Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Founding of Tiret
FROM THE RETIREES CLUB 1989 TO 2009
Texas Instruments Retiree Club of Houston
“We Socialize Together”
FORWARD

Little did I know that when my wife Nora and I moved to Meadows Place in 1972 to be closer to her employment that I would become so close to her TI co-workers.

My wife introduced me to many of her TI friends during her working career at TI, but I got to know many more when we became members of the Texas Instruments Retirement Club (TIRET) after we both retired in 1998.

My involvements in the TI Retirement Club was such that I served three consecutive years as President and I have continued to take part in many of the club's activities.

ISRAEL MORALES

As I served as club president, I learned to appreciate the time and effort club officers before me had contributed to keep the club going. In time it became my obsession to learn more about the founders and the founding of the club.

In 2008, a very interesting opportunity was presented me when I was appointed the Club Historian. This became an intriguing challenge that would take me through sorting countless records left by the many officers who had served since 1989.

Fortunately, I was able to gather a sufficient amount of dated material to record our club’s history.

My endeavor is not only to record the club’s history, but also to honor the founders of the club and those who have contributed in making our club what it is today.

I therefore dedicate this narrative to all past and present members of the Texas Instruments Retirees Club who may have participated in any way and hope they will enjoy and recall those pleasant memories of yesteryear.

Israel Morales
TIRET Club Historian
A history of the founding of the Texas Instruments Retirees Club

By Israel Morales
Club Historian

(Composition started on January 24, 2008)

The Texas Instruments Retiree Club (TIRET) has continued to operate with the same purpose since the club was drafted in 1990 by the club’s founders. And although there have been some wording revisions in the operating procedures along the way, for almost two decades, the club has enjoyed the benefits of the club structure as it was originally formed.

Until now, this is the first attempt to record how the club came into existence.

It is my aim as the Club Historian Committee Chairman to gather whatever club history is available to compose a narrative or history of the Club and to pass on to the succeeding Club Historians as near as possible a complete account.

Fortunately some important figures of the club’s founders are still with us as members of the club and are eagerly contributing their recollections of early club business. Luckily, some club records still exist from the early meetings when the retirees met in 1989 to form the retirees club. Unfortunately though, opportunities to record the club’s history as it happened in 1989 are disappearing fast. Many of our club founders have passed on or are unable to recount the past. So, for the most part, it may be an improbable task to completely and justly give credit to all of those who helped form the club from the very beginning.

Thankfully, enormous help has been enlisted in perhaps the most important source available in Burt Bassham. He was the first contact on my list of names. Burt was ‘THE’ club’s founder and its first president. I find it reasonable to say that our club’s beginning started with his retirement on May 31, 1989.

Upon planning his own retirement party, Burt asked the TI Personnel Department for a list of former employees that had retired from the TI Houston and Stafford plants. The list was granted, but was asked if he would help create a retirees club.

Personnel stated that they had tried for 10 years to set up such a club without success. Burt agreed to assist them.

It was Burt Bassham that started the movement to the formation of the TI Houston Retiree Club. He called some of his retired friends that he kept in touch with through his Credit Union responsibilities. With their help, he set up a steering committee to talk about founding a club.

These newly retired TI’ers were ready to do what most retirees look forward to do -travel and entertain themselves. But by no means were they ready to pass up the invitation of creating something new, a TI Houston Retirees Club.

Retirees who became an early steering committee were: HTA's Ronnie Robinson, Hugo Sindelar, Earl Wilson, Paul and Dorothy Cobb, Claude Feray, John Roby, Charles and Joy Blake, Bob Spears, Karl Kurkey and, of course, Burt Bassham.

They met in late May and in June to consider the proposal. They thought about the previous attempts to create a club and came up with some topics that they felt necessary to discuss.

Do the retirees want a club? The answer was, “We feed them!”

They contacted Personnel and suggested a dinner or banquet to draw the retirees to a meeting. Personnel, showing support, accepted to meet with the retirees to plan a dinner meeting.

On Aug 24, 1989, a Steering Committee meeting was held at the TI Orientation Room in the
Stafford Plant. Present were: Retirees Dorothy and Paul Cobb, Claude Feray, Charles and Joy Blake, Earl Wilson, Karl Kurky, Hugo Sindelar, John Roby, Walt O’Brien, and HTA’s Ronnie Robinson.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize plans for the Dinner Meeting on Sept. 7th.

Accomplishments from this meeting were very satisfying resulting in the following:

1. The modification of a survey form for attendees to fill out in order to learn about their hobby and travel preferences.
2. A sample invitation was shown to the group for approval.
3. A date was discussed for the event.
4. Plans were made to handle the mail out.
5. Ronnie Robinson announced HTA would prepare a BBQ Dinner.

The dinner/meeting was a great opportunity to query the retirees in three different areas that they might be interested in - service, entertainment and travel.

They asked Personnel that the banquet be held in the fall to allow them time to develop surveys in those three areas. The invitation was sent to all of the TI retirees in the Houston area, by the Stafford Plant retirees. The banquet, which was to become the first Texas Instruments BBQ Dinner ever, was held in September. Approximately 150 people attended. A wonderful time was had by all that evening as they talked about the formation of their own retirees club. The steering committee gained a wealth of information from the survey. The information was analyzed to see what direction the retirees wanted to take.

From this banquet they were also able to produce a list of volunteers to take on the forthcoming club committees.

They next began talking about how to set up a club structure and realized they had no ideas. But Ronnie Robinson was the key link to TI in those first few months. As the head of the Hou-Texins organization he was invaluable in helping steering committee find a retirees club in Dallas and a copy of their Operating Procedures. His expertise in the planning stages lead up to the first banquet. But it was Dan Carter and Abe Abdalla, who helped rewrite the By-Laws to better address the club’s needs.

The next task was to nominate a slate of officers: a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Immediately, a nominating committee was formed to select a slate. The nominating committee consisting of Abe Abdalla, Norma Larks, Joe and Dorothy Flaherty met at Abe’s home to select a slate of officers for presentation at the organization meeting in January.

Retrospectively, by the fall of 1989 a club structure was formed and TI Houston Retirees Club now had its own By-Laws.

On Dec. 7, 1989 a meeting of the retirees was called in order to plan for the January 11, 1990 meeting. The purpose of the meeting inviting was to plan how best to invite retirees to come register formally as 'club' members and subsequently elect via ballot the proposed slate of officers.

On the nominating committee’s slate was: President, Bert Bassham; Vice President, Bob Spears; Treasurer, Dorothy Cobb; Secretary, Nita Davis.

In that same meeting, the first Calling Committee was formed to call retirees to the January 11, 1990 meeting. Notes taken by Dorothy Cobb tell how the Calling Committee worked.

The retirees that were to be called were divided alphabetically; and assigned to a member of the committee; Earl Wilson, A-E; Dorothy Cobb, F-J; Burt Bassham, K-O; Hugo O, P-T; and Carl Kurley, U-X. The calling campaign was a success as 40 retirees joined the club in January, 1990.
In an e-mail to me, Burt Bassham wrote:

“that the fact Forty retirees agreed to join that first meeting was very encouraging to us. This was the “Pay Day” we were looking for. We knew that our faith in all the work we did was well founded. Your efforts have made it possible for me to experience once again the joy we felt that night.”

The founding club members were excited, and in high spirits to see the meeting turn out to be such a great success. And as said before, TI made all of this possible. HTA’s Ronnie Robinson was such a huge figure in supporting and helping realize many of the club’s goals.

The calling Committee headed by Marci Alston reported as a success as 68 retirees joined the club by year's end.

At the next meeting, a list of members who agreed to serve as officers and board members were elected and the club was up and running.

Texas Instruments Retiree Club's First Board Officers

President Burt Bassham, Activity Chairman Claude Feray, Treasurer Dorothy Cobb, Publicity Chairperson Joye O’Donnel, and Vice President Bob Spears.
There were several occasions when the retirees met at Burt Bassham’s home or at the homes of interested retirees to talk and plan of the possibilities of a Retirees Club.

Unfortunately, not all those early meetings were recorded, but notes were kept as they went along. But in review, below are some of the meetings of 1989 that are on record that led to the formation of the club.

RETIREMENT CLUB HISTORY

Dorothy Cobb, an early club pioneer and the first club treasurer, presented me with the earliest document available. The documents titled “RETIREMENT CLUB HISTORY,” provides the following records:

Aug. 3, 1998 - Meeting of Steering Committee in Stafford Plant - Committee members were: Hugo Sindelar, Earl Wilson, Dorothy Cobb and husband Paul, Claude Feray, John Roby, Charles and Joy Blake, and Burt Bassham.

August 24 - The meeting was called to plan a General Meeting of Houston area retirees to find out if there was enough interested people to form a club.

Sept. 14 - Approximately 150 people attended a dinner meeting at Stafford site. Interest forms were passed out to build a data base for future activities. They were also asked to indicate if they were interested in working either as a volunteer or as a paid worker. The consensus was that a great deal of interest in the club was indicated.

November 16- A nominating committee consisting of Abe Abdalla, Norma Larks, Joe and Dorothy Flaherty met at Abe’s home to select a slate of officers for presentation at the organization meeting in January.

December 7 - A steering committee meeting was held at Burt Bassham’s home to review and modify the operating procedures of the Texins Retirement Club in Dallas. Present were: Dorothy Cobb, Hugo Sindelar, Earl Wilson, and Karl Kurkey. Proposed changes were made for presentation to the retirees at the January meeting.

Jan. 11, 1990 - The organization meeting of the retirees club was held in the orientation conference room at the Stafford Plant. The operating procedures were reviewed, changes made and then accepted. An election of officers was held.

Dues were set at $10.00 per retiree, including spouse. Forty applications for membership were processed that night.

Elected Officers were: Burt Bassham, President; Bob Spears, Vice President; Nita Davis, Secretary; Dorothy Cobb, Treasurer.
While Burt Bassham was the lightning rod and the driving force to found a retirees club, the friends he recruited and the volunteers who came forward gave the new club a great chance of success. Invigorated, this supporting cast of retired Houston TI employees eagerly joined in support of a “great idea.”

They contributed with the skills and talents they had or had learned at TI from so many years of employment. These skills included Bookkeepers, Secretaries, Engineers, Computer Managers, Computer Sales, Geophysical, Photo Department, Printing Department, Nursing and others.

Now, as retirees, they saw the opportunity to unite with their former co-workers for a common purpose - the formation of their own Retirees Club.

Honorable mention should go to the supporting cast and their skills mentioned earlier.

BURT BASSHAM

Retirees who helped form the Houston Retirees Club during its early years

Levi Norman
President 1994-95

Claude Feray
Programs 1990

Donna Sumrall
Secretary 1993

Charles Sumrall
Pres. 1996-97 and 2002-03

Nita Davis
First Club Sec.

Abe Abdalla
Programs & Nominating. Com.

Jim Spears
Vice President 1990-1993

Jim Walsh
President 2000
HONORABLE MENTION

A very important member of the retiree club who contributed immensely to the club was the Publicity Chairperson, Joye O’Donnel. No other person was as valuable as she was in getting the word out to the TI employees and retirees about the club’s activities.

Joye was a perfect fit as Publicity Chairperson, and a great Membership Chairperson as well. Joye also took on several other club assignments.

Her club reports and notices about club business and activities in the Houston Hi-Lites Newsletter helped make the TI Plant aware of the Club. The club column titled “Retiree Corner” appeared in many monthly issues from 1990 to 1995. Her columns often ended with an invitation to all retirees and future retirees to join the club. Below are samples of her notices to the Houston Hi-Lites in 1990.

JOYE O’DONNEL

A memorandum dated March 12, 1990 is one of the earliest on record. It was sent to Gail Jordan, Editor, HOUSTON HI-LITES. The subject was “Article for April Issue of HOUSTON HI-LITES.

RETIREMENT CLUB MEETING

There will be a meeting of the newly formed Hou-Texins Retiree Club on Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Stafford Site Cafeteria auditorium in Building 1. There will be a short business meeting followed by a social hour and refreshments will be served. All TI retirees from the Houston area are eligible to join and dues are $10.00 per year (including spouse).
HONORABLE MENTION

Dorothy Cobb and her husband Paul were among the most reliable of all early club founders attending all of the early meetings, taking notes of the meetings, and accepting major club responsibilities.

Dorothy retired from TI Northwest Houston (Cypress) in 1988 after 29-1/2 years of service. As the first Treasurer elected in 1990 she kept very valuable records that have helped me in my report.

An undertaking of great importance by Dorothy was the preservation of all the By-Laws, including the first draft under which the club operated. Copies of all the changes have also been preserved.

Other important files that she turned over to me for this report were dated from 1990 to 1993. She also preserved the first club roster taken in January of 1990.

This roster not only listed the new retiree’s name but it also recorded when they joined as a club member. This identified who the early club members were. Besides serving as Treasurer, and Membership Chairperson, she headed the Christmas Tree Project, the Arcola Seniors Center Christmas Party, served on the Calling Committee, and preserved the club membership rosters.

Dorothy Cobb

Members who contributed in the early years of the Retirees Club

Joe Flaherty         Hugo Sindelar         Bill Hecox        Anthony Amante       Don Carpenter
Herb Roehrig    Wilma Roth    Russell Timm  Marcie Alston       Dan Carter           Don Stefan
1990

The day the Houston TI retirees had been looking forward to finally arrived - the first Retirement Club Organizational Meeting. It was held on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on January 11, 1990.

Notices of the meeting were announced at the Stafford site inviting Tiers to “Be a Charter Member” and announcing that refreshments would be served.

The first quarter organization meeting of the retirees club was held in the Orientation Conference Room at the Stafford Plant.

The first Executive Board elected was Burt Bassham; Vice President, Bob Spears; Treasurer, Dorothy Cobb; Secretary, Nita Davis.

Forty-two members signed up and by mid-year the club had a membership of 68 paid members.

With much work to be done, the membership voted on several important topics accepting the operating procedures presented to them with the understanding that some changes would be reviewed by a By-Laws Committee and have the changes presented to the membership at a later meeting. Dues were set at $10.00 per retiree, including spouse, and the next membership meeting was scheduled for May 8.

Much was accomplished that night, but there was much work to be done by the Board of Directors as they met three times before the next scheduled membership meeting.

At the first Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 5, 1990, several topics were discussed, but taking priority in old business was the discussion on securing a Committee Chairperson for the Program Committee, Membership/Publicity Committee, and Activities Committee.

Bob Spears agreed to assemble a paid membership list plus another list by various “special interests” categories and have them ready for the Activities Chairperson.

At the second Board of Directors meeting on February 19, 1990, they met again. The meeting consisted of the four officers plus Joye O’Donnel. Joye O’Donnel agreed to be the Membership/Publicity Committee Chairperson. Claude Feray agreed to serve as Program Chairperson.

Although important committees were being filled, there still remained the need of an Activities Chairperson. This committee would create the type of program topics that would be of interest to the group and, type of publicity to keep members informed of all activities for the group.

As promised at the previous meeting, Bob Spears presented a computerized list of paid members and “special interest” by various categories.

Meetings for the membership were set at four per year. The dates set were for one in January, one on May 8, one in August and a fourth one in October.

The third Board of Directors meeting on March 19, 1990 consisted of the four officers plus Claude Feray, Programs Chairperson, but the Activities Committee Chairperson still had not been filled. A search for someone to fill that committee would continue. Also discussed was a need for more in-depth information concerning a “special interest” list.

Long Range Planning for various projects were also discussed, such as the Christmas tree decorations contest at TI and a volunteer telephoning for various charities through Channel 8, etc.

Other items discussed were: place and time of retiree general membership meetings as well as type of agenda, and program speakers for the meetings. (Note that the membership would have to vote to approve many of the board’s recommendations.)

The second quarter membership meeting of the Retirees Club was held on May 8 in the Cafeteria of the Stafford Plant. There were seventeen members present.

Dorothy Cobb gave the Treasurer’s report. She reported the club treasury had $680.00 representing 68 paid members.

Bassham spoke of the problems the Executive Committee had in finding a volunteer to chair the Activities Committee. This led to a discussion of the activities the club might support. A request was made to contact the President of the Texins Retirement Club, Vi Alexander, in Dallas and have her
meet with the club’s membership in a special meeting to give the members an overview of the activities in that club. The membership voted to authorize the Executive Committee to contact her to set up the meeting. They further authorized the Committee to pay the expenses for her travel and stay in Houston for this meeting.

The meeting with Vi Alexander took place at a special membership meeting on July 1990. And although there were no minutes to be found of the meeting, Treasurer Dorothy Cobb, reported expenses of $19.00 represented her air travel.

It is important to remember that the three areas of concern - service, entertainment, and travel - were incorporated into the club’s agenda from the very beginning.

The new business on the agenda covered several topics. The first topic discussed was about meeting time and place. This was an area of concern because some of the members were from the Cypress Plan and lived in Northwest Houston. The Programs Chairman planned to invite area speakers from diverse fields to speak at the meetings.

Another topic discussed was getting the club involved in the Christmas Tree project that assigns a needy family to a club or company department. Those members of the club that wished could decorate the tree and purchase gifts which are delivered along with the decorated tree the week before Christmas. A motion was made and seconded to accept the project.

A committee was formed to find and contact our ill, retired friends. Rita Pounds and Bill Sakwitz agreed to serve as co-chairpersons. This committee later became known as the Sunshine Committee.

A telephone committee was also formed under the Membership Committee Chairperson Marcie Alson to make phone contact with the membership to inform them of special meetings, or events of common interest.

The special program speaker was a talk by Gwen Gallien on Aetna’s coordination of insurance with other carriers and in particular, Medicare.

The third quarter membership meeting was held at TI on Tuesday, August 14, 1990.

One topic of concern was regarding holding some of the membership meetings at the Cypress site. Not many Cypress TIers were attending membership meetings at the Stafford site and discussion was held as to how to solve the distance problem. One suggestion was to perhaps use a TI van and carpool members from the S.W. site location to the Cypress site and vise versa if some of the meetings are held at the Cypress site.

Also discussed was a Pre-Retirement Seminar program and a plan to get the members the Retiree Benefits Book.

Claude Feray, Programs Chairman, introduced the speaker, Richard McNeal, a registered pharmacist, who made a very interesting and informative presentation about generic drugs and drug interactions.

The fourth quarter membership dinner/meeting of the TI Retirees Club was held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 13, 1990 in the Cafeteria Conference Room at the Stafford Plant. There were approximately 150 present.

This TI Retiree Dinner Meeting Event was the second of its kind. It was well organized due to the experience of having done it one the year before. HTA and the club members were well prepared for the event.

The event was well publicized by phone and by mail to all TI Stafford and TI Cypress retirees. Joye O’Donnel, Club Publicity Chairperson, announced the event in the Houston Hi-Lites in the 1990 November issue in her column, “Retiree Club Corner,” which became a regular in the Houston Hi-Lites Newsletter.

After a short business meeting, the meeting was turned over to Claude Feray who introduced the guest speaker, Nat Rhodes of the Houston Police Department. Mr. Rhodes gave a very interesting and informative presentation, with humor injected, about crime and crime prevention.
Bassham then introduced Ronnie Robinson, HTA Manager. Robinson reported on all the upcoming events Hou-Texins had planned for the near future. He stressed the fact that all TI retirees are always welcomed to participate in all the HTA planned events.

The earliest computerized membership roster lists the members, their spouses, and when they paid their club dues. This roster can be found at the end of this documentary.

All and all the first year of the club’s existence was a great success. All the hard work and planning had paid off. The forming of the various committees - Publicity, Calling, Membership, Programs, By-Laws, Nominating, and Sunshine - enabled the club to cover many of the areas of need.

On December 18, 1990, the Executive Board, Burt Bassham, Robert Spears, Nita Davis, and Dorothy Cobb, Programs Chairman Claude Feray, and Joye O’Donnel sent signed letters to Ronnie Robinson, Ramish Gidwani, and Burgess Buchanan acknowledging that the club would not have succeeded without their help.

These letters of gratitude, and appreciation were sent to them for assisting them in the formation of the club and arranging the banquet to draw the retirees to the meeting.

The letter to Burgess, Manager Human Resources Department acknowledges that the club’s formation was originally an invitation from Personnel for the retirees to start one. The letter read:

Dear Burgess: “When you asked us to form a Retirement Club, your positive attitude and cooperative spirit paved the way for us. It is a real comfort to know that you are there for us when we need advice or assistance in our projects.” Burt Bassham.

---

Retirees’ Corner
Annual BBQ dinner a success

The Retiree Club’s annual dinner meeting held in November was a big success. It was heart-warming to watch people greet old friends and become reacquainted. A few faces seen in the crowd were: Abe Abdalla and his wife Connie; Tony Amante and his wife Dee; Lee Bonzo; Haywood Carter and his wife Margarita; Hildogarde Shork and her hubby Lawrence; Nicole de Roulmefort; Jack Yeasaw and his wife Joy; Clarice Ates; Marcia Alston; Mike Nordmeyer and his wife Ruth; Vic Melnar and his wife Margaret; and Bill and his wife Helene Shelly.

It was nice to see all you folks, as well as many more whose faces were so familiar. Approximately 150 persons, including spouses, attended.

Claude Feray introduced our speaker, Captain Nate E. Rhodes, who has been an officer with the Harris County Sheriff’s Department for 22 years. He gave an interesting talk about the worsening crime situation in the greater Houston area and ways to avoid becoming a victim.

The next Retiree Club meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 1991, so mark your calendar now.

A final reminder: annual dues for members are $10 for each TI retiree (includes spouse). Please note on your check “1991 Dues” and make your check payable to HTA Retiree Club. Mail to: HTA Retiree Club P.O. Box 1443, MS 635 Houston, TX 77001

Joye O’Donnel
1991

The Houston Retiree Club entered 1991 with high hopes and great expectations. The young retiree club touted 1990 as a great success, but now, to take the club to the next level, they realized that a much more expanded overall program was necessary. The elected officers were: President, Burt Bassham; Vice President, Bob Spears; Treasurer, Dorothy Cobb; Secretary, Joye O’Donnel.

Heading Committees were: Programs, Claude Feray; Membership/Publicity, Joye O’Donnel; Calling Committee, Helene Shelly; Outreach, Dan Carter.

The high light of the year was the fourth quarter dinner on November 6, 1991. A record number of 250 retirees and their spouses enjoyed a delicious barbeque dinner. The dinner was courtesy of TI and all the people at HTA who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it a great evening. For the first time, records of guests attendants were kept.

Appreciation letters will be sent to Ramish Gidwani, Burgess Buchanan, Ronnie Robinson, Bruce Petty, Lisa Garza, Dorothy Catley, and Anita Wilke, R. N.

The first quarter meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 1991 started on a very positive note. Bassham distributed survey forms and asked that they be updated as to what kinds of programs members wanted and what their interests were. Although a membership survey that had been taken in 1990 that resulted in a diversity of programs, the Executive Board wanted an update to take steps to expand certain programs.

A Long Range Panning Team was put together by President Bassham. Its purpose was to establish long range plans for the retirees club to meet the needs of retirees in the areas of social activities, community service, consumer education, and personal security.

The team consisted of appointments as well as members of the executive committee.

Long Range Planning members were: Dan Carter, Pete Damrel, Bill Hecox, Helene Shelly, and Russ Timm.

The Programs Committee presented some very important and interesting speakers for the meetings introducing a speaker for each of the four membership meetings.

The first speaker for the first quarter meeting was Ramish Gidwani, Stafford Site Manager. Since many had retired before he came to TI, this was the first opportunity to meet him. He gave a brief background of himself, noting he was from India and came to the U. S. in 1964 to obtain an education. In 1970 he joined the TI Semiconductor Group in Dallas, working in finance and marketing.

Ramish discussed site goals, and gave a company financial overview.

On the next day, on February 13, the Executive Committee was back to work as they met at Burt Bassham’s home. Present were Burt Bassham, Claude Feray, Dorothy Cobb, and Joye O’Donnel.

Claude announced to the board that he had contacted potential speakers for this year’s membership meetings.

A telephone relay system was discussed whereby the first member calls the next member on the list until all members have been called.

A food bank drive was also discussed and their opinion was that it should be local only.

A special meeting would be called sometime that year on HTA and Operating Procedures.

The Board also agreed that they should have another Christmas Tree Project again in December. Again, Dorothy Cobb would be in charge.

The Board lastly agreed to meet on the first Wednesday of each month for an Executive Committee Meeting.

For the second quarter meeting, Claude Feray introduced Nancy Holland of Channel 11 who spoke at the April meeting about “A Day in the Life of a TV Reporter.” Her interesting talk about her
travels all over the world covering the Contras (guerillas) in Honduras, the New Orleans police strike during Mardi Gras, political campaigns (once covering Ann Richards) and many other job assignments.

For the third quarter meeting Claude Feray introduced Bill P. Jackson of Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Mr. Jackson welcomed any discussion that the retirees might have concerning their Medicare coverage. Mr. Jackson explained the difference between Medicare Part A and Part B., and Medicaid, and offered copies of the “1991 Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare.”

At the fourth quarter meeting Burt Bassham introduced Tom Metzger of Ammerman Experience, a communications training company established in 1973. Prior to joining Ammerman, Metzger spent more than twenty years in radio business and was responsible for building the world’s largest sports network for the Dallas Cowboys football team. Mr. Metzger was a very effective speaker and was warmly received by all present.

Among the contributions, ideas, and projects presented by the committee members were:

- the Houston Food Bank headed by Burt Bassham as a possible project for the club,
- a new telephone calling system headed by Helen Shelly,
- a Volunteer Project giving retirees an opportunity to help various organizations,
- a Christmas Tree Project to help Needville Senior Citizens coordinated by Dorothy Cobb,
- the introduction of the “The Retirees Club Logo,”
- a speaker for every membership meeting introduced by Programs Chairman Claude Feray,
- a nominating committee,
- a Long Range Planning Team,
- a By-Laws Committee,
- a Focus Group headed by Dan Carter and made up of retiree volunteers to participate in a Community Outreach Program,

But the most interesting, however, was the Water Fountain idea presented by Abe Abdalla that proved to be a lasting monument to the working Tiers who would one day join the club when their own retirement comes.

This retirees club logo above was the first logo designed for the Houston TI Retiree Club.
1992

The Retirees Club had such a good year in 1991 that in order to equal or surpass those successes the Long Range Planning Team would have to continue its focus on the needs of the membership and follow up on its long range planning. And they did an incredible job.

This report is not just a repeat of the secretary’s minutes of each meeting that the Club held, it is an attempt to emphasis the dedication and hard work undertaken by the Executive Board and the Club Committees.

To appreciate their efforts one must look at the various activities and projects discussed and undertaken each and every meeting.

At its 1st quarter membership meeting on February 11, 1992, with an attendance of 56 retirees and guests, the club began the year with the same vigor and enthusiasm as demonstrated in the early goings.

Burt Bassham began the meeting by first having Program Chairman Claude Feray introduce the invited speaker, Nancy Holland of KHOU Channel 11.

Holland had been a hit with the membership the last time she was invited to speak the previous year. And she did not disappoint. Her talk this time was about her reporting on her tour in Moscow, Russia.

Other invited guests were Vicki Glen, Site Benefits who invited retirees who had problems or questions to contact her. Also in attendance was Dianne Yeaman, Pound Punchers Weight Control Club who invited retirees to join tat club, which had been formed several years ago, at a cost of only $3 a month. And a third invitee was Dawn Lang, R. N., of the Health Center. Lang announced that the Health Center would offer a CPR certification course at no cost to members of the Retirees Club.

It seems that Bassham was trying to do two things by letting the invitees speak before the business meeting. First, he wanted to keep the membership’s interest up and second, to show that the meetings can be fun and interesting and offer important information to the members.

The Nominating Committee Chairman, Pete Damrel gave his report and then he, Helene Shelly and Bill Hecox recommended the following slate of officers be elected:

President, Burt Bassham; Vice President, Bob Spears; Treasurer, Dorothy Cobb; Secretary, Donna Sumrall.

Bassham announced that the Retiree Club would participate in the Food Drive in May 11.
TI Retirees Club participates in the Houston Food Bank

The second quarter membership meeting was held on May 12, with 58 members attending. After the treasurer’s report by Dorothy Cobb, Dawn Lang spoke of the CPR classes held the previous March and that if any member is interested in enrolling in the classes to see her.

Burt Bassham announced that Dan Carter, By Laws Committee Chairman, will present the revisions to the Operating Procedures that had been in place since March 1990 and again revised on April 28, 1992.

Bassham also announced that the club would continue to contribute $2.00 per member to the Food Bank this year, subject to membership approval. The food Bank collections would be held at the August meeting.

A second presentation concerning Personal Crime Prevention and Safety Program had been scheduled for the August meeting.

The third quarter membership meeting was held on Tuesday, August 11, 1992 in the TI Stafford Site Orientation room. Approximately 60 retirees and their spouses attended.

The speaker was Austin Davis who presented the Citizens Against Crime Program. His talk covered home security and how to protect one’s property as well as how to protect oneself while away from home.
Meeting discussion included plans for the Food Contributions at the next meeting.

Again present at the meeting was R. N. Dawn Lang from the Health Center reporting about the CPR classes still available for the members, the scheduling of flu shots, and the medical test opportunities for men all scheduled at the Stafford Site Health Center.

The fourth quarter membership meeting dinner turned out to be another successful effort by HTA and the Retiree Club. This was the Fourth Annual Banquet Dinner, later to be known as the TI Retirees Barbeque Dinner. One hundred and forty attended the event.

Approval of the Operating Procedures by the membership was the first matter of business. All wording changes by the members were made and the final draft was presented.

The Nominating Committee of Hugo Sindelar, Don Sturdevant, and Joe Flaherty presented the slate of officers for Year 1993.

Donna Sumrall, the retiree coordinator for the United Way, discussed the Club’s involvement at the meeting.

Levi Norman made a Food Bank Project report of the tour the Committee took to The Houston Food Bank. The Committee visited the facility to see if the Food Bank was a viable project for the Club to undertake.

Abe Abdalla reported on the status of the fountain project.

Announcements and pictures in the Houston Hi-Lites by Joye O’Donnel say a thousand words.
1993

Now entering the fourth year as an organized club the Texas Instruments Retiree Club (TRC) had now achieved most, if not all, of the goals it set out to accomplish. It was indeed a larger group than the original band of retired members that had been asked to form a retiree club in 1989.

Given time to reflect on the progress the Club had made, there is no denying that the Club had been established as a legitimate and self sustaining organization. The steps taken to achieve the given level of success is remarkable. First, it retained experience by re-electing the original members elected in 1990. Second, the Committee Chairs not only provided strong leadership in their respective committees but they were doing double duty by helping in other projects at the same time. Third, the Club continued to expand its programs and projects and at the same time increased its membership rolls. And fourth, the addition of the Long Range Planning Team was a very important part of planning the agendas.

But, make no mistake about it. Time, effort, commitment and sacrifice by many members made all of the above possible. Furthermore, the progress to date would not have been possible without the support of TI and the Hou-Texins Association (HTA). Who would suspect that the partnership that initially began in 1989 would endure twenty years? 2009 would be the 20th anniversary year and cause for a celebration.

The first quarter membership meeting was held February 9, 1993 and the Club was very active from the very beginning of 1993.

Officers elected were Burt Bassham, President; Levi Norman, Vice President; Donna Sumrall, Secretary; and Don Venker as Treasurer.

Don Venker reported that the beginning balance in 1993 was $2,723.61. The Cy-TI Cypress Plant recreation association, donated $5,892.35 when their organization dissolved. This donation accounted for the largest sum the treasury ever had.

Another $10 was received for dues payments and $194.12 was disbursed to cover the Christmas Project expenses, leaving an ending balance of $8,431.84 as of Feb. 9.

Other activities were announced. Among them were a spring Food Drive Project headed by Levi Norman to coincide with the Channel 2 food drive, the Arcola Senior Citizens Christmas Party headed by Dorothy Cobb that provided them with a Christmas tree, a meal, many gifts, and a Christmas stocking filling project for elementary school kids.

Abe Abdalla gave an extensive report of the status of the Water Fountain Project. [Detailed explanation below.] A San Antonio manufacturer’s bid for the building and installing the fountain came to $7,500. Abe indicated that $2,500 of the monies Cy-TI had donated to the club were allotted to the water fountain. A request was presented for several fund raising options to replace the $2,500. A motion for approval was made and seconded, contingent upon final approval of TI management.

The second quarter membership meeting was held on May 11, 1993.

Dr. Neil Frank of Channel 11 spoke about the weather, of course, specifically about hurricanes and how business building codes have reduced damage and injury. He was well received and was presented a t-shirt and a cap which he wore on his television weather report at 10:00 that night.

Don Venker gave the Treasurer’s report. The balance as of April 30 was $9403. Of that amount $5000 was committed to the fountain contract, leaving a balance of $4403.84.

The results of the auction from crafts and the bake sale booth auction at the HTA Picnic together resulted in collecting $700.

Levi Norman gave his Food Bank drive report. Volunteer members wore their t-shirts and caps as they helped on the drive. A total of $1112.00 was donated along with about 200 pounds of food.

Abe reported on the status of the water fountain. Construction had started and should be completed by the end of May. Discussions followed on the fabrication of a commemorative plaque to be installed on the fountain site.
A motion for approval of $200.00 to pay for the design and the plaque was made and approved.
Donna Sumrall resigned as Secretary due to health reasons. Dorothy Wade agreed to finish out Donna’s term and the executive committee approved her selection.
Burt Bassham asked the membership for new ideas for the club. The membership responded with a rain of ideas and suggestions. Among them a softball team, a day trip to Galveston, an embossed seal with the club logo on it for special recognition certificates for those who have been so supportive of the club, a suggestion that a committee be formed to select those we so wished to honor. Those making suggestions were invited to the next Long Range Planning Team meeting.
The third quarter membership meeting on August 10, 1993.
Claude Feray introduced Ms. Elaine Felder, Director of the Fort Bend Women’s Center as the invited speaker of the evening. Then the business part of the meeting began.
The nominating committee of Troy Moffett, Dorothy Cobb, and Don Stefan was presented.
The first activity discussed outside of charity or community work was a bus trip to Moody Gardens in Galveston. Arrangements had been made with Harris County Precinct 3 to pick up and return members free of charge.
Levi Norman talked about the possibility of a volunteer group taking up a new project with Channel 8.
The Christmas Project was kept alive with Dorothy Cobb presenting a request for an allocation of $300.00 to fund the Christmas Project.
The formation of a Budget Committee to develop an entertainment budget for 1994 was discussed.
Abe Abdalla gave a recap of the fountain dedication, presenting a video recording of the ceremony.
The scope of activities and concern that the Club embarked on is remarkable. The Planning Team met eight times in 1993 in their effort to satisfy the membership’s needs.
Well discussed was the water fountain, the Food Drive, and the Christmas Tree projects.
Now the Club was undertaking a booth at the TI picnic, several Day Tours, club subsidized events, and softball games.

Christmas stockings for 680 students were stuffed and distributed. TI Retiree Club volunteers stuffed each stocking with a TI calculator, TI ruler and pencil.

Shirley Feray, Carmen McCarthy and Wilma Roth stuff stockings to be given to Blue Ridge Elementary School students.
The Water Fountain Dedication - a Monument of Pride for the Retiree Club

The proudest moment for the Executive Officers, the Committee Chairs, the Volunteers who helped behind the scenes, and the membership was on the day of August 4, 1993 with the dedication of the water fountain.

As a courtesy, invitations were sent out to Jerry Jenkins, Chairman and President and Chief Executive Officer, Walden Rhines, Executive Vice President, Semiconductor Group, William P. Webber, Executive Vice President, President, Components Sector, and Lynda Coumelis, Texas Instruments

At the ceremony, after Burt Bassham welcomed friends and retirees he recognized those who made this event possible: Ramish Gidwani, Burgess Buchanan, Ronnie Robinson, Pat Williams, Bruce Petty, Elisa Garza, Jan Paterson from the TI Stafford and John Denny, Mike Porter, and Mike Means from TI Cypress.

Water Fountain Presentation by President Burt Bassham

At the presentation, Bassham said, “This is a unique event in TI. I know of no other situation where the Retirees of the Company have so honored their fellow TIers. You who toil and spin are much a part of our family.

It is important that you be cognizant of the generational continuity of the work we started. You will one day join us and be challenged to use your skills and experience to make it better for those about you. We have found that happiness in retirement lies in keeping the juices flowing. Our motto should be “Those Who Rest, Rust”.

Ramish, it is with great pleasure that we, The Retirees, Club present this fountain to our fellow Tiers.”

And with that Abe Abdalla removes the cloth from the plaque. Attending the ceremony were all of the above plus employees who someday will likely join the Club.

Retirees Club members enjoyed the event as they visited with friends, both retired or still working, they hadn’t seen in years.

As one can imagine, pictures and videos were taken of the ceremony.

How the Water Fountain Idea was Born

Burt Bassham related how the water fountain idea came about.

Bassham says that in July 1991, Abe Abdalla came to him with what he thought was a neat idea. Abe said, “Burt, I think it would be nice if we could in some way give our fellow TIers a token of our appreciation for all the years we worked together. One day they will join us in retirement and this could serve as a reminder of those who went before to make it possible for them to enjoy the fruits of our labors.”

Bassham invited him to a future Long Range Planning Team meeting (November 20, 1991) and asked him to flesh out his proposal. Bassham recalls Abe proposed a fountain as a gift to the employees of TI and made such a good presentation that Bassham immediately put him in charge of the project.

Given the parameters to work with: design, cost, and funding, a rather simple charter, Abe went to work on it with gusto. Abe worked long and hard on the project consuming many hours of research in water fountain design and construction plus finding someone who would do it for a reasonable price.

After gaining some experience, Abe became acquainted with fountain design and maintenance and finally found the contractor, Creative Concrete, that created the architectural design and built the fountain that is now on display. To make the situation just a little more complicated, the contractor picked to construct the water fountain was based in San Antonio. Arrangements were made to meet with the contractor at the Stafford Site to go over all of the plans.

Thanks to Abe Abdalla for having the foresight to understand what this water fountain would mean in building accord and harmony between HTA, TI employees, and the Retirees Club.
First Mention of the Water Fountain.

At a Long Range Planning Team Meeting on November 20, 1991, at the Stafford Site Lobby Conference Room, the first mention of the water fountain project was made.

The “Team” made up of Pete Damrel, Russ Timm, Dan Carter, Helene Shelly, and Bill Hecox plus the Executive Committee, discussed several important topics such as changes to the By-Laws, the announcement of a trip by volunteer retirees to the Food Bank to present cash and gifts from the club, and the announcement of future proposed trips in 1992.

Stating that Collette Tour handles all Texins Retirees Association tours in Dallas, Bassham announced also that he had attended a meeting with Collette to explore the possibilities of club group travel at a discounted price.

But the one item on the agenda that turned out to be the biggest club commitment that the club would make and resulting in a “lasting impression” on the club’s relationship with the Texas Instruments Employees came from the following paragraph taken from the from the Meeting Minutes that day:

“Abe Abdalla is a new member of the Planning Team though he was not present for this meeting. Burt announced that Abe made a suggestion that the Retirees Club make some type of lasting donation to the employees of TI, e.g., a small park area with a fountain and benches, either inside or outside. A motion was made and passed for Abe to proceed with a feasibility study. The purpose of such a donation would help maintain continuity between TI employees and retirees.”

This proposed project was a daring test to the young club for many reasons. However good the intentions were, it was yet to be seen if such a feat could be carried out. There were so many questions that had to be answered.

And when the total amount of the water fountain came to a $7500 price, there were more questions. Where was the money coming from? Could the club afford such a project? What could the club do to raise money to help pay off the water fountain? Would the membership support such a commitment? Who would head the project? Who would design and built it? Would TI create a space to set up an area for a water fountain? The questions continued to come, but the club answered them as quick as they arouse.

In answering the first question, the club came up with a Funding Proposal:

1. Initially borrow $3,000 from HTA. 2. Commit a percentage of future dues to the project. 3. Ask for voluntary individual contributions. 4. Hold garage sales or auctions from contributed articles. 5. Have a small cover charge for present free annual dinners. 6. Sell some worthwhile product.

In the end, the water fountain was paid off by a donation of $2500 by HTA, $2500 dedicated by Cy-TI, and $2500 by the club itself.

Funds had been raised by holding auctions and cake sales at TI Picnics were held by the club to defray these costs, but those proceeds were eventually donated to charities.
Retirees Await the 1993 Water Fountain Dedication Presentation
Houston TI Retirees Club realizes it’s Dream Project

Arrival and construction of the TI water fountain from start to finish.

Above, standing with fountain workers from San Antonio is TI’s Bruce Petty.

Third photo on right with workers is Project Chairman Abe Abdalla.

Right picture standing with workers is Club President Burt Bassham.
The Annual TI Retiree BBQ Dinner was held on October 14, 1993.
Most definitely, records of every meeting were well recorded, but to my disappointment records of some years couldn’t be found. Consequently, only a brief review is offered for the next three years. It is sad not to be able give an honest account of the hard work shown by the officers and the membership because of these missing records.

1994

After four years of serving as the club’s principal leader, Burt Bassham stepped down. Bassham, the only president the club had known was anticipating a move to Virginia. The club elected Levi Norman, a very capable leader, to his first term.

The entire Executive Board elected was:

- President - Levi Norman
- Vice President - Oma Niles
- Vice President - Herb Roehrig
- Treasurer - Don Venker
- Secretary - Nita Davis
- Secretary - Wilma Roth

Committee Chairpersons:
- Financial - Don Venker
- Membership - Dorothy Cobb
- Publicity - Herb Roehrig
- Long Range Planner - Levi Norman
- Activities - Troy Moffett
- Program - Claude Feray

Norman continued the club building efforts of the previous Executive Board by getting the members involved in community projects and by keeping the membership satisfied with the various programs. Activities Chairman Troy Moffett and Programs Chairman Claude Feray introduced.

In a March 1 memo to major organizations in the Greater Houston area, KPRC-TV, announced that news anchors Doug Johnson and Jan Carson were spearheading a Channel 2 Spring Food Drive on April 19 from 6 am to 7 pm to feed the estimated 300,000 Houstonians who must turn to charities for food assistance at least once a year. It invited clubs, businesses and non-profit organizations to join them in this noble effort by conducting their own food drives.

The TI Retirees Club took up the challenge and on March 21 special meeting the attendees planned the food drive they called the “Food Drive Collection for Houston Food Bank/Channel 2.”

Attendees were Levi Norman, Robert Fagan, Russell Timm, Carman McCarthy, Wilma Roth, Frances Lowery, Don and Lynn Stefan. Not attending but expressing a desire to participate were Troy Moffett, Edith Brewer, Dorothy Cobb, and Oma Niles.

The club's food drive was the second in as many years. The drive was a success in a big part because of procedures already in place from the previous year and because of the vigorous effort put forth by the TI Retirees Club members.

1995

Norman Levi and Oma Niles were re-elected to a second consecutive term. The 1995 executive officers and committee chairs were as follows:

- Pres. Levi Norman
- 1st Vise President: Oma Niles
- 2nd Vice President: Bob Spears
- Treas.- Charles Sumrall
- Sec.- Nita Davis and Ana Maria Hutt
- Membership- Dorothy Cobb
- Activities: Lynn Stefan and Wilma Roth
- Sunshine: Ardeth Ewing and Alice White

Lynn Stefan and Wilma Roth co-chaired the Activities Committee but they also worked together in a club publicity effort to gather and distribute retiree club news.

The very first club newsletter, “Vigor”, Volume 1, Issue 1, was introduced in January of 1995. The person composing the page was either Lynn Stefan or Wilma Roth who gathered the club's news.
On Page One under a column headed 'PEOPLE', Lynn wrote:

“The Vigor newsletter welcomes your contributions. If you have any information that would be of interest to Texas Instruments' retirees, please contact Lynn Stefan, activities chairwoman, at 713-777-2805.”

The “Vigor” has kept its original Page One masthead format to this day. Page One carried only three major items; OFFICERS FOR 1995, SPECIAL EVENTS, and a PEOPLE column.

The first six newsletters carried the Volume and Issue numbers. The 1996 Vigor started with this numbering system but it was dropped after the February issue. The newsletter has continued to be published without major changes has not missed an issue to date; a stretch of fourteen years and six months.

How the newsletter got its name is not known, but it would be fitting if the newsletter might have been named for a group of retirees with so much drive, enthusiasm, vitality and 'vigor'.

The club got an arrangement with Bayland Park for FREE bus service for its trips. With this, the club stayed busy with trip activities that took them to Mercer Arboretum in Humble, the state capitol in Austin, and Moody Gardens and Dickens on the Strand in Galveston.

The club met at Shoney’s the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Membership per TI retiree and spouse was $10.00.

Monthly Breakfast Meetings began to held every third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Shoney’s Restaurant.

The first Pot Luck and Bingo Event was held on July 12. The Activities Committee expanded its program by taking the membership on five Day Tours. The Christmas Party was held on December 12 at Paiesano’s Restaurant in Houston.

1996

The 1996 Officers and Committee Chairs were:

Pres. Charles Sumrall 1st VP: Wilma Roth 2nd VP: Bill Sakwitz Treas. Bob Spears
Sec. Oma Niles Activities: Lynn Stefan/Nita Davis Sunshine: Alice White/B. J. Townsend

The First Quarterly Meeting was held on February 13, 1996.

Continuing its program of entertaining and informing the club with interesting topics, a special speaker was invited to speak at the meeting. The guest was Michael Hicks with Professional Indemnity. Minutes of the last meeting were read and pasted out to the members. Being Valentines week, all the ladies received two long stem roses at the meeting.

Monthly Breakfast Meetings continued to be held every third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 A.M. Membership per TI retiree and spouse remained at $10.00.

The Pot Luck Bingo was held on March 26 with 57 guests attending. The Food Drive at TI on May 9, 1996 was again a success. The club collected $1,537 in cash/checks.

Early in the year the club was informed that buses would not be available until July and that trips would have to be planned for the second half of the year. The club planned three bus trips that year. The first club Day Trip was taken on July 15 to Schulenburgh to tour the “Painted Churches”. On August 27 the club visited the Houston Ship Channel and the San Jacinto Monument. On September 24, it was a trip to Lake Jackson Sea Center and Brazosport Museum of Natural Science.

The attendance at the Breakfast Meetings at Shoney’s Cafe averaged 27 per meeting.

The Annual Retiree BBQ was held on November 12. Approximately 100 attended.

On December 1, the club had a “Christmas Breakfast” at Shoneys Buffet Breakfast. Members were asked to bring a “White Elephant” gift to exchange with others. Then on December 17, a Christmas Party Dance was held at the Embassy Suites on the SW Freeway in Houston.
INTERESTING FACTS

OUR CLUB’S NAME
In the original By-Laws the club was known as Retirement Club of Houston (RCH). In 1990 it was changed to Hou-Texins Retiree Club (RC). In 1992 it was changed again to Hou-Texins The Retiree Club of Houston (TRC). And in 2005 the name was changed to Texas Instruments Retiree Club of Houston (TIRET).

***********************

MEETING PLACES
The first meeting places took place at the homes of the founders. After officially becoming a club in 1990, the general meetings were held at the TI Auditorium. The membership met quarterly (only four times a year). In 1997 monthly luncheon meetings were held at Shoney’s Restaurant. In 2001, monthly breakfast meetings were held at TI. In 2002, the club started holding monthly luncheon meetings at the Golden Corral near the Stafford plant.

***********************

TIRET PRESIDENTS

***********************

TI RETIREES BBQ DINNER
Texas Instruments held the first TI BBQ Dinner in 1989 to gather and query retirees if enough interest existed for a retiree club. The Retirees Club has since had an active role in the Annual BBQ Event. The Annual BBQ event has been cancelled one year, due to Hurricane Ike.

***********************

EARLY CLUB COMMUNICATIONS AND THE VIGOR
In early club years, communications was only by phone. Minutes were sent by mail to the Executive Board and members who asked for them. The monthly Houston Hi-Lites carried a “Retirees Corner” newsletter by Joye O’Donnel to inform members of club activities. In 1997 the Vigor served as a source of information. To date, the Vigor has had only one editor - Lynn Stefan.

***********************

HOUSTON HI-LITES
Thanks to member Sue Harrison, the Club Historian, Israel Morales, has collected copies of the Houston Hi-Lites as far back as 1967. One can find a lot of interesting profiles and service awards about many of the club members in recent Vigor editions.
1997

The club experienced a good year in 1997 as the Activities Committee kept the club very busy. All in all 7 Day Tours were held. The club also held a Food Drive on October 17 at TI.

The Breakfast Meetings continued to be successful with attendance the average rising to 43. Membership dues per TI retiree and spouse remained at $10.00. Monthly “Breakfast Meetings” were relocated at the TI Cafeteria.

BJ and JR Townsend updated the 1997 Retiree Roster including the new 75 retiree members.

On February 11, the following officers were installed:

President: Charles Sumrall 1st VP: Wilma Roth and J. R. Townsend 2nd VP: Jim Osborne
Secretary: B. J. Townsend Treasurer: Bob Spears

Committee chairpersons were:

Sunshine: Ardeth Ewing, Alice White, B.J. Townsend
Activities: Nita Davis Calling Chairperson: Marcie Alston
Vigor Editor-Reporter: Lynn Stefan Publisher/Distribution: Wilma Roth

Activities and meetings planned included:

Jan. 15- “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - 30
Jan. 21- Smithsonian Exhibit at George Brown Convention Center - 25 attended
Feb. 11- Qu. Mtg. at TI - attendance 41
Feb. 19 - “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - 39
Mar. 19 - “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - 40
April 3 - Bus trip to see the “Bluebonnets” - 34
April 16- Mtg. at Shoney’s - 40
May 13 - Qu. Mtg. at TI - no attendance recorded
May 21- Mtg. at Shoney’s - 39 people
June 2 - Alaskan Cruise
June 10 - Japanese Gardens, IMAX Theatre
June 18 - “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - 39
July 16 - “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - 49
July 22 - Pot Luck and Bingo - 46
July 29 - Astros versus Saint Louis Cardinals
Aug. 12- Qu. Mtg. at TI - 41
Aug. 20 - “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - record-breaker attendance 53
Aug. 20 - “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - record-breaker attendance 53
Sept. 17 - “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - 49
Sept. 22 - So. Express Paddle Boat on Lake Conroe
Oct. 17 - Food Drive
Oct. 22 - HTA Annual BBQ Dinner - 110
Oct. 27- Moody Gardens, IMAX, Rain Forest
Nov. 11- Qu. Mtg. At TI Cafeteria - 38
Dec. 10- “Shoney’s Buffet Breakfast” - 40
Dec.- Christmas Party-Holiday Inn - 48

The Holiday Inn Christmas Dinner was a success. Forty-eight guests enjoyed the many door prizes and white elephant gifts that were given out. Members danced to the music Charles Sumrall provided.
1998

This was a busy year for the club. All the committee chairs were working really hard to satisfy the membership. This extra effort showed in the membership rolls and in 1998 the club membership rolls increased. Treasurer Don Carpenter reported 102 paid members and 29 unpaid as of April 30, 1998.

By May 11, 1998 there were 111 paid members. The treasury had a total of $2,576.32.

Breakfast meetings were being held at Shoney’s but some complained that it was getting “too crowded and too close.”

Breakfast meetings had been held at Shoney’s for approximately 3 years, with 18 people in attendance. Just recently they had 52 members had attended.

A proposal of $4.00 per person was offered to the Executive Board by TI Cafeteria Manager Kirby Buttram.

The benefits of moving to the TI Cafeteria were too many for the membership to turn down. The move would give them a variety of food selections, plenty of space, visiting with working TI’ers, conducting business closer to TI, and a shorter drive for the Richmond/Rosenberg members.

J. R. Townsend made a motion to move the monthly meetings starting in July. The motion passed. The club continued its humanitarian gestures by getting everyone to bring peanut and jelly or tuna to their June Breakfast. These were donated to the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministries and the same gesture was repeated in July and August. In September a similar donation was made to the Star of Hope. Heading this benevolent program were Jim Osborne, Eva Sturdevant, Jim Walsh, and B.J. Townsend.

To the Club the Vigor Newsletter was worth its weight in gold. It printed bi-monthly, but it was very informative. Besides the reports on the Quarterly Meetings, it gave a summary of every event the club held. It also gave accounts of what the membership was doing now that they were retired. It was somewhat of a hospital, sick, and vacation report.

President Osborne’s suggestion to have a “different type” of Christmas Social (with dinner and dance) on the Southern Empress on Lake Conroe at a cost of $25.74 per person was approved.

Officers for 1998:

President: Jim Osborne
1st VP: Wilma Roth
2nd VP: Jim Walsh
Treasurer: Don Carpenter
Secretary: Dot Osborne

Committee chairpersons were:

Activities: Nita Davis
Sunshine: B.J. Townsend
By-Laws: Jim Osborne
Publisher: Wilma Roth
Calling Chairperson: Marcie Alston
Food Drive: Jim Walsh
Ed. & Reporter: Lynn Stefan

The following activities and meetings was proof that the membership was going strong in 1998:

Jan 20, 1998 - Shoney's Buffet Bkfst- 41
Feb. 10, 1998 - Quarterly Meeting - attendance 49
Feb. 18, 1998 - Shoney's Buffet Bkfst- 40
Mar. 18, 1998 - Shoney's Buffet Bkfst- 40
April 9, 1998 - Bluebonnet Trip to Round Top
April 15 1998 - Shoney's Buffet Bkfst- 38
May 12, 1998 - Second Quarter Meeting - 36
May 20, 1998 - Shoney's Buffet Bkfst- 32
May 27, 1998 - Breakfast Meeting at TI - 36
June 17, 1998 - Shoney's Buffet Bkfst-34
July 15, 1998 - Breakfast Meeting at TI - 40
Aug. 4, 1998 - Tour to Channel 2 and 11
Aug. 12, 1998 - Quarterly Meeting -Pot Luck night -44
Aug. 19, 1998- Breakfast Meet at TI - 38
Aug. 28, 1998- Astro Game
Oct. 17, 1998 - Tour of NASA
Sept. 16, 1998 - Breakfast Meeting at TI - 32
Nov. 10, 1998 - Qr. Meeting at TI - 22
Nov. 18, 1998 - Breakfast Meeting at TI – 26

Feb. 1998 -Bush Lib./ Museum. at College Station - 37
March 5, 1998 - Bush Lib./ Museum. at College Station - 37
April 9, 1998 - Bluebonnet Trip to Round Top
May 12, 1998 -Second Quarter Meeting - 36
May 18, 1998 - Astros Game against Atlanta Braves
July 15, 1998 - Breakfast Meeting at TI - 40
August 28, 1998- Astro Game
Sept. 16, 1998 - Breakfast Meeting at TI - 32
Nov. 18, 1998 - Breakfast Meeting at TI – 26
1999

Officers were elected for the 1999 year were:

President - Jim Osborne  Vice President - Jim Walsh,
Secretary - Dot Osborne   Treasurer. - Don Carpenter

The year started with a Club Breakfast Meeting at the TI Cafeteria on January 20 with 41 retirees attendees.

The First Quarter Meeting took place on February 9 in the TI Auditorium with 26 retirees attending.. Speaker at this meeting was Marcella Guidry, a Houston Police Representative for 24 years. She spoke on “Scams and other Irregularities” mostly aimed at Senior Citizens.

County Judge Mike Wood of Harris County Probate Court 2 was invited to the Second Quarterly Meeting on May 11.

The Third Quarterly Meeting on August 17 was a special and interesting as a Pot Luck Dinner and Bingo drawing 58 people to the meeting.

A brief Fourth Quarterly Meeting was held at the TI Cafeteria on November 9. Jim Walsh expressed the importance of the meeting by reminding the membership that officers would be elected for 2000. The invited guest, a representative from Walgreen's Drugs, spoke on prescriptions and over the counter medication and health supplements.

As the club grew more committees were formed. Many of the members served on several committees enabling the club to get involved in many more activities.

Serving on the committees were:

Food Drive - Jim Walsh, Jim Osborne, J. R. Townsend,
Quarterly Programs - Jim Walsh
Decorations - Allie Schroder, Lydia Barker, Edith Brewer, Betty Jo Townsend,
Hospitality/Activities - Lynn Stefan, Telephone Committee - J. R. Townsend, Betty Carhart
Sunshine- B. J. Townsend, Ardeth Ewing, Doris Floyd, Charles Sumrall, Alice White, and Ruby Williams,
Day Trips - Nita Davis, Ruby Wilson, Vigor Newsletter - Lynn Stefan, Wilma Roth, J. R. Townsend

These committees kept the club members busy all year round doing charity work or traveling all over Houston and the Harris County surrounding areas touring interesting sites.

The Christmas Party was held at the Great Caruso Dinner Theatre in Houston at a bargain price of only $30.00 per person.

The Annual TI BBQ was held on Oct. 14 and the Christmas Party was held at The Great Caruso Dinner Theatre Dec. 2.
2000

Only two Vigor newsletters, the Sept./Oct. & the Nov./Dec. issues, was available at this recording.

The following officers were elected for 2000.
President: Jim Walsh  VP: Ruby Williams  Sec: Dot Osborne  Treasurer: Don Carpenter

Committee chairpersons were:

Activities: Nita Davis  Sunshine: BJ Townsend  Editor & Reporter: Lynn Stefan
Publisher/Distribution: Wilma Roth  Calling Chairperson: Marcie Alston
Food Drive: Jim Walsh  By Laws: Jim Osborne

The customary HTA and TI Retiree charity functions such as Food and Blood Drives, and Christmas Parties for the area Senior Centers were noticeably becoming less with each passing year.

The only TI/HTA/TIRET charity program held this year was the TI Food/Clothes Drive held in September.

Interest among TI retirees in becoming a TIRET member was not as high as the club wished, so the club planned a membership drive to sign up new members. The drive’s target date was set for October 24, the day of the Annual TI BBQ.

The club mailed out a total of 650 invitations to members and non-members alike to come to the BBQ Dinner. The result was a modest increase as 22 new members signed up from an estimated crowd of between 140 to 150 people.

Beginning with September, the club started having monthly “Breakfast Meetings” at the TI Cafeteria.

The Christmas Party at Great Caruso Dinner Theatre was held on December 12 with an attendance of 33.

Honorable Mention:

President Jim Walsh pointed out at the meeting how Lynn and Don Stefan were instrumental in getting a special mailing out to the 650 + non-members retirees in the Houston area soliciting new members for the TI Retiree Club. This effort resulted in “22 new members.” Don and Lynn also headed up the mailing of the 600 + post cards inviting the retirees to the October BBQ Dinner.

The last meeting of the year was held on November 15.
2001

The first meeting of the year was held on Wednesday, January 17 at TI Cafeteria at 9:00 AM.

The following officers were elected to serve in the 2001 year.

Pres. J. R. Townsend  VP George Wolf  Sec. Susan Harrison  Trea. Don Carpenter

Committee chairpersons were: Publisher/Distribution: J.R. Townsend, Don Stefan
Activities- Nita Davis, Dot Osborne, B. J. Townsend  Ed/Reporter - Lynn Stefan
Sunshine - Lynn Stefan, Jewel Welch  Communications - Marcie Alston

No charitable functions were held this year. The club gradually turned its attention to becoming a more socially oriented organization concentrating on more Day Tours and Social Events. The club had five of these events including the Christmas Party.

Meetings and Activities included:

Jan. 17  Breakfast Meeting at TI Cafeteria - (39)
Mar.21  Bkft. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria at 9 AM - (44)
April 18 Bkft. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria at 9 AM- (30)
May 2  Stafford Opera House-Columbus (26)
June 20  Bkft. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria at 9 AM
Aug 15  Bkft./Qu. Mtg. - TI Cafeteria 9 AM-(27)
Sept. 19  Bkft. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria at 9 AM
Nov. 25  Bkft./Qu. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria 9 AM-

Feb. 21 Bkft. and Qu. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria
March 27 Tour-SW Bell Mus./Eyeglass Ctr.- (22)
April 24  Pot Luck and White Elephant Bingo
May 16  Quarterly Mtg. at TI Cafeteria 9 AM
July 18  Bkft. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria at 9 AM
Sept. 5  Historical Day Tour of Texas City
Oct. 17  Bkft. Mtg. at TI Cafeteria at 9 AM

The TI Retiree BBQ held on October 25. Attendance was 125.
The Christmas Party was held on December 6 at the Holiday Inn. Attendance was 48.
2002
The following officers were elected to serve in 2002.
Pres.: Charles Sumrall  VP: George Wolf  Sec.: Doris Floyd  Treas.: J.R. Townsend
Serving as committee chairpersons were:
Activities: Bob Gruber  Sunshine: Lynn Stefan  Editor & Reporter: Lynn Stefan
Publisher/Distribution: J.R. Townsend, Don Stefan  Door Prizes: Lydia Barker
Calling Chairpersons: Margaret Williams and Betty Carhart
The membership were treated to six Day Tours organized by the Activities Chairman.
Instead of attending “Breakfast Meetings,” the membership voted to attend “Luncheon” Meetings.
The first Luncheon Meeting was held at the Golden Corral in Stafford on October 16 2002.
The TI Retiree BBQ held on October 10. Attendance was 130.
The Christmas Party was held on December 6 at the Holiday Inn. Attendance was 52.

2003
The first meeting of the year was held at the Golden Corral on January 15.
Unfortunately, that there aren't many records or photos available to report of the club's activities for
this year or of 2002.

The officers elected for 2003 were as follows:
Pres.: Charles Sumrall  VP: Bob Gruber  Sec. Doris Floyd  Treas.: J. R. Townsend
Serving as committee chairpersons were:
Vigor/Reporter: Lynn Stefan  Sunshine: Jewel Welsh and Lynn Stefan  Pub./Dist.: J. R. Townsend
Calling: Margaret Williams  Graphics: Don Stefan  Day Trips: Bob Gruber
The Annual TI BBQ Event was held on October 22 at the TI cafeteria. The number attending was
not available.
The Annual TIRET Christmas Party was held at the TI Auditorium on December 12. Again, no
records are available as to how many attended.
2004 - a More Active and Vigorous Approach Sought

In accepting the leadership as president of TIRET in 2004, Israel Morales knew he would be following in the footsteps of a very qualified and devoted club member who had served more terms as president than any other. Israel succeeded a president who like himself, was not a TI employee retiree but whose spouses were.

Charles Sumrall was well liked by the membership and kept the club active and presided in accordance with the club’s by-laws.

As president, Israel knew he had much catching up to do. So he began a self-imposed crash program to learn more about the by-laws, club programs that were already in force, the relationship between TI/HTA and the Club, and more importantly, more about the members who made up its membership.

Israel was elected in December of 2003 with a team that was as enthusiastic about the club as he was.

The officers elected at the meeting to serve in the 2004 term are as follows:

Pres: Israel Morales,  VP: Bob Gruber,  Secretary: Annie Johnson,  Treasurer: Lawson Cook

Serving as committee chairpersons are as follows.

Vigor: Lynn Stefan  Graphics: Don Stefan  Distribution: J. R. Townsend
Calling Com. Margaret Williams  Sunshine: Jewel Welch  Activities: Bob Gruber
Programs: Tony Leigh  Membership: Tom Johnson

The first meeting of the year was held at the Golden Corral on January 19.

After a promising year in 2003, Israel saw a great opportunity for club growth. Enthusiasm was abound among the newly elected board members. To exploit this energy, he set membership goals in an effort to expand the membership roster. Goals were also set to get more involvement and participation from the members.

Starting in January of 2004, monthly board meetings became part of the norm. This step was made to allow the board members to meet more often to work on long range planning.

Board meetings were scheduled for every month just prior to the regular monthly luncheon meetings. The first board meeting was held at Israel’s house, but were moved to a TI Conference Room starting in February and have continued to be held there ever since.

Activities Chairman Bob Gruber's Day Tour Trips became more regular. Programs Chairman Tony Leigh invited more speakers to speak at the luncheon meetings. The membership began to be more active with higher luncheon meeting attendances. The club goal set was to have a constant number of fifty members or more attend the meetings.

The executive board and all committees worked closer with Vigor Editor Lynn Stefan in an effort to get future events advertised and printed well in advance of the date of the events. Reports in writing from all committees were encouraged. The luncheon meeting minutes and treasurer reports were recorded on compact disks (CD's) for club records.

The club mantra became “We Socialize Together.”

Efforts to have more photos and narratives of all activities were sent to Lynn Stefan for the Vigor. An effort was made to have an appointed or designated club photographer at every club outing. The membership meeting attendance was a constant 40 to 45 members with the exception of the
December meeting of only 33 members. A busy December was the cause of the low turnout.

The Annual TI BBQ Event was held on October 28, 2004 at the TI cafeteria.

TIRET increased its involvement in the Annual TI BBQ Event. In order to provide all TI retirees with a great evening, club members volunteered for various special assignments.

TIRET took over the entire programming - from the invitations to the program to table decorations, to entertainment, to door prizes.

Israel displayed a series of easels with posters to showcase the club's many activities and to persuade non-members to join TIRET.

The entire cost, including food, was supplied by Texas Instruments as it has from the very first BBQ Event in 1989 whose purpose was to bring TI retirees together to form the Retiree Club. This event is the best opportunity the club has to promote itself and recruit new members.

The Annual Club Christmas Party was held at the TI Auditorium on Friday, December 10, 2004. The 64 people present were entertained by singer and entertainer Barbara Jennings with songs of the 50’s and 60’s. Everyone received a favor from the Club - a TI calculator - and many won door prizes.
2005 - Growth Continues

The TIRET first luncheon meeting of the year continued at the Golden Corral on Wednesday, January 18.

Barbara Lewis became the new secretary for the 2004 year.

The officers elected are as follows.
Pres: Israel Morales  VP: Bob Gruber  Sec: Barbara Lewis  Treasurer: Lawson Cook

Serving as committee chairpersons were the following:
Vigor Reporter - Lynn Stefan  Graphics - Don Stefan  Day Trips - Daryl Moss
Pub/Dist.-J. R. Townsend  Calling - Margaret Williams  Membership - Tom Johnson
Programs - Tony Leigh  Sunshine Committee - Jewel Welsh and Lynn Stefan

Membership meeting attendance and participation in club activities grew in 2004. This was a goal that the Executive Board had worked very hard on achieving.

Club history tells us that membership has always been a big discussion topic at the board meetings, especially when the pool to draw from is relatively small and limited.

Getting new members to join has always been a challenge. Realizing that the only way the club could recruit new members is to draw them from new TI Retirees, several ideas were presented to interest new members to sign up and each one was considered and well thought-out.

The in-plant exposure TIRET had within TI had been greatly diminished because of the security measures that TI had imposed at the Stafford Plant as a consequence of the 9-11 of terriorsim.

TI’s Houston Hi-Lites, a very employee friendly newsletter that printed TI updates and employee achievement notices also announced monthly Retirees Club messages. The newsletter which started in 1967 was a very helpful and valuable media that TIRET counted on to attract working TI’ers, but it ceased publication in the mid 1990’s.

The Calling Committee Chairperson Margaret Williams coordinated with the Membership Committee in contacting members and non-members. Their plan required numerous volunteer callers from the membership.

The Executive Board’s ability and determination to work through unexpected situations and continue on with the Club’s programs when something went wrong was a good sign of strength and vigor as the club managed to find ways to cope with misfortune.

When Activities Chairman Bob Gruber took ill in the Spring of 2005, Daryl Moss and I took over the Day Trip duties as Activities Chairmen. Bob was immensely missed, but he passed along relevant information and the program continued without a hitch.

The situation caused alarm. I wondered, what if any officer or committee chairman become took ill or were incapacitated in any way for a long period of time? Realizing the necessity for guidelines in each Office or Program, I ruled that each member holding office outlined a set of Operating Procedures for anyone taking over in an emergency. This would make it much easier for anyone to continue the program with the least of difficulties.
Another dilemma the Club faced was the security measures many companies were putting into action. And TI was no exception. The attack on the Twin Towers on 9-11 caused Texas Instruments to implement stricter security changes. Retirees no longer had open access to the TI plant. This caused concern to the club since the club's officers held their meetings at TI Conference Rooms and of the constant business visits the Treasurer makes to HTA.

Texas Instruments, however, permitted one person from the club to have access to the plant. Upon passing a TI clearance check, a designated person could have access to the building and sign in the board members making him/her responsible for those they signed for. This designated person and the club treasurer were issued special clearance badges. Soon, every board member was familiarized with the new procedures and the board meetings were continued to be held at one of the Stafford plant's conference rooms.

Programs Chairman Tony Leigh lined up several speakers again to speak at the luncheon meetings. One interesting Program speaker was Mayor, Leonard Scarcella, of the City of Stafford, who was the scheduled keynote speaker on September 21, 2005. Even while Hurricane Katrina was threatening the Texas coast that day and was believed to be coming into the Fort Bend area, Mr. Scarcella did not disappoint. However, he did cut his talk a bit short because of an urgent council meeting in regards to the storm.

Other speakers that Tony lined up were Bruce Petty, TI Facilities Service Manager; Kenneth Lambert, funeral director and planner; Maris Landrau, Puerto Rican Tourist Officer; Rachael Boettcher, a young talented singer and entertainer; and David Harlestron of Lathrop’s Gems & Fine Jewelry.

The Vigor newsletter began to expand not only in individual member's news and announcements but also in printing the photos that were taken at every function by a designated photographer.

The Vigor served a very important role in the Club’s communication efforts. Every Club Committee relied greatly on The Vigor to get the word out to the membership for them. With the club’s growth came the rising costs of operation, principally mailing expenses. Raising the Member dues was discussed but the annual dues of only $10.00 per member and spouse remained the same as was set in 1989.

The By-Laws were revised on September 1, 2005 to update operating procedures and to clarify confusing language in some articles and to correct typographical errors and/or grammatical usage.

A free Club Directory containing the name, address, and phone number of every member was prepared for the membership. The plan was an effort to get the members to visit with one another. But, throughout the year, in almost every board meeting the discussion centered around the “Top Three Priority Events” - the Annual TI BBQ Dinner, the Day Tours and the Christmas Party. These big three events had to be presented to the membership as special and economical.

Bob Gruber coordinated the TI BBQ Dinner with HTA since he was the designated TIRET member with a badge. Helped by committed board members who took on special assignments, the Retiree BBQ Dinners became a real special event for retirees - members and non-members both.
All Annual TI BBQ Events have been totally sponsored and fully paid by TI/HTA. The BBQ has always been held at the TI Cafeteria and TI has always hired the caterer.

The rest of the celebration’s planning, including mail-outs, invitations, decorations, entertainment and door prizes, was the Club’s responsibility. Several special committees were named to carry out these tasks.

HTA’s full support headed by Bruce Petty and staff encouraged the Club to enthusiastically put on a show.

The Annual TI BBQ Event was held on October 13, 2005 at the TI cafeteria.

The membership enjoyed nine Day Tour Trips that took the membership on several tours throughout the area. Counties that were visited were Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, and Harris Counties.

The tours, many of them sold-out, provided a wide-range of entertainment and education.

The Christmas Party also received a lot of thought. Israel pulled all the stops to try to make it a more attractive and memorable Christmas Club Event. Gift certificates, favors and a subsidized Christmas dinner plus entertainment by a natural musician and entertainer were ultimately offered. Over sixty attended the event held at the TI Auditorium on Friday, December 9, 2005.

2005 Board members who helped shape the TIRET to what it is today are pictured below.

Seated (l to r) are Vigtor Editors, Don and Lynn Stefan; Secretary, Barbara Lewis; and Treasurer, Lawson Cook. Standing (l to r) are President, Israel Morales; VP, Ralph Garcia; Activities Chairman, Bob Gruber, and Program Chairman, Tony Leigh.
2006

Officers elected to serve beginning in January of 2006 were as follows.

Pres. Israel Morales   VP Ralph Garcia   Sec. Barbara Lewis   Treasurer Lawson Cook

Serving as committee chairpersons were:

Vigor and Rep. - Lynn Stefan Graphics - Don Stefan Programs - Tony Leigh
Pub. and Dist. - JR Townsend Day Trips - Daryl Moss Membership - Tom Johnson
Calling Committee - Margaret Williams Sunshine Committee - Jewel Welsh, Lynn Stefan

The first Luncheon Meeting of the year was held at the Golden Corral on Wednesday, January 18 with every board member attending.

After a rewarding and successful year in 2005, every committee chair seemed energized and ready to challenge themselves to have an even better year in 2006. The numerous board meetings, luncheon meetings, day tours, and special events made it almost impossible not to think or talk about Club business on their own personal time.

A review and discussion of each committees tasks and accomplishments in 2005 resulted in changing or expanding certain programs as they were presented for 2006.

To help the Executive Committee and Board Members know what the membership wished in their club programs, a new survey was sent out via the Vigor to the membership seeking a feedback on what their preferences of entertainment were.

As early as January, special committees were set for the TI BBQ Event, Christmas Party, a nominating committee, and By-laws committee.

V.P. and Activities Chairman Bob Gruber already had three tours planned through the month of March. The final Day Tour totals came to nine for the year 2006. Day Tours made included visits to museums, arboretum, Houston Chronicle, Musicals, Flight museum, a Wildlife Park, Santa’s Wonderland.

In Programs, invitations to speakers were reduced to four by eliminating speakers for January, September, November, December and inviting speakers every other month starting in February.

A Pot Luck and Bingo Night was planned and carried out on October 5. The event had been held in previous years and was revived this year by popular demand.

Club volunteers brought their favorite dishes of salads, veggies, and desserts. Members brought numerous wrapped ‘white elephant’ gifts to be given as Bingo prizes. Forty seven guests enjoyed the club subsidized main course of grilled chicken.

The Vigor Newsletter headed by Don and Lynn Stefan had by far the best year to date and proved again how valuable a part of the club it is. The Vigor’s contents grew with each committee chairman’s responsibilities. Flyers and announcements of coming events sent in by committee chairs, photos sent in by the event designated photographer, vacation and sick member reports kept Don and Lynn very busy. And besides the added work and pressure, they never missed their deadline.

Israel Morales was very proud to report to the membership in the October Vigor issue that the club had joined the internet world of communications and had taken a giant step forward when Lawson Cook and Daryl Moss brought up the idea of a Club Web Site. With the board’s blessing, Lawson, Daryl and Ralph Garcia got busy on making the club’s web site a reality and by September 8, the club’s new web site was up and running. Members now were able to log on to view the web site at www.tiretirees.com and retrieve important information if they had misplaced their Vigor issue.

Lawson Cook was named the Club’s Webmaster.
The Annual TI BBQ Event was held on September 14, 2006 at the TI cafeteria. There were well over 200 in attendance. Entertaining the crowd was the thirty-five piece Missouri City Pops Community Band. Door prizes in the form of restaurant certificates were given to the lucky winners. Picture posters of all the day tours taken were displaced on easels to attract new members. Ten new members signed up.

The Christmas Party planning started early in the year, but some members had voiced a critical opinion on the location of the Club’s past Annual Christmas Party and expressed a desire to change the venue for 2006. The party had been held at the TI Auditorium for two consecutive years. Heeding this request, the search for a new location was started immediately.

Christmas Party Chairman Israel Morales was able to reserve a banquet room at Vargo’s Restaurant, a classy and well known Houston restaurant where the banquet attire is customarily formal. With the membership’s budgetary approval the Annual TIRET Christmas Party was held at Vargo’s Restaurant on December 13. The $25 cost per person was not deemed high considering the reputation, the location, the delicious entree, and the festive environment. Several members in a dancing mood took advantage of the music and dance floor. Ninety-two members and guests signed up, but only ninety actually showed up.

This was by far the best Christmas Party or gathering by our membership and it may have set a precedent for future Christmas parties, a challenge that Israel is willing to take.

Officers serving in 2006 pose for a picture at TIRET’s Annual Christmas Party at Vargo’s
Seated: VP Ralph Garcia, Vigor Ed. Lynn Stefan, Sec. Barbara Lewis, Pres. Israel Morales
Standing: Treasurer Lawson Cook, Vigor Publisher Don Stefan, Activities Chair Daryl Moss
2007

The year began with the new slate of officers elected in November of 2006. The first meeting was held at the Golden Corral on Wed. January 17. Ralph Garcia took over as President from Israel Morales in a smooth transition. Others elected for 2007 were:

Pres: Ralph Garcia VP: Bob Gruber Secretary: Susan Leigh Treas: Tony Leigh

Serving as committee chairs were:

Vigor: Lynn Stefan  Web Master: Lawson Cook Publisher: Don Stefan
Sunshine: Jewel Welch  Activities: Daryl Moss Programs: Tony Leigh
Membership: Tom Johnson Christmas Party: Israel Morales

Again, the new Executive Board started the year with big plans and aspirations. On January 10, at an early Board Meeting at the residence of president Ralph Garcia, the board spent several hours planning the club's budget and activities. This was the first time that the club started having annual meetings to set the course, and the budget for the year. Attendance goals were set.

The early planning resulted in a good club year. Luncheon meetings, with an occasional speaker, were attended by an average of 40 to 43 members. The Day Trips set up and led by Daryl Moss attracted many to the record number of nine Day Trips.

After the previous year's successful Pot Luck Dinner and Bingo, a repeat was held on May 24 in the TI Auditorium. Again, it was a success.

The Annual TI BBQ Event was held on September 23, 2007 at the TI cafeteria. Club members sent out 766 invitations to all retirees and presented the program for the BBQ Event.

A new wrinkle was added to the program. Instead of the multiple easels displaying posters of the club's activities, the attendees were treated to a club Power Point presentation. All of the pictures for videos were arranged by Israel Morales and the video was put together by Tony Leigh and Ralph Garcia.

The slide show included pictures of past TI BBQ Events and club Christmas Parties. Pictures of some of Day Trips the club took were also on the video.

Also, as what has become to be custom, the club took a “Christmas Lights” tour as a prelude to the Christmas Holidays. This year the members were treated to “The Houston Christmas Lights Show” all around the city, shopping centers, and ritzy neighborhoods.

This year the Annual TIRET Christmas Party was held at the Safari Texas Ranch on December 13. There were 68 members and guests at this growing event. Christmas music and songs and tunes of the Fifties' was provided by a DJ. The ballroom was decorated with colorful lights. The food and service was excellent. Photos were taken of all the guests beside a decorated Christmas Tree and the pictures were given to them as mementos. This was a real member pleaser.

Pres– Ralph Garcia VP – Bob Gruber  Sec – Susan Leigh  Treasurer – Tony Lee
2008

The first Luncheon Meeting of the year was held at the Golden Corral on Wednesday, Jan. 17. For the 2008 year newly elected officers were as follows.

Pres: Ralph Garcia     V P: Bob Gruber    Sec: Susan Leigh    Treas: Tony Leigh

Serving as committee chairpersons were:

Vigor Rep: Lynn Stefan    Pub: Don Stefan    Programs: Tony Leigh    Mem: Tom Johnson
Sunshine: Jewel Welch and Lynn Stefan    Day Trips: Daryl Moss    Hist: Israel Morales

The first board meeting of the year held was the Annual Planning Meeting on January 11 at the residence of Ralph Garcia.

A new committee, Club Historian, was formed to undertake the job of gathering, consolidating, reporting (at meetings) and recording the Club’s History. As past president, Israel Morales accepted the appointment as committee head. He did extensive calling and research in order to ask, listen and record the club’s founding.

The Club Historian’s duties is to gather past and current documents and photos of club activities as far back as possible (1990) and create a TIRET Album that would be made available to all members who attend the luncheon meetings.

Daryl Moss, Day Trip Chairman, helped co-ordinate a series of 5 Day Trips that kept the members busy during the year. He led a trip to a Houston micro-brewery and Ms. Baird’s Bakery and later to the Music Man musical. Lawson Cook organized a trip to the Wendish Heritage Museum. Israel took a group to the San Jacinto Monument and Battleship Texas. Bob volunteered to lead a following to the Texas Opry Jamboree in Magnolia. Great trips all!

Luncheon meeting attendance started inching up with the relentless efforts of the board and select members to recruit potential new members from newly retired TI’ers.

But what seemed to be a perfect and promising year for the club received a severe blow from mother nature. Hurricane Ike caused the cancellation of the Annual TI BBQ Event that should have been held on September 25 in the TI Cafeteria. Never before had an Annual TI BBQ Event, the “Retiree Granddaddy Event,” been postponed or cancelled.

As in the previous years, much work and planning had gone into this yearly event already. The event was cancelled as TI Stafford tried to regroup and repair the damages resulting from Hurricane Ike. Despite this enormous setback the spirit and the will and the character of the club’s members was only bolstered as seen by a “Special Luncheon Membership Drive” during November. The results were impressive: 106 attending (record) and 20 new memberships.

The Christmas Committee, well aware that the membership had become accustomed to improvements over previous years, targeted those areas that the membership enjoyed the most – a delicious seated dinner, good music and a memento pictures of them in their semi-formal attire at the lowest price possible – all for only $25.00.

Subsidized by the club, a local DJ played both Christmas songs and other requested favorites for two hours. Along with door prizes, Christmas favors also have become a matter of custom. Members enjoyed line dancing, jokes and a really festive atmosphere.

Members and guests had “the best Christmas Party ever”, according to many of the attendees. What a great way to end the TIRET events calendar year!

Tom Johnson, Membership Chairman, reported 131 paid members in November.

At the end of the year, the Executive Board acknowledged that the club's bar of expectations had been raised a level. To continue this successful trend the following year, President Ralph Garcia set January 11, 2009 as the next Annual Budget and Planning Meeting.
Board Members - 2008

Officers: President-Ralph Garcia, Vice-President-Bob Gruber, Treasurer-Tony Leigh, Secretary-Susan Leigh
Committees: Historian-Israel Morales, Trips-Charles Slanina, Vigor-Lynn & Don Stefan, Membership-Tom Johnson, Programs-Lonnie Buckner, eVigor/Trips-Daryl Moss, Calling-Mary Lee Cameron, Webmaster-Lawson Cook
Officers for 2009 were elected by acclamation at the December luncheon meeting in 2008. This year, being their third consecutive term, would be their last due to the terms of limitations set forth in the club's by-laws. Re-elected were:

**Pres: Ralph Garcia  VP: Bob Gruber  Secretary: Susan Leigh  Treas: Tony Leigh**

Serving as committee chairs are:

- **Vigor**: Lynn Stefan
- **Publisher**: Don Stefan
- **Web Master**: Lawson Cook
- **Sunshine**: Lynn Stefan
- **Day Trips**: Charles & Sylvia Slanina
- **Programs**: Lonnie Buckner
- **Membership**: Tom Johnson
- **Calling**: Beverly Cayton & Mary Lee Cameron
- **Christmas Party**: Israel Morales
- **Historian**: Israel Morales

The first board meeting of the year was the Annual Planning and Budget Meeting on January 11 at the home of Ralph (and Estella) Garcia, president. All board members were present except Israel Morales who was attending his brother's funeral. The meeting meant a lot to Israel because, as club Historian, he had planned to present his ideas on the club's 20th Anniversary Celebration. Nevertheless, in advance he e-mailed his ideas, plans and suggestions to all board members.

At that meeting tentative dates and budgets were set for the three main events that have been the club's big favorites: the Pot Luck and Bingo Evening – April 23; the annual TI Evening (a.k.a. TI BBQ) Event – September 24; the Christmas Party – December 15.

Ralph Garcia and Lynn Stefan would again be in charge of the Pot Luck Dinner & Bingo. In the previous two years the budget had been set with an anticipated revenue from the Special Bingo figured in. This had skewed the actual expenses. The budget was set at $400.

The TI Evening (TI BBQ) was tentatively set for September 24th with an alternate date of October 1. Bob Gruber again volunteered to be in charge of the TI Evening and would approach TI for the funding of the event. Bob would also approach TI about printing the 20th Anniversary book that Israel Morales was working on about the club History. No TIRET budget was required for the TI Evening with expectations of TI’s continued funding of the event.

The date for the Christmas party was set for December 15. Israel had left word that he was willing to be in charge of the Christmas party one more year and would plan the party at the Safari Club but would take bids from other places. As per the previous year, the budget was set at $400 to cover the music, favors and other miscellaneous items.

The budget for the VIGOR was again set at $350. This was a great reduction from $675 budgeted in 2007. Closer oversight of the weight to eliminate the use of extra stamps, buying forever stamps in quantities before the price went up, and other frugal steps were discussed. But the most obvious money-saver was the continuation of the eVIGOR that is sent as an attachment via email to over half of the members. The first eVIGOR sent was the June/July edition in 2008. Since its inception, much of the eVIGOR is designed and prepared by Daryl Moss.
Budgets for the program speakers, day trips, website, and Calling and Historian Committees were also set.

Three new chairpersons were appointed to the Standing Committees. Lonnie Buckner will chair the Programs Committee, which had been vacant for over a year. Mary Lee Cameron becomes Co-chairperson of the Calling Committee along with Beverly Cayton. And Charles Slanina with support from Sylvia, his wife, became the chairperson(s) for Day Trips vacated by Daryl.

Daryl continues to assist and advise Charles and his assistant, wife Sylvia when asked.

Lonnie Buckner wasted no time in lining up a speaker for the first Business/Luncheon Meeting on January 20 at the Golden Corral. Lonnie had arranged to have an attorney, Kara Bostan, from the Neighborhood Tax Center (a pro-bono organization) talk to members about free income tax preparations available at the various scattered centers. She was very knowledgeable about taxes and in charge of one of the tax centers.

However, members were in for real surprise. The restaurant was closed and food had not been prepared.

As learned subsequently, the manager who was to open up had a serious stroke on his way to the restaurant and ended up in the hospital. Some of the workers who arrived at work early to start food preparation became tired of waiting and went home. Although no food was prepared, the TIRET business meeting occurred virtually on schedule since the owner/manager finally opened up 40 minutes late and allowed us use of our normal dining room. We had a large turnout to listen to Kara.

At the February Luncheon Meeting, trip director Charles Slanina wasted no time in presenting his planned Day Tours to the Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner, Texas on May 27 and the Painted Churches in Schulenburg on June 22. The Day Trip Committee of Charles and Sylvia were off to a great start. The Spoetzl Brewery trip would be their first solo trip and they would receive little help in carrying it out.

The day trip on February 12th was to the South Texas Project (nuclear electric generating plant) southwest of Bay City, preceded by a home-style meal at the historical Blessing Hotel Coffee Shop in Blessing, Texas. Lawson Cook had volunteered to take charge of this trip and arranged it last year.

Downtown Houston was the destination of the March 24 day trip. A record number (45) of members and guests traveled by bus and in their personal cars to tour the newly build Galveston/Houston Co-Cathedral. This trip was arranged by Bob Gruber.

At the April 15th Luncheon meeting the club had a speaker from TI. Curt Moore, Site Manager at TI Stafford, gave an informative talk on the business outlook of TI in light of the economic downturn. Curt answered questions from the members and was warmly thanked by all.

The annual Pot Luck Dinner and Bingo was held in the cafeteria auditorium April 23rd. There were 61 members and guests in attendance. The club provided the entrée (Fried and Rotisserie chicken) and the members brought in delicious sides. There were over 150 prizes brought in for the white elephant Bingo and over 20 valuable prizes for the Special Bingo. The prizes for the Special Bingo were bought by the club or were donated by some of the board or club members.

At the May 20th Luncheon Meeting the club had a speaker from the Ft. Bend Constable’s Office, Pet. 2. Sgt. Lee spoke (and fielded questions and comments) for 30 minutes on his
career, various ‘senior’ scams, personal and home safety tips, and passed out his business card and a personal-safety pamphlet for review. Everyone seemed impressed with the presentation and showed their appreciation by loud clapping.

Membership Chairman Tom Johnson reported that club membership now stood at 151 paid members, an increase of 21 more members over 2008.

Thanks to Don and Lynn Stefan for the many years of club service!

At this May 20th meeting President Ralph Garcia passed on some sad news to the members present. The upcoming issue of the VIGOR, the June/July edition, would be the last one Lynn and Don Stefan would produce. Due to health reasons and at the urging of their two sons to move closer, they would be relocating to The Woodlands, Texas as soon as they could ready and sell their house.

Lynn and Don had been intimately involved with the VIGOR for at least the past 13 years. They had done an outstanding job collecting stories, arranging the text, graphics, clipart and the various themes that related to seasons or holidays of the year. They consistently got the VIGOR out at the beginning of scheduled months even when other events or sickness were taking place. TIRET greatly appreciates their past service, commitment and dedication and all members—everyone receives the Vigor—will miss them and their involvement with the VIGOR, not excluding their handling of luncheon prizes each month.

Again, as in the previous 19 years, representatives of TI's Hou-Texins Association and HR met with TIRET officers to discuss the Annual Retirees BBQ Dinner. Plans that started in May were finalized in early June and as in past years would be funded by TI.

To TIRET this would not be “just another” Annual Retiree BBQ Dinner, it would one of great significance and mark a club milestone. This would be a night of great pride for it would mark the 20th year of the club's existence.

The club thanks Angelica De Los Santos, TI’s HR manager, for allowing HR to fund the event, Bruce Petty for his continuing support when the Club needs him, and Donna Mandersheid for arranging the meetings. May TIRET still be around when they retiree so they can also enjoy the social activities--luncheons, events, trips—presently enjoyed by today’s Retirees.

It was 20 years ago that one Burt Bassham and the TI Personnel Department reached a verbal agreement to form a Texas Instruments Retiree Club. Today, that club, TIRET is doing well. The relationship between TIRET and HTA and HR is of great mutual respect and admiration. Much of the success that TIRET has enjoyed has been because of the close support, cooperation, solidarity and teamwork that Texas Instruments' HTA and HR has enthusiastically extended to the former employees of Texas Instruments.

Hopefully, someday, someone will write another booklet about TIRET and its partner, Texas Instruments.