

# The Resource



*February, 2019*

**Newsletter from**

## **Families of Richmond State Supported Living Center**

a charity devoted to enhancing the quality of life for our loved ones at Richmond State Supported Living Center and keeping our members informed about the facility and its services.

---

**Pre-Meeting Reception at 1:00 pm  
Sunday, March 17, 2019 in the Forever Young Center**

---

***Our next regular meeting will be Sunday, March 17, 1:30 – 3:00 pm***  
in the Forever Young building by the chapel. Meetings are scheduled on Sundays so that you can visit your family member AND attend our informative meetings. For those who can't attend, a conference line has been set up. To use it, please follow the instructions below. **PLEASE:**

1. Turn off your television set, radio, and any other background noise.
2. Dial **877-226-9790**.
3. Enter the Access Code: **9 2 0 6 9 1 9** and then press **#**.
4. Press the **"Mute"** button on your phone so we cannot hear what's going on in your house.

Thank you.

---

Our mailing address: P O Box 1671, Richmond, TX 77406

*(This mailing address is for the FAMILY association, not Richmond SSLC or Volunteer Services.)*

Please check out our website at [FamiliesOfRSSLC.org](http://FamiliesOfRSSLC.org).

---

## Contents

Message from President Louise Clay  
New TX Guardianship Registration Info  
RSSLC Emergency Contact Numbers

Donations to Families of RSSLC  
Minutes from the November 18 Meeting  
Minutes from January 20 meeting

---

## From President Louise Clay

Hello, everyone –

Well, the Texas Legislature is back in session, as it is every two years. For a change there is some good news. There seems to be no big push this time to close or consolidate the SSLCs. The biggest positive change is that Sen. Lois Kolkhorst is chairing the TX Health & Human Services committee, where any prospective legislation having to do with the SSLCs would have to go. Sen. Kolkhorst has both Richmond SSLC and Brenham SSLC in her territory, so she is a big supporter. The previous chair, Dr. Charles Schwertner, ostensibly resigned the assignment because he got caught up in an unsavory scandal. He was anti-SSLC. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick assigned Sen. Kolkhorst the chairmanship.

Again, we want to thank Cynthia Fannin for setting up the phone system so that our members can dial into our meetings. We try to have our speaker system on loud enough so that everything can be heard over the phone. Please feel free to join in.

One person fighting our fight is an Austin lobbyist named Jeff Heckler. He has been engaged by PART, a long-time organization which supports the SSLCs. Jeff is hopeful that we can get some legislation to put an end to this struggle every two years. During our last meeting on January 20, he called in and talked to us on the conference line. It was very informative. In case you have forgotten, PART has been around for decades. Originally PART stood for “Parent Association for the Retarded of Texas” before “retarded” became an ugly word. Please remember that lobbyists do not come free. If you wish, pull up PART’s website at [ourpartexas.com](http://ourpartexas.com). You can read about PART and also contribute if you wish.

There was a facility-wide electrical outage at RSSLC in January. Luckily it wasn’t in the middle of summer. Emergency contact numbers will be listed later in this newsletter.

That’s all for now. Hope to see you at the meeting on March 17.

Louise Clay  
[louise@pcm.net](mailto:louise@pcm.net)

(281) 346-0346 home  
(281) 543-0123 cell

P O Box 966  
Fulshear, TX 77441

---

## New TX Guardianship Registration

Well, I waited and waited to hear from my guardianship judge about registering with the state, and nothing ever happened. I finally hunted around the internet and found the website and registered. Then a week or so after that I received instructions on how to register. I will insert the website below. One of the things it asked for was the lawyer’s name. I haven’t used a lawyer in many years since I am guardian just of the person and not also guardian of the estate. So I just put in “Nobody” and later put in a note that I no longer used an attorney. Maybe this will apply to you, too. None of the registration information has ever made clear whether this is a one-time thing or a yearly thing or what.

<http://www.txcourts.gov/jbcc/guardianship-registration/>

---

## **Emergency Numbers from Cynthia Fannin**

There is a cell phone for facility electrical outages and a separate Family Landline for facility emergency situations and in the event of an evacuation. A recorded message will be on the Family Landline should we have an emergency and or need to leave the facility. We will update the pre-recorded message with an up-to-date message.

Cell phone (located at the switchboard): (832) 945-7321  
Family Landline (for facility emergencies): (281) 344-4399

---

## **Families of RSSLC Donations**

*The Resource* is published to provide communications among families and friends of Richmond State Supported Living Center residents. Printing and mailing costs are covered by tax deductible gifts from individuals. Please make checks payable to **Families of RSSLC** and send to PO Box 1671, Richmond, TX 77406.

♥ **Our recent donors: Thank you!!** ♥

**Jay and Kathryn Dietz**

**Nancy Hernandez**

**Tayde Lara**

**Ann S. Towle**

We are a 501(c)(3) organization named "Richmond State School Families and Friends, Inc.", a non-profit incorporated in Texas. Our operating name is "Families of Richmond State Supported Living Center", which is an assumed name registered with the state. If you look us up on the internet, be sure to enter the entire organization name as underlined above. An acknowledgment will be mailed for all contributions. If you fail to get yours, please call Louise Clay at (281) 346-0346.

---

## **Minutes from November 18 Meeting**

A Meet and Greet was held before the meeting to introduce Erin Knight, the new Director of RSSLC, and Sam Lynn, the Assistant Director of RSSLC.

The meeting started at 1:30 with Chaplain Billy Guerrero giving an opening prayer.

Louise Clay gave the Treasurer Report.

Assistant Director Sam Lynn gave a brief history of his background and outlined what he hopes to bring to the job. Capital Improvements will be his main focus moving forward. A new administrative responsibility has been formed, AOD (Admin on Duty). There will always be someone on campus who will have this responsibility. If you have a problem, ask the operator for the AOD.

New Director Erin Knight introduced herself and discussed the many things she has been doing to understand the workings of RSSLC. She has been visiting all of the cottages and departments on campus. Her hope is to move forward with ideas that will improve RSSLC.

Assistant Director Cynthia Fannin talked about the new admission standards and who is applying for residence. A new Case Management RN has been working as a liaison between the campus and residents in the hospital.

The meeting ended at 3:07 pm.

Submitted by Pat Lodder, secretary.

---

## **Minutes from January 20 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order on time at 1:30 PM. Chaplain Billy gave an inspirational reading from Mother Theresa.

Slate of officers proffered by nominating committee were accepted unanimously: President and Treasurer, Louise Clay, Vice President, Peggy Osborne and Secretary, Pat Lodder.

Melissa Johnson is our new Director of Community Relations.

Delores Stoker is our new professional for security including the video cameras, plus risk management and communications.

We learned that incident reports result in root-cause analysis. It's a transparent process, unlike group homes. We also learned that the newest DOJ report is available. All 13 state supported livings centers have been thoroughly inspected, unlike group homes.

We were reminded of what a great resource we have in our ombudsman and that a staff member is always with our loved ones 24-7 when they are in a hospital.

Director Erin Knight was in attendance and answered many questions, letting us know that her Plans for Improvements are always in play. She encourages family feedback. Tom Diaz wondered about family surveys like the ones hospitals do.

Ileene was on the conference call and asked about ensuring excellence in resident grooming, getting call-backs from middle management staff, and personal items disappearing. If you want a printed roster of all TX legislature members and their committees call 512-476-7596.

Jeff Heckler called in with the good news that Lois Kolkhorst will be the new chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Lt. Gov. Patrick appointed her after Charles Schwertner gave the position up. He denies the allegations about sexual misconduct. We all agreed it would be nice to finally "end the debate" this session: The 13 SSLCs serve a population that deserves specialized services; that population is growing in number; and it's inhumane for the authorities to let their prejudices interfere with their duty to serve.

At our March meeting, parents may be given an easier security strategy.

Respectfully submitted for re-elected secretary Pat Lodder,

Michele Arnold



***See you on March 17, we hope!***

Chaplain Billy, thank you for always being in Forever Young first to open that beautiful space for our meetings and putting the chairs back in place.