

MOTOROLA AUSTIN RETIREES CLUB

LONE STAR NEWS

May 2017 Issue, Volume 22 Number 2

Reminder -- The next Regular Club Meeting is **Tuesday, May 9, 2017**

Meeting will be at 10:00 A.M., at the Senior Activity Center on Shoalcrest Ave
(29th and Lamar)

Coffee and Lunch will be provided

The following meeting is Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Speaker: Ken Herman, Austin-American Statesman political writer

Topic: What's Happening with the Texas legislature?

Remember **spouses of club members are always welcome** at any of our meetings.

- The Lone Star News is a publication of the Motorola Austin Retirees Club. Motorola is not affiliated with the club and neither endorses, nor is responsible for, any of the content in this newsletter.

2017/2018 Dates to Remember

General Membership Meetings (10 A.M., the 2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month of the quarter)

May 9 August 8 November 7 February 13, 2018

Board Meetings (10 A.M., the 2nd Tuesday of 1st month of the quarter)

April 11 July 11 October 10 January 9, 2018

Annual Picnic for 2018 – May be held at Bartholomew Park again.

Christmas Party: December XX, 2017 – at TBD

Newsletter Article Deadlines: April 28 July 28 October 27 January 28, 2018
Submit articles to any Board member – see Newsletter for addresses

Minutes of the General Meeting, February 14, 2017

Mike Coley called the meeting to order at 10:07AM.

Programs: Pat Laviolette introduced our speaker, Teresa Sansone Ferguson, a former reporter and local producer for NPR. She is now the Executive Director of “Austin Up”, “The Future of Aging in Austin”, an organization resulting from the Mayor’s taskforce on aging, to convert a world built by and for the young, to one that supports and engages the elderly population to over 100 years of age. Initial funding is from St. David’s Foundation. Teresa can be reached at (512) 963-3191 or Teresa@austinup.org

Austin is the fastest growing city from ages 55-64, and second fastest over 65. Each day, ten thousand people in the US turn 65, and by 2030, 20% of the US will be over 65. From 2000-2010, Austin population grew 40%, while the over 55 group grew 80%. Key issues are age inclusive policies, affordable (midrange) housing, healthy living and independence, opportunities, livability, social inclusion, healthcare, transportation, etc. AARP has identified several “age friendly communities”: St. Louis, DFW, Austin/San Antonio, Portland Oregon, etc. IBM has a laboratory to study “Aging in Place”, e.g., sensors to monitor elders.

A “meetup” is scheduled for 2/19 at Central Market. There will be jobs for retirees.

Secretary’s Report: The **Minutes** of the previous general and board meetings were published in the newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report: We are currently using reserves at about \$150 per month. Our quarterly meetings cost us about \$175 in meals, drinks and prizes. In 2015 we donated \$250 to the Red Cross, nothing in 2016. Do we want to make a charitable donation this year? To meet our break-even goals, we need 40 attendees at the picnic, and 45 at the Christmas Party. The budget was approved by the members.

Membership Report: Warren Wiemann is assuming the membership chair from Loy Buley. Today we had 23 in attendance. We have some obsolete emails, and we need to send meeting reminders to members. We should search LinkedIn for former Motorolans and maybe advertise on Facebook, Craigslist, etc., to find potential members.

Election Results:

- President: Mike Coley
- Vice Presidents: Jim Binneboese & Warren Wiemann
- Treasurer: Obie Hasty
- Secretary: Jules Campbell

Picnic: Wayne Harned said the picnic will be Saturday, April 22 at Shelter B in Bartholomew Park, at 5201 Berkman Drive. The cost is \$15 per person, and you can pay ahead or at the door, but we need an early headcount for ordering food.

Raffle: Jim Binneboese explained the raffle. Tickets are \$5, with no limit on quantity. 50% will be given the winner at the meeting, and 50% will go into the scholarship fund, to be given at the year-end Christmas Party. Bob Kohl won the first raffle, and donated all but what he paid back to the scholarship fund. Thanks for your generosity, Bob.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jules Campbell, Secretary of Motorola Austin Retiree Club

Some Things to Know If You Plan to Move:

If you plan to move to a new residence, or if you already have recently, you will need to know some basic information for tax reasons.

First of all, the county homestead exemption for each household is not automatically transferred to new property. The county does not know the age of the people moving or if this is their first home, so a new homestead exemption needs to be filed again after any move. This is done with the county...and can be done online. Most of the time, this is done early in the calendar year so the tax authorities can include it in the assessor evaluations and estimates in the appraisal letter in the spring.

If you are over 65, you can qualify for an age exemption. This is referred to as a “senior exemption” on the assessor’s worksheet (it could also be described as a tax code 11.13c exemption). Depending on the county, this amount is a set exemption for county taxes and school taxes. These two are not exempted completely, but are at a set percentage depending on where you live. Figure about 20+% savings – again, depending on the tax authority. As with the homestead exemption, the senior exemption needs to be filed each time you change your residence. The filing is done in person, and cannot be done online.

Moving from county to county, the new taxing county will ask for a “tax ceiling certificate” from the county you moved from. This certificate will need to be requested from the tax assessor’s office in the previous county you lived in. Getting this certificate will take about 8 weeks, so leave yourself enough time. The certificate will need to be presented to the new county you moved to and presented to the assessor’s office for proof. This exemption WILL NOT freeze the school tax, but will limit the amount of increase year on year.

Finally, do check with the assessor's office on the configuration of your house. In some cases, the home may be described incorrectly on the tax rolls. Check, for instance, the number of bedrooms, bathrooms, does it have an outside deck or a swimming pool. You may be paying for a home that is described incorrectly in the county tax records. For the most part, they will not know about your house since they rarely visit the property in person to check. Even if you have a mortgage on the property, it is very important that you check and accomplish the items above.

After the county issues a tax appraisal letter, you will need to check its accuracy. If you do not agree with the amount your property has been assessed as a tax, you have time to appeal/disagree and protest your assessed taxes. Make sure you do this within the time-frame as outlined by the county you live in. Each county will provide detailed instructions on how to appeal or protest your taxes. If you miss the scheduled protest times, you will need to wait until the following year to make any changes. If you have questions on any of this, contact your local county tax office with your questions.

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, April 11, 2017

President Mike Coley called the meeting to order at 9:58 A.M. **In Attendance:** Mike Coley, Jim Binneboese, Obie Hasty, Danna Redford, Wayne Harned, Warren Wiemann, and Jules Campbell.

Treasurer's Report: Obie reported that we received \$180 in dues, \$180 in Picnic pre-pays, and \$120 from the Raffle. This puts us \$122 ahead until the picnic on 4/22.

Membership Report: Warren is having difficulty determining what his responsibilities are and how to accomplish them. Since Warren lives in Round Rock, Mike Coley volunteered to take the alternate P.O.Box 10252 key at Northcross Station. We need to get the list of paid up members from Loy.

We need to update or member lists and find ways to recruit new members, such as advertising on Facebook (FB) "Weworked@Motorola" (Obie will take this), LinkedIn (Mike), and search for Motorola/Freescale and Division groups. We can also try Nextdoor, Craigslist, and other social media.

Jim Binneboese volunteered to update and consolidate the email contact lists.

Spring Picnic: The picnic will be held April 22, 2017, from 11am-2pm, at Bartholomew Park, off of 51st St. Wayne reported only 19 have signed up so far. We need to send out reminders and encourage members to come. The menu will be BBQ from Pok-E-Joe's on 41st St., and will include Brisket, Sausage, Beans, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, Macadamia cookies and maybe small sides of Mac & Cheese or Green Bean Casserole if kids are coming. To encourage families to come, we decided to modify the rates: Over 13 & Adults: \$15; Ages 7-13: \$10; Ages under 6, free. We will have eight \$20 bills as prizes for the games (basketball, golf, Frisbee, Balloon Toss (2), and Bingo (3)). We need to get some games from Al Alaspa, and Bingo from Loy. Obie and Wayne will pick up the food.

Christmas Party: Danna will coordinate with Betty Temple and Maggiano's

Newsletter: Danna needs inputs for the newsletter by 4/28/2017 to publish in early May, before the May 9, 2017 general meeting.

Website: Jules will see if Ray Voith can assist updating the information or take over the website, and help with email issues.

New Business: Jim Binneboese proposed moving our email away from Yahoo. He knows of a subscription program (\$17/month “Constant Contact”) designed for retailers, to email to large address lists. We will first update our email lists and see if Thunderbird or a free email tool can improve things over Yahoo.

Programs: Mike has a copy of the presentation given at the last meeting by Teresa Ferguson. Mike has arranged for Ken Hermann (Statesman reporter for politics) to speak in May, as long as the Texas Legislature has finished. Mike will try to locate a backup speaker.

The meeting was adjourned around 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Jules Campbell, Secretary, Motorola Austin Retirees Club

Two Interesting Articles from Kiplinger’s Finance Advisor:

REPORTING IRA-TO-CHARITY GIFTS

People age 70½ and older can transfer up to \$100,000 annually from traditional IRA’s directly to charity. Unlike other IRA payouts, they aren’t added to your income. But reporting qualified charitable distributions on your tax return can be tricky. When filling out your IRS Form 1040, include the total amount of distributions on line 15a of the form 1040. Then subtract the amount that went directly to charity and report the remainder (even if it is \$0) on line 15b. Write “QCD” next to line 15b so the IRS knows why the numbers don’t match. Of course, you can’t double dip by taking a charitable write-off for the donation, too. On Form 1040A, report the payout on lines 11a and 11b.

TRIM YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

As you review your property tax bill, make sure you’re taking advantage of all the breaks available. In many jurisdictions, you can exclude a portion of a home’s value when figuring the tax if you’re a senior citizen, a veteran or if you are disabled. Next, consider whether you should challenge the assessed value. Find your property’s record card, which should be on file at your assessor’s office and may be available online. Look for errors, such as an incorrect number of bathrooms or inflated lot size. Check out the property cards of similar homes in your neighborhood, too. If the assessments on those properties are lower than yours, you could have a case that yours is too high. Request an informal meeting with your assessor, who may agree to adjust your assessment on the spot. Otherwise, you can always ask for a formal review before the review board.

**In Memoriam
Lou Struble
Margie Dixon
Lonor Soto**

Motorola/Freescale Lone Star Retirees Club 2017 Officers and Board Members

Elected Officers:

President Mike Coley, 10811 Redmond Road, 78739, michaelcoley67@gmail.com, 965-3232
V-Pres Jim Binneboese, 209 Cherokee Rose Circle, Georgetown, 78626, jklbinn@gmail.com,
251-8622
V-Pres Warren Wiemann, 2001 Golden Bear Dr, Round Rock, 78664, whwnsx@aol.com
238-7353
Secretary Jules Campbell, 11015 Conchos Cove, 78726, jules-campbell@att.net, 656-8516
Treasurer Obie Hasty, 1610 Northumberland Rd, 78703, Obiehasty@yahoo.com, 771-2579

Our Website: <http://www.mflsrc.org>

Our Email address: MARC201604@yahoo.com

Board Members (Committee Chairs):

News Letter Danna Redford, 3416 Hillview Road, 78703, danna.redford@gmail.com, 371-7332
Membership Warren Wiemann, 2001 Golden Bear Dr, Round Rock, 78664, whwnsx@aol.com
238-7353
Tours [We've not had anyone willing to take this position since Betty resigned several years ago.](#)
Events Wayne Harned, 16227 Oxbow Trail, Buda, 78610, wharned@austin.rr.com, 295-7041
Program [open](#)
Webmaster open
Photographer Brent Brown, 708 Minturn Ln, 78748, BBrown841@aol.com, 292-0147
e-mail accts This is unclear, but definitely isn't Loy, anymore

Other Clubs: Rich Enstrom Florida rdenstrom@gmail.com (954)214-2040
Don Harrison Phoenix dnhar@cox.net (480) 892-6598

[PNX Website: http://motorolaretirees.org](http://motorolaretirees.org)

James Kirk Schaumburg (815) 455-2469
Doug Wilkerson Colorado group doug.wilkerson@comcast.net

TruWest Credit Unions - main number for all: (512) 996-4000

Howard Lane (13609 Interstate 35, Frontage Rd #4)

12221 Riata Trace Pkwy

Legend Oaks (6001 W. William Cannon Dr., Ste 100)

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Return Requested
P.O. Box 10252
Austin, TX 78766

MOTOROLA AUSTIN RETIREES CLUB
Application for membership

NAME: _____ YEARS OF SERVICE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
(Please note if you do NOT have computer access or email)

SPOUSE'S NAME (If applicable): _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CLUB? _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MARC

Rev: 4/10/16

MEMBERSHIP: **\$15.00 per year**, due by February's meeting. NOTE: The dues are no longer pro-rated.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: **\$10.00 per year**, also due by February's meeting.

Don't forget that Spouses need to be members also. We need your other half as part of our club, so sign them up!

MAIL TO: MARC at P.O. BOX 10252, AUSTIN, TX 78766