

# KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS

## NEWSLETTER

SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2024

### FEBRUARY 9 LUNCHEON

Come join us for our Thursday, February 9 KRTA luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club at 12:00 Noon for a cost of \$25. The deadline for reservations is Friday, February 2. If you do not receive a call by then, please call Judy Burkard at 630-334-0076.

The program will be Nostalgia, a music duo. Performers Mat and Cynthia Gruel will delight us with their harmonies, theatrical performances, and engaging arrangements.

As with all of our luncheons: If you have signed up and are unable to attend, you need to contact Judy Burkard at # 630-334-0076 by Monday, February 5 by 4:00 PM or you will be responsible for the cost of the luncheon.

Do not forget your money for 50/50 raffle for the legal fund.



**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.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### KRTA December 14, 2023, Membership Meeting Luncheon Minutes

The KRTA membership was greeted by Jim Hissong, President Co-chair. Jim led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim reported that KRTA members and friends can attend a trip to a Cub game against the Milwaukee Braves on May 23 at 1:20 pm.

There are 40 tickets. Information will be forthcoming. Jan reported that Hesus House and the Kendall County Food Pantry are looking for volunteers. Application forms are online. Also, Sunset Hospice needs volunteers. Their forms are online at [lstock@suncrestcare.com](mailto:lstock@suncrestcare.com).

### Program

Whitetail salads and rolls were served and eaten while the Yorkville High School Madrigal Singers performed. Twenty 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students entertained the KRTA membership with a Christmas program of



German, Spanish, French, and Italian Renaissance medieval music of blended voices and part singing. Some of those pieces were “Sound of Pipes and Drum,” “Far Far Away in Bethlehem,” and “Oh Come O Come Emmanuel.” Music director Dave Smith thanked the members for their continued support. Jim Hissong shared with the high school students a few parting thoughts: “If you want to see a rainbow, you must put up with the rain; if you see no smile, give them yours.”

After the program, a Whitetail buffet lunch of chicken and pasta was self-served and enjoyed by all.

### **Business Meeting**

Minutes from December 14, 2023, KRTA membership luncheon meeting was approved as read.

### **Committee Reports**

**Legislative:** Sid Simmons reported that the TRS pension is in great shape! The 2023 long term fund ratio is 44.8%. That figure is up from 40.5% in 2005. All the collected state “sin” taxes have helped the state to slowly climb out of the debt hole it has been in. The state contributed \$6.2 billion to our retired teachers’ pension which was paid in full and on time. The current value of the TRS pension is \$65.6 billion.

**Community Participation:** Rene Garren is the new committee chair. Rene had been a classroom teacher and an administrator in Oswego Community School District. Alimae Persons just retired from the position of chairperson of community participation of which she held for many years. Jim Hissong praised and thanked Alimae for her dedication and kindness.

**Callers:** Sue Matile thanked the volunteers who call KRTA members about the upcoming membership luncheons. Those luncheon dates are on the second Thursdays in February, April, June, September, and December.

**Membership:** Sharon Pagoria reported there are currently 152 members. Twenty members have not paid their membership dues for 2023 – 2024. Sharon said that KRTA would love to have new members! She said, “Remember, the first luncheon fee is free. Please tell your retired teacher friends to come and enjoy!”

Newsletter: Jan Reardon thanked members Carol and Dorothy for the photos for the Newsletter

**Program:** Tom Meade has arranged the entertainment for the February KRTA membership luncheon. Tom said **Nostalgia** is the name of the duo who will perform. Jan Hissong reported the Chicago Symphony trip on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> will be attended by enough KRTA members and friends. The bus will leave by 11:00 am from Penny’s parking lot.

### **Other**

The 50/50 winner was Jim Baughman. He will share the winnings with the IRTA Legal Defense Fund.

The next KRTA Membership Luncheon Meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> at Whitetail Ridge Restaurant, Yorkville.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Johnson, Recording Secretary.



## **PRESIDENTS’ REPORT**

### ***Happy New Year!***

Presidents’ Message for January, 2024

A chilly hello to all of our K.R.T.A. members: Spring will be upon us soon.

Come join us for our February 8 luncheon at Whitetail Ridge to enjoy some entertainment with “Nostalgia” singers, along with great food and a chance to visit with friends out of the cold.

You can sign up for our annual Chicago Cubs trip to Wrigley Field on Thursday, May 23 to see our Cubs play the Atlanta Braves @ 1:20 P.M. Applications are available in this newsletter.

Pick up a new 2024 K.R.T.A. directory when you are at the luncheon and also signup to volunteer for the K.C. Food pantry or to help at the Hesed House in Aurora.

We will be taking donations for both the Hillside and Tillers Nursing homes at our April luncheon, so stock up and bring those items to our April 11 luncheon.

Are you currently a member of the I.R.T.A.? Pick up a handout at the February 8 luncheon and find out what the I.R.T.A. can do for you.

Here's to good weather & stay safe!

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



The Kendall County Food Pantry is in need of volunteers, especially during the months of January – April. Volunteers are needed on Thursday between the hours of 10:30-6:00 P.M. and also on Mondays from 9:00-1:00 P.M. -you can choose your hours. Some jobs do not require standing. If you are interested in volunteering, go to: [kccfoodpantry.org](http://kccfoodpantry.org) and click on get involved, then fill out the application. Once you are in the system just call at least 2 hours ahead to let them know you would like to work that day and for how long. For more information, call 630-553-0473.

Hesed House in Aurora is also in need of volunteers. For more information or to volunteer you can contact Lauren Jernigan at 630-914-6428.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



The communication committee thanks our callers.

In February the person to call with lunch reservations will be Judy Burkard as Sue Matile will be on vacation. PLEASE CALL Judy at her CELL PHONE NUMBER: 630-334-0076. The cut-off date for accepting reservations will be FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2. If you cannot make it to the luncheon on February 8, please call or leave Judy a message by

Monday, February 5 before 4 PM so you will not be charged for the meal.

Thanks, Sue Matile and Judy Burkard, Communications Committee

## MEMBERSHIP



### Kendall County Retired Teachers Unit 10 Membership--February, 2024

Hello and Happy New Year!

The other day I saw the cutest post on FB from a friend of mine that really speaks to me.

**“Dear Mother Nature, having received my free sample of winter, I would like to cancel the remainder of my subscription. Thank you.”**

I am finding the older I get, the less tolerant I get of this cold weather. I love the snow, but the cold and ice are no longer of interest to me. **BUT** you are!

So, a little update on membership dues. If you have not paid your dues, maybe you can even use the weather as your reason. LOL All kidding aside, I am so proud of so many of you that have paid your dues for 2023-2024. **JUST A REMINDER...**dues are now up to \$20.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dorothy Simmons for contacting members about dues. She and I will be making phone calls to only a handful of members. We are very close to making this a 100% dues-paying year!

Please contact me @ [retiredlbsteacher2014@gmail.com](mailto:retiredlbsteacher2014@gmail.com) or call 815-498-3601 if you are unsure about your membership. I will be more than happy to look it up for you. Please include any changes in addresses, phone numbers or e-mail addresses. I thank each of you that spent an extra moment to send a personal note with your dues, letting me know how you are and what is happening in your life. They are so pleasant and encouraging and have brought a smile to my face. New directories will be ready at the Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Luncheon so please check to make sure your information is correct.

Please remember that IRTA dues are not included in your KRTA dues. As a member of the KRTA, you are telling everyone that you belong to an organization that not only cares about retired teachers but also cares



about our future teachers and the education of future generations. As a member of IRTA, we have many people fighting for our pensions to ensure our futures, as well as, those teachers that are still educating our youth. If you are not sure whether you have paid your IRTA dues, please contact them at [irta@irtaonline.org](mailto:irta@irtaonline.org) or 1-800-728-4782.

So let me get off my soapbox and encourage everyone to attend the next Luncheon in February. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate because I know there is a great program in store.

Please let me know if you are aware of any retirees who may not be a member and I will be glad to personally contact them. Thank you again for being a part of such an awesome organization. I will be contacting this year's retirees at the end of April or beginning of May.

Stay well, warm, and safe.

Sharon Pagoria and Dorothy Simmons--KRTA Membership Co-Chairs



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

The 2024 membership Directory is printed and will be distributed at the February meeting. **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](mailto:vrbaughman@att.net) (our Directory gurus).



### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Thank you to everyone that brought in donations and monetary donations to the **Kendall County Community Food Pantry** at our **December** meeting. We had \$275.00 that was collected along with a large number of fuzzy socks and lots of underwear. The KCC Food Pantry said that their hearts were full with these wonderful gifts that they we will be able to share throughout the winter months and they wanted to send a big **THANK YOU** to our group for our continued support

Also in December, a huge box of goodies and various items was dropped off at Tillers. Another big **THANK YOU** was given and they said that their stockings would be overflowing from our generosity.

For our **February** collection, we will be accepting donations for CASA – (Court Appointed Special Advocates) that is located in Yorkville, IL. CASA Advocates for the best interest of children who have experienced abuse and neglect - any help will be greatly appreciated.

Rene Garen, Community Participation Chair



Rene Garen delivering our donations to Alex Hurd, new director of KCCFP



**.E-MAILS:** I am happy to state that we currently have 137 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 PDF format. I look forward to putting your name on this list.

The only reason I would take up jogging is so that I could hear heavy breathing.

Erma Bombeck

If you have made mistakes, even serious ones, there is always another chance for you. What we call failure is not the falling down, but the staying down.

Mary Pickford

# TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE 11/11/23		<u>\$7,487.38</u>
RECEIPTS	Membership, Luncheon, Special Don.	\$3,275.00
	Membership, Miscellaneous Income	\$495.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$3,770.00
	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$11,257.38
EXPENSES	Kendall County Food Pantry	\$200.00
	Janet Reardon (Newsletter)	\$29.75
	WhiteTail Ridge	\$1,192.33
	FTA Fund for OHS, OEHS, OEHS @360	\$1,080.00
	FTA Fund, Plano, Newark @210	\$420.00
	Jim Hissong Reimbursement	\$353.44
	Legal Fund	\$237.50
	Program-Yorkville HS Madrigals	\$150.00
	KRTA Directory Printing	\$369.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$3,832.02
RECONCILED BALANCE 1/19/24		<u>\$7,425.36</u>
Kyle Price, Treasurer		



## LEGISLATIVE TRS Fiscal Year Ending June30, 2023

Here are some significant highlights accomplished by the Teacher's Retirement System during fiscal year 2022-23 :

- \*The value of the TRS investment portfolio reached a total value of \$66.5 billion;
- \* The TRS investment portfolio returned 7.2% as investments increased by \$3.7 billion dollars from fiscal year 2021-22;
- \* TRS launched its deferred compensation optional savings plan in March for new TRS members (active teachers);
- \* The State of Illinois contributed \$9.8 billion to the 5 state funded retirement systems of which \$6.009 billion went to the TRS.

Here are the member statistics (both active and retired teachers) for the fiscal year 2022-23.

For **ACTIVE** teachers the average age is 43, the average amount of service is 14 years, the average annual salary is \$81,274.

The oldest full-time teacher is 84 (what??), and the total active TRS membership is 169,889.

For **RETIRED** members, the average age is 73, the average service is 26 years, the average annual benefit is \$64,884.

The oldest retired teacher is 106, and the total number of TRS retired members is 116,991.

Active teachers participate in a Tier1 and Tier 2 program. Tier 1 teachers have a retirement system similar to that of current retirees. Tier 2 was established for those hired after January, 2011. Tier 2 teachers have later

retirement dates, longer vesting requirements, salary caps for pensions lower than the social security wage base and lower cost of living increases after retirement that are not compounded. Tier2 members are expected to bypass Tier 1 members in 2026.

Sid Simmons, KRTA Legislative Chair

**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
- Sandra Urdil 3/4
- Tom Centowski 3/7
- Steve Riederer 3/7
- Carol Hill 3/13
- Pamela Wynne 3/14
- Charlotte Shanks 3/16
- Doreen Wadehul 3/16
- Marcie Rogers 3/18
- Barb Allen 3/22
- 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
- Georgia Scoggen 4/27

**May**

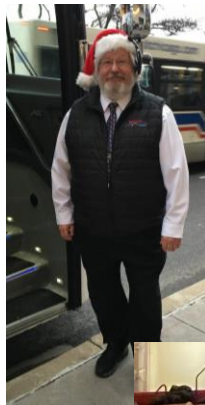
- William Schell 5/4
- Gwen Zolezzi 5/7
- Ann Engelhardt 5/9
- Joanne Knudson 5/14
- Sue Matile 5/14
- Nancy Thompson 5/21
- Sid Simmons 5/23
- Elaine Hettrich 5/25
- Kathy Dube 5/26



So far, we celebrate 90 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](mailto:janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net)) or by phone (630-801-8928)

**OUR TRIP TO THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY**

Our Trip began with as we boarded our comfortable bus and enjoyed talking as our wonderful bus driver whisked us to Chicago and the Symphony’s Merry Merry Christmas. We debark our bus and find our way to our seats. While waiting for the concert to begin, we enjoyed the beautiful decorations. It was a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



# OUR WONDERFUL KRTA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our luncheon began when we entered Whitetail Ridge. We were greeted by the decorated entrance along with the wonderful decorations in our room.



Once inside, we deposited our items for the food pantry and the Tillers, paid for the luncheon, paid our dues donated to the food pantry and bought raffle tickets.

We then chose one of the beautifully decorated tables and began our social time, while Sid, in his holiday spirit and sweater, mingled. His sweater definitely created some interesting conversations—especially among some of the bell ringers.



During our luncheon, we were again entertained by the wonderful Yorkville Choir under the direction of their Choir Director, David Smith.



**KRTA 50/50  
Winner**



**KRTA Luncheon  
Winner**



**KRTA Tote  
Winner**





# KRTA CHICAGO CUBS' TRIP

## THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

### 1:20 PM



Join us for a fun day at beautiful Wrigley Field in Chicago to see the Cubs!!  
Section 212—between home and third base

**Cost--only \$75 PP!!! Includes:**

- ❖ Round-trip chartered coach
  - ❖ Game tickets
- ❖ Refreshments and prizes on the bus
  - ❖ Tip for driver
- ❖ Bus leaves J.C. Penney parking lot in Montgomery at 10:15 AM.

**To Reserve your Seat:** Fill in and return form below to:  
Jim Hissong, 102 Strawberry Lane, Yorkville, IL 60560. **Make checks payable to KRTA**  
Any Questions--call Jim at (630) 553-9153

We are only allotted 40 tickets this season, so tickets will not last long.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets@ \$75 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

