

# KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS NEWSLETTER



SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL

SEPTEMBER 2022

Come join us for our person September KRTA luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club on Thursday, September 8 at 12 Noon. Cost is still \$20. Program will be Lauren Jernigan, Director of Development at hesed House. Don't forget your money for the 50/50 raffle. Proceeds to Legal Defense Fund.



The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 2. 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 signed up and are unable to attend, you need to contact Sue Matile by Noon on Tuesday, September 6 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. Your caller should be calling you toward the end of August. Remember, luncheon reservations are due by Friday, September 2. If you have not received a call by then, be sure to contact Sue Matile at 630-554-8743 or 331-999-5029. Also, if you must cancel, contact Sue Matile.

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

## SECRETARY'S REPORT



### KRTA June 9, 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes

The KRTA membership was greeted by Co-President Craig Weber. Craig led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom Meade said Grace. Program Co-Chair, Jan Hissong, addressed the group with an assignment to be completed by the end of the meeting. Since the two Moler-Austin scholarship winners were present to accept their awards, Jan thought the retired teachers could share important teaching advice with these future teachers. The nuggets of wisdom would be collected and compiled into a booklet for each of the young women. Thoughtful idea Jan!

The Whitetail Ridge Restaurant staff served a wonderful sit-down lunch which followed Covid 19 restrictions.

**Program:** Tom Meade, Program Co-Chair, introduced the Illinois Early Childhood 2022 Teacher of the Year, Megan Hillegass. Megan has been teaching for 20 years at schools in Chicago, Blue Island, and Romeoville. She graduated from Erikson Institute in Chicago with a master's degree in early



childhood education and child development. Megan is an adjunct professor for Erikson Institute as well as an early childhood teacher. She shared a few classroom stories as examples of what she considers a key step in successful learning. She concentrates on what each child knows and can share about themselves, families, etc. At the beginning of the school year, Megan begins her classroom day with the young students telling her a story which Megan writes down verbatim. Eventually each child volunteers to “read” or tell their story to the rest of the classroom. Fellow students are expected to listen carefully so they can ask questions of the storyteller. Communication skills are introduced, practiced and applied to their curriculum during the day. Connections are made between the students and between the students and teacher. Doors to learning are opened. Megan concluded that attended interaction is something the students totally missed during Covid.



Tom Meade introduced Chris Mechoho, regional superintendent of Kendall County. Chris presented the Moler-Austin Scholarships to Anwen Hurd and Savanna Farren. The scholarship program was founded at the wishes of former Kendall County educator and KRTA member, Identa Austin. The estate committed two \$4500 scholarships each year to Kendall County education students in Illinois Universities. Anwen Hurd is an Oswego High School graduate and is a senior at Aurora University majoring in elementary ed with ESL endorsement. Savanna Farren is a graduate of Yorkville High School and is a senior at Aurora University majoring in elementary ed. She intends to get a master’s in reading.

Tom Meade presented the Educators Rising grants. Each of the five Kendall County High Schools support a Future Teachers Association in conjunction with an Aurora University program, Educators

Rising. KRTA contributes \$500 and the ROE Kendall County contributes \$1000 to the grant program. KRTA then awards a \$300 grant to each of these high school future teachers associations to help promote their program activities. Michelle McAnally accepted the \$300 grant for Newark High School.



### **Business Meeting**

The April 14, 2022 membership luncheon-meeting minutes were approved as read.

### **Committee Reports**

**Community Participation:** Alimae Persons thanked the KRTA membership for the \$105 collected today for the Food Pantry school supply donation.

**Program:** Jan Hissong reminded those attending the July 16 Cubs game outing that if you bring a purse, bring only a small purse and/or a clear plastic one per Cubs Organization requirements. She said there are 15 tickets left for the July 27 Kane County Cougar game outing. Please reserve soon. Jan plans to arrange a July Supper Club and will email members the date and place.

**Membership:** Sharon Pagoria reported that there are two new KRTA members present today. They are Kay Ariano, a retired Kendall County Coop itinerant speech and hearing teacher, and Lauren Devick, who retired from Troy schools. Sharon said there are currently 157 members. 10 members have not paid their current dues and 25 members are paid through the next year, 2022 -2023!

**Legislation:** Sid Simmons had nothing to report from Springfield today. He did share his “whale of a story” from his visit to Wales, England. Sid was enjoying some ice cream when he heard someone yelling, “Mr. Simmons, Mr. Simmons!” Heather, a former (Oswego, Illinois!) seventh grade student, had recognized him! She ran across the road to greet him. They shared a wonderful conversation about her year in his classroom. Sid evidently had made the “connection” in his classroom with Heather. Sid remarked, “Who would have thought!”

Craig Weber closed the business meeting. Jan Hissong announced the 50/50 winner who shared the raffle monies with the IRTA Legal Defense Fund. Jan Hissong collected the nuggets of wisdom and thanked the members for their contributions.

September 8<sup>th</sup> is the next KRTA membership luncheon at Whitetail Ridge Restaurant.

Respectfully Submitted, Recording Secretary, Pat Johnson



## PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Presidents' Message for August, 2022

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

It has been a great summer! The K.R.T.A. has been to some really fun outings recently and has some exciting things planned coming up in the fall and winter for you. We had trips to see the Cubs at Wrigley Field and the Kane County Cougars in Geneva, supper club and “lunch & a movie”. We will be going to the Rialto Theatre in Joliet in September and have an outing planned to see “Merry, Merry Chicago!” at Symphony Hall in December. You can get that information for this trip in the newsletter.

Area 2 is looking for a Finance Committee volunteer to help out at this time. If you are interested in participating in a few zoom meetings, please contact Bob Kaplan, I.R.T.A. Nominations Committee Member @847-877-9350.

I am pleased to announce that our speaker for the September luncheon will be Lauren Jernigan, the Division Director of Development for the Hesed House in Aurora. Since the pandemic, the Hesed House has accelerated their mission to provide more services. Lauren will give us some insight into what some of their programs have done for hundreds of local people to give them a second chance. Our donation collection this month will be for the Hesed House.

We hope to have a great turnout for our September 8 luncheon. Hope to see you there!

Jim Hissong & Craig Weber, 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! There are Back To School sales in abundance! The KRTA also has a Please Pay Your Dues Now Sale for you!

KRTA Dues go from September to September so these Dues are for the 2022-2023 School Year. BUT due to rising costs of everything, as you are well aware of we are sure, KRTA dues will increase to \$20 as of January 1, 2023. They have not gone up in 8 years and most local Units Dues are much more. **SO here is a special deal for you to save some money. If you pay your dues before January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023, you will only pay the low cost of \$15. You can even pay 2023-2024 dues for \$15 as well.** 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 30 Members (out of 151) who have paid their Dues for 2022-23 already!



Remember, your \$15 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!

It is so great to be able to have our luncheons again and visit with each other. Your Membership Team will be very able & happy to collect those dues at the September 8<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Meeting at Whitetail.

Please wish a warm welcome to our 3 new members: Kay Ariano, Laura Devick and Debby Dunlap! New retirees were sent an invite to the June luncheon and have been resent 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 8th.

Sharon Pagoria and Dorothy Simmons, KRTA Membership Team

Welcome new  
members

Kay Ariana  
275 Hankes Road  
Aurora, IL

Laura Devick  
10801 West Helmar  
Newark, IL



**E-MAILS:** I am happy to state that we currently have 148 E-mail members. If you would like to join us, please let me know. This is especially handy for people who travel. 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 \$105 to be used for school supplies for clients of Kendall County Community Food Pantry. With that money, I was able to purchase \$122 worth of pencils and pencil boxes—which the food pantry needed. Kendall County Community Food Pantry expects to supply over 600 students with school supplies this year.

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.

I would also like to thank you for your thoughtfulness in February. We collected \$115 for CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates. They do very necessary work for children in the court system.

As always, thank for your always generous giving.

Alimae Persons, Community Participation



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

OPENING BALANCE – 6/25/2022 \$5,491.80

RECEIPTS

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$110.00  
 TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS \$5,601.80

EXPENSES	Jim Hissong expenses	\$676.00
	Plano Grant	\$300.00
	Yorkville HS Grant	\$300.00
	Newsletter	\$101.75
	IRTA Legal Fund	\$48.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,324.00  
 RECONCILED BALANCE – 8/20/2022 \$4,142.74

Kyle Price, Treasurer



**LEGISLATIVE**

BIG Election on November 8

So, is the most important race on Nov. 8--the one that involves incumbent Gov. JB Pritzker vs. challenger Darren Bailey; or is it incumbent US Representative Lauren Underwood vs. Scott Gryder ?

These are all big contests; but, as far as I am concerned, they are not #1

At my age (80), the most important thing in my life right now is protecting my pension. To me, the most important races on the ballot will be those to elect **new judges to the Illinois Supreme Court.**

Right now, there are two seats up for grabs in November with control of the Supreme Court hanging in the balance. Those seats are located in the newly redrawn **2nd District (including Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and DeKalb counties)** -- that's most of us -- and the 3rd District consisting of DuPage, Will, Kankakee, Iroquois, Grundy, LaSalle, and Bureau counties -- that's some of us.

Right now, Democrats on the bench outnumber Republicans 4-3 and yes you must declare a political affiliation to run for Supreme Court justice.

FYI, there are seven justices on the Illinois Supreme Court. Three are elected at large from the 1st District which comprises Cook County. The other four are elected (one each) from districts around the state. They are not lifetime justices. They serve 10-year terms.

The General Election candidates for the Illinois Supreme Court in the 2nd District are Elizabeth Rochford (D) vs. Mark Curran (R); and, for the 3rd District the candidates are Mary O'Brien (D) against incumbent Michael Burke (R). The Illinois Retired Teacher's Association (IRTA) has not yet made an endorsement of any candidates. You will be updated once this occurs.

Why are these races so important to us? The past Courts have repeatedly supported the state's constitutional pension protection clause to reject attempts to cut or eliminate teacher pension benefits. The teachers lost two important supporters of the protection clause in Justice Rita (Bell) Garman, who recently retired, and Justice Tom Kilbride who was defeated in a retention election in 2020. One IL Justice, Mary Jane Theis, is up for a retention vote this November.

With the **U.S. Supreme Court** increasingly overturning federal laws or previous decisions on major issues like voting rights, abortion, gun laws, etc., it seems likely that **Illinois' top court** will have an increased role in these areas.

This may sound a little complicated, but you will be receiving more information from me and/or Janet Reardon as the election grows closer.

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
- Madeline Mead 10/11
- Susan (Reed) Ahuja 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
- Truby Szewczyk 11/25
- Jean McBride 11/29
- Nancy Reynolds 11/30
- Debby Dunlap 11/30

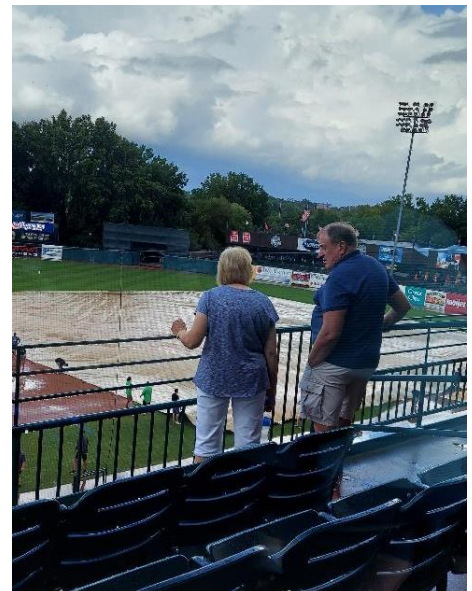
**DECEMBER**

- Pat Lofthouse 12
- Susan Schindel 12/3
- Don Snyder 12/5
- Barb McCoy 12/11
- Theda McMinn 12/13
- Diane Gerner 12/18
- JoAnn Beane 12/19
- Alimae Persons 12/23
- Carol Hayner 12/23
- Judy Gilmour 12/26



So far, 99 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.

For several years KRTA has enjoyed watching a Cougars game from a skybox. This year the members and guests enjoyed the game, skybox, food, and more entertainment watching the tarp get put down when the rains came.



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

*“Merry, Merry Chicago!”*

*Wednesday, December 21, 2022-3:00 P.M.*

*Symphony Hall – Chicago, Il.*

*Cost: \$110 P.P. with a deadline of Oct. 8*

*Includes: Charter bus, Main floor Center seat, & refreshments on the bus.*

*Bus leaves J.C. Penney parking lot in Montgomery @ 1:00 P.M. & drops us off at the door.*

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

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

*Phone*\_\_\_\_\_

*# of tickets @ \$110*\_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please include who you would like to be seated with.*

*We will be getting hard (not mobile) tickets!*

*Masks will be required (That may change)*

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

*You may bring this form to our Sept. 8 meeting or:*

*Mail to:*

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

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Every year for over 10 years KRTA has enjoyed a day excursion to see the Lovable Cubbies play baseball. Our president, Jim Hissong, has generously taken care of all of the logistics to make this happen. Here are some pictures of the last trip.



Ready and waiting for our adventure to begin



We have arrived



Our fearless leader taking care of business. His assistant is always there to help.



Our legislative leader ready for the game to begin.



Batter Up  
Let the fun begin



Fun with the Mascot.