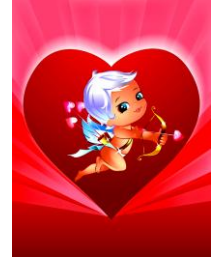


KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS

NEWSLETTER

SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS



FEBRUARY 2019

FEBRUARY 14 MEETING

The February 14 meeting of the KRTA will be held at Lakeview Grille, 604 West Veterans Parkway (Route 34), Yorkville, IL. It is west of Route 47 (just beyond Game Farm Road) on the south side. It begins at **12:00 NOON**. The cost is still \$19.

Our Valentine program is the musical duo, "Lucky Entertainment".

Deadline is February 8. Be sure to mark your calendar and let your caller know if you can join us. If you don't get a call by then, you can RSVP to Theresa Wiedman, 630-897-6377. Be sure to bring your money for the 50/50 raffle. Again, the money will go to the IRTA legal fund.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

KRTA December 13, 2018 Membership Meeting Minutes

The KRTA membership Meeting was called to order by President Jim Hissong at Kennedy Pointe Restaurant, Bristol. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and George Hayner said Grace. Jim Hissong greeted members. He expressed sympathy on behalf of KRTA to members Dorothy Simmons, Sid and Carol Simmons, wife and brother/sister-in-law of Jack Simmons who passed away on Thanksgiving Day. Jack had been a fifth-grade teacher at East View Elementary in School District 308, Oswego.

Lunch was served and after lunch Jim began the business meeting with the approval of the September 13 membership meeting minutes. Kyle Price reported the treasury balance of \$4,050.09.

Committee Reports

- **Programs:** Jan Hissong reported the Supper Club met at the Oswego Olive Garden in October. Also in October, the lunch and a movie group met at Mike and Denise's Restaurant for a half price pizza lunch. The group then saw the movie, "First Man."
- **Legislation:** Sid Simmons reported that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel had announced that he supports an amendment (amendment #49) on the November 6 ballot to open the Illinois Constitution. This amendment would empower the Illinois General Assembly to modify pension benefits of public employees. If #49 would pass, it would do away with the contract protection clause. Currently, the Illinois Constitution states in Article XIII, Section 5, that "Membership in any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or an agency or instrumentality thereof shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired." 3/5 of both the House and Senate must vote yes to open the Illinois State Constitution. Sid said from what he knows many lawmakers and attorneys believe the proposal is a waste of time.

- **Community Participation:** Alimae Persons thanked the membership on behalf of the Kendall County Food Pantry for the many knitted and crocheted items donated by KRTA members today along with the \$181 collected today. Kendall County CASA will be the organization to benefit February members' donations.
- **Membership:** Randy French reported there are 178 paid members today out of 190 members. There is still time to pay your 2018-2019 dues.



- **Program:** The Yorkville High School Madrigal Singers performed a thoroughly enjoyable half hour program members that included traditional music in the Renaissance tradition. David Smith is the director of this 25 year program YHS. Jim Hissong offered the high school group and members a wise quote regarding success from Helen Keller, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." Wishing you happiness.



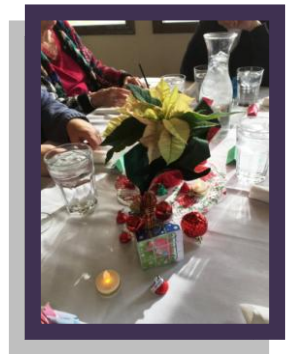
Jim introduced guest Chris Mehochko, Superintendent of Kendall-Grundy ROE. Mr. Mehochko said county school districts as well as the whole state are in dire need of substitutes. Please consider the possibility, he asked. Retired teachers can register even if their teaching certificates have lapsed. Teachers would be reimbursed for the cost of the fee. He also said there will be a new school funding formula this year. That process will probably drop snow days as a part of the school year.

Jim presented the 50/50 winner, Karen Baker, with her half of the winnings. The IRTA Legal Defense Fund received the second half.

Jan Hissong shared with the members interesting information about the history of toys – the table theme for today's holiday luncheon. History reveals that objects meant most likely for play date back to 500 B. C. Jan found that 1913 was when the first toy commercial appeared. And 1959 was when the first Barbie Doll was introduced much to the delight of young girls everywhere.

The next KRTA membership meeting and luncheon will be February 14, 2019, at Lakeview Grill, 604 West Veterans Parkway (Rt. 34), Yorkville. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Recording Secretary, Pat Johnson



THANK YOU
WELCOME

Thank you callers for volunteering again for the following year: Nancy Aschauer, Joyce Burns, Janet Cairns, Sig Hagen, Pat Johnson, Fran Sauer, Norma Tucker, Barb Yundt, along with substitutes Dorothy Simmons and Effie Vitale.

To our new volunteers: Carole Clark, Bobbi Decker, Paula Hill-Emery, and Sherry Underhill

A FOND FAREWELL AND
A BIG THANK YOU

We heartily thank Wanda Krentz, Pam Larsen and Madeline Mead for their years of faithful calling.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Happy New Year!

President's Message for January, 2019

As we welcome the new year of 2019, I would like to take this time to send out our congratulations to one of our executive K.R.T.A. board members, Sid Simmons. As you know, Sid keeps up abreast of all of the legislative activities that affect each and every one of us, especially the one most important to us--our pensions! He is currently in his 25th year on our board. **Way to go Sid!**

I would like to give you a brief recap of some of the things the K.R.T.A. has been doing.

- ♥ We have given out scholarships for Excellence in Education, Moler-Austin teacher grants, donations to our legal aid fund through 50/50 drawings, and also donations to C.A.S.A., and Special Olympics.
- ♥ We have helped with school supply distribution at the Kendall County Food Pantry,
- ♥ Attended Cubs, Cougars and Blackhawks games where we had the privilege of seeing one of our K.R.T.A. members, Norm Meier, honored at the Blackhawks game last January. 22 for his service as a Purple Heart veteran,
- ♥ We have seen performances at the Arcada Theatre and had "lunch & a movie" and "supper clubs",
- ♥ And finished off our year in December at Kennedy Pointe with a wonderful program from the Yorkville Madrigal group.

Our K.R.T.A. web-site is in the process of being updated; so, be looking for that soon. Pick up your new directories at our February 14 luncheon at Lakeview Grille. A few tickets remain for our Blackhawks trip on Feb. 18 and the application for our Chicago Cubs trip on May 23 is in this newsletter. Look for more activities in the coming months.

Thought for the day: An investment in knowledge pays the best dividends!

Jim Hissong, President-K.R.T.A.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Thank you for your wonderful response to our request for new donated clothing, beautiful hand-knitted mittens, scarves, hats, booties, and knitted stuffed toys. These will go those served by KRTA. They are VERY appreciative and state that it definitely makes a positive difference in many lives. Thank you also for your monetary donation of \$220 to use for shopping for Kendall County Food Pantry. Through sales, bargains, and coupons, I was able to stretch that money to \$600 worth of goods.



At the February meeting, we will be accepting donations for CASA, an organization that advocates for children in the court system.

Thank you again for your always wonderful support.

Alimae Persons, Community Participation Chair

IRTA FOUNDATION FUND: We received a thoughtful thank-you note from Roger Hampton, IRTAF Chair. He thanked us for our \$40 donation in memory of Josephine Eakle, Ralph Mead, Judith Farley, and Jack Simmons.

The **IRTA FOUNDATION** is a very worthy foundation. They are currently helping retired teachers in need with monthly stipends. The stipends range in amounts from \$300 to \$650. These amounts are based upon the application that the recipient submitted. The foundation also helps with a one-time payment which can be for anything from medical expenses, back taxes and real-estate taxes. Most of these recipients have been retired for many years and receive very small pensions. Many do not qualify for Medicare—which is a definite financial health burden. The foundation also awards six scholarships each year in each of the IRA areas of the State.

MEMBERSHIP



Kendall County Retired Teachers Unit 10 Membership--February, 2019

Membership Report: We have 180 members as of today. We have 51 members who have not paid this year's dues of \$15. If you have not attended a meeting or have not sent in your money, please send your \$15 to Randy French or Sharon Pagoria. You can use the handy membership form in the back of this newsletter. **Please** send your money so we don't have to start calling you.

If any member knows of any former teachers that are not members, please invite them to one of our meals for free. We would appreciate it. If you know of someone retiring this year, please let Sharon Pagoria know so she can send a personal invite, also, if you have recently changed your phone, address or email please check with Randy and/or Sharon at next luncheon or call us.

Welcome New Members: Rodney and Patricia Engstrom
1531 Cornerstone Drive
Yorkville, IL 60560

IN MEMORIUM
Jack Simmons—1938 - 2018
Taught in Coal City and Oswego

February is also a good time to join the (state) IRTA--Illinois Retired Teachers Association. Member benefits include free hearing screenings, hearing aid discounts, access to dental insurance and long term care benefits with the AMBA Company. For more information on long term care, call 1-800-258-7041. For more IRTA information call 1-800-728-4782 or check <http://www.irtaonline.org>.



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY—Get it hot off the press at the February Meeting.

The 2019 membership Directory will be printed in January and mailed/distributed at the February meeting. All members, along with all new members, were included. **To be certain that the Directory is correct, please check the following when you receive it: your name, address, phone number, and email address.** If you find an error, email Robert and Vicki Baughman at: vrbaughman@att.net (our Directory gurus).



E-MAILS: I am happy to state that we currently have 117 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. 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.

Here's a rule I recommend.
Never practice two vices at once.
Tullulah Bankhead



TREASURER'S REPORT

1/15/2019

OPENING BALANCE 10/16/18			<u>\$3,950.41</u>
RECEIPTS	Meal Payments	\$1,330.00	
	Dues	\$644.00	
	Replace Change for Luncheon	\$200.00	
	50/50 Legal Fund	\$85.00	
	Events	\$270.00	
	Kendall Food Pantry	\$220.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>\$2,749.00</u>
	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$6,699.41
EXPENSES	Yorkville High School	\$100.00	
	Change for Luncheon	\$200.00	
	Janet Reardon (Newsletter)	\$29.83	
	Kennedy Pointe	\$1,329.89	
	IRTA Legal Fund	\$85.00	
	Food Pantry	\$120.00	
	KRTA Flyers	\$134.49	
	Publishing	\$160.00	
	IRTA Foundation	\$40.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$2,199.21
RECONCILED BALANCE 1/15/19			<u>\$4,500.20</u>
Kyle Price, Treasurer			

LEGISLATIVE



Hi All,

TRS's mission is to continually deliver the retirement security promised over the last 70+ years to our 417,292 members. TRS accomplishes this mission by putting the best interests of others first, fostering diversity, embracing teamwork, and encouraging continuous improvement at all

levels. TRS investments continued to post steady growth over the long-term, exceeding its 20-year and 30-year benchmarks

TRS Fiscal Highlights

Here are some highlights for the **TRS fiscal year** that ended June 30, 2018 and were recently released by the State of Illinois.:

⇔ As in the past, TRS met its responsibilities during the 2018 fiscal year with an absolute commitment to the highest quality service to its members and their families. For instance, (1) the TRS distributed more than \$6.5 billion in retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to more than 122,000 annuitants and beneficiaries; (2) the successful delivery of TRS pensions generated a \$6.6 billion economic stimulus in every corner of the USA.



- ⇔ Approximately \$4.5 billion of TRS retirement benefits **stay in Illinois**, supporting more than 45,000 jobs with a payroll of \$1.9 billion;
- ⇔ TRS investments earned an 8.5% return, net of fees, while the 40 year average return rate stands at 9.2 percent! The system, as of June 30, 2018, has \$51.7 billion in assets.

Here are some very interesting **member** statistics:

- (1) the average age for full and part-time ACTIVE (those still teaching and paying into the system) TRS members is 42 years old while the average age of those receiving a TRS annuity is 71 years old;
- (2) the ACTIVE TRS member's average number of years currently teaching is 13 years! (**wow**), while the average number of years taught by a retiree is 27 years;
- (3) the average annual salary of an ACTIVE TRS member is \$73,028 while the average annual annuity for a TRS retiree is \$57,312;
- (4) the oldest full-time ACTIVE TRS teacher is 78 years old (!) (**wow again**) while the oldest TRS retired teacher is 107 (**no it is not me**);
- (5) the total membership in TRS is 417,292 which includes active members (160,859), inactive noncontributing members (143,010), and benefit recipients (122,423).

Have a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year and enjoy that 3% raise you will see in your February paycheck!

Sid Simmons, Legislative Chair, KRTA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

March

Les Fouts 3/1
 Peggy Prince 3/2

 Debra Clason 3/7
 Steve Riederer 3/7
 Carol Hill 3/13
 Pamela Wynne 3/14
 Mary Peterson 3/14
 Charlotte Shanks 3/16
 Doreen Wadephul 3/16
 Marcie Rogers 3/18
 Barb Allen 3/22
 Zola Searl 3/23
 Pat Johnson 3/24
 Cathy Fouts 3/31

April

David Myers 4/1
 George Hayner 4/4
 Sherry Underhill 4/8
 Karen Kriz 4/8
 Terry Friedman 4/12
 Dennis Hahn 4/17
 Curt Massie 4/19
 Curt Massie 4/19
 Curt Massie 4/19

May

William Schell 5/4
 Tom Centowski 3/7
 Gwen Zolezzi 5/7
 Ann Engelhardt 5/9
 Joanne Knudson 5/14
 Sue Matile 5/14
 Nancy Thompson 5/21
 Sid Simmons 5/23
 Elaine Hettrich 5/25
 Kathy Dube 5/26



So far we celebrate 104 birthdays. If you did not see your name in the birthday recognition for this quarter and wish to be honored, or need to have it corrected, please let Janet Reardon have your birth month and day by e-mail (janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net) or by phone (630-801-8928)

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation

828 S. Second St., 4th Floor Springfield, IL 62704

*Yes, I want to HELP SERVE THE NEEDS OF EDUCATORS
(Past, Present & Future)!*

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to the IRTA Foundation for:

Donation \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____



MEMBERS ENJOYING THEIR SOCIAL TIME BEFORE THE LUNCHEON

