



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT HOUSTON
UTHRO Retiree Organization



The EVERGREEN Newsletter

May Event

April Event



In April, a nice group of UTHRO members met at Escalante's in Meyerland for camaraderie and lunch. Sorry that I couldn't get everyone's picture here.

Cinco de Mayo Luncheon

The event will take place at the OCB Rio Grande room on May 1, 2026 from 11am to 2pm for our Cinco de Mayo luncheon. UTHRO will serve the tacos. We plan on providing meat, tortillas, basic fixings (lettuce, cheese, onion, jalapeños etc) but please bring a side dish such as tamales, rice, beans, salsa, guacamole and desserts (and maybe chips for those who don't want to cook). Members attending, need to let Janice Thomas know by April 25th. Parking validations for the OCB lot will be available.

.....And while we enjoy the food we thought it would be fun to play Loteria or Mexican Bingo, and some of you might get lucky and win a small prize. And for those who never played the game, think of it as Bingo with pictures instead of numbers. The first player with four chips in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal row, or fills the *tabla* first, shouts "Lotería!" and is the winner.

Again **RSVP by April 25** so we have an idea of how many tacos we need and what dish you plan to bring.

RSVP to: Janice Thomas at uthro@uth.tmc.edu .

Bring your loose change for the Endowment Award Jar.



Hopefully, you can join us for our Cinco de Mayo celebration soon.

photos thanks to Jimmy Quimby

Seeking Event Committee Members

This year at our November 18th Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting, we will elect new officers to serve on the Executive Committee. Janice Thomas who has served as our Events Chair for the last several years has decided to step up in leadership and run for the position of Vice President. Marilyn Wells who is currently serving as the Co-Chair of Events will assume the role of Events Chair. However, organizing events is not a one-person job, Marilyn will need assistance to continue to provide quality experiences for the membership.

So, how can you help? Marilyn will need volunteers to help in planning and executing events such as Lunch and Learns, Bus Trips, Bingo Events, Cinco de Mayo, The Annual Health Fair, Endowment Presentation Program, The Annual Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting, and other events. UTHRO usually plans for 12 events each year. Our hope is that someone will sign up to fill the Event Co-Chair role.

However, in the event that the Co-chair role remains vacant, then members will sign up to be a volunteer committee member. In that case, Marilyn, as Chair, will continue to schedule conference rooms, obtain parking vouchers, schedule the Harris County buses and represent the Events Committee on the UTHRO Executive Committee. The volunteer Committee Members would be asked, under Marilyn's direction, to accept responsibility and facilitate individual events. This may include making restaurant or tour reservations, planning, purchasing (within the budget set by the Executive Committee), and picking up food for events, setting up before events and cleaning up after events in addition to helping keep an inventory of event supplies. Be assured you will not be alone in the set up or clean-up, there are always people to help.

The change to the events team will be effective at the beginning of January 2027. Of course, the

committee is already planning future events and we welcome you to join the Events Committee now to have a better perspective of that role. We can only provide members opportunities to attend and enjoy monthly events with member participation, Marilyn and the Executive Committee need more volunteers. I hope that you will choose to volunteer for these important functions.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cathy Findley at uthro@uth.tmc.edu.

Cathy Findley, Vice President

Barbara Kelly, President

Have You Payed Your Dues

Please check that you have payed your UTHRO dues for 2026. Time is running out. NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT PAY, YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS ON MAY 31 AND WILL NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND OUR EVENTS. If you are not sure you can contact Sondra Faul, the UTHRO Treasurer.

Dues are quite inexpensive (\$15 for a member, including spouse/significant other). You can find the form at this link: [Renewal Form](#).

Instructions to complete the form and pay the dues are on the form.

Remember that you will have events most every month, organized by the Executive Committee, many of which have no additional charge.

by Glenn Schreyer

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance

Most of you have heard or read about the current and ongoing situations with BlueCross/BlueShield (BCBS) insurance and Memorial Hermann Hospital (MHH). There are two types of insurance involved here, and there is a lot of confusion about them.

Current UT Houston employees or retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare are covered by UT Select BCBS insurance. MHH and BCBS reached an agreement to continue to accept UT Select BCBS insurance retroactively to April 1, 2026.

UT Houston retirees who qualify for Medicare are on a different insurance plan. It is the BCBS Medicare Advantage UT CARE coverage. MHH has notified those individuals as of January 31, 2026 that they will no longer accept that plan. UT Care is currently out of network for MHH. However, MHH and BCBS did agree as part of the current

agreement that UT CARE would be added back to the Network effective May 1, 2026.

If you have any questions about your insurance coverage or providers, you can call the number on the back of your insurance card (1-877-842-7562). BCBS has been very helpful to members in recommending other providers.

Please know that UTHRO Executive Committee Members, especially president Barbara Kelly and secretary Claire Brunson, actively pursued, on behalf of UTHRO members, every avenue available to bring the MHH and BCBS situation to people’s attention.

Many of you may have received letters from MD Anderson stating that BCBS was no longer in our insurance network. I contacted UHealth Benefits office and was told that the letters were sent in error. MD Anderson continues to be in our network.

by Barbara Kelly, UTHRO President

UTHRO OFFICERS 2026

President	Barbara Kelly	<p>UTHRO has a general purpose email address: uthro@uth.tmc.edu . This is a “forwarding” email that will send copies to designated committee members who will then forward to the appropriate person.</p> <p>Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Janice, BBQ lunch.</p> <p>If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then continue using that for your communication needs.</p>
Vice-Pres	Cathy Findley	
Secretary	Claire Brunson	
Treasurer	Sondra Faul	
Events	Janice Thomas	
Web Admin	Pat Grealy Glenn Schreyer	
Newsletter Editor	Glenn Schreyer	

UTHRO

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization
1851 Crosspoint, Suite 1.204
Houston, TX 77054

To update your address or phone number please contact us at 713 906 0437