

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2024

Serving Tarrant County and Surrounding Areas

Office Hours: 10 AM to 2 PM Mon - Fri

Phone: 817-551-2922

Fax: 817-551-2377

Web Site: wpstc.org

Facebook: Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County (closed group - contact office for access)

Email: wpstc@att.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Friends. It's spring in Texas, meaning rain, winds, and storms, as usual.

When I facilitated a Grief Support session this April, in the group was a lady who had attended sessions last year. She shared with the group how attending the Grief Support sessions had saved her life. She realized that she was not alone and that each person in the room was on a journey of building a new life for themselves. She encouraged everyone to attend more than one (five week) session, if needed. You are in a safe place to talk about your spouse, as you are with a group of people who understand. They are on the journey, too.

Grief Support is the focus of the WPS organization, and it has helped many people for over 40 years. It's very hard to walk into a room full of strangers when your spouse has died, and, particularly, to talk about the experience. Encourage your friends by telling them that you will pick them up and go with them to the session. Once they attend and see that everyone is there for the same reason, they will become comfortable with the group, be able to share their story, and be able to make new friends.

If you attended our February Valentine's dance, you know what fun that was. You won't want to miss our June 12 dance at the Elks Lodge in Arlington, as we will be having a SENIOR PROM (or is it a prom for seniors?) and all the fun that goes with it. So, ladies and guys, you can come dressed in what you wore to your high school prom. More information will follow in the June newsletter.

HELP NEEDED!!!!!!!

Members, we need hosts/hostesses for DINNERS in MANSFIELD and ARLINGTON. These are events for us to gather with other members and become friends to do things with. Diane Bowman will help you to get started. If you would consider helping out on either of these two events please contact Diane at 817-996-2337.

Enjoy the nice spring weather as summer will be here soon!

Phyllis Weisheit, President

OUTREACH GRIEF SUPPORT

"When the grief train pulled into my station I got on and found a comfortable seat to snuggle into. I watched the world go by and was quite content in my unhappiness. Then I saw that other people were getting off the grief train. Some of them I never saw again, and I didn't know where they went. Others would get off and get back on again. We talked about the adventures they had. I began to realize that maybe my comfortable seat wasn't so comfortable anymore. I could participate in some adventures instead of being an observer. I took my baggage with me and got off at the very next station. Now, I had a story to tell when I got back on the train. I was surprised when someone told me I could leave my baggage on the train when I got off. I was rather attached to my baggage. However, I tried it. I had a receipt to reclaim it though. This time when I got off the train, I stayed off longer. I had more adventures. When I got back on the train there was all my baggage waiting for me. I didn't need much of it now. I decided to give some of mine to those who loved to carry a lot of baggage. And, so it went.

"I still like to journey on the grief train. Sometimes when I look out of the window, I see wonderful memories of events that happened in the past. Sometimes when I curl up in my seat, I spend time with people who have died. I kept parts of my baggage I'm not ready to let go of yet. I open it up and unpack it a little. It is lighter now. I discovered that the people I am lonely for don't have to stay on the grief train. They come with me wherever I go. I like having them with me. I had turned the grief train into a prison. It isn't. It's a way to journey to new places, especially when I am willing to go through the open doors to see what is waiting for me.

"I would rather not have been a passenger at all. However, now that I am, I am beginning to see that I am not a helpless passenger. I am the person who plans the journey and makes the adventures happen. I have been given tickets to an unlimited number of places. It's up to me how many of them I use. How will I figure it out? Partly by talking to other people – those who are on this journey and those who are on other journeys... . Partly by listening to my own heart. Sometimes by looking at myself and the world through the eyes of those who love me instead of my own eyes — 'perspectacles.'

"There are many maps, and I have time and freedom to find the right one for me. Sometimes staying on track. Sometimes getting off and wandering. Sometimes getting off with a definite plan.

(continued on page 2)

NOTICE: The next Board Meeting will be held at the WPS office on Saturday, May 2, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

Our current Grief Support series ends on April 28. The next series will be held on June 2 - 30. Refer to Page 3 for the complete 2024 Grief Support series schedule.

WAYS & MEANS

Dances

Nancy Sheffer-Poole and Phyllis Weisheit hosted a WPS sponsored dance April 10 at the Arlington Elks Lodge.

Debbie Smith and Eula Plummer will be hosting a WPS sponsored dance on **Wednesday, May 8**, at the Arlington Elks Lodge. **See the attached flyer for details.**

Ann Barnes hosted a WPS DJ Dance at the Burleson Senior Center on April 26. The next scheduled WPS DJ Dance will be **Friday, May 24**, at the Burleson Senior Center. **See the attached flyer for details.**

Travel

The WPS sponsored bus trip to San Antonio on May 14 - 16 has met the minimum required reservations. However, there may still be seats available. Contact First Travel of Burleson at 817-447-8747 for potential openings.

WPS is also sponsoring a bus trip to Branson, MO, on December 2 -5. **See the attached flyer for details.**

Your continued support of these trips is necessary for us to continue offering them, so please consider participating.

Donate 2 Impact

The next donation period is scheduled is May 13 - 26. **See the attached flyer for details.**

October Drawing

The Drawing tickets are now being printed. All active members will receive five (5) tickets with their July newsletter (mailed in late June). The suggested donation is \$3 per ticket, and the winners will be drawn during the October General Meeting. Members attending the October General Meeting will also have the opportunity to win a door prize. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year, so your participation is encouraged and appreciated.

Leave a Legacy.

Consider including WPS in your estate planning. Your thoughtfulness and generosity will enable WPS to continue helping other widowed persons into the future.

Additional Notes

It is important that the office have your correct home mailing address (and email address) in the WPS database if you are an active WPS member regardless of whether you normally receive your newsletter via US Mail or email. Everyone receives the July newsletter by US Mail, since the Discount Coupons for the Drawing are mailed out at that time with the newsletters.

Ron Zembek, Ways & Means Chairman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Becky Henry Wright

Bobbi Parson

Janice Martin

Sheila Houchin

Shirley Pettey

Teresa Hix

MEMORIALS

Gary Frye in Memory of Marilyn Frye

Marcia Devoll in Memory of Ron Devoll

Suzy Flynn in Memory of T. Ray Yarbrough & Rene Petersen

DONORS

Billie Brooks

ILLNESSES

None reported.

DEATHS

Ben Udd

Elaine Bossley

STILL WORKING?

For members still working, WPS offers a Facebook group and occasional Saturday brunches. Contact Robin Parr at rparr822@sbcglobal.net.

OUTREACH GRIEF SUPPORT

(continued from page 1)

“All these choices are mine because I am among the living still. When you are ready to get off your own grief train, I wish you many adventures and that you find that you need less and less baggage as your journey continues.”

- Author unknown. Hugs!

Ruth Turner, Outreach Chairman & Certified Facilitator

WPS GRIEF SUPPORT SCHEDULE 2024**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-Fri 10AM-2PM, or Ruth Turner 817-713-9372. If no answer at either number, please leave a voicemail, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

JAN 14, 21, 28; FEB 4, 11 : Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington. Facilitator: Merryll Kloster.

FEB 18, 25; MAR 3, 10, 17 : First Baptist Church, Burleson, 317 W Ellison St, Burleson (park behind church). Facilitator: Ruth Turner.

MAR 24, (SKIP 31); APR 7, 14, 21, 28 : St John Lutheran Church, 1218 E Debbie Ln, Mansfield (in Youth Bldg at back of church). Facilitator: Phyllis Weisheit.

JUN 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 : Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington. Facilitator: Arlyne Clements.

JUL 14, 21, 28; AUG. 4, 11 : Genesis United Methodist Church, 7635 S Hulen St, Ft Worth. Facilitator: Ruth Turner.

AUG 18, 25; (SKIP SEP 1), SEP 8, 15, 22 : Lucas Funeral Home, 1321 Precinct Line Rd, Hurst. Facilitator: TBA.

SEP 29; OCT 6, 13, 20, 27 : Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington. Facilitators: Sharon Ellershaw & Merryll Kloster

HOLIDAY GRIEF SUPPORT : NOV 3 : 2:30 - 4:30 PM (note Daylight Saving Time change). Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington.

NOV 10 : CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE : 3:00 PM, St. John Lutheran Church, 1218 E Debbie Ln, Mansfield.

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://www.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. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** Contact your financial institution for details.
- 5. Leave a Legacy.** Consider including WPS in your estate planning. Your thoughtfulness and generosity will enable WPS to continue helping other widowed persons into the future.

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Donate 2 Impact
First Travel of Burleson
Hoopla Magazine
Kroger Markets
Mastercraft Printed Products and Services
Spring Creek Barbeque

EVENT VENUE PARTNERS

Arlington Elks Lodge #2114
Burleson Senior Center
First Baptist Church, Burleson
First Methodist Church, Mansfield (games)
Genesis United Methodist Church, Fort Worth
Lucas Funeral Home, Hurst
Pleasantview Baptist Church, Arlington

CASH OR CHECK DONATION

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

Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County, 2906 SE Loop 820, Suite A, Fort Worth, TX 76140-1030

Amount of donation: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Specify if donation is a Memorial gift In memory of (name) _____

Specify where to send donation 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 MAY 1, 2024

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBERS

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY FOR YEAR 2024

OFFICERS

President : Phyllis Weisheit
Vice President : Ruth Turner
Secretary : Judy Baker
Treasurer : Mike Grissom

BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Brickley Diane Bowman
Arlyne Clements Margaret Davis
Sharon Ellershaw Gary Frye
Kay Hall Bob Howard
Jane Morton Eula Plummer
Nancy Sheffer-Poole Debbie Smith
Carol Stacy 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

Hosts Needed for Arlington and Mansfield Dinners !!!

Volunteers are still needed to host the Arlington and Mansfield Dinners. For many newly widowed persons, WPS sponsored meals are their first exposure to WPS. Hosting a meal is simple and does not require a great deal of time but is rewarding and greatly appreciated. If you would be willing to host one of these events, please contact Diane Bowman at 817-996-2337.

ARLINGTON

Breakfast : Every Saturday 8:00 AM : Skillet & Grill, 1801 W Division St, Arlington. Contact Suzy Flynn, 817-483-5518.

Lunch : MAY 9 ONLY, 11:45 AM : Tom's Burgers, 1530 N Cooper St, Arlington. Contact Rita Sanders, 817-907-7878.

Dinner : CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Host needed for this event.

BURLESON

Breakfast : Every Tuesday 8:30 AM : Our Place Restaurant, 950 N Burleson Blvd (I-35 service road), Burleson. Contact Diane Bowman, 817-996-2337.

Lunch : MAY 10 ONLY, 11:30 AM : Station 330, 210 S Main St, Burleson. Contact Ann Barnes, 817-774-6073.

Dinner : MAY 20 ONLY, 4:30 PM : Antonio's Mexican Restaurant, 344 SW Wilshire Blvd, Burleson. Contact Ann Barnes, 817-774-6073.

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 : MAY 3 ONLY, 12:00 NOON : On the Border, 2001 HWY 287 N, Mansfield. Contact Judy Baker, 817-320-3825.

Dinner : CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Host needed for this event.

Games: Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday 1:30 - 4:00 PM : First Methodist Church, Mansfield, 777 N Walnut Creek Dr, Mansfield. Contact Jane Morton, 972-977-7899.

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 : MAY 8 ONLY, 1:00 pm : Café Medi, 420 Grapevine Hwy, Hurst. Contact Alice Baum, 817-793-6015.

Dinner : May 21 ONLY, 5:00 PM : Catfish & Co, 900 Airport Frwy, Ste 110, Hurst. Contact Linda Turner, 817-475-3014.

SOUTHWEST

Breakfast : Every Thursday 9:00 AM : Cracker Barrel, 8010 SW Loop 820 (exit Winscott Rd), Benbrook. Contact Carol Stacy, 817-360-8066.

★ **Lunch : MAY 6 ONLY, 11:30 AM : Cracker Barrel**, 8010 SW Loop 820 (exit Winscott Rd), Benbrook. **Contact Diane Bowman (this month only), 817-996-2337, if you plan to attend (restaurant needs a head count).**

Dinner: May 21 ONLY, 4:00 PM : Olive Garden, 4700 SW Loop 820 (across from Hulen Mall), Fort Worth. **Contact Joe Harris, 817-929-8658, if you plan to attend (restaurant needs a head count).**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, APR 26 : Dance, Burleson Senior Center.

Wednesday, MAY 8 : Dance, Arlington Elks Lodge. **See the attached flyer for details.**

Friday, May 24 : DJ Dance, Burleson Senior Center. **See the attached flyer for details.**

Sponsored by Widowed Persons Service

Come Dance/Listen to



“Montana Band”



Wednesday, May 8, 2024

6:30 to 9:00 PM

\$10 PER PERSON AT DOOR

BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS !!!
IT'S OPEN TO THE PUBLIC !!!

Arlington Elks Lodge
601 W Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington



Serving Food 5:30 to 6:30 PM @ \$8 per Person

- ***Taco Bar with all the Toppings & Fixings***
- ***Grilled Chicken Sandwiches with Chips***

Proceeds from food go to ELKS National Foundation

Drawings for 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 May 13 - 26, 2024.**

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 **May 13 - 26, 2024**, 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).** They also request that items be separated as much as possible (i.e, clothing, shoes, appliances) and that breakable items be protected with packing.

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.

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

Sponsored by Widowed Persons Service

Come Dance/Listen to

Country & Western Songs from the Past and Present with Travis Moncrief as Disc Jockey

Friday, May 24, 2024

6:30 to 9:00 PM

Dance



Admission: Donations Only

Snacks available at the break

Bring Your Family & Friends !!!

Dance

It's Open to the Public !!!



Burleson Senior Center

216 SW Johnson Ave, Burleson



Information: Ann 817-774-6073

WPS / FIRST TRAVEL OF BURLESON PRESENTS

Branson Show Extravaganza



INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:

- ◆ Motorcoach transportation
- ◆ 4 nights lodging in the Branson area
- ◆ 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners (1 of the dinners will be at Lambert's Cafe)
- ◆ Admission to 6 Fabulous Shows! Including:
- ◆ Two Morning Shows: DALENA DITTO'S COUNTRY EVOLUTION & DOUG GABRIEL MORNING SHOW
- ◆ Three Evening Shows: THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW, PIERCE ARROW COUNTRY SHOW & MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS Show at the Sight & Sound® Theatre
- ◆ One Dinner Show: SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE
- ◆ Admission to TITANIC: THE WORLD'S LARGEST MUSEUM ATTRACTION

For more pictures, video, and information visit:
www.GroupTrips.com/FirstTravelofburleson

\$974*

5 Days 4 Nights

*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**(Mon - Fri)
 Dec 2 - 6
 2024**

**Departure: First National Bank,
 740 Southwest Wilshire Blvd, Burleson, TX @ 8 am**

Day 1: Board your spacious, video and restroom equipped Motorcoach and set off for the "Live Music Show Capital of the World" - Branson, Missouri. This evening you'll enjoy Dinner and check into your Branson area hotel for a four night stay.

Day 2: Today, after a Continental Breakfast, you'll enjoy a visit to the impressive TITANIC: THE WORLD'S LARGEST MUSEUM ATTRACTION. You can experience the hallways, parlors, cabins, and Grand Staircase of this replica of the world's most famous luxury liner, view actual artifacts, and more. You can also hear passenger stories and pay tribute to their memory. Next, visit GRAND VILLAGE SHOPS for some free time and shopping. After Dinner at Lambert's Cafe, you will be dazzled by the PIERCE ARROW COUNTRY SHOW. With a focus on country, this show hits everything from classic to modern top hits. Don't miss out on this incredible show!

Day 3: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast, then you'll experience DALENA DITTO'S COUNTRY EVOLUTION. This show takes you back through the humble beginnings where Country Music began and brings you up to date on the incredible lives of those singers and songwriters who pour their heart and soul into telling the American story. Join Dalena Ditto and her Live band "The Boys" and see what people of all ages are loving about this new show. Later, you'll have some free time for shopping. Later, you'll sit down to a three-course meal onboard the famous SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE, where you will be treated to a spectacular show as you cruise on the pristine waters of Table Rock Lake. Tonight, you'll take in THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW. All your favorite Christmas Songs are presented with the Joy and Magic of the Season as only the Haygoods can perform them! This is an amazing experience you don't want to miss!

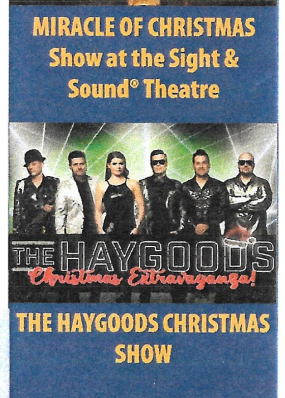
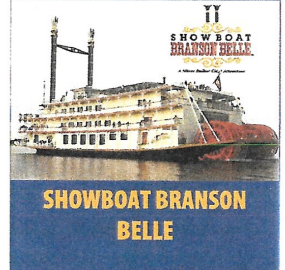
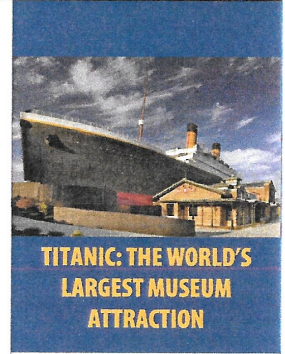
Day 4: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast and then start your day with the DOUG GABRIEL MORNING SHOW. This good, clean, family show has lots of variety. It has a talented cast, rib-tickling comedy and a terrific ensemble of musicians. Plus, Doug plays his World Famous Mufftar (a guitar made out of a 1969 Thunderbird muffler)!!! Then, you will go to BRANSON LANDING and discover waterfront shopping, dining, and attractions on Lake Taneycomo's beautiful waterfront. After Dinner, you'll take in "THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS" show at the Sight & Sound Theatre®. The Theatre will be grandly decorated with lights, greenery, Nativity scenes, and a spectacular Christmas tree. All of the holiday finery is only a prelude to the thrilling story of Christmas.

Day 5: After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you'll depart for home... a time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great shows you've seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...

With Diamond Tours Exclusive Travel Confident® Protection Plan.
 See separate advertisement...

**\$75 Due Upon Signing. *Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$144 for single occupancy.
 Final Payment Due: 9/25/2024**



FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Lila Glazener @ (817) 447-8747

HOSTS STILL NEEDED

Hosts are still needed for the Arlington Dinner and the Mansfield Dinner. If you would consider volunteering to host either of these events, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Diane Bowman, at 817-996-2337. See also page 5 for more details.