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By Diane Garland

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! OOPS! Welcome to the 2025-2026 Cy-FARE year! And welcome to the world of retirement! For some of you, this is just another year to celebrate. For others of you, this is the first time, and you are wondering what retirement is going to look like. With Cy-FARE, it is the best of both worlds.

Cy-FARE provides an avenue for retirees to continue to support the public schools in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, while providing fun and companionship with other former public-school employees. We continue to "grow" each month with informative and interesting programs, stay "connected" with monthly bowling and walking challenges, as well as our monthly meetings, and remain "engaged" with the CFISD community through volunteering in the schools and various food and book drives throughout the year. It even provides the means to influence our local, state, and national legislative representatives through the advocacy of TRTA.

As I begin my first year as President of Cy-FARE, I look forward to getting to know you better, enjoying the camaraderie, and watching the involvement of our members in the many aspects of the Cy-FARE organization. Come join in the fun!





Fall and Winter Meeting Dates and Programs



September 08 — Our guest speakers will be Amy Duval from Lone Star College - Cy-Fair and Melissa Pearson from Lone Star College - University Park. Both of these ladies work with the Academy for Lifelong Learning at their respective campuses. Amy will share adult learning classes that are available at Lone Star College campuses and Melissa will share the opportunities available for interested retired educators to lead a class.



October 13 — Sergeant Collums and Sergeant Hignight are officers with the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD police department. The officers will discuss ways we can be safe in our homes and also safe while out in our community. Christina Torres will also provide information about resources and benefits through Association Members Benefits Advisors (AMBA).



November 10—Nicole DeGuzman is the executive director of the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. She will share information about this community resource that brings art exhibitions and art opportunities to the Northwest Houston community.



December 08—Our annual Holiday Luncheon will provide the opportunity to connect and celebrate the season as we also enjoy entertainment provided by a Cypress-Fairbanks ISD music department group.

September, October, November and December meetings will be held at the Berry Center.

Berry Center
8877 Barker Cypress Road
Cypress, TX 77433

9:30 a.m. - Coffee - Social Time - Refreshments
10:00 a.m. - Program and Business Meeting
11:30ish Lunch at Local Restaurant (optional)

December Holiday Luncheon time is different. See article on the next page.

Special EVENTS



Mark your calendar with the following special events occurring during the fall and winter seasons. We want to see you there.



FOOD DRIVE

Our **Helping Hands Drop-Off Food and Book Drive** will be held on Thursday, October 30. The address of Helping Hands is 9204 Emmott Rd., Houston 77040. A list of donation items will be coming later. We will also collect books or monetary contributions at this event to be used by Cy-FARE and the Children's Book Project. Mark your calendar for this important event!



FALL FIELD TRIP

Something we all look forward to in the fall is a Field Trip with our fellow colleagues. We have had many in the past that were interesting, fascinating and just plain fun! We try to reserve a Harris County bus and off we go. Of course, lunch with our friends is always the highlight of the trip. So be on the lookout for trip information which will be announced just as soon as all details can be arranged.



Holiday Lunch Celebration

December 8, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Berry Center

Lunch w/dessert by the Berry Center

Entertainment by a Cy-Fair ISD Music Department Group



Reservations will be required

Cost TBA

Contact

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ON—GOING ACTIVITIES

Children's Book Project—Throughout the year we collect new or gently used children's books to donate to Brosnahan Elementary and Cy-Fair Helping Hands. These should appeal to grade levels PreK-6th. We want to encourage members to donate books through one of the following ways—purchase new books at your favorite store or on our Amazon wish list, donate books from family members who have outgrown their books, or make a monetary donation (Collected by Debbie Hall). When the books are received, the CBP committee places a nameplate inside each book noting our Cy-FARE chapter. Bring books or monetary contributions to any meeting during the year.

Stuffed Animal Donations—Our Committee is made up of Linda Ball, Linda Yelenick, Debbie Winkelmann, Laura McKenna and Veronica Bradford. We enjoy collecting the stuffed animals donated each month by you and taking them to North Cypress Medical Center, Texas Children's West and Houston Methodist Cypress. You may donate stuffed animals at each meeting and you may also donate money for us to purchase animals to donate. The stuffed animals need to be medium-sized and new with the tag still attached.

Brosnahan Elementary School Sponsor—Cy-FARE is excited to be given the opportunity to adopt Brosnahan Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year. The campus is located in the southwest part of the district, 20220 Clay Rd. Katy, TX, just west of Fry Rd. Dr. Renee Silliman, principal, was excited about this partnership. Commemorative Adopt-a-School certificates were provided as the campus and community partner was announced on August 8, 2025, indicating that we are officially entered into an adoption partnership. Representatives from Cy-FARE, the Brosnahan administration team, and Dawn Tryon, Director of Community Engagement, were present at the big reveal. Cy-FARE looks forward to supporting the campus faculty and staff and offering volunteer assistance as needed. Monthly, we will pay tribute to these current hard-working school employees and thank them for the valuable work they do each day in the school setting.

Bowling at Copperfield Bowl will be every 1st Monday of each month with the exception of September and May. The fee will be \$3.50 per game and \$2.00 for shoes plus tax. The start time will be 10:30am.

Walk Across Texas will begin in the Spring. More details will be given later at a Cy-FARE meeting, and teams of 8 people each will be formed. Get your walking shoes ready for a fun Walk Across Texas!

Mall Walk—Once again, Cy-FARE will be organizing a Mall Walk at Willowbrook Mall, during November, to collect donations for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) "A Helping Hand." More details will be given later during a Cy-FARE meeting. Donations will be accepted at the meeting, and on the day of the Mall Walk. Donations can also be made online at <https://trtf.org/TRTF/HelpingHand.aspx>. Be sure to name Cy-FARE as the "guest" to be recognized on the form.