

KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

JUNE 2022

JUNE LUNCHEON

Come join us for our in-person June 9 K.R.T.A. luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Clubs on Thursday, June 9 at 12 noon. Cost is \$20. Deadline for reservations is Friday, June 3. If you do not receive a call by then, please contact Sue Matile at: 630-554-8743, or you can text Sue at: 331-999-5029.

We will be honoring the Moler-Austin Scholarship winners and recognizing grants for Future Educators in Kendall County. Our speaker, from ISBE Those Who Excel, will be Early Childhood Teacher of the Year 2022 Megan Hillegass.



Don't forget your money for the nostalgia raffle. All monies go to the legal defense fund. You get the good stuff.

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 7 or you will be responsible for the cost of the luncheon.



KRTA April 14, 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes

The KRTA membership was greeted by President Jim Hissong. The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim then entertained members with some teacher humor. A friend had given Jim a fun quiz meant to be taken by elementary teachers (or any grade level teacher) to identify a "true" teacher. Some of those questions were 1) Do you insist "no cuts" when you are in a checkout line and someone is squeezing ahead in the line? 2) When you speak to your auto mechanic about his service do you ask him, "Do you feel you did your best?" 3) Do you repeat everything twice to make sure they understood you?

Tom Meade led the membership in Grace. The Whitetail Restaurant staff served a delicious sit-down lunch which followed Covid 19 restrictions.

Business Meeting: The February 10, 2022 membership luncheon/meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

Treasury: Jim provided Kyle Price's report of \$4,437.21 in the KRTA treasury.

Community Participation: Alimae Persons reported that the CASA collection was \$105. They were very grateful for our donation. Today the collection of items for Tillers and Hillside Nursing Homes

will be delivered by Alimae and Jim and Jan Hissong. The collection boxes were full! Alimae thanked everyone for their generosity.

Newsletter: Janet Reardon asked that each member check their directory for errors in their information and notify the Baughmans, if so. Also, Jan said that it helps a lot in the distribution of the Newsletter if she could email the Newsletter rather than snail mail it. She asked members who have not provided their email address to her to please do so.

Communication: Sue Matile and Judy Burkhard thanked the luncheon callers for their fine work.

Program: Jan Hissong reported she will try to hold a Lunch and a Movie in May in Yorkville. Lunch will be at Mike and Denise's Restaurant when there is a good movie at the theater.

Legislation: Sid Simmons reported TRS and TRIP information. By the end of December 2021, TRS investments were at an all-time high of \$66 billion; the investments had earned 16.8%. Last year, TRS paid out \$7.4 billion in benefits to its members. TRS will divest money from Russian companies. The information about the Benefit Choice Period will be mailed to retirees currently enrolled in TRIP by the end of April or early May. **If members do not want to change their coverage, they do not have to do anything.** The Illinois General Assembly passed a budget that was signed by Governor Pritzker. TRS members can now teach 140 days with no penalty.

Program

Jim introduced IRTA AMBA benefits representative, Nancy Cramer. Nancy presented a well-defined update of the approximately 26 benefits KRTA members can choose to participate in when they are also IRTA members. Some of the benefits include long term care, recovery care, a cancer, heart attack, and stroke program, dental and vision program, and travel discounts.



Tom Meade then introduced the musical entertainment for the day, Good Clean Fun. The exciting duo sang a medley of well-loved songs from the 60's and 70's. They concluded with everyone's favorite, "Sweet Caroline," by Neil Diamond.

Jim conducted the 50/50 raffle with the usual good humor. The winner split the wins with the IRTA Legal Defense Fund.

In conclusion, Jan Hissong shared with members some insightful thinking on how and why we should appreciate the small things in life.

The next KRTA membership luncheon

and meeting will be held at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club on June 9, at noon.

Jim Hissong adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Johnson, Recording Secretary



PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR MAY 2022

President's Message for May, 2022:

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

Summer has finally arrived! I am pleased to announce our Moler-Austin Scholarship winners for this year. They are: Savanna Farren of Yorkville and Anwen Hurd of Montgomery. Each of them is pursuing a degree in education and will receive a scholarship from the

endowment fund for \$4,500. They will be honored at our June luncheon. We will also be collecting school supplies to give to the Kendall County Food Pantry on their distribution date in the fall.

Our annual Chicago Cub trip will take place on Thursday, June 16, and our Kane County Cougar trip will be on Wednesday, July 27. We only have 8 tickets left for the Cub game so act fast!

Due to increased costs of food and service, the cost of our luncheons will be raised by approximately \$2 in September.

Looking to keep busy in retirement? Parkview Christian School is looking for retired teachers to fill teaching positions in the fall. Check this newsletter for more information.

Hearing aids are now available through the United Health Care program at no cost to you. More information to follow.

Come to our June luncheon and celebrate Education!

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

HARK PHOTOGRAPHERS: We are still looking for a photographer for the luncheons and other events. Anyone interested please see Jim. This would be a **GREAT** help to me, your newsletter lady—especially on the outings I cannot make and/or any of the luncheons I cannot make.



HEARING AIDS: United Health Care Advantage is now offering free hearing services and hearing aids. Beltone is one company in the program. Hearing Lab at 1300 Route 59 in Plainfield is another.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



A HUGE THANK YOU for your wonderful response to our request for donations to Tillers and Hillside Nursing Homes. (See pictures on the back page.) Both homes were overwhelmed by your generosity. These donations will be very helpful in caring for the residents and making their lives a bit better.

We will again be accepting school supplies and money for school supplies for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry at our June meeting. 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 callers calling the people on their lists to make reservations for the meeting and modified family-style lunch on June 9 at Whitetail Golf Course. If you do not get a call, please notify Sue Matile (630-554-8743) by Friday, June 3, that you wish to attend. You may also text Sue at: 331-999-



E-MAILS: I am happy to state that we currently have 135 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.



TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE		\$4,727.21
RECEIPTS		
	Dues	\$195.00
	Receipts	\$2,580.00
	Cubs Tickets	\$1680.00
	Legal Fund	\$55.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$4,455.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$9,182.21
EXPENSES		
	Whitetail Ridge	\$1,120.00
	Newsletter	\$127.79
	Cougars Game	\$385.00
	Entertainment	\$225.00
	IRTA Legal Fund	\$55.00
	Raffle Tickets	13.62
	Prizes	172.69
	Floral	26
	Cubs Tickets	\$1960.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$4,085.10
ENDING BALANCE –		<u>\$5,097.11</u>
Kyle Price Treasurer		

MEMBERSHIP



KENDALL COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' MEMBERSHIP: JUNE 2022

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. I have invited approx. 20 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 these past very challenging years. 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.

If you know any retirees that I may not have reached, please let me know: or just invite them as a KRTA guest to the Luncheon. Their first meal is on us! Do you remember why or who invited you to your

first Luncheon? I don't know about you, but I know I was kind of scared. Then I came and had so much fun, saw former colleagues and had a great sense of camaraderie after teaching. Yes, there **IS** life after teaching!

I would like to personally thank everyone who paid their KRTA dues this year. 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 2022-2023--which are due in September. (Thank you to 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 Sharon. If 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.

Do you often wonder, "What is KRTA all about?" Here it is in a nutshell....

- 🍓 First, we are a wonderful social organization; we provide opportunities for continued fellowship with other retired teachers.
- 🍓 Secondly, we work diligently to protect our pensions and health insurance by keeping members informed about current legislation and benefits available through the IRTA.
- 🍓 Thirdly, we support education in our local districts and encourage the highest quality of education for students & teachers.

But we are so much more! Our programs vary from informational speakers to music and other great entertainment. Come join us this June if you haven't or even if you have recently.

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

Dorothy Simmons

KRTA Membership Team

IN MEMORIAM

*Dave Myers
1942 - 2022*

Taught in the Oswego School District

*Paul Schilling
1927 - 2022*

Administrator in Indiana and Illinois



Your most generous
donations to Hillside
and Tillers.



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
Barb Frish 7/23

AUGUST

Effie Vitale 8/3
Roberta Decker 8/7
Joyce Davito 8/10
Kathy Blaskovich 8/12
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
Sharon Pagoria 9/29



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

Illinois Policy Institute

There is a force looming over our heads called the Illinois Policy Institute (IPI) that wants to silence worker's voices and rob us of our Teacher Retirement System (TRS) security. It's time someone steps up and fires back at this organization whose sole goal is to get members to quit their union and to make retiree organizations as weak as possible.

The IPI is using mailers, phone calls, videos, emails and even home visits to try and convince members to "opt out" of their union. The IPI shows little interest in anything else in the world except taking down public employee unions which includes the Illinois Education Association and the state pension system. They don't care that the TRS is protected by the State Constitution and that public educators worked for 20-35 years to build a secure pension and retirement program. The IPI just wants to destroy the IRTA and any local retirement association like the KRTA which is the only source of organized power for retirees in our state. When I started teaching in 1965, I made \$5,200/year, had no (zero) insurance benefits, and had no (zero) negotiation abilities!! We, as teachers, have come a long way baby.

Teacher union members need to "wake up" and stand up to the Illinois Policy Institute. Current teacher union members need to double down to defend the rights and benefits that we retirees worked so hard to obtain when we stood together for so many decades.

Why is the IPI so committed to weakening public employee unions? Because they want to abolish public employee pensions. They know that strong unions are the chief force standing in their way. If they can weaken us, their odds of ending pensions would go way up.

And now there is another vigilante group surfacing in California called the Freedom Foundation that is a clone of the IPI. After this November election is completed, the IRTA, the TRS and local organizations will once again have to "stand guard" and protect our pensions and insurance policies. As Patrick Henry said, "United we stand, divided we fall"

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.**)



Kane County Cougar Baseball
Wednesday July 27-11:00 A.M.-1st Pitch
Join the K.R.T.A. for a Day of Fun!!
Cost of outing is \$50.00 P.P.
Includes: Air-conditioned Sky Box, Game ticket,
Buffet Luncheon, drinks, dessert,
and prizes.



Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number of Tickets @ \$50 Ea. _____

Make out checks to: K.R.T.A.

Mail to: Jim Hissong, 102 Strawberry Ln, Yorkville, Il. 60560

This e-mail was received by our President, Jim Hissong. It might be of interest to you.

teaching openings

To jamesvhissong@comcast.net

James,

I wanted to share with you information regarding open teaching positions at Parkview. I know many recently retired teachers look to private schools as a way to boost their income as they enter retirement and what living on TRS might look like. We currently have openings for PE, English, Math, and a counselor. This would be at our junior high/high school building. If any of your members might be interested in any of these positions please share my contact information with them. As a Christian school that is an aspect that needs to be considered for possible applicants as well.

Thank you!

Heads grounded in truth, Hands serving God's glory, Hearts surrendered to Christ.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Dr. Ray Epperson
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