



TEXTRON SYSTEMS RETIREES ASSOCIATION, Inc.
P.O. Box 732
Framingham, MA 01701

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR TSRA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

We again invite you to renew your membership in the Textron Systems Retirees Association.

Whether you have been drawn by TSRA's mission to advocate for the protection of your benefits, promote on-going social contact, provide information and education on retirement issues, or by some combination of these three core objectives, you can be sure that your TSRA leadership is committed to offering you services and programs to meet the needs and wants of all its members.

As TSRA enters its **17th** year of service, the Board of Directors is pleased to acknowledge the sustained level of its membership since its inception in 2000. The current year includes approximately **500** members. The Board also appreciates the **contribution and leadership provided by so many members**. Their involvement has enabled TSRA to offer a broad spectrum of services and programs. We view this level of support from both members and volunteers as evidence that we have been successful over the years in identifying and delivering programs and activities that are meaningful and important to our constituency.

A LOOK BACK

A look back at TSRA's 2016 accomplishments is our report card to you on how successfully we have met this challenge.

- ✓ The **Spring Luncheon in May**, attended by **110** members and guests, and the **Fall Luncheon in October** featured enjoyable food selections complemented by interesting and enjoyable displays of some of our members' talents. A new addition to the agenda introduced a trivia contest which met with much favor and several winners enjoyed the added treats.
- ✓ The **Annual John J. Mahoney Golf Tournament** in June was attended by **11** members.
- ✓ Free New Hampshire FisherCats baseball game tickets were offered to our members and several of them enjoyed attending games.
- ✓ The **Lowell Spinners Baseball and BBQ Buffet** in July was attended by **22** guests and members, who saw our favorite team win a dandy.
- ✓ Singin' in the Rain" at the North Shore Music Theatre saw a turnout of **24** members and guests.
- ✓ **Four** quarterly newsletters were mailed to all members.
- ✓ The Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to offer lifetime membership to our surviving partner members. As such, each eligible partner (ie. was not an AVCO/Textron employee) will be exempt from annual dues.

- ✓ The TSRA website (www.tsretirees.org) was actively maintained and enhanced with more efficient features and expanded content. (eg. expanded database information and easier queries and reports)
- ✓ The TSRA web site features the latest info and follows the activities of all the clusters.
- ✓ Most importantly, the [Standing Committees of TSRA](#) continued to work tirelessly to provide guidance and support of its members in resolving issues and/or problems encountered with status and/or delivery of its Textron benefits.
- ✓ An expanded social events calendar featured many social gatherings and was prompted by members' positive responses to surveys.

TIME AND TALENT

All of this is made possible by the [generous contribution of time, treasure, and talent of the following members of your Board of Directors and many loyal and dependable committee members.](#)

- The [Joint Communications Committee, chaired by Steve Wisotsky](#), is responsible for maintaining the TSRA website and publishing the TSRA newsletter that is mailed to all members quarterly. The newsletter is published by our Editor, [Cindy Mayer Merlini](#), with [Selena Evans](#) assisting in the Newsletter mailings. [Bob Norbedo](#) continues in one of his major contributions, by serving as our Web Master. He is enhancing the website into a more efficient and manageable site to include a new membership database that streamlines the record keeping. [Carol Coombs](#), continues as a JCC member as a [contributor to our Newsletter](#). The JCC also conducts periodic member surveys.
- The [Nominating Committee, chaired by Charlie Neckyfarow](#), is responsible for TSRA succession planning and recruiting members to serve on the Board of Directors and committees and corporation.
- The [Financial Affairs Committee, chaired by Joe Martino, with Bob Ricles serving as Treasurer](#) have jointly provided stability and financial growth to enable TSRA to provide many subsidized programs and services to you.
- [The Retirement Benefits Affairs Committee, chaired by Mark Kovacs and actively supported by Guy Berube and Jim Stamboni](#), is responsible for monitoring issues related to maintenance of benefits. Its major focus is in providing information and education to both retirees and pre-retirees on critical issues associated with achieving and maintaining a rewarding retirement.
- The [Membership Affairs Committee, chaired by Dom La Rosa, leads a couple of teams. Len Epstein](#) is our Membership Manager and maintains the renewal information on approximately 500 active member families. The second key team includes several volunteers who quietly maintain watch over several newspapers and report the [obituary notices of our departed members](#). In this capacity, [Bob Littlehale](#) leads the group in administering this task, being supported in turn by the following

members helping carry out their rotating weekly assignments. These include **Anita Adams, Bob Cranton, Len Epstein, Dom La Rosa, Leo Roy, Mario Sacco, Peg Stanton, and Bill Strickland.**

- The **Social Affairs Committee, chaired by Joe Martino**, organizes and provides social events for our membership. Joe with committee members **Jeanne Bumstead, Selena Evans, Dom LaRosa**, and **Art Dunford** provide hands on and administrative support to host and oversee many enjoyable activities throughout the year through a series of regularly scheduled and special venues. New events have been included and have been well received to promote expanding our variety of choices.
- **Steve Terani serves the vital role of Secretary**, maintaining outstanding audit trails of our history through publication of Monthly BoD meeting minutes, Annual Meeting summary and coordinating all TSRA meeting agendas.
- Rounding out the Board of Directors **is Mike Considine who leads the Pre- Retirees Network and the challenging role of TDS Ombudsman.** He provides the current TDS pre retirees with invaluable guidance on how best to prepare for their retirement years.
- **Joel Bernstein, again our elected President**, continues to champion energizing our organization with new initiatives and activities as well as overseeing retirement benefits awareness.

TSRA DUES

*TSRA dues continue to be only \$15 per family. If any information has changed or you are a new member, then simply complete the enclosed renewal form using the guidelines below and return it with your check. If your early payment is postmarked/received by 7 Oct 2016, then dues are \$13 for this limited time period. **Note: For 2017 renewals, PayPal is again being offered as an alternate payment method. See TSRA website www.tsretirees.org for details. Also, if preferred, payment through your electronic bank payment account is encouraged.***

Again, welcome aboard and we personally look forward to seeing you at upcoming events. Any feedback is welcome. So please contact us at tsra-board@googlegroups.com.

Your Board of Directors

TEXTRON SYSTEMS RETIREE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Guidelines on Completing the Application Renewal Form

In order for us to communicate with you about membership and important events it is necessary that you keep us posted of any changes in your address, and communication modes. When you have any of these events happen: 1) changed telephone providers or internet (e-mail provider), 2) moved to new location or added an off- season location, please remember to convey this information to us. It is really easy to do. First a Note on an important change in our delivery protocols **regarding your primary mailing address**. Namely, make sure your primary address is correct and up to date. This year we have been experiencing a significant increase in **returned (undeliverable) mail**. The majority of this is to vacation (alternate) addresses provided by members that are no longer in service or are out of season. To make sure we find the best way to ensure you get your mail from TSRA, we will no longer address mail to alternate addresses. We suggest that individuals make use of the Post Office Service of **“temporary change of address”** for those times you are at your vacation home. The service is free and can be used for those times you are away from your primary residence. It works especially well for those who rent vacation homes that are different every year or so. We believe this will provide more reliable delivery of mailed messages from TSRA as well as other mail you receive. If there are extenuating circumstances that make this inconvenient, please let us know by contacting us at tsramembership@tsretirees.org. Now back to our change notification options.

Changes to your information

There are a number of ways this can be done. Also, if there is a change in your marriage or partnership status that you want to be included or deleted from your information, please let us know. Use any of the methods below and we'll do the rest!

1. US Mail -You can go to the TSRA Web Site (www.TSRetirees.org) click on “about us/membership/application”. Ignore all the stuff about paying and write in the changed information along with you name. **Don't repeat information that's unchanged**. If you want something deleted so indicate. Print and send us this form to the address indicated on the form.
2. E-mail- Go to the TSRA Site (www.tsretirees.org) go to “about us/contacts/membership committee”. This will open up an e-mail form already addressed to the right people. All you have to do is tell us of the changes to your information (don't forget to give us your full name as e-mail addresses don't always relate to your real name!) Push “send” and we'll get the information.
3. E-mail (second choice) if number 2 above doesn't work, just send an e-mail with the information as described above to tsramembership@tsretirees.org.
4. Questions on anything about TSRA or the need for other information about retirement and you're not sure who to ask? Please feel free to contact us at any time regarding any questions you may have at tsramembership@tsretirees.org.