

# KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL  
COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2023

Come join us for our September KRTA luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club on Thursday, September 14 at 12 Noon. Cost is still \$20. Program will be “Old Time Radio” with radio comedian and Senior Idol Award Winner, Larry Bergnach. Don’t forget your money for the 50/50 raffle. Proceeds to Legal Defense Fund.



The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 8. If you do not receive a call by then, please contact Sue Matile at 630-554-8743 or 331-999-5029.

**For all of our luncheons:** If you have made reservations and are unable to attend, you need to contact Sue Matile by 10 AM on Tuesday, September 12 or you will be responsible for the luncheon fee.



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



Judy and I are pleased to say that we have a full slate of callers. You can expect a phone call from one of our KRTA callers that will take luncheon reservations for our September 14th luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Course. Deadline if September 8. If you have not received a call by then, be sure to contact Sue Matile at 630-554-8743 or text 331-999-5029.

If you need to cancel or request a last-minute reservation please contact Sue Matile at 630-554-8743 or text at 331-999-5029. The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 8, but we sometimes take last minute reservations!

Respectfully submitted, Sue Matile and Judy Burkard, Committee Chairs.



## SECRETARY’S REPORT

### KRTA June 8, 2023, Membership Meeting Luncheon Minutes

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

Jim referred the membership to the table of recently retired teachers who are guests today of KRTA. He thanked them for their attendance and invited them to consider becoming members of KRTA this year.

Jim then enlightened members and guests with educational quotations from respected persons from the past. 1) Mark Twain - “Never let my schooling interfere with my education!” 2) Thomas Jefferson – “No one who can take advantage of a higher education should be denied this choice.” 3) Eleanor Roosevelt – “We obtain our education at home, at school, and most important, from life itself.” George W. Bush – “I oppose a national test because it would undermine **local** control of schools and state curricula.”



Tom Meade led the membership in Grace. Lunch at Whitetail Restaurant was a buffet

lunch of Whitetail house salad, fried chicken, ham, potatoes and green beans. Carrot cake was the dessert.

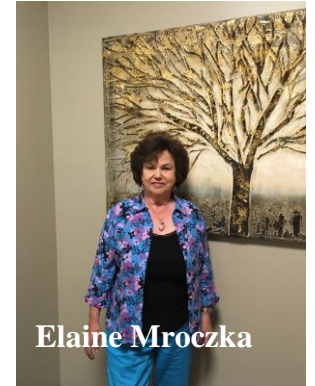
### Program

Tom Meade discussed the FEA programs in the 5 Kendall County High Schools of Newark, Yorkville, Plano, Oswego and Oswego East. KRTA offers a \$300 grant to each high school in support of their FEA program. FEA sponsors at each high school were invited to accept their grant today but could not attend. Tom will send the grant to each school.



Jim introduced Wendy Wiegers, IRTA Area II Director. Wendy presented the winner of the KRTA sponsored \$4500 Austin-Moler scholarship to Sydney Reppy, a Kendall County resident but a Minooka High School graduate. She is a graduate with honors of Joliet Junior College. She attends DePaul University where she is majoring in English and Secondary Education

Tom Meade introduced today's speaker. Elaine Mroczka taught 37 years, many of those years were in Yorkville as a third-grade teacher. She is retired now and has become a recognized published author! She presented her wonderful story of teacher- to- published author which began after the 9-11 tragedy. She shared with the membership her authored children's books and the



circumstances of their stories. Elaine's presentation was well received by the members.

**Business Meeting:** Minutes from the April 14<sup>th</sup> KRTA luncheon meeting were approved as read.

### Committee Reports



**Membership:** Dorothy Simmons said no report.

**Caller Communication:** Sue Matile said the caller list is up to date for now. Although there is a deadline date for members to tell their caller if they will attend a luncheon, members can still contact Sue after that deadline to report they can attend the coming luncheon.

**Legislation:** Sid Simmons reported several money related matters coming to us out of Springfield. The consumer price index is at 8%. Everything will cost retirees more. Taxes will go up starting July 1. Illinois will reinstate a state tax on qualifying foods, drugs, and medical appliances of 1%. In the fall, Illinois motorists will pay 3.2 cents more per gallon. We are taxed 42.3 cents per gallon now! IRTA dues will go up in the fall, from \$2.50 up to \$3.50 per month. On January 1, IRTA members who want to be life members will pay \$600 dues. This is up from \$400. In short, Sid told members to be very thankful for their 3%

COLA!! 566 bills passed in the Illinois legislative session. Among the bills, \$200,000,000 was allocated to pensions. \$100,000,000 was allocated to TRS. The insurance program is fully funded for the year.

**Newsletter:** Jan Reardon welcomed the guests. She asked members for any pictures with KRTA members in them while at the Cub game or Cougar game, etc. She would like to them to put in the Newsletter.

**Community Participation:** Alimae Persons thanked the membership for their generous donations to the food pantry in December. KRTA received \$248 plus clothing items to donate to the Food Pantry.

**Programs:** Janet Hissong reported that she would like to offer to members two outings this fall and winter. In September or October, there would be a trip to Starved Rock State Park near Ottawa. Members would transport themselves to the park lodge where there would be a group lunch to attend. Then a trolley would transport the group to the Illinois river shore where the group would board a boat for a tour of the area. The trolley would return us to the lodge when the tour is done. In December, KRTA would attend the Chicago Symphony

Christmas Program. A bus would transport the group to the **front door** of the Symphony and take the group home from the Symphony. Usually the group tickets place us on the first floor. More information will be reported at the September 14 luncheon meeting.

**Treasurer:** There was no report.

### **New Business**

Jim reported the tickets for the Cougar Game outing is sold out. He has a waiting list. Call Jim if you want to sign up. Members and friends and family members are welcome!

Jim discussed the possibility of purchasing the Venmo app, a safe money app, as another means for members to pay their KRTA dues, luncheon meals, etc. He will discuss more at the September 14 luncheon meeting.

50/50 drawing winners were member Carole Clark and the IRTA Legal Defense Fund. Barb Allen won the free lunch drawing.

In conclusion, Jan Hissong talked about the booklet she is pulling together to present to the winner(s) of the Austin-Moler scholarship every year. She collected from members their written educational wisdom and ideas for new teachers and compiled them in a book. She would gladly accept more from those retired teachers who missed out contributing last year

The next KRTA membership luncheon meeting will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup>, at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club, Yorkville.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Johnson, Recording Secretary

## **PRESIDENTS' REPORT**



President's Message for August, 2023:

Craig and I hope your summer has been a pleasant and enjoyable one for you and your family. Our Cubs and K.C. Cougar outings were very successful and we have two exciting outings coming up – one to Starved Rock State Park in September and another to the Chicago Symphony in December that I am sure you will enjoy. Signups for those are in this newsletter.



**CONGRATULATIONS, KYLE:** I would personally like to take this time to let all of our members and friends know that our K.R.T.A. Honoree for the I.R.T.A. State Convention in October is our long-time Treasurer and K.R.T.A. member Kyle Price. Kyle has not only been a devoted member to our local unit but a tireless worker and treasurer for us for nearly 10 years. We are truly honored that we can thank him in this way for his dedication to our K.R.T.A.

Janet and I are off to the I.R.T.A. State Convention on October 16 & 17 in Springfield. We will let all of you know the results when we return. K.R.T.A. is donating a framed, autographed Gale Sayers jersey for the silent auction to raise money for I.R.T.A.P.A.C.



Suncrest Hospice of Illinois recently contacted us about volunteer help from our unit for their branch facilities in this area. More information will be passed out at our September luncheon.



We are currently looking for 2 of our K.R.T.A. members to step up as Alimae Persons transitions from her position as Community participation chairperson.

We are also looking for a photographer to take newsletter photos for our December luncheon.

Hope to see you in September,

Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

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



## MEMBERSHIP

Hello Everyone and Happy September! It is Back to School Time! It's also Please Pay Your KRTA Dues Time! KRTA Dues go from September to September so these Dues are for the 2023-2024 air

School Year. They are still the bargain price of \$20. You may pay at the September Luncheon or send Sharon Pagoria a check for the amount by snail mail. Checks should be made out to KRTA. We record your check number so when in doubt just email or call Sharon.

Congratulations to the Members who have paid their Dues for 2023-24 already!

Remember, your \$20 for KRTA membership goes a long way. What programs etc. are covered by your KRTA Dues you may ask? KRTA Dues help pay for Scholarships, Entertainment and Speakers at the Luncheon (your Luncheon fee only covers the cost of food and venue and does NOT include dessert), Postage, Printing and Mailing of Newsletters and Directories, The Member Directory, Extra Frivolities and Prizes at the Luncheon and much more!

Please wish a warm welcome to our 4 new members: Rene Garren, Carol Bivins, Loretta Burks, and Julie Tholen! New retirees were sent an invite to the June luncheon and have been present for September. Please let us know by e-mail or phone if you are aware of a new retiree. We will be glad to extend a personal invitation to them. Or just bring them in September! Their first luncheon meeting meal is always on us!

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](http://www.irtaonline.org). YOU ARE ALL IMPORTANT and CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Stay well and safe and we hope to visit with all of you soon on September 14.

Sharon Pagoria and Dorothy Simmons, KRTA Membership Team

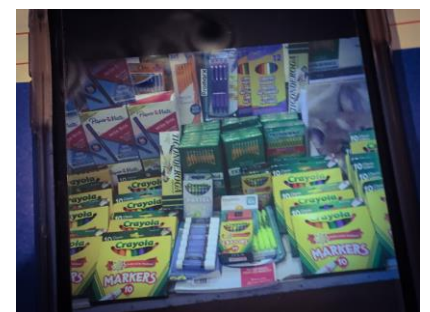


**E-MAILS:** I am happy to state that we currently have about 140 E-mail members. If you would like to join us, please let me know. This is especially handy for people who travel. It is also handy for those who want to receive e-blasts. You may do so by e-mailing me, Janet Reardon, at [janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net). 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. I look forward to putting your name on this list.



## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 and a separate check made out to KRTA along with enough school supplies to fill two large bags to be used for school supplies for clients of Kendall County Community Food Pantry. I spent \$250 at Office Max and



saved over \$70 with sales and my membership card. The Pantry was very grateful for the donations. One worker said “I love getting supplies from Kendall County Retired Teachers.”

At our September meeting, we will be collecting money for Hesed House. This well-known organization works hard to help meet the needs of the homeless in the area. Hesed House’s mission is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and give people the chance to hope again. Hesed House is a national model for ending homelessness – one person, one family at a time.

As always, thank for your always generous giving.

Alimae Persons, Community Participation



### TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE – 8/15/2023 \$4,634.79

RECEIPTS

Cougars Game	\$780.00
Luncheon/50/50/Mem.	\$2,545.00
FEA Grants unused	\$300.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$3,625.00

EXPENSES

Jim Hissong expenses	\$714.59
FEA Scholarships	\$1,500.00
KRTA Checks	\$55.40
Elaine Mroczka	\$174.57
Luncheon	\$1,240.00
Cake,/Flowers	\$73.83

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,758.39

RECONCILED BALANCE – 8/15/2023 \$4,501.41

Rod Barkei/Craig Weber Co-Treasurers



### LEGISLATIVE

#### Additional \$500 Million

Illinois legislators are discussing a measure that aims to provide an additional 500 million a year for the state's pension systems to address unfunded liabilities.

The state manages 5 pension funds. Combined with the TRS, the State Universities Retirement System (SURS), the State Employees Retirement System (SERS), the Judges Retirement System and the General Assembly Retirement System (GARS), are all funded about 42%. The pension system for lawmakers is the worse funded; but, there is a measure being discussed to combine the GARS with the highest funded Judges Retirement System.

House Bill 4098 would allow the Illinois treasurer and comptroller to transfer \$500 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Pension Unfunded Liability Reduction Fund each fiscal year. The current budget spends around \$10 billion this year on pensions. This accounts for about one of every \$5 the state takes in taxes or 20%. The House Personnel and Pensions Committee discussed HB4098 Aug. 16 in downtown Chicago along with officials from the TRS and SERS.

As you are aware, the TRS serves both Tier 1 and Tier 2 retirees and active teachers. Tier 1 is for those in TRS before 2011 while Tier 2, with fewer benefits, is for those hired after 2011. If things stay the same, it will be around 2085 before TRS has no one left in Tier 1.

One issue legislators are evaluating is modifying the benefits of Tier 2 retirees. TRS officials stated that the Tier 2 benefit would not meet the Social Security safe harbor benefit which could lead school districts to make up the difference. That could put more pressure on Illinois' property taxes.

State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D-Oswego) has said that the Tier 2 issues are being addressed through HB4098. "This is the first time ever that we have had a bill that discusses Tier2 to this depth," said Kifowit. "There have been conversations but this is truly momentum going in the right direction." Legislators plan to work on the measure throughout the summer and attempt to get the bill read and passed during the next legislative session.

Sid Simmons, Legislative Chair

**Happy Birthday!!**

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

**OCTOBER**

- Pricilla Jorstad 10/1
- Karen Deutch 10/1
- Sue (Reed) Ahua 10/19
- Beverly Rehberg 10/19
- Nancy Larson 10/22
- Ruth Aagesen 10/24

**NOVEMBER**

- Janelle Burd 11/5
- Judith Davis 11/7
- Marsha Friedman 11/10
- Norm Meier 11/11
- Sue Thill 11/22
- Jean McBride 11/29
- Truby Szewczyk 11/25
- Nancy Reynolds 11/30
- Debbie Dunlap 11/30

**DECEMBER**

- Pat Lofthouse 12
- Susan Schindel 12/3
- Don Snyder 12/5
- Barb McCoy 12/11
- Theda McMinn 12/13
- Diane Gerner 12/18
- Alimae Persons 12/23
- Carol Hayner 12/23
- Alimae Persons 12/23
- Judy Gilmour 12/26



So far, 92 members are celebrating their birthdays with us. I would love to have more members join. 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).) If you notice any errors, please let me know as well.

**Please Notice This**



*Author Elaine Mroczka will be happy to sign copies of her book anyone has purchased. She will do this at the September meeting.*





*Kendall Retired Teachers present  
Chicago Symphony & Chorus  
Holiday Concert*

*“Merry, Merry Chicago!”*

*Sunday, December 17, 2023-1:00 P.M.*

*Symphony Hall – Chicago, Il.*

*Cost: \$115 P.P. with a deadline of Oct. 17*

*Includes: Charter bus, Main floor Center seat, & refreshments on the bus.  
Bus leaves J.C. Penney parking lot in Montgomery @ 11:00 A.M. & drops us off at  
the door.*

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets @ \$115 \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ make checks to: K.R.T.A.

Please include who you would like to be seated with.

We have 35 tickets. You may bring non-members!

You may bring this form and your money to our Sept. 14 Luncheon or:

Mail to:

Jim Hisson, 102 Strawberry Ln., Yorkville, Il. 60560

Questions: 630-553-9153  
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**Kendall Retired Teachers present  
 “Starved Rock Land & Water Cruise”  
 Monday, September 25, 2023  
 11:00-3:00 P.M.**

**Come and join the K.R.T.A. for a land and water tour at Starved Rock State park. Our tour begins with lunch at the lodge restaurant followed by a narrated tour on a trolley ride and finally a boat tour to the east end of the park. Learn about the history and legends of the area. Minimal walking is involved and the tour is wheelchair accessible as well. Non members are most welcome to join us for the day.**

**Cost is \$58 Per person with no bus provided  
 (consider carpooling)**

**Lunch includes 8 choices of entrees**

**We will all meet at the Starved Rock Lodge, One Lodge Lane,  
 Oglesby, Il. 61348 @ 11:00 A.M.**

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell #** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of tickets @\$58 ea. \_\_\_\_\_ checks to: K.R.T.A.**

**Deadline is: Tues., SEPT. 19!**

**Bring your \$ to Sept. 14 luncheon or send to: Jim Hissong,  
 102 Strawberry Ln., Yorkville, 60560**

**Questions? Call-630-553-9153.**



Our KRTA Summer Fun started in May with the Cub game.



It continued in June with socializing around our beautifully decorated tables at our Luncheon.



We were even mentioned on the recognition board.



It was then onto the Cougars Game—where we enjoyed a skybox where we could sit both inside and out. We even had the memorabilia table. Again, a good time was had by all.

