

KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

JUNE 2023

JUNE LUNCHEON

Come join us for our in-person June 8 KRTA luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Clubs on Thursday, June 8 at 12 noon. Cost is \$20. Deadline for reservations is Friday, June 2. 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 recognize Future Educators' grants. Elaine Mroczka, one of our own KRTA members, will be sharing some of her experiences. Elaine, a published author, taught in the Primary grades for 37 years and has published five books, written numerous articles and was named a "Most Influential Educator," and recognized in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." She has been featured on national television show "News Nation" and "The Kelly Clarkson Show."

Don't forget your money for the 50/50 raffle. All monies go to the legal defense fund.

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

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 5 PM Monday, June 5 or you will be responsible for the cost of the luncheon.



KRTA April 13, 2023, Membership Meeting Minutes



The KRTA membership was greeted by Co-president Jim Hissong. Jim led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salads were served to the membership while Jim shared his memories of what the 1960's culture meant for him through the era's most common sayings, candy, movies, and toys. Some common sayings kids used were "hang loose, bummer, far out, give skin, lay it on me, and it's a gas." Some candy that made mouths water were Fruit Stripe gum, Sweet Tarts, Lemon Star Burst, Pixie Sticks, and penny candies. The best movies were shown in theaters for weekend dates! Some of those were "Psycho, The Apartment, West Side Story, 101 Dalmatians, The Miracle Worker, and The Great Escape." Children begged to receive toys such as GI Joe, Easy Bake Oven, and the Chatty Cathy Doll. Thanks for the memories Jim!

Tom Meade said Grace. A buffet luncheon of pasta dishes was self-served. Delicious carrot cake was the dessert.

Program

Jim introduced the "Good Clean Fun" duo Mike and Tracie who entertained the KRTA membership with their rendition of 60's and 70's popular music. The membership enjoyed hit the songs "Fill Me A Buttercup" by the Foundations, "Mack the Knife" by Bobby



Darin, “Under the Boardwalk” by the Drifters, and, of course, “Sweet Caroline” by Neil Diamond. These music choices reminded members of happy times.



Jim then introduced IRTA AMBA representative Nancy Cramer who provided an excellent overview of the many IRTA benefits offered to choose. But, Nancy reminded us, we must be IRTA members to do so. Many AMBA benefits fill the gaps that Medicare coverage leaves out such as gaps in long term care, some hospital services, home health care, and assisted living. Some benefits provide health, life, or travel insurance at reasonable costs. Members can call or email Nancy at the following numbers for specific information and explanation. **Nancy Cramer: 847-977-9971. Nancy Cramer@amba.info**

Business Meeting

Minutes from the February 9, 2023, KRTA luncheon meeting were approved as read.

Committee Reports

Legislation: Sid Simmons told members that Governor Pritzker has allocated \$200 million to go to 170 Illinois school districts that desperately need funds to hire district substitutes and classroom teachers of designated grade level curriculum. He then reported on legislation he had previously reported at the February KRTA luncheon meeting because of its importance to many members. The Illinois legislators are seeking to repeal the **Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) this year. The Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 – HR82** was introduced in January 2023. The IRTA encourages members to contact their representatives to support this bill. Another bill that has been introduced in the Illinois Senate (**SB 1749**) would add vision and dental insurance coverage to the basic Aetna health insurance plan. Sid urged members to contact their Illinois Senator and House Representative to encourage them to support this bill.

Programs: Jan Hisson said there will be a Lunch and a Movie next Wednesday, April 19. Lunch will be at Dearborn Restaurant and the movie is “AIR”. Both venues are in Yorkville.

Communication: Sue Matile thanked the callers for obtaining the number of members attending the KRTA luncheons. The accuracy helps Whitetail Restaurant provide adequate servings for the attendees.

Community Participation: Alimae Persons thanked members for the generous donations received today for Tillers and Hillside Nursing Homes. The collection at the June 8 membership luncheon meeting will be for the Kendall County Food Pantry school supplies.

Membership: Sharon Pagoria reported that there are 137 paid KRTA members. There are 65 members who have paid for the next year, 2023 – 2024. Sharon said there are 13 members who have not paid for 2022 – 2023. As stated in the April Newsletter, if the current year’s dues of \$20 is not paid by April 30th, 2023, the member will be taken off the KRTA Membership Roster and will no longer receive the Newsletter and KRTA Membership Directory.

Treasurer: There was no report.

Directory: Bob Baughman reported the new inserts for the 2022 Directories are on the luncheon tables for members to take for themselves and for anyone they know who is not in attendance today.

New Business

- Cubs’ Trip a go for Wednesday, May 31, at 1:20. Cost is \$70. See the flyer if you are interested.
- K.C. Cougars outing is Wednesday, June 21. Cost is \$50. See the flyer if you are interested.
- The Kendall County Food Pantry needs volunteers on Thursdays.

50/50 recipients today were Phil Gerry and the IRTA Legal Defense Fund. Sharon Pagoria received the Free Lunch drawing.



In conclusion, Jan Hissong spoke of the virtues of “being prepared.” She said that Jim is always prepared on golf courses for the chance he meets a celebrity. He had met Ryne Sandberg once and had his pen and paper ready for an autograph from the star. Jan’s father was always prepared with a piece of candy in his pocket for the kids to keep them quiet or stop a cough in church. He also carried a bit of paper with a clever joke written on it to brighten up a sad face at the dinner table. Today, Jan decorated each table with a basket containing riddles written for each member to take and have a giggle!

The next KRTA membership luncheon meeting will be held on June 8th at noon, at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club, Yorkville.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Johnson, Recording Secretary



PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE FOR JUNE 2023

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

We are looking forward to a great turnout for our June 8 luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club. The weather has finally cooperated, flowers are in bloom and we have a great program in store for you. One of our own, Elaine Mroczka, will be our keynote speaker for the day. Elaine, a retired teacher, has authored 3 books—her latest entitled “United States of Friendship”, which is available on Amazon or Barnes & Noble stores.



We are still in need for help in our [Community Participation](#) position. Also, we would like someone to step up and take pictures at our luncheons in September and December to put into our newsletter, web-site, and the Kendall County Record.

Our KRTA board is considering offering Venmo as an option as payment for luncheons and also KRTA membership dues. We will put that up for discussion at our June 8 meeting.

We have a few tickets left for our Chicago Cub bus trip on May 31 and also our Kane County Cougar outing on June 21.

I want to take this time to congratulate our Moler-Austin scholarship winner for 2022, Sydney Reppy of Yorkville. She will be our guest at the June 8 luncheon.

Don’t forget—bring any new school supplies you would like to donate to our June 8 luncheon. Cash donations will also be accepted. Thanks.

All our best,

Jim Hissong, Craig Weber—Co-Presidents


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.




COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

SOS SOS SOS SOS SOS

The Kendall County Community Food Pantry is in desperate need of the following school supplies.

 Thin markers

 Fat markers

- 🍎 Pencils
- 🍎 Excel markers (for white boards)
- 🍎 Pens (black, red, blue)

Please pick up these items as you shop. School supplies will soon be on sale.

Pantry volunteers thanked us for our past generosity of school supplies.

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. These donations will be very helpful in caring for the residents and making their lives a bit better.



A Lesson To Be Learned: One caring grandma took her two young granddaughters to the dollar store to shop for the nursing-home residents. They imagined what the residents might need and how much the items might cost. Grandma taught a lesson on caring and in math. What a clever and kind thing to do.

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 lunch on June 8 at Whitetail Golf Course. If you do not get a call, please notify Sue Matile (630-554-8743) by Friday, June 2, that you wish to attend. You may also text Sue at: 331-999-5029. The final deadline is Tuesday, June 6 by 10 AM.

Communications Committee: Sue Matile and Judy Burkard

E-MAILS: I am happy to state that we currently have 115 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.



LEGISLATIVE

Illinois legislators did not finish their Spring session by Friday's May 19 scheduled adjournment as negotiations over the state budget remain in flux. Per the Illinois Constitution, legislators have until May 31 to pass a budget for the coming fiscal year with simple majorities. The next fiscal year begins July 1.

Legislative leaders in the General Assembly announced that they would return on Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday. The House has scheduled a Friday, May 26 session as well.

Both the IL House and Senate have Democratic super majorities.

While rank-and-file lawmakers awaited the budget details Friday the 19th, several other major initiatives were filed in last minute fashion. That included an expansive cannabis regulatory bill, a change to IL biometric privacy law, a broad elections bill and an ethics proposal prohibiting political donations from red light camera companies.

- ❖ **CANNABIS:** this bill aims to implement a variety of reforms to the IL cannabis industry that would change dispensary operations and restrictions on craft growers.
- ❖ **BIOMETRIC PRIVACY:** this bill would change IL Biometric Information Privacy Act and allow individuals to sue companies over improper collection or storage of information such as fingerprints or facial scans.
- ❖ **ELECTIONS:** this bill would establish a task force to study the feasibility of adopting a ranked choice voting system in certain elections. That's a method of voting in which voters can mark their ballot for multiple candidates in order of their preference.

OTHER ACTION: Other bills were introduced on the 19th that saw the passage of several other measures. Those include bills allowing optional all-gender bathrooms, regulating the gun industry, environmental measures, and dozens of others.

Breaking News—Hot Off The Press!

Two pension-related measures have just been introduced to the General Assembly. Illinois lawmakers will have to wait for the next legislative session to address these bills, but I wanted to give everyone a 'heads-up.'

House Bill 4098 would discontinue the General Assembly Retirement System (GARS), the worst funded of the state's five retirement systems, as well as the Judges' Retirement System and would allow for future members to be offered enrollment into the existing State Employees' Retirement System (SERS). As I see it, this change should not impact the TRS but ... ? Something to keep an eye on.

House Bill 4099 would adjust the pension age for individuals who provide various security duties for the state of Illinois.

Sid Simmons, Legislative chair, KRTA



TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE 3/8/23		4,379.06
RECEIPTS		
	Dues	40.00
	Luncheon/Membership/Cubs Trip	1,480.00
	Membership/Cubs Trip/Donation	1,465.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>2,985.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		7,664.06
EXPENSES		
	Whitetail Ridge	960.00
	Newsletter	56.99
	Kendall Print Directory Insert	38.50
	Jim Hissong Cubs/Cougar Exp.	1,623.78
	Website Maintenance	50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		2,729.27
ENDING BALANCE -5/22/23		<u><u>4,634.79</u></u>
Craig Weber and Rod Barkei, Treasurers		

MEMBERSHIP



KENDALL COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' MEMBERSHIP: JUNE 2023

Hello Everyone,

What season is it? I, for one, am not sure I know any more. Is it my memory or were there definitive seasons of the year when we were younger? I guess that thought also goes with retirement. Is there a specific time to retire? We have all made that decision at different times in our teaching career and for various reasons. I am wondering why our current flock of new retirees have chosen this year to retire. I hope we can all find out as I will be inviting approx. 30 teachers from across the county to attend our June 8th Luncheon as our guests. This is quite a large group of folks who have done so much for the education of our students. 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 and wondered if it was for me. 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!

If you know any retirees that I may not have reached, please let me know or just invite them as a KRTA member. If they cannot attend in June, they are welcome any time. Our September 14th Luncheon may also be a great time to have a new retiree join us as they realize they miss returning to the classroom and need a new adventure with those of us that have been there.

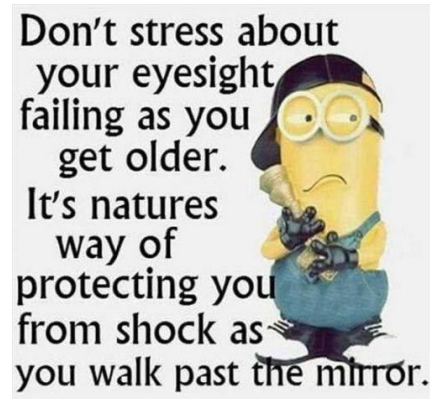
We have had a record number of members pay their dues for 2022-2023...all 140 of you WOW!! Only 9 folks were not on that list. Unfortunately, that means they won't be receiving a newsletter or get a call for the Luncheon. Our hope is that they will decide to rejoin in the future. We also have 90 members who took advantage of our "SALE" and have already paid their dues for the 23-24 year. If you would like to pay ahead at the June Luncheon, Dorothy will be there with the list of names who have not done so. You can also send a check to Sharon Pagoria, 981 Lake Holiday Dr, Sandwich, IL 60548. Please use the form at the back of this newsletter or just write your information on a piece of paper and include with your check made out to the KRTA for \$20.

Please check your information in the Directory and let us know of any changes so we can keep our lists up to date. Thank you so much.

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 always seem to 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! Please double check to be sure you are a member. You can find information at www.irtaonline.org.

Happy Summer Everyone!

Sharon Pagoria & Dorothy Simmons



Happy Birthday!!

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

JULY

Pat Riccio 7/7
Joyce Burns 7/15
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
Nancy Aschauer 8/12
Dorothy Christian 8/17
Penny Jamison 8/19
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 Mroczka 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.

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.)

There is nothing like returning to a place that
remains unchanged to find the ways in which you
yourself have altered.

Nelson Mandela



Kane County Cougar Baseball
 Wednesday June 21-11:30 A.M.
 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. _____

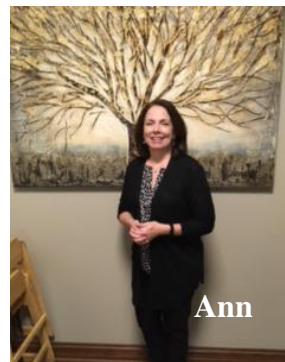
Make out checks to: K.R.T.A.

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

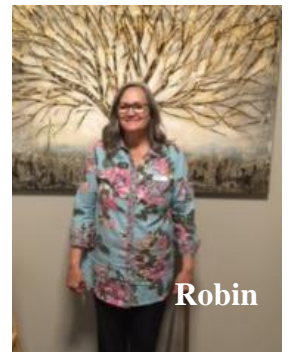
Questions? Call Me at 630-553-9053

KRTA SOCIALIZES

KRTA members enjoy socializing. It starts when we check in, drop off our articles for the nursing homes, greet new guests/members, and join our friends for our luncheon. After enjoying our lunch (including delicious carrot cake) and enjoying Good Clean Fun, the business meeting commenced, ending with the raffle drawing.



Ann



Robin



