

KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

JUNE 2021

JUNE MEETING

Come join us for our in-person June K.R.T.A. luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Clubs on Thursday, June 10 at 12 noon. Cost is \$20. We will be following the CDC guidelines. Deadline for reservations is Friday, June 4. If you do not receive a call by then, please contact Sue Matile at: 630-554-8743.

We will be honoring the Moler-Austin Scholarship winners and Future Educators grants. Also, our AMBA representative will be on hand to discuss current benefits for our IRTA members.

REMEMBER: If for some reason you are unable to attend and have already made reservations, you need to contact Sue Matile @630-554-8743 by NOON Tuesday, June 8 or you will be responsible for the cost of the luncheon.



KRTA April 8, 2021 Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Hisson at noon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club, Yorkville. The membership said the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Meade led Grace. Jim greeted the members and thanked them for attending. Jim asked the members to remember those who have passed this year: *Zola Searle, Patti Doyle, Penny Jamison, Joyce Sebby, and Richard Stitch*. Jim gave the group a few Covid puns to enjoy: Never thought the saying, “I wouldn’t touch that with a 6’ pole would become a national policy” and “How do you keep from touching your face? – put a wine glass in each hand.”

A delicious buffet lunch was served per Covid restrictions. Tables were called up one at a time. The servers plated our preferences. The salads and desserts were served at the tables.

Program: The Kendall County Outdoor Education program was honored today for 50 years of service to the county’s youth. Past director Jeff Schaffermeyer and present director Deanna Bazan talked about their experiences as outdoor ed educators. A brief history was shared, and they showed pictures depicting how outdoor ed has expanded. They highlighted the outings for all students and the addition of new programs that included high school students as well. A website has also been added.

After the presentation, Regional Superintendent, Rich Mahochko, stated his gratitude for the directors and workers at the Outdoor Ed Center and presented the KRTA Proclamation Certificate for Outdoor Education to both Jeff and Deanna.



The AMBA Rep could not attend the meeting today. Another date will be arranged.

Business Meeting: The minutes from the February 13, 2020 membership meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

- ≈ **Community Participation:** Alimae Persons thanked everyone for their generous donations and stated that at the June 8 luncheon school supplies will be collected for the Kendall County Food Pantry.
- ≈ **Membership:** Sharon Pagoria reported one new member, Janice Ferguson.
- ≈ **Treasury:** Jim reported that there is \$3,611.20 in the treasury.
- ≈ **Programs:** Jan Hissong reported that she hopes to bring back for interested members Lunch and a Movie. Notification will be by email.

Jim Hissong reported other activities on the KRTA calendar.

- 1) The Chicago Cubs outing is still on hold.
- 2) There are 4 tickets left for the St Charles Arcada outing, Herman's Hermits, on July 11 at 5:00 P. M.
- 3) The Cougar game outing is on hold.

Jim will inform members by email about these activity dates when he gets them.

Reminder: Pick up your Directory! Sign your name to the list that you have done so.

50/50 winner: Member Judy Davis. Free lunch winner: Member Bobby Decker.

Jan Hissong concluded the luncheon with her choices of questions and puns about medicine. Hard candy in cups on which questions were written decorated the tables.

Meeting was adjourned around 2:30.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Reardon (substitute for Pat Johnson)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR MAY 2021



Hello Everyone:

Greetings to all of our K.R.T.A. members and friends:

It was nice to see many of you at our last luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club in April. It has been such a long time since we have been able to have an in person social time together, it was good to get out and enjoy a lunch together! We were able to honor the Kendall County Outdoor Education Center and its present and past directors for 50 years of service.

I would like to take this time to congratulate our 2021 Moler-Austin scholars. Kaylee Kosulic is a student at Lewis University and Flavio Rodriquez is a student at Illinois State University. We will honor both of these students at our June luncheon. Also at our June luncheon, A.M.B.A. representative Nancy Cramer will be speaking to update us on new benefits that are offered to I.R.T.A. members in our organization.

We are considering an outing to the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet on Friday, September 17 @ 8:00 P.M. to see Terry Fator, who is a Las Vegas impressionist, ventriloquist, and standup comedian. Also in the works is a skybox outing to see the Kane County Cougars in Geneva on Wed. July 7 @ 11:00 A.M. No word yet on our annual Chicago Cubs outing. Further details on all of these will be coming soon.

We will be having a "Nostalgia" raffle at our June luncheon. You will not want to miss it.

CONGRATULATIONS

Last, but not least, our K.R.T.A. unit is proud to announce that our 2021 unit honoree for the I.R.T.A. State Convention this year will be our own Alimae Persons. Alimae has been

our Community Participation chairperson for many years and we have been fortunate that her tireless efforts have benefited the Kendall County Food Pantry, C.A.S.A., our area nursing homes and many other charitable causes.

Thought for the day: Challenge yourself with something you know you could never do, and what you'll find is that you can overcome anything.

Sincerely,

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



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A HUGE THANK YOU for your wonderful response to our request for donations to Tillers and Hillside Nursing Homes. Both homes were overwhelmed by your generosity.

We will again be accepting school supplies and money for school supplies for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry at our June meeting. I contacted Pat Smart at the pantry on May 20.

Since the school lists are not out, she could not give me a complete list. She did, however, say they always need the following:

Markers (broad line, washable, 10 in a package)

Crayons (24 in a package)

Notebook paper (wide line)

Notebooks (wide line, usually 70 pages)

You may bring these items to the meeting: or, if you wish to bring money, I will shop when a complete list is out and the sales start.

Hope to see you at the June meeting!

Alimae Persons, Community Participation

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



The Communication Committee will be having their people calling the people on their lists to make reservations for the meeting and modified buffet lunch on June 10 at Whitetail Golf Course. If you do not get a call, please notify Sue Matile (630-554-8743) by Friday, June 4, that you wish to attend.

E-MAILS: I am happy to state that we currently have 151 e-mail members. However, your newsletter lady and her printer are slowing down. **Please help** by receiving your newsletter by e-mail. 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. Just click on the one that best works for you. **As a perk**, this list also keeps you in touch with the social activities of KRTA. I look forward to putting your name on this list.



I used to fear that ice cream would be the ruin of me; but I gave up giving it up a long time ago.

Beatrice Lillie

There ain't no answer. There ain't going to be any answer. There never has been an answer. That's the answer.

Gertrude Stein



TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE –4/11/21		\$3611.20
RECEIPTS		
	Dues	\$465.00
	Lunch Receipts	\$1,149.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$1,614.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		<u>\$5,225.20</u>
EXPENSES		
	Whitetail Ridge	\$980.00
	Newsletter	\$11.20
	Kendall Outdoor Education	\$100.00
	Kendall Printing	\$12.00
	IRTA Legal Fund	\$40.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,143.20
ENDING BALANCE –		<u><u>\$4082.00</u></u>
Kyle Price Treasurer		

MEMBERSHIP



KENDALL COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS UNIT 10 MEMBERSHIP: JUNE 2021

Hello Everyone,

Spring is here and I heard many of you attended the April Luncheon. I

cannot wait for the June Luncheon. Dorothy and I will be there to attend to all of your membership needs, requests, questions etc. We will be inviting approx. 21 teachers from across the county to attend this June luncheon. This is quite a large group of folks who have done so much for the education of our students--especially during this past very challenging year. I bet most of us never dreamed that educating our students would turn into something so difficult. How many of us would be willing to do what they have done? They will definitely deserve our applause.

I would like to personally thank everyone who paid their KRTA dues this year through the mail. We currently have 144 paid members out of 155 who are registered with the KRTA. We would like to Welcome Back Susan Ahuja-Reed and Frank Babich and give a Special Welcome to new member Janice Ferguson.

If you plan to attend the June Luncheon (let's make it one of the biggest we have ever had), we would like to encourage you to please consider paying your dues for 2021-2022 which are due in September. (I would like to thank the 8 people who have already done that). It would save us countless hours of phone calls and e-mails. You could also send that through the mail to me (a form is available in the back.) If

Welcome New Member
Janice Ferguson



you have any questions on your membership for this year, previous years or future years, please do not hesitate to email me at retiredlbsteacher2014@gmail.com.

Just an FYI - **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. 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.

Stay well and safe and we hope to visit with all of you soon; very, very soon!

Sharon Pagoria and Dorothy Simmons, Your KRTA Membership Team

Happy Birthday!!

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

JULY

Celie Reiderer 7/3
Pat Riccio 7/7
Joyce Burns 7/15
Barb Johnson 7/16
George Hettrich 7/18
Douglas Moews 7/19
Barb Frish 7/23

AUGUST

Effie Vitale 8/3
Roberta Decker 8/7
Joyce Davito 8/10
Nancy Aschauer 8/12
Kathy Blaskovich 8/12
Mary Ellen Bushnell 8/13
Dave Elko 8/16
Dorothy Christian 8/17
Dorothy Simmons 8/22
Rodney Engstrom 8/23

SEPTEMBER

Gail Ford 9/1
Barbara Yundt 9/1
Judy Robertson 9/1
Ann Myers 9/9
Paula Hill-Emery 9/14
Dawn Gerry 9/20
Janet Reardon 9/21
Patti Engstrom 9/26/
Elaine Mroccka 9/27



If you did not see your name in the birthday recognition for this quarter and wish to be honored, please let Janet Reardon have your birth month and day by e-mail (janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net) or by phone (630-801-8928). Also, if you notice any errors, please let me know.



LEGISLATIVE

Accelerated Benefit Program Update

This is FYI only. It really does not pertain to retired teachers but this is what's happening to active teachers getting ready to retire.

More than 3,300 active and inactive TRS members have collected \$407 million in accelerated pension benefits (APB) since 2019 under two (2) different state "buyout" programs designed to reduce the System's total liabilities. **Retired members are not eligible for either program. TRS notifies active and inactive members who are eligible to participate in buyout programs.**

The average TRS lump-sum payout from both programs so far is \$122,800. Interest in the voluntary accelerated payments has proven to be so strong that state officials repeatedly have had to increase the amount of money appropriated to fund all of the lump-sums. In March, the state sold \$100 million in bonds to fund the programs for the remainder of calendar year 2021. **No TRS pension assets are used to fund the accelerated payments. By law, the funding must come from the sale of state bonds.**

Along with TRS, the "buy-out" programs are administered by the State Employees Retirement System and State Universities Retirement System.

Between the programs' inception and March of 2021, 1,632 retiring Tier 1 TRS members elected to participate in the Accelerated Annual Increase (AAI) Program or 17.4 % of all retiring members during that time.

Altogether, these members received \$203.8 million in lump-sum payments. In return, the future automatic annual increase in their pensions will start at age 67 and be 1.5 %, **not** compounded. Retiring members who chose not to participate in the program will receive a 3 % compounded annual increase starting at age 61. The average lump-sum payout for members participating in the AAI Program was \$125,690.

During the six-month "participation windows" in 2019 and 2020 for the inactive members' Accelerated Pension Buyout (APB) Program, 10.8% of 15,714 eligible members accepted a lump-sum payment and gave up **all** future claims to a TRS pension.

The 1,694 members who agreed to the program received a total of \$203.2 million, with an average lump-sum of \$120,053. Only inactive members who would be eligible for a future TRS pension can participate in this buy-out program. The annual participation window for newly eligible inactive members begins in late September.

You might wonder why any retiring teacher would participate in a "buy-out" program. Certainly, individual or family situations vary considerably. Perhaps a terminal disease or a sick family member might require immediate cash. Perhaps an individual might think that he/she can invest their retirement funds better than the TRS. Who knows? But the TRS and the IRTA were a little surprised by the popularity of the APB programs.

sid simmons, Legislative Chair KRTA

KRTA Membership Form

Fill in the information and mail to:

Sharon Pagoria
981 Lake Holiday Drive
Sandwich, IL 60548

Make check payable to: **Kendall County Retired Teachers' Association**

Local Unit Membership Form for Regular and Associate Members:

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

Name: _____

Last

First

Middle

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ Retirement Year: _____ District Retired From: _____

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



Kendall County Outdoor Education Center
 Site Address: 11285 Fox Road Yorkville, Illinois 60560
 Mail Address: 109 W Ridge Street, Yorkville, IL 60560
 E-mail: dbazan@roe24.org Phone: 630-273-5467
 Webpage: www.kcouthdoored.org

April 8, 2021

Dear Jim, Jan, and Members of the Kendall County Retired Teachers

Thank you all very much for recognizing the Kendall County Outdoor Education Center for its 50 years of service. It was truly my pleasure to share our story with you today, and I was overwhelmed by the warm welcome, friendly faces and memories that were shared. The event served as a reminder of just how many lives have been touched through the KCOEC.

In addition to the tasty lunch and beautiful violet, I thank you all for your \$100 donation to the KCOEC. I am using it to provide a camp scholarship for junior high student who could not otherwise afford to attend our new leadership camp. Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,
 Deanna Bazan



Members
 enjoying
 getting
 back
 together.

