

# KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



## NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

DECEMBER 2020

### December 10 Drive Thru:

This year we will be having a drive thru *Holiday Luncheon To Go* on Thursday, December 10 @ Kennedy Pointe in Bristol. The cost is \$20 with a portion of the cost going to the Kendall County Food Pantry.



K.R.T.A. Holiday To Go Luncheon Fundraiser  
Where: Kennedy Pointe Restaurant, Bristol  
When: Thursday, December 10  
Cost: \$20-a portion to benefit Kendall County Food Pantry  
Pick-up times: 11:30, 12:00, 12:30. (Choose one)



#### Entrees

- 1) Pork tenderloin & gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll & dessert
- 2) Chicken Alfredo, green beans, roll & dessert
- 3) Combo

(Choose one)

This would be a great time to think about your family and friends who might be busy and want to take the night off from cooking. You can purchase any number of meals to share with others. Plus, we will also be collecting donations of clothing items for the Food Pantry. Cash donations also are welcome. Remember, if you can't get to the restaurant that day you can send someone else to pick up your orders.

When you receive your phone call, please tell the caller the number of the orders you want, how many meals you want, and what time you will be picking them up.

Then, on December 10, you just drive to Kennedy Pointe and we will take your cash or check (made out to K.R.T.A.), plus any clothing donations. We will bring your food order to your vehicle—no need for you to get out.

If you don't receive a call by Friday December 4, please contact Sue Matile @ 630-554-8743.

We hope you can participate in this fundraiser luncheon to go. Any questions, contact Jim Hissong @ [jamesvhissong@comcast.net](mailto:jamesvhissong@comcast.net)

If you need to cancel your orders, please contact Sue Matile @ 630-554-8743 by **NOON on Tuesday, December 8** or you will be responsible for payment.



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello KRTA members! The KRTA board wanted to plan for a December Christmas luncheon, but because of the uncertainty of what is available to offer members safely, there will be no in-person luncheon again this year. We know 2020 has been like no other. The day to day life we enjoy will be forever changed.

But, the holiday season can remind us to reflect on what we have, as opposed to what we have not. We can seek out the positives. We can listen more, talk less, in order to better understand the many perspectives of our family and friends. A friend shared that she has called people she has not seen or talked to in years. That small act has made so many people thankful for a thoughtful friend. I thought that was a great idea, so I and a family member have done the same. The year can become a year to be thankful--if we let it.

Hope to see all of you at a KRTA luncheon in 2021!

Pat Johnson, Secretary



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CORNER

President's Message for December, 2020

As we near the holiday season, your K.R T A. Association is planning its first ever Holiday Drive Thru Luncheon on Thursday, December 10 @ Kennedy Pointe Restaurant in Bristol. You will be able to pre-order your meal and pick it up between the lunch hours of 11:30 & 12:30 P.M. Part of the proceeds will benefit the Kendall County Food Pantry. At the drive thru, we will also be collecting new socks, underwear, scarves, hats, mittens, and other clothing items to be given to the Food Pantry. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Pick up a new A.M.B.A. benefits handout on December 10. This handout will outline the many benefits offered through the I.R.T.A. Continue to mail in your membership dues for both the K.R.T.A. & the I.R.T.A. (These are separate memberships).

I would like to welcome 2 new K.R.T. A. board members: Dorothy Simmons as co-chair for membership and Judy Burkard as co-chair for communications. A big Thank You to Theresa Wiedman for her past help on our K.R.T.A. board!

**Remember: If you have any address, phone or e-mail changes, please notify Rob or Vicki Baughman @ 309-803-3772 or 309-212-4528.**

### Did you know?

- ...There are 125,900 annuitants
- ...The oldest annuitant is 109 years old
- ...The oldest active teacher is 81 years old
- ...The average monthly benefit is \$5,027
- ...There are 163,115 I.R.T.A. members
- ...The T.R.S. portfolio has had a 9.0% return on its investments in the last 40 years.

Lastly, we will be missing the Yorkville H.S. Madrigals this December and seeing all of you for a sit down luncheon, but as we look forward to 2021, please keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy!

My best to you all,  
Jim Hissong, President-K.R.T.A.



### COMMUNICATIONS REPORT



First, we would like to say thank you and farewell to Theresa Wiedman who will no longer be able to lead our committee. She is leaving our area. She will be settling in Effingham, Illinois to be near relatives. We wish her well. She will be greatly missed.



Second, we would like to say hello to Judy Burkard who will be joining the Communications Committee with Sue Matile. Having two people running the committee greatly helps all concerned.



Next, we would like to thank all our volunteer callers for this year. This year we have needed you to play a different role as meetings have been cancelled due the COVID-19 virus. Next year, we may need you to hold your post as we communicate what we will be doing with our meetings. Hopefully, we can get you your new calling lists by the first week in January. If there is some delay, use the list from this year for next year until we get an update. Please stay safe and well.

Communications Chair, Sue Matile



**TREASURER.** We really need someone to step up and fill this position!!



### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



Though we will not be having a sit-down dinner for December, we are still collecting our usual December donations at our Luncheon to Go fundraiser. Please bring your donations of always needed scarves, hats, gloves, socks and underwear for the Kendall County Food Pantry. Please remember to choose appropriate sizes and styles if you buy for high school age students. They could also use some **new or gently used warm winter clothing as well.**

Of course, money is always acceptable; and, this year, the food pantry is in extra need of it. If you are not able to attend the Luncheon to Go, you can still donate to the Food Pantry on line. The address is: <https://kccfoodpantry.org/donate>. This is a great opportunity to help make a better Christmas for some less fortunate children.

Alimae Persons, Community Participation Chair

**PS: Attention knitters and crocheters:** If you are inspired to knit/crochet some items, I am sure you will make some child or adult very happy.



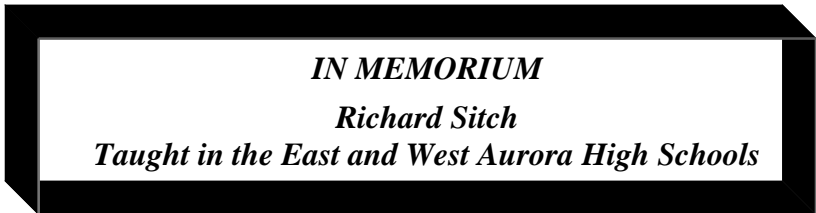
### MEMBERSHIP

**Kendall County Retired Teachers Unit 10 Membership: December, 2020**

Hello Everyone

The Covid 19 crisis has touched everyone in one way or another.

It can and has been stressful and isolating to many. With Thanksgiving approaching, we may feel we do not have a lot to be thankful for and may see only the challenges this year has brought. Instead, I hope and pray that we look to the blessings each one of us has in our lives. During this time of uncertainty, I am personally grateful to be a member of both the KRTA and IRTA; organizations that truly support us as retired teachers and as well as our future educators. I realize we have not been able to get together because larger gatherings have been put on hold to keep us and our families safe and healthy.



I know we all look forward to the information and entertainment, as well as the camaraderie and of course the food at each luncheon! However, I hope you are as thankful as I am to have a directory of members' contact information so we can contact each other and stay in touch. Why not pick someone out you haven't spoken to or seen in awhile and make a quick phone call or send a kind card or note? I have done this and it is not only rewarding to me but hopefully has brightened another person's day.

I am also thankful to everyone who has paid their KRTA dues for this year by mail. I know many of you pay at the luncheons. You may think that because we are not having luncheons, there is no reason to stay as a member of the KRTA. But, it may be more important now than ever to continue to come together as an organization to support not only the KRTA, the IRTA and our Pension and Health Benefits, but also the education of our younger teachers and their future.

**There IS** strength in numbers. We are all in this together and teachers retired or not, remain an important part of our children and grandchildren's education. I am personally so thankful to current educators and moms/dads as they are consistently challenged in meeting our children's educational needs. How education is presented and provided may be changed forever.

KRTA dues run the exact same way the school year ran in the past..."the old days if you will"; from Sept. 2020 to Sept. 2021. Please use the form at the back of this newsletter or just write your information on a piece of paper and include with your check made out to the KRTA for \$15. If you think you may owe for more than one year, please call me @ 815-498-3601 and I will let you know. I have also started a system to have the check number you paid with readily available.



I would like to **Welcome Dorothy Simmons** to the Membership Team. I am extremely thankful she has volunteered. She has already been so helpful making phone calls and contacting members who need to pay their dues.

We will be making calls to those of you that still owe for this year very soon. I realize it is easy to put it aside and say I'll take care of it tomorrow. But, please call me or send your check today! If you would have difficulty paying your dues but would like to keep your membership up to date, please contact me as well.

**IRTA Membership** is **NOT** included in KRTA dues. We encourage all local members or recent retirees to join the IRTA. It is only \$2.50 per month and can be deducted from your pension so you never have to worry about it. With the recent election and the current Covid 19 crisis changes may occur rapidly. Don't let our Pensions and especially our Health Care Benefits be determined by the Legislature. The IRTA fights for all of us! You can find more information at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org),

I am proud and thankful to be a member of the KRTA and the IRTA. Please join me as I say thanks to the KRTA Officers and Committee Chairs/Teams for all their hard work. A Special Thank You goes out to Janet Reardon who faithfully puts our newsletter together and keeps us informed. Stay well and safe and I hope to visit with all of you soon in one way or another.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Sharon Pagoria KRTA Membership Chair



**Important Directory Information:** Has your name, address, telephone number, e-mail or any other directory information changed this year? Are there any corrections that need to be made? If so, please notify Bob and Vicki Baughman, our new directory chairmen, ASAP!! Their phone number and e-mail address are: 309-212-4528 or [vrbaughman@att.net](mailto:vrbaughman@att.net). Also, please let Sharon Pagoria know at [retiredbteacher2014@gmail.com](mailto:retiredbteacher2014@gmail.com). They need this by the beginning of December at the **VERY latest**.

**New Members:** Please e-mail your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to the Baughmans as well. That way they will be sure to have it for the 2020 directory.



**E-MAILS:** I am happy to state that we currently have 150 e-mail members. If you would like to join us, please let me know. You may do so by e-mailing me, Janet Reardon, at [janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net). After receiving your e-mail, I will gladly put you on our list. You will receive the newsletter in two formats: by Word 97 – 2003 and PDF file—choose the one that works for you. I look forward to putting your name on this list.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### Election--Other Results

While all eyes seemed to be on the Presidential race, Tuesday night, Nov. 3, Illinois had many surprises. Generally, Republicans avoided a "Blue Wave" in Illinois as they did in many states. Republicans in the Illinois House of Representatives likely gained 2 seats, while Illinois Senate Republicans likely lost one seat. The Governor decisively lost his effort to pass a graduated or progressive income tax in Illinois. While Illinois Democrats generally underperformed expectations, the balance of power has not changed. The House Speaker and the Senate President still control Democrat super majorities in their chambers and every statewide officer is also a Democrat.

\* Out of the 40 Illinois **House candidates** the Illinois Retired Teachers Political Action Committee chose to endorse, 11 lost their race. However, all 5 of the IRTPAC endorsed Illinois **Senate candidates** were victorious.

\* Add the names of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, and Governor J.B. Pritzker to the list of top Illinois Democrats nudging House Speaker Michael Madigan to exit his post. Many lawmakers feel that the state party needs new leadership. 84th Illinois House District Representative Stephanie Kifowit, representing parts of Aurora, Oswego, Montgomery and Naperville, is one legislator who has announced her intention to challenge Madigan for the position of Speaker of the House.

### IRTA NEWS

\* Mr. Mike Kennedy of the Executive Search Firm Korn Ferry of Atlanta, GA, has been hired by the IRTA to find a replacement for former TRS Executive Director Dick Ingram.

\* There will be a TRS Trustee election this May (2021). On the ballot will be a spot for two active educators and one retiree

\* In Fiscal year 2021, the State of Illinois will contribute \$5.14 billion to the TRS retirement fund

\* There are currently 116,261 **active** Tier 1 educators and 46,814 Tier 2 **active** educators. It is being predicted that by school year 2026-27, active Tier 2 teachers will outnumber active Tier 1 teachers.

\* There are 124,791 **retired teachers** who receive roughly \$6.92 billion a year from the TRS.

\* There are a little over 39,000 members in the IRTA.

Sid Simmons, Legislative Chair

Taking joy in living is a  
women's best cosmetic.  
Rosalind Russell



The aging process has your firmly  
in its grasp if you never get the urge  
to throw a snowball.  
Doug Larson



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

OPENING BALANCE – 8/21/2018		<u>\$2,204.50</u>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
	Dues	\$1,200.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$1,200.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		<u>\$3,404.50</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	Cubs 20-21 Deposit	\$200.00
	Newsletter	\$59.00
	EIN#	\$50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$309.00</u>
RECONCILED BALANCE –11/05/2020		<u>\$3095.50</u>
Kyle Price, Treasurer		

**Happy Birthday!!**

The following members are celebrating their birthdays. **Happy Birthday** to all of you--and may you have many more!

**JANUARY**

- Theresa Wiedman 1/6
- Kathy Strum 1/11
- Karen Baker 1/16
- Mary Lee Snyder 1/23
- Sigrid Hagen 1/24
- Margaret Kratzer 1/28

**FEBRUARY**

- Jan Cairns 2/1
- Elizabeth McDonald 2/1/
- Tony Lundeen 2/17
- Laura Nemitz 2/22



If you did not see your name in the birthday recognition for this quarter and wish to be honored, please let me (Janet Reardon) have your birth month and day by e-mail: [janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net). If you notice any errors, please let me know as well.

**Local Unit Membership Form for Regular and Associate Members:**

IRTA Local Unit Name: **Kendall County Retired Teachers' Association**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ Retirement Year: \_\_\_\_\_ District Retired From: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15.)

Mail above membership form to: Sharon Pagoria, 981 Lake Holiday Drive, Sandwich, IL 60548, 815-498-3601.



## More Than A Day

As Thanksgiving Day rolls around,  
It brings up some facts, quite profound.  
We may think that we're poor,  
Feel like bums, insecure,  
But in truth, our riches astound.

We have friends and family we love;  
We have guidance from heaven above.  
We have so much more  
Than they sell in a store,  
We're wealthy, when push comes to shove.

So add up your blessings, I say;  
Make Thanksgiving last more than a day.  
Enjoy what you've got;  
Realize it's a lot,  
And you'll make all your cares go away.

By Karl Fuchs