

KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY

JUNE 2014

JUNE 12 MEETING

The June 12 meeting of the KRTA will be held at Whitetail Ridge Golf Course, 7671 Clubhouse Drive, Yorkville, IL 60560 (just off Route 126). The luncheon, beginning at 12:30 PM, is \$15.

Program: Pam Reilly, Illinois Teacher of the Year will speak. Also, the Moler-Austin scholarships will be awarded along with grants for local high school future education associations. The deadline is June 6. 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. If you plan to come, please make your reservation. Remember to bring your money for the 50/50 raffle. It will again be designated to the Legal Fund.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

MINUTES FOR THE KRTA UNIT MEETING, April 10, 2014

The April 10 KRTA membership meeting met at Kennedy Pointe Restaurant in Bristol. President Jim Hissong called the meeting to order at 12:40 and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Grace was given. Sixty-six members and guests were present.

Jim Hissong reported on the membership surveys handed out at the February meeting. Surveys were provided for those members who had not previously completed one. The Silver Sneakers program provided by our 2014 insurance programs was discussed. It is available at the YMCA in Oswego and may be soon available at Plano YMCA. Two IRTA representatives attended the meeting and reported that there would be information coming from the state in May concerning SB1. After a great meal was enjoyed by all, Ralph Sherman, a local comedian, presented a very humorous program. The next KRTA membership meeting will be held June 12 at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club Restaurant.



Old Business

- Minutes of February meeting will stand as presented.
- The treasurer's report was approved.
- Membership reported that all but 30 members have paid their 2014 dues.
- Legislation - None

- Alimae Persons reported that Community Participation donated \$100 to Kendall County CASA.

New Business

- Community Participation will donate the 50/50 collected today to the IRTA Legal Defense Fund.

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Hissong.

Respectfully submitted,
Theda McMinn, Secretary pro-tem

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As most of you know, on May 14, 2014, the I.R.T.A. and We Are One won a temporary restraining order that will put SB1 on hold and prevent it from taking effect on June 1. This action is a very good sign for the plaintiffs. We recently concluded our trip to see the Cubs and are planning a trip on August 1 to see the K.C. Cougars. At our June 12 luncheon we will be honoring 3 students: Ilir Emini, Michael Lauderdale, and Melissa McNanna, with Moler-Austin scholarships; and, also presenting four grants to Kendall County high school future educators.

Our speaker will be Pam Reilly, the Illinois Teacher of the Year. Pam is a second grade teacher from Sandwich Woodbury Elementary School. Lastly, those of you that would like to continue to support our legal defense fund, the I.R.T.A. is sponsoring A Day at Arlington Park on September 18, 2014. For more information you can contact Rich Chrierico at 847-358-7816.

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

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: JUNE MEETING: We will again collect school supplies and money for purchase of them to be given to Kendall County Food Pantry. I will gladly shop for school supplies when the sales start in July

We received a wonderful letter from Christine Goerlich Weber, the new director of Kendall County CASA thanking us for our gift of \$100 to be used for recruiting and training of new advocates to represent the best interests of children in the courtroom.

Chris was with the Beacon News for a number of years and is very enthusiastic about her new position. I have known her personally for several years and am sure she will be a fine director. Here is an excerpt from that letter:

On behalf of CASA Kendall County, I send *sincere thanks* for the Association's generous donation of \$100.00.

The support of our mission, as we continue to advocate for abused and neglected children in the Kendall County court system, is greatly appreciated. CASA receives no state or federal funding, so tremendous philanthropic donations like yours that we receive, allow us to move forward.

We thank your group again for the contribution, which will enable us to plan Summer recruiting and training of new advocates to represent the best interests of children in the courtroom.

FYI: Last year the money we collected for Special Olympics went to buy jackets for the athletes. This year the money went to buy swim suits for the female swimmers.

Alimae Persons, Community Participation Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| OPENING BALANCE – 3/11/14 | | \$4,010.36 |
| RECEIPTS | | |
| | Luncheon Receipts | \$960.00 |
| | Replace lunch change | \$200.00 |
| | 50/50 Legal Fund | \$52.00 |
| | Dues | \$390.00 |
| | CASA | \$100.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | | <u>\$1,702.00</u> |
| TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS | | \$5,712.36 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| | Lunch Change | \$200.00 |
| | Newsletter | \$125.10 |
| | Ralph Sherman (Entertain) | \$200.00 |
| | IRTA Legal Fund | \$52.00 |
| | Craig Weber (Mileage) | \$54.24 |
| | Kendall Co. Special Olympics | \$126.00 |
| | Kennedy Pointe | \$991.98 |
| | James Hissong (PA system) | \$152.00 |
| | Jim Hissong (Cubs Tickets) | <u>\$565.00</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | \$2,466.32 |
| RECONCILED BALANCE – 4/25/14 | | <u>\$3,246.04</u> |
| Kyle Price Treasurer | | |

MEMBERSHIP

KENDALL COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS UNIT 10 MEMBERSHIP: MAY, 2014

Please encourage other retirees to join our wonderful organization! Local dues are only \$15. per year and includes newsletters throughout the year, luncheons with entertainment and informative updates on our retirement pensions, and opportunities to renew old friendships. New members get their first lunch FREE! So let's encourage retired teachers, their spouses, and other non-certified persons interested in retired educators to join! Contact one of the chairpersons listed below!

KRTA membership committee co-chairpersons:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Linda Adkins 630-554-8788 | Craig Weber 630-688-7980 |
| 303 Edgebrook Ct. | 584 Sudbury Circle |
| Oswego, IL 60543 | Oswego, IL 60543 |

IRTA Membership Campaign...

The Membership team of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association is promoting a campaign to increase membership by 5,000 members by December, 2015. Currently there are 35,722 members state-wide. IRTA is encouraging all local members and retired teachers to take advantage of the opportunity to join at this time when our pensions are being threatened by actions of the legislature.

If you are not currently an IRTA member, the co-chairpersons will have applications available at the June luncheon or email/call them and they will send you a form. You can also go to the IRTA website www.irtaonline.org and quickly join and get updates.

Benefits of IRTA membership:

- Join 35,000 retired educators from across Illinois to protect your pensions and health insurance;
- Gain access to Votervoice, a premier online advocacy tool that allows you to instantly contact your state and federal elected officials;
- Qualify for group discounted rates for dental, vision, and other benefits;
- Extend your knowledge and stay aware of issues important to retired educators through our member website (www.irtaonline.org);
- Socialize with former colleagues at any of our 93 local units across the state.

Dues:

- Dues Deduct: \$2.50 monthly from your pension check (pre-tax)
- Annual: \$40. per year.
- 5 Years: \$175.
- Life: \$400.
- Membership Free for the Calendar Year of Retirement.

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
 Julie Devine 9/2
 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 Mroczka 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) or by phone (630-801-8928). Also, if you notice any errors, please let me know.

E-MAILS: I am happy to state that we currently have 121 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. 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.

LEGISLATIVE

Illinois House and Senate members returned to Springfield May 19 and are scheduled to work straight through to next Saturday, May 31. A staggering 73 budget bills, exceeding \$37,000,000,000, were brought to the House floor for a vote during an 11 hour marathon. Since that total amount exceeded Illinois' projected income by over \$3,000,000,000, the only Representatives who voted yes were the same folks who knew they'd also be voting to make the temporary income tax permanent for Illinois taxpayers. Now those bills must go to the Senate for approval or amendment.

The 2013 pension reform law still has not been enacted. Last week a court put an injunction hold on the implementation pending other legal action. Those pension commitments now exceed \$100,000,000,000 and continue to grow. Illinois' credit rating has been downgraded five times just since the tax increase was implemented.

Budget Details: Here's a brief snapshot of the Illinois General Revenue Fund (GRF) budget. Remember, this budget requires a permanent income tax increase

General

- Makes the certified FY15 pension payment of \$6.045 billion.
- Moves \$197 million from unclaimed property sales for pension payment.
- Group Insurance receives \$1.475 billion.

K-12 Education

- General State Aid increases \$132 million, proration level set at 90%.
- Regular/Vocational Transportation increases by \$54 million, prorated at 83%.
- Early Childhood Education increases \$25 million.
- Bilingual Education increases by \$12.3 million.

Higher Education

- Universities generally receive flat funding.
- MAP grants receive an increase of \$51.55 million.
- Illinois Math Science Academy (IMSA) budget decreases \$1.8 million, to encourage diversity commitment. Of the Academy's 650 students, the majority are Caucasian and Asian. Less than 150 are African American or Hispanic.
- \$465,500 for Veterans' Grants reimbursements at specified colleges.

Human Services

- Medicaid generally based on Governor's recommended funding level.
- Veterans' Affairs increases \$9 million for required nursing home staffing ratios.
- Children and Family Services increases include \$1.9 million for Foster Care, \$5 million for Family Preservation, \$1 million for Adoption and Guardianship.
- Poison Control Center receives \$2 million. Public Health receives \$1 million for new Hepatitis Outreach program.
- Community Care Program at Aging increases \$111 million.
- Human Services Fund includes \$40 million for operations, \$45 million for child care grants, \$21 Million for Home Services.
- \$5.6 million Chicago Area Project grant for delinquency prevention.

Public Safety

- State Police increases \$28.5 million. Adds third cadet class (Two at State Police, One at State Police Merit Board).
- Corrections includes \$9 million to reopen Murphysboro facility as DUI facility and begin the process of opening the former Joliet Youth facility as facility for incarcerated individuals.

Legislation of Note: Senate Bill 219 would create the "Go for the Gold" instant scratch-off game within the Illinois State Lottery for Special Olympics and Special Children's Charities. Special Olympics Illinois will receive 75% of the revenues to support statewide training, competitions, and programs for future Special Olympics athletes. Special Children's Charities will receive 25% of the revenues to support the City of Chicago training, competitions and programs for future Special Olympics athletes.

Sid Simmons
Legislative chair



KANE COUNTY COUGARS VS OKLAHOMA CITY

WHEN: Friday, August 1, 2014—Game time is 6:30 PM
(No Bus Provided)

WHERE: Fifth Third Bank Ballpark, Geneva, IL

COST: \$45.00 Includes: Seat in Home Plate Upper Deck Super Suite
All you can Buffet, Fireworks and Prizes

RETURN FORM TO: James Hissong, 102 Strawberry Lane, Yorkville IL 60560.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: KRTA

QUESTIONS? Call James Hissong at 630-553-9153

Kane County Cougars VS Oklahoma City

Name: _____ Cell Phone # _____

Address: _____

Building (if applies): _____ # of Tickets: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Old minds are like old horses; you must exercise them if you wish to keep them in working order.
John Quincy Adams

I knew a man who gave up smoking, drinking, sex, and bad food. He was healthy right up to the time he killed himself.
Johnn v Carson