

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2017/18 Meetings

- 12/20 D'Andrea's
Conservation District
County Health Dept
- 3/21 D'Andrea's
Cynthia Schaffer
Mollie's War
- 4/18 CLCC
Ken Madden
Golden Diners
- 5/16 TBA
Richard Frankenfeld
- 6/20 D'Andrea's
Laurel Mellien
Tombstones-McHenry Cty

Programs subject to change
Meeting begins at 11:45 am

December Menu

Chicken Noodle Soup
Braised Beef
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Peppermint Ice Cream

President's Message

Stephen Polep

Merry Christmas.

Thank you for re-electing me as MCRTA President. It is great to serve and keep active. It is also great that the current board is willing to keep working for the members. The current MCRTA board is the best in Illinois. There are still openings for member to join this super group. See me to join the board.

Next year's meetings are being organized and the dates and speakers can soon be found on the website. You can always sign up for a reservation from the website. Look there for news and pictures. www.mcirta.org

December Guest

Jude La Francis

Conservation District
County Health Department

Scholarship News

By Mary Noe

The 2018 MCRTA scholarship applications are now available in our McHenry County public high schools and also on our website: www.mcirta.org. Please spread the word to any seniors interested in going into the education field. Deadline is March 15, 2018



Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Marie Nikitovich, Woodstock – Retired in 2014 from Woodstock D200

Audrey Perk, East Troy, WI – Retired in 2017 from Woodstock D200

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

Do you know a retired educator who does not belong to MCRTA? Consider inviting that person to one of our meetings. **We are a group worth joining.** Although we are all retired, 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 also have a wonderful group of speakers for our lunch meetings this year. **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@mcрта.org or call her at **815.385.5764**.

DEATHS:

Patricia Darci, Crystal Lake
 Patricia Marks, Schaumburg

Reach us at:
PO Box 1776
Crystal Lake, IL 60039

membership@mcрта.org
newsletter@mcрта.org



MEMBER BENEFITS

Rose Turk

Are you interested in having thousands of discounts from local and national merchants right at your fingertips? You might want to look at the newest benefit from AMBA. This benefit is the **Passport Membership**. This benefit for IRTA members is free. You can go **online** or use the **Passport Mobile app** on your smartphone to find many discounts. If you get the app on your phone, you can get discounts anywhere you go.

Go to irtaonline.org and login. Under **Available Informative Benefits** click on **myAMBAdiscounts** or go directly to **myAMBAdiscounts.com**. Then click on the **Register Here**. Enter your email, as directed. The activation code you need to use is **ambasavers**. Continue the process to register for this benefit. On the website you can also sign up for the Passport Mobile Card. Download the Passport Mobile app from the App Store, Google Play Store, or Microsoft Store. You can also opt out of the dining upgrade if you do not want this option. It costs \$7.00 per month to include the Passport Dining benefit.

With your Passport membership you can save money on dining, shopping, entertainment, traveling, and much more anywhere you are. Go to the website and check it out!

Have a wonderful Holiday and a great New Year! See you in March!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Greg Johnson

As you know, the interest that MCRTA earns on CD investments for the scholarship fund has decreased dramatically over time. During the last 6 years as previous CD's have come due, they have been rolled over and reinvested at rates that are significantly lower than the 4+% that existed in the mid-2000s. That interest along with your donations and 50-50 raffle revenue adequately supported the scholarship fund in the past.

Unfortunately, the cash balance in the fund is decreasing and has not been able to maintain the status quo or better. A boost to the fund balance is needed. To remain solvent at the current level of expenditures for MCRTA scholarships, an infusion of cash is required. YOU can help by considering a year-end gift, by increasing your support of the 50-50 raffle and by purchasing products for sale featuring the MCRTA-commissioned artwork. YOU can make a difference and help sustain a quality scholarship program. Thank you and have a Blessed Holiday.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Norb Wolter



Once again we are preparing for some very important elections in Illinois. Not only will area legislative seats be filled this fall, but the Governor's race will be very hotly contested this time around.

Knowing that many of our members will be heading south over the winter months, I have attached a calendar of pertinent dates for the Primary scheduled for March 20.

Primary Election Calendar - 2018

- 12/20/2017 First day to make application by mail or in person for an official Primary ballot if you will be absent for the election. Official ballots will be mailed on Feb. 8.
- 2/8/2018 First day for early voting at the office of the election authority or at temporary locations.
- 3/19/2018 Last day for early voting.
- 3/20/2018 Primary Election

Did You Order Notecards?

Don't forget to pick up your notecards or 8x10 reproduction of the commissioned painting that MCRTA is selling. Packets of 5 notecards with envelopes are \$5.00. A 8x10 copy suitable for framing is also \$5.00.

Volunteer Needed

MCRTA would like a volunteer to photocopy the monthly newsletter. The work is done at the County Office of Education at the McHenry County Government complex on Rt. 47 in Woodstock. The job entails someone to run the photocopy machine and reproduce 100 - 150 copies of the newsletter. Please see Steve Polep or Kathy Speaker if interested.