

LCRTA

Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Semi-annual Newsletter. Jim Benton, Editor. Volume 42 Issue 1 Spring 2019
Jim Benton, 461 Rockland Avenue, Lake Bluff, IL 60044 (jamesbetybenton@gmail.com) (847) 234-5279.

“At the crossroads of information
and involvement for retired teachers.”



Involvement Issue

Note: This important 2018 informational issue was created by Jim Benton, and recycled/updated for this Spring 2019 issue as he is recovering from surgery. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery!



Inside this spring newsletter are many opportunities to serve not only the IR-

TA and the LCRTA, but to make monetary contributions and to renew membership. Both make a significant difference to the continued influence and power that we as organized retired educators have—not just in Lake County (LCRTA), but also throughout the state (IRTA—**Illinois Retired Teachers Association**).

You'll read about why membership is so vitally important to maintain the influence we all have with lawmakers in Springfield.

Where your money goes and what the dollars are used for is well-explained. I can think of no better way to secure your future financial security than to support **both** state (IRTA) and local (LCRTA) organizations!

So peruse the contents of this issue carefully for groups that depend on your support to continue the work of protecting your pensions. Read on.

Jim Benton, Editor

Important Notice:

Wear it with pride!

The LCRTA meets on the second Tuesday of every month (except January and the **October 8th luncheon is at Dover Straits**). Lambs Farm is the place; the time is 11:45 am; the cost is \$16.00 for the buffet luncheon; and for those who want a noon-time bracer there is a cash bar. No reservations are required, and **we encourage you to bring a friend (retired teacher?)** and meet *new* friends. The programs are interesting and varied; . Plan to attend. Thank you!

2019 Luncheon Programs for the LCRTA

January 8: No meeting.

February 12: Jeff Harold—*Photo Editing* (Cancelled)

March 12: Sarah Moskowitz—*Clean Energy & Saving Money*; Doug Strand, *IRTA's TRS Annuitant Candidate*

April 9: Nicole Stocker—*Our Local Underground Railroad*

May 14: Stella Jones—*Recidivism*

June 11: Pamela Brooks—*Lake County Exchange Club*

July 9: Jim Bachman—*IRTA Executive Director*

August 13: Roger Hampton—*IRTA President*

September 10: Andrea Donovan—*Senior Living Myths*

October 8: Luncheon at Dover Straits. Entertainment: Bob Dawson as *Teddy Roosevelt*

November 12: David & Denise Bradstreet—*Tunnels to Towers*

December 10: TBA

I'm pretty sure everyone can sing along to this song **Pete Seeger** wrote in the late 1950s, the lyrics coming from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, and later immortalized by **The Byrds**, in 1965:



*To everything (turn, turn, turn),
There is a season (turn, turn, turn),
And a time to every purpose, under heaven.*



- ◆ It is definitely **a time to welcome 2019**, but definitely **a time to welcome a new season! Spring**, please come quickly as possible! (Please note that if there ever is another **time a Membership Meeting must be cancelled**, please go to our website: www.lcrta.org)!
- ◆ It was **time to change our LCRTA website** (from lcrta.com) as we thank our new Webmaster, *Dave Miller*, for its new looks. Please check it out at our **new address** www.lcrta.org! It is always being updated for all of our LCRTA news!
- ◆ If you are **NOT a member of IRTA**, it is **time** for you to invest \$2.50 monthly from your pension to be a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. They are fighting for us! Keep up with important information (www.irtaonline.org) on their **new website** as well as many discounts and travel opportunities!
- ◆ If you have not been to a **LCRTA luncheon** (ever, or in a long time), it is **time** for you to **join us!** The buffet is delicious, it's informative, and it's FUN! We have **wonderful Board Members** and a lot going for us, but we also **need you there!**
- ◆ If you know of persons who could take advantage of IRTA Foundation's benefits, it is **time** to let them know of the following by going to www.irtaonline.org (Foundation) for further information. (If you would like to make a contribution to Foundation, send a check to LCRTA, P.O. Box 8107, Gurnee, IL 60031. Mark the memo line on your check "IRTA Foundation.")
 - **The Past** - Financial assistance to retired educators
 - **The Present** - \$36,500 in grant money (up to \$750.00) to public educators for special projects.
 - **The Future** - Six Area \$1,500 scholarships to incoming juniors or seniors **in college** that are pursuing a *degree in education*.
- ◆ If you know of a **Lake County senior in high school who will be pursuing a degree in education**, it is **time** to let them know that it is **time** for them to apply for our **LCRTA's \$1,500 scholarship!** (If you would like to make a contribution to the LCRTA Scholarship Fund, send a check to LCRTA, P.O. Box 8107, Gurnee, IL 60031. Mark the memo line on your check "IRTA Foundation.")

In closing, **may 2019 be good to you**, and quoting my favorite Ecclesiastes verse ~

"A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance!"



Wendy Wieggers, President LCRTA

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN IRTA

1. Serves as a “watchdog” on the state legislature and monitors the progress, or lack of, on those bills that directly affect retired teachers by defending pension and healthcare protection via its lobbying efforts, and advocating for retirees.
2. Represented in the General Assembly by the Executive Director and a lobbyist.
3. Offers a wide range of member benefits by providing group rate dental and vision insurance among other benefits, and providing travel and entertainment options for its members.
4. Makes available the services and vast resources of the IRTA office in Springfield: research, data, statistics, and information.
5. Keeps members topically informed through the IRTA’s Action Bulletin.
6. Offers financial assistance through the IRTA Foundation.
7. Allows access to a password-protected website (www.irtaonline.org).
8. Puts members in direct contact with other retired teachers through the 93 local Units throughout the state of Illinois.
9. Keeps members up-to-date and well-informed through its website: www.irtaonline.org
10. Allows for instantaneous messaging to your legislators on issues that affect teachers through the use of Voter Voice.



In 1985, after identifying a large number of former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and inflation, the IRTA established the IRTA Foundation, Inc., the initial purpose being to create an endowment providing assistance to retired educators. Since that time, **Foundation supports the following from the past, present, and the future** (Wendy Wieggers is Area 2’s Foundation representative):

1. Continues to provide **financial assistance to retired educators** who are living in times of acute financial stress. **If you or anyone you know is having difficulties meeting financial obligations**, please submit a financial assistance form to IRTAF, 828 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62704, for consideration. All information is *confidential*.
2. Makes **\$36,500 in grant money** available statewide in Illinois to provide special funds (up to \$750) to **public school educators** (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money over the summer. Grant awards will be presented in the fall. **All proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2019.**
3. **Awards six** (one from each Area) **\$1,500 scholarships** to incoming juniors or seniors **in college** that are pursuing a *degree in education*. **All applications must be submitted by March 7, 2019.**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

IRTA Mailing Address:
828 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62702
Email: www.irta@irtaonline.org
Phone: 1 (800) 728-4782.

TRS (Teachers’ Retirement System):
P.O. Box 19253, Springfield, IL 62702-9253
Email: www.members@trs.illinois.gov.
Website: www.trs.state.il.us.
Phone: 1 (800) 877-7896



Olson Elementary School in Woodstock has been awarded a \$665 grant from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation to buy a digital camera to help students in science, technology, engineering, arts and math classes tell their stories. There were 368 grant requests this year, and 75 were funded for a total of \$36,500.

2019-2020 STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICTS FOR LAKE COUNTY:

Dist. 26: Dan McConchie (R)
325 N. Rand Rd. Suite B
Barrington, IL 60010
(224) 622-4544

309 H State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8010
senatormcconchie.com



Dist. 29: Julie Morrison (D)
700 Osterman Ave. Suite 3
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 945-5200

M115 State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-3650
www.SenatorJulieMorrison.com



Dist 30: Terry Link (D)
100 S. Greenleaf.
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 623-3006

321 State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8181
senator@link30.org



Dist. 31: Melinda Bush (D)
10 North Lake Street Suite 112
Grayslake, IL 60030
(847) 548-5631

121C State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-7353
melinda@senatormelindabush.com



Dist. 32: Craig Wilcox (R)
5400 W. Elm St. Suite 103
McHenry, IL 60050
(815) 455-6330

105D State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8000
pamela@pamelaalthoff.net



2019-2020 STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS FOR LAKE COUNTY:

Dist. 51: Mary Edly-Allen (D)
1585 N. Milwaukee Ave. Suite 7
Libertyville, IL 60048
(224) 206-7647

235-E Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-3696
repedlyallen@gmail.com



Dist. 52: Dave McSweeney (R)
PO Box 3701
Barrington, IL 60011-3701
(847) 516-0052

226-N Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1517
www.mcsweeney@ilhousegop.org



Dist. 58: Bob Morgan (D)
425 Sheridan Rd.
Highwood, IL 60040
(847) 681-8580

280-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0902
Info@repbobmorgan.com



Dist. 59: Daniel Didech (D)
3050 N. Main St.
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
(847) 478-9909

266-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0499
Info@repdidech.com



Dist 60: Rita Mayfield (D)
120 S. Genesee St.
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 599-2800

243-E Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 558-1012
60thdistrict@gmail.com



Dist. 61: Joyce Mason
36100 Brookside Dr., Suite LL60
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 855-8600

247-E Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8151
Info@repjoycemason.com



Dist. 62: Sam Yingling (D)
1919 IL Route 83 Suite 1
Round Lake Beach, IL 60073
(847) 231-6262

259-S. Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1664
repsamyngling@gmail.com



Dist. 64: Tom Weber (R)
74 E. Grand Ave.
Fox Lake, IL 60020
(847) 629-5439

232-N Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1664
weber@ilhousegop.net



Meet your LCRTA Board Members for 2018-19



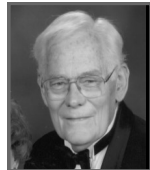
Wendy Wiegers: President
IRTA Area II Foundation Board; Retired in 2008 from Little Fort Elementary, Waukegan Vocal Music



Connie Reidel: Scholarships
Retired in 2001 from Zion-Benton High School Mathematics



Bob Kohler: Vice President and NW Council chair; Retired in 2007 from Grant High School where he was a Guidance Counselor



Jim Benton: Health/wellness & Publications
Retired in 1994 from Lake Forest High School Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science



Cathy Dier: Assoc. Vice President, Program Chair, Retired in 1999 from Lincoln Middle School, Dist. 81 U.S. History and Government



Linda Davis: Hospitality Co-chair
Retired in 2010 from Novak-King School, North Chicago Language Arts



Debby Lawson: Secretary
Retired in 2012 from Forrestal School, North Chicago Third Grade



Hillary Sylvester: Hospitality Co-chair
Retired in 2013 Novak-King School and N. Chicago H.S. Sixth grade



Ray Reidel: Treasurer
Retired in 1994 from Grayslake High School Business Education



Allan Meyer: Publicity & Public Relations
Retired in 1994 from District 75 Mundelein Art



Marti Swanson: Legislative
Retired in 1992 from Grant H. S. in Ingleside English



Betty Carbol: SE Council co-chair
Retired in 1998 from Crow Island School in Winnetka Art K-5



Dave Dier: Data Base Manager
Retired in 2003 from Wauconda High School Physical Science; Chr. of Science Dept.



Dee Cavanaugh: Membership
Retired in 1994 from Deerfield Elementary (Dist. 109) First Grade



John Anderson: Immediate Past Pres.
Retired in 2003 from Mundelein H. S.: Social Studies, Speech, and Alternative Education



Dave Miller, Web Site Manager
Retired in 2002 from Lake Forest High School Spanish and Telecom Director

NEWS AND NOTICES

1. **LCRTA 2019 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP (Deadline: May 1, 2019)**

One scholarship of \$1500 will be awarded in the spring to a **Lake County high school senior** to recognize ability and achievement, contribution to the community, and a **desire to pursue a career in education**. The money will be given after completion of one semester of college education. Send your contribution check to **LCRTA, P.O. Box 8107, Gurnee, IL 60031**. Mark the memo line on your check "LCRTA Scholarship." Please see our website for more information and an application form at www.lcrtta.org

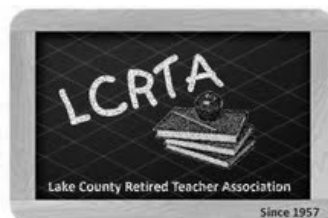
2. If you have any changes in your address, e-mail, or phone number, please contact **Dave Dier** at (847) 526-5599 or his e-mail at dier@writeme.com. **There will be a new Directory printed in the spring of 2019**, so if you have any up-dates or changes, *please* let Dave know about them Thanks.

3. **Organizations depend on the three "M's" for their existence: "Membership, Money, and Momentum."**

- **Membership**: No organization can exist without a body of dedicated members who can be relied upon to carry out the mission and business of the group. Maintaining a minimum "base" membership, therefore, is a prerequisite for maintaining the group's health and continued influence. As older members either expire or relocate, the task, therefore, is to recruit new blood from the ranks of newly retired teachers—a task that is particularly difficult because **lists of retiring teachers are jealously guarded hence difficult to come by**.
- **Money**: Obviously dues are charged to support the organization for postage, speakers' fees, scholarships, awards, prizes, printing costs, etc.
- **Momentum**: It's probably a factor in most organizations that as the business of the group is "settled in" and running smoothly (momentum), complacency creeps in, and the high-level of productivity inevitably begins to taper off. The membership leaders need to encourage members for their efforts and contributions—and continue to seek new idea and approaches.

4. This past February 1st (2019), when all of us over 61 got a compounded 3% increase from TRS, let's **remember that it was your IRTA that brought the lawsuit that made that possible: Doris Heaton v. Pat Quinn: "Crisis is no excuse to violate the Constitution."** The IRTA's own Doris Heaton and Pamela Keller were plaintiffs in this challenge to Senate Bill 1 which would have reduced automatic annuity increases (AAls), placed caps on pensionable salaries, increased the retirement age, and made other changes that diminished pensions. **The Court unanimously ruled that Senate Bill 1 was unconstitutional!**

5. Become involved! Elections for officers (President, Vice President, Associate Vice President, and Secretary) for 2020 will be at the Fall Luncheon, October 8th. If you would like to be on the nominating committee or run for an office, please let Wendy Wieggers know. The slate will be announced in the Fall Newsletter and at the September 10th Membership Meeting.



Deaths: (April 2018 to August 2018)

Shirley Aiken; Lake Forest; July 2018
Arlene Coulson; Lisle; July 2018
Florence Dulak; Grayslake; July 2018
Jane Falls; Red Wing, MN; April 2018
Angela Hutten; Waukegan; July 2018
Ray Knudson; Salem, WI; April 2018
Sharon Luomala; Waukegan; May 2018
Robert Nimits; Waukegan; July 2018
S. Robert Serdar Waukegan/Fruitland
Park, FL; Aug 2018
Audrey Zetterberg; Libertyville; July 2018

ATTENTION!

If there is a change in your E-mail address, or if you now have one for the first time, please contact our data base manager as soon as possible at: **dier@writeme.com**
Thank you.

IRTAPAC

The IRTA's most important objective is *fighting for the rights of our members*. We do this by working to elect legislators in Springfield who understand the importance of retired educators' pension and health insurance benefits; the continued need to fully fund the pension system, and to provide support for retired educators' health insurance.

LCRTA Membership Form (or a Renewal)*

In the Lake County Retired Teachers Association for the calendar year 2018 (**please print all information**)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Year Retired _____ from District Number _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Active Membership per year: \$20.00 or Life \$150 _____

Associate Membership Per Year \$20 or Life \$75 _____

(Assoc. memberships are for spouses of members only.)

Send check and this form to:

LCRTA, P.O. Box 8107 Gurnee, IL 60031

Any questions? Dee Cavenaugh, Membership chair,

TNR0802@aol.com or (847) 541-1903



AREA 2 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Monday, June 3rd, 8:30-2:00

Chandler's Wedding & Special Events
Schaumburg Golf Course (401 N. Roselle Rd.,
60194)

Includes a Continental Breakfast, Family Style
lunch all for \$20.00!



IRTAPAC CONVENTION

Our Light, Our House, Our Shield

October 14-15

Crowne Plaza, Springfield

Come be an LCRTA Delegate! It's Fun and Educational!

LCRTA pays for your Registration (after the Convention) and mileage (if 3 or more are in a car).

What Would You

**Buy
With an Extra**

\$10,000?



The **IRTAPAC Foundation** is raffling one incredible prize during the 2019 Biennial Convention. Tickets may be purchased **online** or at the **convention**. The drawing will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on October 15, 2019. **The winner does not need to be present to win.** Raffle tickets are \$20 for one, or three for \$50. **There will also be a silent auction of donated baskets for IRTAPAC (Political Action Committee).**

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P.O. Box 8107
Gurnee, IL 60031



**Suffering from Benefits
Deficiency Syndrome?**



If you've taken advantage of only a few of the benefits available to you from **IRTA** and **Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)**, you may have **Benefits Deficiency Syndrome (BDS)**!

THE CURE?

COMPLETE YOUR INSURANCE PORTFOLIO.

Consider enrolling in the additional benefits you're missing, such as:

- Medical Transportation Services
- Short Term Care/Home Healthcare Insurance
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Critical Illness Coverage (Cancer/Heart/Stroke)
- Life Insurance
- Annuity Insurance

***If the color of the address label on this newsletter is yellow, then you need to renew your membership in the LCRTA.**