

# MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



[www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) | [www.mcirta.org](http://www.mcirta.org)

### 2018/19 Meetings

4/18 CLCC  
Senior Services Associates

5/16 MCC  
Richard Frankenfeld

6/20 D'Andrea's  
Laurel Mellien  
Tombstones-McHenry Cty

9/19 CLC  
10/17 D'Andrea's  
11/14 CLCC  
12/19 MCC

Programs subject to change  
Meeting begins at 11:45 am  
Lunch begins at Noon  
Reservations due one week  
prior to meeting

### April Menu

Garden Salad  
Pork Loin  
Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetable  
Ice Cream

## President's Message

*Stephen Polep*

My tax accountant did my taxes and told me I needed to make estimated payments every three months to meet my next year's estimated federal taxes. I asked her why this was necessary since there is this big tax reduction the president told me about. She responded that many deductions are gone and the change in standard deductions does not cover the difference.

Members saw an increase in their checks in February, but will get hit with taxes next April that withholding will not cover. Put some money away to cover this.

The tax break did not help members. It was for corporations. When a congress member, running for office, tells you "vote for me, I got you a tax break", they are wrong.

Remember, every member needs to vote and vote for our best interests. Vote the issues and not party. Vote to protect our earned benefits.

## April Guest

*Jude La Francis*

Senior Services Associates

If you know any members who are ill or have passed away, please let Jude know so she can send cards to them or their family. Her email is [jude.la@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jude.la@sbcglobal.net)



# Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

We currently have **720 LIFE members of MCRTA and 371 ANNUAL members** for a total of **1091 MCRTA members**.

The list of people on the last page of this newsletter have been MCRTA members in recent years but have let their dues lapse. If you happen to know one of these retirees, perhaps you could invite them to join again or to attend one of our meetings. Let them know about the wonderful programs we have and about all the good things that our group does locally: We support the youth in our county by providing school supplies to needy students; we contribute to Salvation Army's backpack program; we give thousands of dollars to college freshmen through our scholarship program; and we provide grants to teachers in McHenry County.

***We make a positive impact upon education and the young people of our county, and we provide the membership with informative programs and the chance to socialize with colleagues.***

Questions? Email Marlene at [membership@mcrt.org](mailto:membership@mcrt.org) or call her at **815.385.5764**.

### DEATHS:

Marlene Brodhay, McHenry

## TODAY'S GRACE

Bless our friends  
Bless our food  
Come O Lord and  
Bless Us.  
May our talk glow with peace,  
Bring your love to surround  
us.  
Friendship and Peace  
May they bloom and glow,  
bloom and grow forever.  
Bless our friends  
Bless our food  
Bless our dear land forever.

## Need to Cancel?

If you cannot show the day of the meeting, call Steve Polep on his cell at 847-772-4162 and leave a message or text—even at the last minute. We do need you to pay for your meal if you do not cancel in time as the unit has to pay the

**Reach us at:  
PO Box 1776  
Crystal Lake, IL 60039**  
  
**[membership@mcrt.org](mailto:membership@mcrt.org)  
[newsletter@mcrt.org](mailto:newsletter@mcrt.org)**



## Scholarship News

*Mary Noe*

The scholarship selection committee met and evaluated 21 outstanding applications from 11 of the 14 McHenry County public high schools. Awards will be announced at high school honors events beginning this month. A big thank you goes out to this year's committee members: Jan Fredrickson, Jane Gritmacker, Peggy Hart, and April Shouse. Your volunteer hours were much appreciated.

## Member Benefits

*Rose Turk*

Do you have any future plans for traveling abroad...anywhere in the world? IRTA members are offered discounts when a vacation is booked through Globus Vacations. To book your next vacation with Globus (Cosmos, Monogram, or Avalon Waterways) contact them at the telephone number available on the IRTA website. Mention that you are a member of IRTA to receive a bonus discount. (This discount is sent after travel.)

Take a look at what vacations Globus offers. There are more than 65 countries across six continents to see and explore with different kinds of vacations options. Do you want to tour somewhere in South America, North America or Europe? Check out the tours that Globus or Cosmos have. With Globus you will be touring first class. If you want more affordable touring, choose vacations with Cosmos. Did you ever want to cruise the Rhine or the Danube or the Irrawaddy? See what river cruises Avalon Waterways offer. If you want a custom-made vacation package anywhere in the world, just contact a vacation stylist from Monograms and tell them what you plan to do. They will be there to help you set up a trip with your specific likes, interests, and travel styles.

To see what Globus offers go to the IRTA website ([irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)) and login. Go to **Available Informative Benefits** and find Globus Vacations. Click on it and it will take you to the description of Globus. Here there is a phone number to call or a link that goes directly to the Globus website. Check out the website by clicking on their link at "Click on this". On the website it asks where you live. Answer it and this takes you to all of these travel companies where you will find all the trips each one offers. Explore all of them to find which tour fits you the best. Enjoy and Bon Voyage!

# Globus Information

Greg Poniewaz

## **Always dreamed of River Cruising? Avalon Promos are still available for 2018 and 2019!**

As we turn the corner from winter into early spring, interested IRTA travelers have asked me if there are still deals available for taking an Avalon European River Cruise in 2018. The answer is YES - especially if you have some flexibility for traveling at off-peak times.

There are still promotions available between \$250 - \$1,000 pp off our most popular 7-9 night river cruises. Experience the history of **Paris to Normandy**, the beauty of **The Romantic Rhine**, or the majesty of our new **Active Discovery on the Danube**, which features multiple choices of included tours each day.

Only a limited number of cabins are available so you should inquire soon if you are interested.

If you are already starting to look at cruises for 2019, it's never too early to book a cabin. Our best promotions are now available for ALL cruises, so find the perfect cruise with a departure date you want at a great price!

**Avalon Waterways** offers the best in river cruising travel. We have one of the youngest fleets in the industry, smaller ships (128 - 166 passengers), some of the largest cabins, and our unique panoramic windows. Avalon Waterways is honored to be selected time and time again for Best River Cruise, Best Cruise Ship, Best Cabins and other awards from Cruise Critic and other national periodicals.

All meals aboard the ship are included: a breakfast buffet with egg stations, lunches featuring carving stations, and incredible 4 course ala carte dinners each evening. Beer and wine are also included with lunch and dinner.

Touring is included in almost every port city we visit. Starting in 2019, we will begin offering multiple included tours in each port. Choose the tour that best fits your needs each day!

If you are interested in traveling with Globus, COSMOS, or Avalon Waterways, you can call the IRTA travel line at **(844) 877-7178** and speak to a representative. Mention that you are with the IRTA. In addition to the great promotions still be offered for 2018 trips, **you can earn an extra 5% by mentioning that you are an IRTA member. But you must call the number listed above.**

The emphasis is on individual travel - go where you want and when you want. It's that easy. No strings. And you earn an extra 5% discount for being an IRTA member. The extra 5% is applied after all other discounts and will be sent to you from the IRTA after you travel.

If you have a group of 8 or more that would like to travel together, please contact me directly to secure additional discounts at [gponiewaz@globusfamily.com](mailto:gponiewaz@globusfamily.com) or 314-852-2447.

# Legislative Report

*Norb Wolter*

Legislation supported by the IRTA:

- House Bill 3080 - allows retirees to teach up to 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in a school year, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom. This would sunset on June 30, 2019.
- House bill 4518 - allows retirees to return to work in subject shortage areas. This would extend the sunset date to June 30, 2019.
- House Bill 4738 - allows an Illinois tax deduction for Illinois-licensed teachers for supplies purchased with their own funds for their classroom and the deduction is exempt from the automatic sunset provision.
- House Bill 5137 - allows TRS to offer a 403B type benefit to those that wish to participate.
- House Resolution - states the proposed educational pension cost shift from the State of Illinois to local school districts, community colleges, and institutions of higher education is financially wrong.
- Senate Bill 2236 - provides that no tax credits may be awarded to donors to private schools until the minimum State funding level is met to public schools.
- Senate Bill 3045 - July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020 increases the amount of employment as a teacher that a retired teacher may perform. Allows 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in a school year, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom.
- Senate Bill 3046 - allows TRS benefit participants and dependents to opt in and out of TRIP and TRAIL only during the annual open enrollment period.
- Senate Resolution 113 - the Illinois Income Tax Act should not be amended to permit taxing retirement income.

Legislation opposed by the IRTA:

- House Bill 5674 - each Pension System shall establish and post on its website a searchable database of the names of all persons receiving an annuity and the amount of the annuity.
- Senate Bill 2517 - transfers the pension cost associated with any future pay increases for teachers to local school districts.

## IRTA News

- IRTA is organizing two group travel activities for members, family and friends of the Association in 2018 and January 2019.
- Join IRTA members this October on a Tour of Portugal.
- or in January 2018 join members on a Caribbean cruise on the Celebrity Equinox.
- Prices are per person with double occupancy. Group rates and incentives are limited so please check this out quickly by checking the IRTA website.

**The following people have been MCRTA members in recent years but have let their dues lapse. If you happen to know one of these retirees, perhaps you could invite them to join again or to attend one of**

Sandra Anderson, McHenry  
 Joe Bauer, Cary  
 Amy Bernardi-Connell, Crystal Lake  
 Jennifer Bornekomosa, Crystal Lake  
 Carol Lou Bruhn, Cary  
 Carol Burke, Spring Grove  
 Tom Karl, McHenry  
 Steve Connell, Crystal Lake  
 Dave Ellinger, Crystal Lake  
 Emmett and Nancy Fleming, Inverness  
 Linda Friedrich, Crystal Lake  
 Barbara Gold, Cary  
 Eileen Hazel, Antioch  
 Ellen Jackson, Prairie Grove  
 Ron and Sally Jania, Cary  
 Bruce Kay, Oakwood Hills  
 Pat Kirchherr, Arlington Heights  
 Rosemary Kurtz, Crystal Lake  
 Freida Lamb, Huntley  
 Mimi Leineberg, Crystal Lake  
 Mary Lundvick, Marengo  
 Nancy McGuire, Crystal Lake  
 Mary Ellen Moerke, Huntley  
 Melanie Porter, Crystal Lake  
 Kathy Rickard, Crystal Lake  
 Sue Schuerr, Fox River Grove  
 Kathleen Smith, Ingleside  
 Patrick Stephan, McHenry  
 Kathryn Sullivan, Crystal Lake  
 Alice Weyrough, Twin Lakes  
 Kathleen Young, Cary  
 Patricia Young, Cary

Don Baassler, Crystal Lake  
 Charlotte Baxter, Woodstock  
 Julie Birmingham, McHenry  
 Diane and Robert Borucki, Lakewood  
 Connie Bunting, McHenry  
 Val Carby, McHenry  
 Alfred Cocks, Woodstock  
 Alison Easler, Crystal Lake  
 Deborah Farley, Cary  
 Susanne Frey, Crystal Lake  
 Mary Gaylord-Sleezer, McHenry  
 Paul Hain, Spring Grove  
 Janet Hyser, Crystal Lake  
 Kathy James, Cary  
 Sue Kaczmarek, Crystal Lake  
 Geoff King, LITH  
 Larry Krengel, Marengo  
 John Lagerhausen, Harvard  
 Jeannette Lee-Semmler  
 Mary Lippert, Cary  
 Elaine McFee, Crystal Lake  
 Betty Miller, Union  
 Cheryl Nix, Lakewood  
 Linda Pribla, Huntley  
 Rosemary Schneider, McHenry  
 John Senkerik, Hebron  
 Jim Spannagel, Arlington Heights  
 Linda Stoeger, Crystal Lake  
 Janey Walters, Cary  
 Violet Williams, Huntley  
 Sandra Young, Crystal Lake  
 Cynthia Zimmerman, Lakewood