

# WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2023

Serving Tarrant County and Surrounding Areas

Office Hours: 10 AM to 2 PM, Mon-Thurs

Phone: 817-551-2922

Fax: 817-551-2377

Web Site: [wpstc.org](http://wpstc.org)

Email: [wpstc@att.net](mailto:wpstc@att.net)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Happy New Year!** Believe it or not, it's now 2023, a new year that will bring with it new challenges and opportunities for WPS. Personally, I'm excited and honored to be your president this year.

I hope everyone who attended the Christmas Banquet had a great time. The afternoon began with a delicious lunch, followed by a very successful silent auction, and continued with entertainment by the Jolie and Sonny Burgess Band. Thanks to all who helped to make it happen. We'll do it all again next year the first Sunday in December 2023, so please plan to attend then.

Our focus, as always, is on supporting you as a widowed person. We do this in two ways. First, our Grief Support sessions help ease the transition between your status as a married person to that of a single person again, addressing many of the implications of this transition. Second, we continue our support by hosting a number of events, such as breakfasts/lunches/dinners, in venues across the area to enable members to get to know other members on a more personal basis (see page 5). Many strong friendships have been formed in this way. Current and upcoming Grief Support sessions are listed in the monthly newsletter on page 3.

Again, for this year, we are planning to host a dance each month (January through November), alternating between the Arlington Elks Lodge and the Fort Worth Elks Lodge. The entrance fee is only \$10 per person at the door, and both venues will be serving dinner for a nominal price before the band starts up. If dancing is not your thing, no worries, come on out anyway (you can bring your family and friends – dances are fundraising events and open to the public), listen to some really great country music from several local bands and mingle with other members. Interaction with other widowed persons is the goal.

Since I have been in the organization for several years (more than I like to think about), I have been able to meet many of you personally, but others, especially the newest members, I have not met. Please feel free to introduce yourself if I happen to be at an event you're attending. I welcome the opportunity to get to know you better. Most of all, if you have suggestions for improvements that would benefit and better serve the membership, please don't hesitate to let me know in person or via an email or phone call to the office.

Phyllis Weisheit, President

**NOTICE:** The next Board Meeting will be held at the WPS office on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 10:30 AM.

## OUTREACH GRIEF SUPPORT

My Dear Friends,

At Widowed Persons Service, we understand how Widowhood feels, and the power that Grief has, and the toll it takes on us every day we live without that person... (Physically). It lowers our immune system, especially the first year. Many will get ill during this time, so care is needed to stay nourished, get enough rest and exercise... (Mentally). During the first year especially, it seems like we are in a "fog," going through the motions of each day like a stranger, even in our own home. It is wise not to make important decisions, such as moving or selling your home, the first year unless you have no choice about it. You will be in a different place to make a better decision in a year... (Emotionally). We struggle with emotions such as sadness, fear, anger, guilt, anxiety, emptiness, confusion, and many others. Sometimes we just don't know where we are emotionally, but we need to talk about it. We feel like we are "going crazy," but we are not. These are normal reactions to grief.

At WPS we have all either been there or are there. We were not given a choice to be where we are, and now we must learn how to get through it to go "forward" with our lives - not "backward" but "forward"! So how do we do this? What is forward when we really want to be back where we were? We have entered a daily life we have never experienced, we don't understand, and we are alone to figure it out. Many of our previous friends have left us. They can't help it. We just don't fit in with the couple scene anymore and don't know how to be single. That is just the way it is! We are alone!

Well, if you continue your grief journey by going to our Grief Support sessions this year you will find out you are **NOT** alone. If you are a member who is not newly widowed and have not been to **OUR** sessions, this is for you, too. Five Sundays, 2:30 to 4:30 PM. Ten total hours. It's worth it!

This is a New Year, a fresh start, a new chapter in life waiting to be written. New experiences and new dreams are awaiting you to be embraced. These are my heartfelt best wishes for you in this new year of 2023. Hugs!

Ruth Turner, Outreach Chairman, Certified Facilitator

**Next Grief Session:** JAN 15, 22, 29; FEB 5, 12 : University Christian Church, 2720 S University Dr (by TCU), Ft Worth. Facilitator: Merryly Kloster.

**WAYS & MEANS**

WPS member participation in WPS events has decreased during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, we cannot count on WPS dances as fundraisers at this time. However, the WPS Board has recognized that dances are an important function for WPS members and has unanimously voted to continue WPS dances for 2023. Please support our dances.

Debbie Smith and Eula Plummer will be hosting the first WPS sponsored dance of the new year on January 11, 2023, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM for \$10 per person at the Arlington Elks Lodge. Prior to the dance the lodge will make food available for purchase at \$6 per person. Come listen and dance to "Stevie Rose and the Rio Grande Band." Bring your family and friends – it's open to the public! **See the attached flyer.**

I have started to enter information from the Directory Input sheets for the 2023 WPS Directory and hope to have all input information sent to the printer in January.

Because of the excellent participation of our WPS members, Donate2Impact has scheduled us an additional two weeks for late January/early February (Jan 23, 2023, thru Feb 5, 2023). You can either drop off your items or schedule a pickup at your home. So, you have another opportunity to rid yourself of clothing or other items you do not want or need knowing that WPS will receive cash as a result. **See the attached flyer.**

If you haven't yet taken your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for 2022 from any qualifying investment accounts you may have (and are required to do so), please consider a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) donation to WPS. The funds must be sent directly to WPS (or the check from your financial institution made out to WPS and mailed to you) for you to realize the tax savings on the donated funds. **See the attached flyer.**

Please start the new year thinking about WPS. Because of the decreased member participation in events and fundraisers, we must rely more on Donations, Memorials and Honors. Our office and other expenses have not decreased. Please consider Donations, Memorials and Honors as ways to help.

Ron Zembek, Ways & Means Chairman

**NEW MEMBERS**

Debbie Garrett	Preston Haynes
Karen Herrington	Ruth Winkler
Linda Robnett	Vivian Nickell
Mary Chambers	William Gray
Patricia Chadwick	

**MEMORIALS**

Barbara Dalke in Memory of Don Walker & Mark Dalke  
 Celia Moore in Memory of Byron Wells & Vickie McCain  
 Russ Wright in Memory of Mary Wright  
 Voleen Bailey in Memory of David Bailey

**DONORS**

Harold Millender	Irma Morris
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**ILLNESSES**

Eula Plummer	Robert Elliot
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**DEATHS**

Bennie Hawkins  
 Bob Plummer

**STILL WORKING?**

For members still working, WPS offers a Facebook group and occasional Saturday brunches. Contact Robin Parr at [rparr822@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rparr822@sbcglobal.net)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** \*  
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**NOTICE**

**We will purge our Active Members database records early in 2023. This will be the first purge since 2019. All members who have not attended at least one WPS sponsored event or made a donation/memorial since 2019 will be moved from Active status to Inactive status, and you will no longer receive a newsletter. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, please contact the office. We will be happy to return your record to Active status, and you will then continue to receive the newsletter.**

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

**The WPS office will close at 2 PM on Tues, Dec 20, 2022. It will reopen on Mon, Jan 2, 2023.**

**WPS GRIEF SUPPORT SCHEDULE 2023****2:30 to 4:30 PM SUNDAYS\***

**\*NOTE:** Any changes to this schedule will be announced in both the newsletter and on our Facebook page, so check each month for any changes. For any other information on Grief Support, call the WPS office 817-551-2922 Mon-Thur, 10AM-2PM, or Ruth Turner 817-713-9372. If no answer at either number, please leave a voicemail.

**JAN 15, 22, 29: FEB 5, 12: University Christian Church, 2720 S University Dr (by TCU), Ft Worth. Facilitator: Merryl Kloster.**

**The complete 2023 Grief Support series schedule will be listed in the February 2023 newsletter.**

**BUSINESS SPONSORS**

Amazon Smile	Mastercraft Printed Products
Arlington Elks Lodge	Pleasantview Baptist Church
Beverly's Florist	Spring Creek Barbeque
First Baptist Church, Burleson	St. John Lutheran Church,
Genesis United Methodist Church	Mansfield
Kroger Markets	University Christian Church
	Fort Worth Elks Lodge

**DONATION OPTIONS****for****MEMBERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS**

- 1. Cash or check to the WPS office.** See form below.
- 2. Electronic Bank Transfer** to Routing # 311 981 614 and Account # 0008 196110.
- 3. Kroger Community Rewards Program.** Call 866-221-4141 or register online at [kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/](https://kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/) with your Kroger Plus Card number or alternate ID (your phone number). Enter Organization #IA786 (Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County). To re-enroll (if "WPSTC" is not at bottom of receipt), use same procedure.
- 4. Amazon Smile.** If you already have an account on [amazon.com](https://amazon.com), instead of logging into [amazon.com](https://amazon.com), log onto [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select Tarrant County Widowed Persons Service, Inc. Each eligible purchase will result in a 0.5% donation. Each time you log onto Amazon Smile, "Supporting: Tarrant County Widowed Persons Service, Inc" will appear under Amazon's search window. If it does not, select the pull-down window, and then select Change.
- 5. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** Contact your financial institution for details.

**CASH OR CHECK DONATION OPTION**

To mail a donation to WPS, please provide the information below and mail to:

**WPS, 2906 SE Loop 820, Suite A, Fort Worth, TX 76140-1030**

**Amount of donation: \$20 \$25 \$50 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Specify if donation is a memorial gift In memory of (name) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Specify where to send memorial acknowledgement::**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_**



*Widowed Persons Service  
of Tarrant County*

2906 S E Loop 820  
Suite A  
Fort Worth, Texas 76140-1030

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FORT WORTH, TX  
PERMIT NO. 2389

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**DATED MATERIAL: PLEASE DELIVER BY JANUARY 1, 2023**

**CURRENT OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

**WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY FOR YEAR 2023**

**BOARD OFFICERS**

President : Phyllis Weisheit  
Vice President : Ruth Turner  
Secretary : Judy Baker  
Treasurer : Nancy Stepp

**BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Ann Barnes Diane Bowman  
Barbara Brickley Arlyne Clements  
Margaret Davis Gary Frye  
Jane Morton Sharon Perry  
Eula Plummer Nancy Sheffer-Poole  
Debbie Smith Carol Stacy  
Sharon Wallace Ron Zembek

WPS of Tarrant County is a Grief Support Program for widowed persons of all ages

WPS of Tarrant County is a TAX EXEMPT NON-PROFIT Organization funded by Memorials, Gifts and Donations

**WPS PURPOSE** : To aid bereaved men and women of all ages regardless of race, creed, and/or economic status, to adjust more effectively to the loss of a spouse through death and to build a new life.

## **RECURRING EVENTS**

### **ARLINGTON**

**Breakfast : Every Saturday 8:30 AM : Skillet & Grill, 1801 W Division St, Arlington. Contact Suzy Flynn, 817-483-5518.**

**Lunch : JAN 12 ONLY, 11:45 AM : Jay Jay Cafe, 1001 S Bowen Rd, Arlington. Contact Rita Sanders, 817-907-7878.**

**Dinner : CANCELLED FOR JANUARY.**

**Games: Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday 2:00 - 4:00 PM : Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington. Contact Jane Morton, 972-977-7899.**

### **BURLESON**

**Breakfast : Every Tuesday 8:30 AM : Our Place, 950 N Burleson Blvd, Burleson. Contact Diane Bowman, 817-996-2337.**

**Lunch : JAN 12 ONLY, 11:30 AM : Villa Diana, 2475 E Renfro St, Burleson. Contact Ann Barnes, 817-774-6073.**

**Dinner : JAN 16 ONLY, 4:30 PM : Antonio's Mexican Restaurant, 344 SW Wilshire Blvd, Burleson. Contact Arlyne Clements, 817-366-0430.**

### **GRAND PRAIRIE**

**Brunch: Every Wednesday 10:30 AM : Theo's Bar & Grill, 107 NW 8th St, Grand Prairie. Contact Debbie Smith, 469-684-9982.**

### **MANSFIELD**

**Breakfast : Every Saturday 8:30 AM : The Porch, 2771 E Broad St, Mansfield (across from Methodist Hospital). Contact Arlyne Clements, 817-366-0430.**

**Lunch : JAN 6 ONLY, 12:00 NOON : Mo' Bettas, 3020 E Broad St, Mansfield. Contact Judy Baker, 817-320-3825. (NOTE: The restaurant has now reopened after the recent fire.)**

**Dinner: JAN 19 ONLY, 4:00 PM : Jason's Deli, 1718 US 287 Frontage Rd, Ste 200, Mansfield. Contact Ann Barnes, 817-774-6073.**

### **NORTHEAST**

**Breakfast : Every Saturday 9:00 AM : The Corner Café, 7901 Mid Cities Blvd, Ste 242, N Richland Hills. Contact Sharon Wallace, 817-226-5095.**

**★ Lunch : JAN 11 ONLY, 1:00 PM : Dixie House, 900 W Airport Fwy, Hurst. Contact Alice Baum, 817-793-6015. (NOTE: Time change.)**

**Dinner : JAN 9 ONLY, 5:00 PM : Mexican Inn, 1400 Airport Fwy, Bedford. Contact Linda Turner, 817-475-3014.**

### **SOUTHWEST**

**Breakfast : Every Thursday 9:30 AM : Cracker Barrel, 8010 SW Loop 820 (exit Winscott Rd), Benbrook. Contact Carol Stacy, 817-360-8066.**

**Lunch : CANCELLED FOR JANUARY.**

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Wednesday, Jan 11 : WPS Sponsored Dance at Arlington Elks Lodge. See the flyer for details.**

***Sponsored by Widowed Persons Service***



**Come Listen/Dance to**



**“Stevie Rose and the Rio Grande Band”**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

**6:30 to 9:00 PM**

**\$10.00 PER PERSON AT DOOR**

***BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS***

***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC !!!***



**Arlington Elks Lodge**

**601 W. Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington, TX**

**Serving food 5:30 to 6:30 PM @ \$6 per Person**

***Proceeds from food go to Elks National Foundation***

**Drawings: Door prizes and More !!!**

**Information: Debbie 469-684-9982 or Eula 214-668-7999**





**Get Rid of those clothes that don't fit you anymore or extra household items you don't need, and WPS will receive a donation.**

Donate 2 Impact is a non-profit organization that accepts items for resale and reimburses other charitable organizations for them at a rate of \$0.09 per pound. WPS has signed up with this organization, and they have given us the **donation period of Jan 23, 2023, thru Feb 5, 2023.**

Items may be dropped off at the following location: **6020 S. Cooper St. Arlington.** Their hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. **Donations must be made during the WPS Donation period for WPS to receive credit.**

When you drop off your items make sure you tell them that your organization is **Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County (WPS).**

You also have the option to have them pick up your items. **You must schedule the pickup between Jan 23, 2023, and Feb 5, 2023,** and you must have the items outside your house for pickup. **Call (972) 619-7880 to schedule a pickup.** When you schedule a pickup, they will give you a date that they will pick up. They can schedule up to 2 weeks after the WPS donation period. Again, make sure you tell them that your organization is **Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County (WPS).**

**Below is a list of Items that they Accept:**

Clothing (all types and sizes), Shoes, Purses/Backpacks, Jewelry & Accessories, Linens/ blankets, Household items, Bath and Kitchen items, Books, Toys, Electronics, Small Appliances, and Small Home Décor.

**Below is a list of items NOT Accepted:**

Any used Medical Supplies, Anything Toxic or Flammable, Blinds, Building Materials (bricks, lumber, fence posts, tile, etc.), Cabinetry, Chemicals/Oils/Paints, Countertops, Doors, Food (animal or human), Hospital Beds/Adjustable Beds, Hot Tubs, Large Appliances, Large Exercise Equipment – Heavy Dumbbells, Light Fixtures, Magazines, Mattresses/ Box Springs, Newspapers, Office furniture, Cubicles, Desks, File Cabinets, Pipes, Scrap Fabric, Sheet Rock, Sinks, Soiled/Torn/Damaged/Stained Furniture, Swing Sets, Tires, Toilets, Trash, Tube TVs, CRT and Projection TVs, Unframed Mirrors, Unprotected Glasses, Used AC/Heating Units, Water Beds, Water Heaters, Weapons/Guns,/Swords/Knives, Wet/Rusty/Broken Items of any kind, Windows.

The flyer is for a fundraiser by Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County. It features a blue background with yellow and white text. At the top left is the "DONATE 2 IMPACT" logo, and next to it is a red rose icon. The text "WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY" is in yellow, followed by "DONATION DROP-OFF/PICK-UP FUNDRAISER" in white. A large photo of an elderly couple and a child is on the right. Below the photo, the "DROP-OFF LOCATION:" is listed as "6020 South Cooper Arlington, Tx". The "SCHEDULE PICK UP" information includes the phone number "972-619-7880" and the website "DONATE2IMPACT.COM". The "WHAT TO DONATE:" list includes clothing, shoes, accessories, jewelry, kitchenware, books, toys, linens, small appliances, and electronics. Social media icons and contact information are at the bottom.

**DONATE 2 IMPACT**

**WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY**

**DONATION DROP-OFF/PICK-UP FUNDRAISER**

**FUNDRAISER**

**DROP-OFF LOCATION:**  
6020 South Cooper  
Arlington, Tx

**WHAT TO DONATE:**  
Clothing, shoes, accessories, jewelry, kitchenware, books, toys, linens, small appliances, & electronics

**SCHEDULE PICK UP**  
**CALL 972-619-7880**  
**OR VISIT US**  
**DONATE2IMPACT.COM**

**donate2impact.com** (214) 257-7199

## Donating to a Charity Using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) (Information from Fidelity Investments Website)

If you are age 72 or older, IRS rules require you to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts. This distribution is considered taxable income. You can reduce your taxes if you are required to make an RMD from a Traditional IRA, and you make charitable contributions anyway, by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You can take advantage of this option even if you take the standard deduction.

### The rules of QCDs. A QCD must adhere to the following requirements:

- You must be at least 70½ years old at the time you request a QCD. If you process a distribution prior to reaching age 70½, the distribution will be treated as taxable income.
- For a QCD to count toward your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, which is generally December 31 each year.
- Funds must be transferred directly from your IRA custodian to the qualified charity. This is accomplished by requesting your IRA custodian issue a check from your IRA **payable to the charity**. You can then request that the check be mailed to the charity or forward the check to the charity yourself.  
Note: If a distribution check is made *payable to you*, the distribution would **NOT** qualify as a QCD and would be treated as taxable income.
- The maximum annual distribution amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. This limit would apply to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. If you're a joint tax filer, both you and your spouse can make a \$100,000 QCD from your own IRAs.
- The account types that are eligible for QCDs include:
  - Traditional IRAs
  - Inherited IRAs
  - SEP IRA (inactive plans only\*)
  - SIMPLE IRA (inactive plans only\*)
- Under certain circumstances, QCDs may be made from a Roth IRA. Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime, and distributions are generally tax-free. Consult a tax advisor to determine if making a QCD from a Roth is appropriate for your situation.
- Certain charities are not eligible to receive QCDs, including donor-advised funds, private foundations, and supporting organizations. You are not allowed to receive any benefit in return for your charitable donation. For example, if your donation covers your cost of playing in a charitable golf tournament, your gift will not qualify as a QCD.
- Contributing to an IRA may result in a reduction of the QCD amount you can deduct. \*

### Tax filing for QCDs

A QCD is reported by your IRA custodian as a normal distribution on IRS Form 1099-R for any non-Inherited IRAs. For Inherited IRAs or Inherited Roth IRAs, the QCD will be reported as a death distribution. You should keep an acknowledgement of the donation from the charity for your tax records. Please consult a tax advisor to learn more.

For a better understanding of how QCDs can affect your taxable income, let's consider a few hypothetical scenarios. Ron has been taking RMDs for the past few years, but this year he has decided to make a QCD. Ron did not make any non-deductible contributions to his IRA, so all of his distributions would be taxable:

Scenario 1. Ron takes a portion of his annual RMD as a QCD		
Ron's annual RMD = \$15,000	Ron makes a \$10,000 QCD	Ron's remaining RMD of \$5,000 will count towards his taxable income.
Scenario 2. Ron takes his entire annual RMD as a QCD		
Ron's annual RMD = \$15,000	Ron makes a \$15,000 QCD	Ron's satisfied his full RMD by making a QCD. His taxable RMD income is \$0 instead of \$15,000.
Scenario 3. Ron takes his entire annual RMD as a QCD and donates an additional amount		
Ron's annual RMD = \$15,000	Ron makes a \$15,000 QCD and an additional \$5,000 QCD	Ron's satisfied his full RMD by making a QCD. His taxable RMD income is \$0 instead of \$15,000. None of the additional \$5,000 QCD can count toward Ron's RMDs for future years.