



Have a Safe July 4th !!



vigor

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Retirees

A Message from the President

June/July 2011

Our Club motto is “**We Socialize Together**”. Encourage those still working at TI to join *your* Club now or after retirement. If you bring in a TI'er or ex-TI'er who qualifies for membership in the Club and they join, you receive a free meal voucher and eligibility for an end-of-year prize. In any case, bring your spouse, a best friend, an ex-TI'er to one of our planned activities.

I want to personally welcome two new members, **Rick Smith and Doretha Brown**, to Our Club. I encourage them (and all of you) to (re)discover through this vigor and with active participation how many activities the Club promotes during the year. Each of our events is a full-fledged, fun-time affair!

Ralph and Estella Garcia organized our Spring Event, Snacks & Bingo, that was held April 28 at TI. Included in this Vigor are pictures and an article describing the event written by **Israel Morales** with pictures by **Lawson Cook**. The many winners' smiles are awesome! Everyone had a great time!

I want to personally commend **Jeanne Brandt** for doing a fantastic job as our Day Trips Coordinator. Recent trips occurred on April 8, a loaded bus to Washington County to see the sparse but beautiful bluebonnets, followed by a drive-yourself trip on May 22 to the Stafford Centre to hear the Fort Bend Symphony play “A Night at the Movies”, classic movies. Many photos and accompanying stories are in this vigor. Upcoming on June 27 is a Harris County bus to Lake Conroe to enjoy a leisurely lunch on the lake aboard the *Southern Empress*, a paddle wheeler. On July 30 she has planned a bus trip to the *Liberty Opry* for a night of ‘Western Swing’. See the flyer to review the options and contact Jeanne for sign-up and payment information.

Our Program Chairman, **Lonnie Buckner**, has arranged some excellent luncheon speakers so far this year. In April, **Fran Dillard**, Human Relations Worldwide Manager at Stafford TI spoke for our annual “State of the Company” message. She was very informative. In May our speaker was DPS Officer Richard Standifer who spoke on traffic safety. Upcoming in the 3rd quarter is a speaker on Hospice care. Thanks to **Bob Gruber & Vivian Watkins** for helping. Five months...five speakers!! More pictures and details inside this issue.

Several of our Club committees are in need of **your** help. I encourage you to become more involved and help keep the Club in operation, contact us at the number below. If you have been enjoying the various Club activities and haven't volunteered your help, WE NEED YOU NOW! Call us today. I am very proud of all the board members (and spouses) that have worked very hard to keep the club going and growing. All the faithful members that attend month after month make it the success it is today.

Our club website **www.tiretires.org** contains much of the information you read here with both expanded stories and pictures of activities, recent and years past, organized by topics.

LUCY SALAS

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COMING EVENTS:

June 15, 2011 Wednesday – Lunch at the America Buffet 11:00 am. Come and visit and see where your friends are cruising and vacationing. Tell the cashier that you are there for the TI Retiree meeting to get your discounted meal that includes drink and tax for **\$8.47** total. If you bring someone who qualifies to be a member and they join, you will receive a voucher for a free meal at the America Buffet. Food selection is great, very tasty...and it's a buffet with a wide choice of drinks and desserts! There's always door prizes. See you there!

June 27, 2011 Monday – A planned lunch-on-the-lake cruise on the Victorian-era paddle wheeler, *Southern Empress*, on Lake Conroe quickly **sold out**. Our day trips director, Jeanne Brandt, is still taking names for a 'standby only' list, so call her (281) 242-6708 to add your name onto her list. The flyer is still posted on our website under the DAY TRIPS tab. Look-see!

July 20, 2011 Wednesday – Lunch at the America Buffet 11 am. Bring a guest to enjoy the camaraderie, a fellow TI'er, or a retired TI'er and, if they join our club, you receive a free meal voucher. Eat, greet, win free door prizes. Stay for our business meeting—sign up for trips and pick up flyers.

July 30, 2011 Saturday – A bus trip to the *Liberty Opry* for “Western Swing” night. The flyer enclosed (which see) details everything, including the menu options that affects overall per person pricing. Call or e-mail Jeanne to reserve and relay your menu preferences as well.

Note: a day trip on the bus is being planned for **Aug 27**; other **tentative** calendar dates include the TI Evening (TI-BBQ), **Sept 29**...and the Christmas Party, **Dec 15**. Planning is ongoing for both special evening events. Attend our business luncheons and learn the latest! Offer your help!

PAST NEWS




April 20, 2011 lunch at the America Buffet was attended by 38 retirees and guests, anxious to hear our special guest speaker, **Fran Willard**, TI's ASP HR manager at Stafford talk on the “State of TI”, updating us on the 2010 performance plus directions for the current year. [Thanks to **Bob Gruber** for arranging this.]

TI not only gained product total market share in all categories last year, but also did exceptionally well financially, including achieving a near record employee profit sharing.

She shared some of the fiscal metrics reached overall, and stated that this strategy is being carried forward into the present year. A good example, she gave, is reflected in the 1Q11 announcement of the all-cash intent to purchase National Semiconductor this year. National is a current major analog competitor and this acquisition positions TI to become the number one analog supplier in the marketplace.

Following her prepared remarks, Fran fielded a myriad of questions from the floor, and then departed amid a hail of appreciative applause.

Birthdays: Nora Morales, Gladys Janczak, Gwen Dickey , Mary Young.
Anniversaries: Gwen & Eddie Dickey (45 yrs), Gloria & KJ Byers (37 yrs), and Helen Colwell (27 yrs).
Door prizes (vouchers): John Farris, Rosie Sims and Nora Morales.
'Special' Prizes  **were won by Greg Sims and Mary Lee Camero.**



On May 18 after lunch, guest speaker DPS Officer Richard Standifer gave an exciting and riveting speech to the 50 members and guest in attendance. He moved around the tables of the captivated audience. His speech was on Texas Traffic Laws that mostly followed his screen-displayed agenda:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Texas Driver Point System | 5. Safety Restraint Law |
| 2. Driving While Intoxicated | 6. Move Over Law for Emergency Vehicles |
| 3. Cell Phones | 7. Handguns |
| 4. Open Container Law | |


He did not have enough time to cover all topics, but he did cover some very important ones. He explained the point system which starts at 0 for no violations and adds 2 points for each moving violation such as speeding, running a stop sign, etc. The larger amount of points means larger fines and the possibility of losing your driving license plus having to pay more for auto insurance. He said we should be pro-active and obey the laws without being forced to, for our own safety.

He showed us a detailed and itemized report of how much it can cost us even on a 1st offense of Driving While Intoxicated. With the car towing, storage, court cost, fines, administrative fees, DWI Education program cost, lawyer fees, etc. it can cost \$12,450 and more, depending on whether there was any property damage, injuries or loss of life. That's not counting jail time and having a ****Lifetime Criminal History****. He told us that a person with an alcohol level of 0.08 is legally drunk. He also warned us about driving while under the influence of strong medication that might affect our driving. He said to pay attention to warning labels. The officer also warned us about cell phone usage while driving, and although Texas does not yet have a law against it, some cities in Texas do. Speaking about the Open Container Law, he said if the seal has been broken on a container, it is an open container. He said if we're going to carry one, (i.e., an alcoholic beverage) to put it in the farthest place in the back part of the vehicle.

He showed us some dash cam videos of accidents that have happened while an officer was talking to a driver after having pulled him over to the side of the road. These helped explain why the Move Over Law was passed. At the end of his speech, he told us we could dial *DPS for help while on the road. Their phone number is 1-800-525-5555.

Vivian Watkins, calling committee chairperson, requested one more volunteer to do 5 minutes of pre-luncheon calling, thus reducing the call count to 3 members for each volunteer.

Lucy requested volunteers to organize or assist in the Christmas Party, Programs (arrange speakers), learn aspects of vigor newsletter construction. Call Lucy for her to explain duties.

Birthdays: John Farris, Susan Leigh, Daren Welch.
Anniversaries: Daren & Jewel Welch, Eunice Foster.
Door prizes (vouchers): Nora Morales, Betty Dixon, Linda Moorrees.
'Special' gift prizes (donated by sweethearts  **Lydia Barker and Patsy Seay) :**
Kathleen Lyons, Ralph Garcia, Tony Leigh.

PERSONAL NEWS

Condensed from the *Ft. Bend Independent*, April 6: Congratulations to member **Dave Kiger** for being selected by VOLUNTEER FORT BEND as one of the top five community volunteers. He works with the Exchange Club of Sugar Land, Meals on Wheels, and St. Theresa's Catholic Church to help the needy. *Editor's note: Dave, keep up the good work!*

Follow-up congratulations to **Linda** (and Charles) **Brixey**, who is now president of AAACN (American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing).

Bill and Mary Young went on a lengthy vacation from South America—flights & cruise ship time from March 16 to April 15. A long flight from Miami to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), where they saw the Christ the Redeemer Statue. Key stops: Salvador, Fortalesa, Belem, Macapa, Santarem on Amazon, Boca de Valeria, Manaus, Parintins, Alter Do Chao, on the Amazon. Leaving Brazil, further sea stops included French Guiana, Barbados, Aruba, Grand Turk Island group, Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas. Memories include the statue, warnings about touring on your own, exquisite carved woodwork, dried piranha fish, Devil's Island, rum for sale, beautiful beaches and crystal clear seas.

Tyler Watkins, a grandson of **Vivian Watkins**, is the 2011 Valedictorian from Needville High School with a GPA of 104.342. Tyler has been awarded several scholarships and has been accepted at several colleges. He has decided to attend the University of Houston Honors College in the fall.

Jewel Welch is back home from the hospital and recuperating nicely. She is returning to normal activities. She thanks all the members for those cards and prayers.

Eddie and Gwen Dickey spent Mothers' Day in Shreveport, LA, with their daughter.

The Awana's from Rosenberg, Grace Baptist Church, will be having a ceremony of graduation. Jacob Christian Romero graduated from WCJC for paramedics. Jordon Caleb Grain graduating from Terry High School.

Lydia Barker writes two great grandchildren are graduating: Aubree Fogerty from college, and Garrett Tuney from high school.

Kay & Lawson Cook took their 5th wheel RV to San Antonio from May 12 - 21, to see some of the tourist sites. In addition to the River Walk, Missions, Historic District, Shopping and Restaurants, they toured the Toyota factory and the SAS shoe factory. Both were excellent tours. The weather was perfect.

Please contact the **Sunshine Committee** if you hear of any of our retirees with serious illnesses, surgeries, or deaths so we can let families know we care by sending cards from the Retirees. Call **Lynn Stefan 713-344-1437**. You can also click on the SUNSHINE button on our homepage (www.tiretirees.org) if you prefer to email.



Vigor Staff

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SNACKS and BINGO – April 28, 2011

by Israel Morales

Once again TIRET members and guests (48 in all) were treated to a great Spring Event Evening at the Stafford TI Auditorium on April 28. Instead of the previous Pot Luck & Bingo Events, a new look called “Snack & Play Bingo” was implemented to enable the Event to begin earlier and smoother.

The aim was to make it a more relaxing night for all the ladies who attended. In previous events a covered dish was brought in by the attendee to serve at least six people. The new look required **no entree, no sides to bring, no take home bowls to clean**. Just snack and play and have a great day.

For only \$3 per member, spouse or invited guest, there was much to appreciate. Tables of assorted fruits, vegetables, chips, cheeses, cookies and crackers plus coffee, flavored creamers, tea and water were available all evening while retirees played Bingo.

The Event started at 6:30 pm as members and guests signed in and paid their \$3. They also had the option to join in and play **SUPER BINGO** for a \$5 donation per card and for a chance to win **one or more** of the Super Bingo prizes.

After helping themselves to drinks and snacks, the attendees picked their table seats and enjoyed the comradeship of their friends. Behind them on several tables were the White Elephant Gifts that members themselves brought to used as prizes. A TIRET bingo card was given to each attendee and the bingo for the white elephant gifts was on.

Lynn and Donald Stefan joined us from their home in The Woodlands saying that there was no way they would miss this yearly event. Good thing they attended. Don, again, was the Bingo Caller as he has been for several years.

With so much laughter, and expressions of approval or disappointment every time a number was called you could tell how just much the attendees were into the game.

Everyone was a winner of one or more white elephant bingo gifts. Many of these gifts were actually good gifts. Some were so-so and some were funny and real surprises. The only question was who was going to win next and what kind of gift they would win.

Now the free bingo came to one more prize. A more valuable gift was up for grabs - this game was for a \$50.00 gift card. It was won by Deloris Baugh.

After that \$50 win, the attendees knew that the fun and excitement of the big prizes was yet to come with the **SUPER BINGO**.

The sight of all of the prizes on the table made the guests wish they had their favorite good luck charms, rabbit's foot, four leaf clovers, a cross, a prayer, rubbing the bingo card, or whatever worked. There was a noticeable silence and calm among the guests as they concentrated on their bingo cards and listened intently to every one of Don Stefan's bingo number calls.

The winners of the SUPER BINGO prizes were: Glenda Winton - First Door Prize of a night for two at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with breakfast; Deloris Baugh - \$50 gift card; Israel Morales - coffee maker; Nora Morales - Waffle Maker; Mary Lee Cameron - Coffee Maker; Howard Cameron - \$30 gift card; Bobbie Jean White - Blood Pressure Machine; Alva Espinoza - \$25 Gift Card **plus** a Crock Pot; Glenda Winton - Workshop Drill; Veronica Flores – Roasting Pan **and** \$50 Wal-Mart Gift Card; Gladys Price - \$25 gift card; Beverly Cayton - Toaster Oven; Sonja Geisselbrecht -Table Top Grill; Sandy Zamora - MP Player; Daryl Moss - Second Door prize of one night for two at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with breakfast.

THANKS RALPH AND ESTELLA FOR A GREAT EVENING!!

{view many more pictures on the TIRET website under PHOTO GALLERY tab}

SNACKS and BINGO PHOTO GALLERY – 2011



Upon entry, **Ralph, Lucy, Israel (front)** take payments for food & super bingo.



Multiple Snacks of fruits, nuts, cheeses, vegetables, cookies, etc.



White Elephant table – just a sampling – in all over 100 prizes w/ Super Prizes.



Delores Baugh - \$25 gift card



Across a crowded room of... BINGO players, caller, checkers. Super BINGO Prizes on table, center front.



Alva Espinoza - \$25 gift card



Gladys Price - \$25 gift card



Mary Lee Cameron - \$30 card



Veronica Flores - \$50 card – GRAND PRIZE

Bluebonnets, Roses & Heavenly Food - April 8, 2011

by Jeanne Brandt



Bluebonnets were lovely but sparse.



Many stroll while Lucy & Virginia relax at the Antique Rose Emporium.



Brenda & Daryl Moss look at historical wall placards inside the Chappell Hill Museum.

Despite a late start, it was a beautiful morning when 28 of us started out on our Bluebonnet sightseeing bus trip to Washington County that turned into a lovely country road trip along US-290, TX-6, TX-105 & TX-50. We were forewarned-- expect only a few patches of blue due to the lack of rain.

In Independence (founded 1835) we drove by the original home site of Baylor University, and then stopped at the Antique Rose Emporium. We leisurely strolled through the lovely gardens where many of the roses were in their full glory. Next we went to lunch at "Must Be Heaven", a popular sandwich shoppe in Brenham.

Purposely bypassing the St. Clare Monastery miniature horse farm (sadly lacking any appeal due to closure), we improvised and headed to Chappell Hill to see inside the Museum and Methodist Church (1901), the latter on the National Registry of Historical Sites. Mary Brandt, Joe's aunt, volunteered to act as a docent for both places.



TIRET attendees in front of the Chappell Hill Museum.

Attendees (unordered):
Abe and Connie Abdalla,
Jeanne Brandt and guest
Helen Schmolke, Lillie
Brown, Mary Lee and
Howard Cameron, Sandy
Coughran, Gwen and Eddie
Dickey and guest Arte
Mathews, Estella and Ralph
Garcia, Mary and Rudy
Gomez, Bob Gruber, Nora
and Israel Morales, Brenda
and Daryl Moss, Jeannette
Johnson and guest Betty
Crocket, Gladys Price,
Betty Parker, Lucy Salas,
Virginia Vargas, Dorothy
Wanza and Sandy Zamora.

Join us soon on another exciting Day Trip !

{view other pictures and an expanded description on the TIRET website}

Fort Bend Symphony - May 22, 2011

BRINGING CULTURE TO YOUR DOORSTEP

by Israel Morales

The Fort Bend Symphony, 50 wonderful musicians of all ages, treated the 17 TIRET (and the mostly sold out crowd within the Stafford Centre) to an exceptional event, "*A Night at the Movies*". The symphony was conducted by the very young Music Director, **Dr. Hector Aguero**. Aguero is also the Director of Orchestras at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston. Aguero was ably assisted by **Dr. Dominique Royem**, Assistant Conductor.



The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra in concert at the Stafford Centre.

The "show" began with a commanding rendition of *20th Century Fox Fanfare*. Then it moved to other famous songs like the patriotic *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Walt Disney songs were also included on the program with *Zip-a-dee-doo-dah*; *Once Upon a Dream*, *A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes*; *It's a Small World*, *Mickey Mouse* and others. The orchestra also played theme songs of *Gone With the Wind*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *ET*, *Star Wars*, *Bridge Over the River Kwai*, *Adventures of 007 James Bond*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and others.

We were kept on the edge of our seats the entire concert. Listening to music from movies that spanned 72 years and included some of the greatest film scores ever played. This music brought back memories.

You don't have to read music, know the notes on a staff, or what a treble clef is to appreciate music. All you have to do is sit back and enjoy the sound of the music. And we did!



Attendees (unordered): Bob and Marian Gruber, Rudy and Mary Gomez, Patsy Seay, Ruth Hiatt, Israel and Nora Morales, De Ann Thomas, Joyce Slanina, Janie Arizo, Charlene Chaney, Judy Bechelor, Diane Murray, Esther Ezernack, Lawson and Kay Cook.



Most enjoyed a late lunch at Luby's afterwards.

Thanks to Jeanne Brandt for booking this drive-yourself day trip.

Join us soon for the next memorable day trip!

{view other pictures and an expanded description on the TIRET website}

TIRET : ECONOMICAL SOCIALIZING & FUN IN '11

Saturday July 30, 2011



LIBERTY OPRY



Theme this Saturday

starring...

Kenneth "Little Red" Hayes
and Paul Bennett
with Jay Harvey, Lee Garner

regulars

Karla Burriss
Ray Sowell
Jim Cox
John Ray Baxter
Jay Cantu
& the Liberty Opry band



Western SWING



PARK THEATRE
LIBERTY TEXAS
LIBERTYOPRY.COM

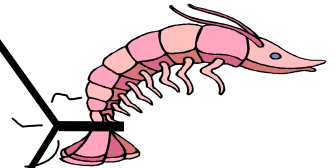


Showtime 7:00 PM

- Raffle at intermission—be in your seat...then on to snack bar & eating area
- Buy a souvenir CD/DVD of this performance (out-of-pocket)

Ann's Seafood - 3 menu choices, 3 prices:

- > **Platters - \$16** - *Fried Catfish (4) or *Grilled catfish – fillet;
*fried shrimp(12); *stuffed crab(3); grilled shrimp with rice, vegetable & corn
 - > **Meat plates - \$14** - *Chicken fried steak;
grilled chicken(2 pieces) w/ toast & baked potato
 - > **Sr plate - \$11** - *Fried shrimp(6) - or *fried catfish(2)
- all entrees incl drink & most* incl fries, beans, slaw



GUESTS ARE WELCOME !!

PER PERSON TOTAL PRICE – food selection dependent:

\$27 (platter) **\$25** (meat) **\$22** (sr plate)

Reservations and payments by July 27 PLEASE

WE LEAVE BAYLAND PARK AT 3:45 P.M. (BE THERE AT 3:30)

SIGN UP TODAY TO SECURE YOUR RESERVATION – GIVE YOUR SELECTIONS

Send checks & call to reserve → Jeanne Brandt call 281-242-6708

226 Essex Street

Stafford, TX 77477

First Place **Stella Award 2010**

For those unfamiliar with these awards, they are named after 81-year-old Stella Liebeck who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued the McDonald's in New Mexico, where she purchased coffee. You remember, she took the lid off the coffee and put it between her knees while she was driving. Who would ever think one could get burned doing that, right?

That's right—these are awards for the most outlandish lawsuits and verdicts in the U.S.

This year's runaway First Place Stella Award winner was...

Mrs. Merv Grazinski, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who purchased a new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On her first trip home, from an OU football game, having driven on to the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go to the back of the Winnebago to make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the motor home left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Also not surprisingly, Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not putting in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually leave the driver's seat while the cruise control was set. The Oklahoma jury awarded her—are you sitting down? — \$1,750,000 PLUS a new motor home. Winnebago actually changed their manuals as a result of this suit, just in case Mrs. Grazinski has any relatives who might also buy a motor home.

Daryl Moss



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