sufficient for hearing TEAMS members in the conference room.

Communications (Holly): The October email blast has been submitted to UT for publication on Oct 5.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20. We were unable to cover all of the agenda items.