

# KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



## NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

**JUNE 2013**

### **JUNE 13 MEETING**

The June 13 meeting of the KRTA will be held at the Meadowhawk Lodge Building of Hoover Outdoor Education Center, 11285 Fox Road, Yorkville, IL 60560. The luncheon, (catered from Upper Crust) beginning at 12:30 PM, is \$15. Program: Jason Petit, Director of Kendall county Forest Preserve, followed by a tour and discussion at Winding Creek Nursery in Millbrook (About 5 miles from Hoover.) The deadline is June 7. Reservations must be turned in by then. If you don't get a call by then, you can RSVP to Theda McMinn at 630-552-8156.

Directions for Meadowhawk Lodge: From Route 34, go south on Route 47. Turn west onto Fox Road and continue for about 2 miles.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The deadline for the September meeting at Whitetail Golf Club will be September 9. You are receiving this notification in case your September newsletter is late. The news editor will be on vacation.

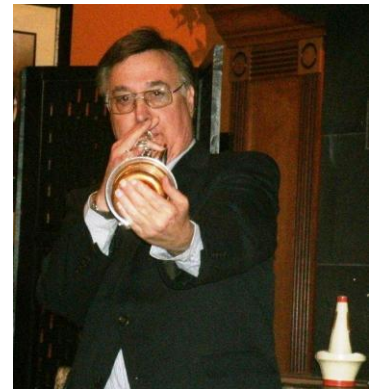
### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

#### **MINUTES FOR THE KRTA UNIT MEETING, April 11, 2013**

The KRTA meeting and luncheon was called to order by the President Jan Cairns at 12:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The 50/50 collection was conducted, and the business meeting was initiated.

The minutes of February 14<sup>th</sup> membership meeting were approved; the February 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Report was approved.

AMBA Benefits Representative, Theresa Szeto, spoke to the membership concerning all of the benefits available to IRTA members. Szeto emphasized that AMBA works for IRTA members to bring them the best benefits for the best prices. She commented, "Let us work for you." Her email is: [tpszeto@gmail.com](mailto:tpszeto@gmail.com).



Reports of Standing Committees:

1. Membership: Linda Adkins presented two new members, Sherry Oros and Gail Johnson.
2. Community Participation: Alimae Persons reported that at the February meeting the Kendall County Special Olympics received \$100 collected from our organization. Kendall County CASA will receive \$67 from donations received today.

3. Legislation: Sid Simmons reported that due to the responsiveness of IRTA membership once again, the “kick the can down the road” prevailed in the IL legislature. Sid believed that nothing will come forward for vote until April 24<sup>th</sup>. He has been advised by IRTA representatives that we should not make (have to make) the choice/vote between COLA or insurance as presented in part B of SB1 via Senate President John Cullerton. The choice (Part B) is unconstitutional (as well as Part A.) In voting, it will force a challenge of the Illinois constitution. IRTA will go to court for an immediate court injunction to stop the law from going into effect until the matter can be resolved in the courts.
4. Venue and Program: Jan Hissong reported the June luncheon will be held at Hoover Forest Preserve. The program will be at Winding Creek Nursery. She asked that members please present questions now for Winding Creek to answer in June visit.
5. Other Business: The Hissongs are organizing the June 7<sup>th</sup> annual Cub’s game trip. The cost is \$39. They need 20 more people to complete the trip. A promotional drawing was held, and member Mary Lee Snyder won a signed 1908 Cub baseball.

Program: Steve Cooper presented his beautifully coordinated program: “Big Band Memories.” Many of us remembered, and all enjoyed the songs, vocalists, and band groups of that era.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Johnson, Recording Secretary

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Hello Fellow Retirees,

I hope you are keeping current with the Pension bills that have been presented. Senator Cullerton and House Speaker Madigan appear to not be able to agree on anything. Each appears to want the Pension Reform to be **theirs** and want to be the champion of Pension Reform in Illinois. Make sure that you keep reading the IRTA posts and respond to Voter Voice when asked to do so. IRTA is your best friend and think about them as your investment advisor. Your response DOES count. The Illinois legislature is getting tired of us responding which indicates we are having an effect on the process. So, keep the process going.

I hope that you will join us for the Cubs game. Jim Hissong makes the trip fun and just think – you can sit back and relax as you go to Chicago to inspire the Cubs to a victory. The price is right and fun will be had by all.

Our June, 2013 meeting will start at the Hoover Outdoor Center in Yorkville, Illinois. The luncheon and the business meeting will be inside the building. Janet and Tom, our social directors, have also planned for us to continue our meeting at Winding Creek Nursery. At this part of the meeting we will have speakers who will talk about landscaping, plants and will also answer the questions we submitted at our April meeting. Please support this program, as the social directors work hard to make our meetings fun and informative. See you all there.

Jan Cairns, President

**Cub Fans:** We still have a few tickets left for our trip to see the Cubs take on the Pittsburgh Pirates on Friday, June 7. The trip includes a charter bus, game ticket, refreshments and prizes for the total cost of \$39.00 per person. If interested, you can contact Jim Hissong at 630-553-9153. We will depart from the J. C. Penney parking lot on Rt. 34 in Montgomery at 10:30 AM.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

At the April meeting we received \$85 to be given to CASA. The director was very happy to receive this donation and said it would be put to good use. (They were training new volunteers the day I was there.)

At our June meeting we will donate school supplies, as we do every year. If you would rather make a donation, we will shop when school supplies are on sale. Thank you, as always, for your wonderful support.

Alimae Persons, Community Participation Chair

## TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE – 3/12/13			\$2,112.08
RECEIPTS	Meal Payments	\$1,155.00	
	Replace lunch change	\$200.00	
	50/50	\$57.00	
	Dues	\$120.00	
	CASA	\$60.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>\$1,592.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS			<u>\$3704.08</u>
EXPENSES	Lunch Change	\$200.00	
	Newsletter	\$195.52	
	Steve Cooper (Entertain)	\$100.00	
	IRTA Found. (Helen Clayton)	\$10.00	
	Craig Weber (Mileage)	\$44.40	
	Kendall Co. Special Olympics	\$75	
	Blackstone Grill	\$1,125.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES			<u>\$1,749.92</u>
RECONCILED BALANCE – 5/09/13			<u>\$1954.16</u>
Kyle Price Treasurer			

## MEMBERSHIP

We have two new members to add to our current list of KRTA members. They are:

Sherry Oros  
1202 Spring Street  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
Ph. 630-553-0298

[e-mailTeeHee46@yahoo.com](mailto:e-mailTeeHee46@yahoo.com)

Gail Johnson  
27 Highview Drive  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
Ph. 630-553-1202

If you know of any retirees that are not part of KRTA, please invite them to our meeting.

**REMINDER:** You may begin paying your 2014 dues at the September meeting. Dues have been raised to **\$15** annually. This is still a GREAT BARGAIN!

Sincerely, Linda Atkins and Craig Weber, Membership Chairs

## 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 Coleman 7/5  
Pat Riccio 7/7  
Carol Cue 7/12  
Joyce Burns 7/15  
Barb Johnson 7/16  
George Hettrich 7/18  
Barb Frish 7/23  
Helen Smith 7/27

### AUGUST

Nancy Niles 8/1  
Effie Vitale 8/3  
Terry Coley 8/4  
Davie McQueen 8/5  
Joyce Davito 8/10  
Kathy Blaskovich 8/12  
Nancy Aschauer 8/12  
Mary Ellen Bushnell 8/13  
Dave Elko 8/16  
Dorothy Christian 8/17  
Henry Wiedman 8/17  
Jean Stewart 8/17  
Penny Jamison 8/19  
Dorothy Simmons 8/22

### SEPTEMBER

Gail Ford 9/1  
Diane Ash 9/1  
Barbara Yundt 9/1  
Judy Robertson 9/1  
Angela Croon 9/5  
Ann Myers 9/9  
Paula Hill-Emery 9/14  
Connie Emery 9/18  
Dawn Gerry 9/20  
Janet Reardon 9/21  
Elaine Mrocza 9/27  
John Thorne 9/30



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](mailto:janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net)) or by phone (630-801-8928). Also, if you notice any errors, please let me know as well.

**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](mailto: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. I look forward to putting your name on this list.

### IN MEMORIUM

*Wilda (Peggy) Gilbertson*  
1922 - 2013

*Taught in the Leland, Lisbon Yorkville and Newark School Districts*

## LEGISLATIVE

As you are probably aware, the We Are One Illinois coalition including the IEA negotiated an agreement with Illinois Senate President Cullerton concerning so-called 'pension reform' (SB 2404). The agreement is structured as a "make a choice" proposal and does affect **current retirees**.

The proposal will provide a choice between access to healthcare and accepting a staggered two-year Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) freeze OR keeping your 3% compounded COLA and no retiree healthcare access.

The impairment and diminishment language in the proposal is clearly unconstitutional. **The Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) will continue to oppose legislation that diminishes benefits for retirees.** It seems the IRTA is the only organization that truly represents retirees.

I believe that our Teacher Retirement System (TRS) members earned every penny that they may collect in retirement. To ask them to take less than they were promised would be viewed as an **insult** by most. The Illinois legislature purposes that we should take a reduction after our contributions are used; but, they failed to include the state's contributions. You could say the same for Social Security where many people collect more than they contributed. If the TRS money is prudently invested (it has been) and the state contributes their share each year (they haven't), then we retirees can collect our pensions as promised. This discussion shouldn't be taking place. **We shouldn't have to be going through this stress.** We are retired for God's sake!

There is currently over \$40 billion (with a B) in the TRS fund. The unfunded liability (about \$95 billion) is because of the state not funding properly each year. This mismanagement has been happening since 1972! I (and you) paid our share every paycheck and our school districts contributed on a monthly basis. The state chose to 'defer' their payment and now the time has come to pay the piper.

Here's how I feel about it: **If every retired teacher did take a voluntary reduction, our legislators would still continue to be fiscally irresponsible.**

I earned my pension. I also have earned a Social Security pension although it is diminished by about 70% of what it should be because I receive a TRS annuity. Thank you WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision). Some 'windfall.' I worked many part time jobs in the summers expecting that some day it would all pay off. Anyone who resents that I have earned a pension will find that I feel justified in collecting what I have earned. They had the option of working their way through college and teaching for minimum wage (\$5,100 my first year), but they chose a different route. I earned my pensions and refuse to apologize to **anyone** for what I collect.

You should feel the same way.

sid simmons  
Legislative chair



**SO TRUE**

**Whatever hits the fan  
Will Not Be Evenly Distributed.**

**Everyone has a photographic memory.  
Some, like me, just don't have any film.**

**Learn from the mistakes of others. Trust me...  
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.  
I've tried!!**

