

KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER 14 LUNCHEON

Come join us for our Thursday, December 14 KRTA Luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club at 12:00 Noon. The Yorkville High School Madrigals will be performing for our KRTA group

Since costs have gone up, our luncheon will be \$25 this December.

Deadline for reservations is Friday, December 8. If you do not receive a call by then please contact Sue Matile at: 630-554-8743.

For all our luncheons: if you have signed up and are unable to attend, you need to contact Sue Matile by 5:00 pm on Monday, Dec. 11 or you will be responsible for the cost of the luncheon. Thanks.

Also: Don't forget your money, as we will again be having our 50/50 raffle



SECRETARY'S REPORT

KRTA September 14, 2023, Membership Meeting Luncheon Minutes

The KRTA membership was greeted by Program Co-chair Tom Meade. Tom led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom honored KRTA former treasurer, Kyle Price. Kyle will represent KRTA as its honoree at the IRTA State Convention in Springfield on October 16 & 17, 2023.

Tom led the membership in Grace. The lunch at Whitetail Restaurant was a buffet lunch of Whitetail house salad and homemade rolls, pot roast, sides and dessert.



Following lunch, Lindsay Stock, a coordinator of the Suncrest Hospice (Westmont, IL), presented a brief overview of the Suncrest Hospice volunteer program. Lindsay talked about the varied volunteer opportunities and personal rewards this hospice program can offer to those who volunteer their time. A few of those opportunities can be companionship visits, pet visits, instrumental or singing visits, and birthday or Veterans Day visits. Lindsay said many volunteers say the rewards of their visits allow them to "make a difference in one of the most important times of someone's life." For information, contact lstock@suncrestcare.com.

Program

Tom Meade introduced comedian Larry Bergnach. His program, "Olde Time Radio," presented the comedy of past comedians such as Jack Benny, Bob Newhart, and Rodney Dangerfield. Larry talked about and demonstrated the clever humor of these gentlemen.



They knew that the common things in everyday life supplied the best humor. Simple statements like Rodney's "I get no respect" received familiar recognition and laughter from the audience. Newhart and Benny were masters of "the pause" in the telling of a comedic story and delivery of the "punchline." Larry's love of that remembered humor left members laughing and happy.

Business Meeting

Minutes from the June 8th KRTA luncheon meeting were approved as read.

Committee Reports

1. **Membership:** Dorothy Simmons reported that 16 members have paid their dues for the 2024-2025 year!
2. **Community Participation:** Alimae Persons said \$120 was collected for Hased House. The December 14th Membership Luncheon Meeting collection will be the Food Pantry. Clothing such as underwear for adults and children, homemade items such as lap blankets or mittens, and/or cash are welcomed. Jan Reardon read a thank you note from the Food Pantry. The message remarked that the KRTA Food Pantry donations of school supplies "makes going back to school a pleasurable experience for those 700+ students who received those supplies."
3. **Treasurer:** Co-treasurer Craig Weber reported there is \$4,501.41 in the treasury.
4. **Program:** Jan Hisson reported that there is a KRTA trip planned on September 25th to Starved Rock near Ottawa. Members can bring family and/or friends along. The trip will include a lunch at the Starved Rock Lodge Restaurant and a boat ride on the Illinois River. The cost is \$58. The application is included in the September KRTA Newsletter and on the check-in table. A second trip is planned for Sunday, December 17th, to the Chicago Symphony Christmas Program at Symphony Hall, Chicago. The application for this trip is in the September KRTA newsletter and on the check-in table.

Jan also reported that lunch prices may possibly be higher in the future - \$22 - \$25 possibly in December. The December 14th luncheon price will be reported in the December Newsletter.

Other

- Jan Reardon would like some volunteer help with taking pictures at luncheons or special events.
- The Community Participation committee needs two volunteers. Alimae is retiring at the end of this year.
- Tom Meade requests volunteers who would say Grace at the luncheons.

The 50/50 winner was Barbara Allen. She shared the collection with IRTA Legal Defense Fund.

The next KRTA Membership Luncheon Meeting is December 14th at Whitetail Ridge Restaurant, Yorkville. The Yorkville High School Madrigal Singers will be the entertainment.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Johnson, Recording Secretary



PRESIDENTS' REPORT CORNER

Holiday Greetings To All:

We hope the season has started out great for all our K.R.T.A. members and friends. Our trip to Starved Rock in September was a great success. We will soon be going to see the Chicago Symphony "Merry Merry" Christmas program on December 17. It is **SOLD OUT**, but we have a waiting list you can sign up for.

I am pleased to say we were able to fill our Community Relations chair position to help Alimae Persons. Renee Garren has volunteered to fill that position. We are now looking for someone to step up to help Craig Weber Co-Chair the Treasurer's position.



Please look in this newsletter for December donations to Tillers Nursing Home. Also, for the lists for Hillside & Tillers donations for April. We will be passing out a volunteer sheet for the K.C. Food Pantry & Hessed House at our December luncheon. Fox Valley Hospice volunteers are also needed- more information to follow.

Janet and I attended the I.R.T.A State convention in October. Here are some of the Hi-Lites:

1. I.R.T.A. Dues will have its first increase since 2014. It will go to \$3.50/mo.--\$42/yr.
2. Avg. age of an annuitant-73
3. Avg. service credit-27 yrs
4. I.R.T.A. currently has 40,500 members
5. Our K.R.T.A. donation to raise \$ for IRTAPAC made \$920!
6. If you have any Aetna questions: **Call C.M.S. - not Aetna**
7. I.R.T.A. finance questions? E-mail Donnie Ostrom, I.R.T.A. Finance Chair at: ostromdm@gmail.com
8. Join I.R.T.A. to protect your pension!

Lastly, increasing costs have forced the K.R.T.A. board to raise the price of our luncheons starting in December to \$25. Previously, K.R.T.A. has had to absorb the cost of dessert, which we can no longer afford to do.

Happy Holidays,

Jim Hissong, Craig Weber
Co- Presidents, K.R.T.A.



COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The caller group wants to remind our members to RSVP their plans for attending our lunch and meeting at Whitetail Golf Course on Thursday December 14th. Sue Matile and Judy Burkard will need your reservations by Friday, December 8. Sue's phone numbers are 630-554-8743 or 331-999-5029. Calling or texting is fine.

Communications Chairs, Sue Matile and Judy Burkard.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

At our September meeting we collected \$120 (\$85 from cash donations, \$15 from the 50/50 winner, and another personal donation of \$20)

At the December meeting, we will again be collecting any kind of clothing including hats, gloves, socks, and underwear for the Kendall County Community Pantry. They are in need, especially, of underwear of all sizes. Please choose appropriate styles for the high-school age youngsters. **For our knitters of hats**, etc., please keep on making lovely things for people who need them. Cash donations will also be greatly accepted.

Thank you so much for your concern for the less fortunate, and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Alimae Persons and Rene Garren, Community Participation



KRTA would like to welcome Rene Garren to our board. She has graciously accepted the Community Participation position. Rene is a newly retired teacher and administrator from Oswego 308, having served for 30 years. Many of you may know her as she is an Oswego graduate who has lived in Oswego all her life. She will be at our December meeting to collect all our donations for the food pantry. Be sure to introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome.



Thank you, Alimae, for all your years of wonderful service to KRTA as Community Participation Chair. Your super shopping ability definitely made our cash donations stretch to the nth degree—getting the best **“bang for the buck!”** Your tireless efforts have made our Community Participation committee something we can be very proud of.



Tiller's Holiday Treat Bags

Here is the list of items Tillers would like for their holiday bags: snack size candy, pens, pencils, markers, ChapStick, juice boxes, pudding packs, combs, brushes, sugar free candy, toothbrushes, small tubes of tooth paste, small hand lotion containers, small packages of Kleenex, hair clips.

We have also been contacted by Tillers to supply small items for gift bags for residents at Christmas. Please do not bring large quantities, as these are small items to fit into a bag which Tillers will supply. Here is a list of requested items:



KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS: Get your needles and/or quilting machine going. Tillers and Hillside could use some lap blankets

PPS: For Future collections, **THINK APRIL.** Our local nursing homes and re-hab facilities are in need of new or gently used items. Between now and our April luncheon meeting, take some time to clean out your cabinets and rooms again, do some sewing, or stop by a local store like Dollar Tree, Wal-Mart, Meijer, Goodwill, and pick up some of the following:

Request from Tillers: deck of cards, socks, men's hankies, baseball caps, sun visors, wheelchair bags to attach for carrying items, lap blankets, adult bibs with ties, adult coloring books, word searches, small craft kits, crayons, colored pencils, pudding packs, snack size candy, sugar free candy, small note pads, hair clips and scrunches, shaving cream, ChapStick, puzzles (less than 100 pieces), large emery boards, juice boxes, hand lotion, Kleenex.

Request from Hillside: Snacks, ChapStick, hand lotion, socks, playing cards, small note books and pens, lap blankets, fleece pants, large adult coloring books, colored pencils, hats and caps, pudding packs, sugar free candy, juice boxes, gloves, nail clippers, book marks, small Kleenex, puzzles-the fewer pieces the better.

As we get more information about these collections, we will pass it on to you.



MEMBERSHIP

**Kendall County Retired Teachers Unit 10
Membership: December, 2023**

join

Happy Holidays! I know how busy everyone will become with all the family activities and shopping and baking and decorating in the next month. Because of this, if you do not remember if you paid your membership for 2023-2024, please call Sharon at 815-498-3601 and ask.

Everyone has done super this year. We only have 37 unpaid members out of 153! I believe that is the best we have ever done! Thank you all for paying your dues in such a timely manner. I know many of you pay at our luncheon, so I hope we see you all in December. After the luncheon Dorothy and I will try to make phone calls to remind folks about unpaid membership and/or ask if you want to continue your membership. A decision was made by the Board that from now on if dues are not paid after one year, you will no longer receive a newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

Pat Cote
1932 – 2023

KRTA Board President
1998 – 1999

I know that I am very thankful to be a member of the KRTA. I am also thankful for everyone in the KRTA and especially for our hard-working committee chairs. Please join me as I say thanks to the KRTA Officers and Committee Chairs/Teams for all their hard work. I'm not sure we all are even aware of how much they all do behind the scenes. We are truly blessed with their dedication and commitment. If you would like to assist on any committee, we would be very grateful. Just let us know. I am so thankful to Dorothy Simmons who has been able to help keep great records when I am not available and assist with phone calls.

Please look at your most recent Directory if you have one available to you. Please check the spelling of your name, your address, phone number and e-mail address. Please check that you are included in it as well. We will be creating a new Directory come the end of 2023 and would really like to have it up to date. *Special thanks to Vicki & Robert Baughman for putting this together.* I have made many changes for next year already on our master list for those of you that have informed me of changes. Please call or e-mail me if you are not sure I changed it. My e-mail is retiredlbsteacher2014@gmail.com. I will have a Directory available at the next luncheon if you want to triple check.

On another note, **IRTA Membership** is NOT included in KRTA dues. We encourage all local members or recent retirees to join the IRTA. It can be deducted from your pension, so you never have to worry about it. However, it is not automatic. Our pensions and especially our Health Care benefits seem to always be threatened by the actions of the legislature. The IRTA fights for all of us! With everything changing so much, it is more important than ever to join! You can find information at www.irtaonline.org.

“Don’t wait until the fourth Thursday in November to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make everyday a day of Thanksgiving!” – Charmaine J. Forde

Stay well and safe and I hope to visit with all of you soon

Sharon Pagoria KRTA Membership Chair

Dorothy Simmons Membership Team

PS: On a personal note: I will be portraying the role of Edna McCarthy, a Church Lady, in Indian Valley Theatre’s heartwarming production of **“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”** on Dec. 8th, 9th, and 10th. This is an excellent family show to be performed at the Sandwich Opera House. Tickets are available at www.indianvalleytheatre.com



E-MAILS: My e-mail format has changed slightly. I have had several members call stating that they did not receive their newsletter. Upon investigation, it seems that the e-mail was too large for their phone or lap top. When I send the newsletter in PDF form only, the e-mail goes through. Since we are adding more pictures and graphics, the newsletter is becoming larger. With this in mind, **I am now going to send the newsletter in PDF only.** Hopefully that will alleviate the problem of not receiving the newsletter.

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 directory chairmen, **ASAP!!** Their phone number and e-mail address are: 309-212-4528 or vrbaughman@att.net. **Also,** please let Sharon Pagoria know at retiredlbsteacher2014@gmail.com.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The fiscal year 2023 statistics are in and the state of Illinois is slowly climbing out of debt thanks to the so called 'sin taxes.'

Leading the way is **Gaming Revenue that produced a total of \$1.99 Billion** in legal wagering taxes. This figure includes casino gambling, horse racing, video gaming, the Lottery and now sports betting.

The single largest gaming revenue source was **the Lottery, which generated \$872 million dollars**, 44% of the total. **Video gaming was a close second with \$814 million** or 40% of the total followed by **sports wagering at \$143 million, 13 casinos at \$157 million** and **horse racing \$6 million**.

The \$1.99 Billion dollars collected in FY 2023 showed a 5% increase over FY 2022 which had a 39% increase from FY 2021.

The state of Illinois expects these figures to grow in FY 2024.

The state of Illinois collected **\$320 million dollars in alcoholic beverages taxes** in 2023, **\$841 million in tobacco products sales taxes**, and **\$20,395,000 in alcoholic beverages licenses**.

Cigarette taxes collected in FY 2023 totaled \$124,835,700.

Regarding cannabis, Illinois made **\$562 million in taxes from marijuana sales** in 2023. Our state is now second in the nation in cannabis sales trailing only California. As a comparison, the state of Michigan took in \$326 million in marijuana sales tax revenue in 2022.

Fracking is a big business in southern Illinois. White County is the biggest user of fracking in our state. **Fracking brought in \$330 million dollars** in tax money, but it also created over 14,000 jobs in Illinois and had an annual economic impact in our state of \$3.05 Billion dollars.

In case you are wondering, individual income taxes paid to the state of Illinois totaled \$22,697,437,000 Billion dollars.

Sid Simmons, legislative chair, KRTA



TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE – 8/15/23		<u>\$4,501.41</u>
RECEIPTS	Membership/Luncheon/50-50/ Hesed house	1,241.00
	Starved Rock/Symphony Trip	5,072.00
	KC Super office for Future Ed Program	1,500.00
	Dues	210.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$8,023.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$12,524.41
EXPENSES	Whitetail Ridge Lunch	1,421.57
	Newsletter	12.50
	Program -Lewis Bergnach	225.00
	Jim Hissong deposit for trips	791.96
	Windstar Bus	1,181.00
	School Scholarships	1,500.00
	Hesed House Donation	85.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$5,037.03</u>
RECONCILED BALANCE –11/11/2023		<u>\$7,487.38</u>
Craig Webber, Treasurer		



Happy Birthday!!

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

JANUARY

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
 Karen Anderson 2/20
 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. If you notice any errors, please let me know as well.

SOCIAL HOUR



Our beautiful
Fall Table



STARVED ROCK



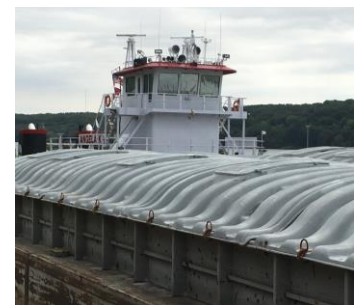
Our great day started at the lodge where we had our lunch. After lunch we boarded the Trolley for the first part of our trip. As usual, Jim and Jan were busy making sure all was going smoothly.



We rode through the park down to the Starved Rock Lock and Dam on the Illinois River. There we were able to watch a barge, the Angela K go through the locks.



As the locks begin to open, the Angela K begins to go through. It also afforded us a great view of Starved Rock. Both the cruise guide and our trolley driver gave us the history of how Starved Rock got its name.



From there we head to the landing to board the boat for sightseeing cruise on the river.





The leisurely cruise took us past waterfowl and many inlets. We saw several walkers on the trail that goes along the river. After the cruise, we boarded our trolley and headed for the lodge. Along the way we saw some wonderful totems. Thus, ended our great day at Starved Rock.



DID YOU KNOW?



IT TAKES APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES
FOR YOUR BRAIN TO KNOW
THAT YOUR STOMACH IS FULL.