

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2019/20 Meetings

D'Andrea's

April, June,
September, November

MCC

May, December

McHenry Country Club

March, October

Upcoming Programs:

**Dec: Rich Frankenfeld—
TRS**

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

December Menu

- Salad/Dressing
- Pork and Gravy
- Stuffing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Sauerkraut
- Vegetables
- Rolls and Butter
- Beverages

President's Message

Stephen Polep

Here are the unit meeting dates for next year:

- March 18, 2020
- April 22, 2020
- May 20, 2020
- June 17, 2020
- September 16, 2020
- October 21, 2020
- November 18, 2020
- December 16, 2020

Programs are being planned and when they are all confirmed, you will get an email update. You can also keep updated on the MCRTA website (www.mcirta.org). Have a happy holiday season and get ready for next year's events.

December Guest

Jude La Francis

Rich Frankenfeld—TRS



Membership

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

As another year comes to an end and we take a winter break, I would like to thank the members of MCRTA for paying their dues, for encouraging non-members to join us, for attending our lunch meetings, for supporting IRTA, and for making our local branch of IRTA one of the largest and most active branches in the State of Illinois. I enjoy volunteering for MCRTA because our members are such a wonderful, attentive, and generous group of people. I also enjoy working with my fellow board members. Each one works diligently and cooperatively for our organization, and we have an exceptionally tireless and dynamic president in Steve Polep. **Many thanks to all of you and best wishes for health and happiness in 2020.**

Questions? Email Marlene at marlenegriffith@icloud.com. You can also call or text her at **815-385-3533**.

DEATHS:

Ed Chinn of Sun City, AZ; taught in D47; retired 1985

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 venue. Thank you.

Thank You from Mary Noe, MCRTA Scholarship Chair

Thank you to the McHenry County Retired Teachers Association Board and members for recognizing me as the MCRTA Retired Teacher of the Year 2019. I was truly appreciative and humbled by the recognition of our efforts for the scholarships of future teachers. It is so important to encourage excellent future educators through financial assistance. I also want to thank Vice President Linda Young for her tribute and Peggy Hart for her lovely article.



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

Member Benefits

Rose Turk

Are you looking for Dental and/or Vision Insurance for you and/or your family? You can purchase each insurance separately or together.

The dental plan for IRTA is covered by Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation. Coverage for the dental plan includes:

- Use of the dentist you want or select a dentist within the Ameritas Dental Network and save
- No waiting period
- You can access providers nationwide
- Routine cleanings up to three times a year with NO deductible
- Routine oral exams twice a year with NO deductible
- \$100 calendar year deductible per person for Type 2 and Type 3 services
- \$1500 calendar year maximum per person

The price for this coverage for a member is \$63.75 per month, \$127.51 monthly for a member plus 1, and \$160.98 monthly for a family. These rates are guaranteed through February, 2021.

The eye insurance plan emphasizes eye health from independent, private practice VSP eye doctors. Coverage for the VSP plan includes:

- Exam covered in full once every 12 months after a \$15 co-pay
- Prescription glasses obtained after a \$25 co-pay
- Frames covered up to \$150 once every 24 months and lenses fully covered every 12 months
- Contact lenses covered once every 12 months instead of glasses up to the \$150 allowed for frames

The price for this coverage per member is \$11.94 per month, \$20.94 monthly for a member plus 1, and \$26.94 monthly for a family.

To see all the details about the insurance, go to irtaonline.org. At the top of the page click on **Members Only** and log in. Along the left side click on **Membership Benefits**. Then under Available Endorsed Benefits go down to **Dental and Vision Insurance**. Next click where it says, "[Click here to learn more.](#)" It will take you to a page that gives information on both dental and eye insurances. If you want more specific information, call the numbers that are provided on the page. A one time \$20 application fee will apply. See if this is what you need and take advantage of what IRTA can offer you and your family.

Browse around the IRTA website during our "break" to see what other deals are offered to you and your family. Enjoy you winter break and we will see you in March!

Legislative

Norb Wolter

As mentioned at our last meeting, 2020 is a very important election year. The Primary Election will be held on March 17, 2020 and the Illinois State Board of Elections has provided the following information for all voters including some important dates.

12/18/2019 First day to make application by mail or in person for an absentee ballot

2/6/2020 First day for early voting at the office of the local election authority (county clerk)

3/9/2020 Last day to make application for an absentee ballot

3/16/2020 Last day for early voting

3/17/2020 Primary Election

Scholarship

Mary Noe

The McHenry County Retired Teachers Association "Future Educator" Scholarship application for current seniors attending McHenry County public high schools has now been made available for the 2020-2021 school year. The \$1500 MCRTA scholarship will be awarded to McHenry County resident high school seniors to recognize scholastic abilities, community contributions and commitment leading to a degree in education. Applications can be found in scholarship listings in the fourteen McHenry County public high schools or on our website www.mcirta.org Application postmark deadline is March 13, 2020.

Scholarship Information for current college sophomores or juniors going into teaching

The IRTA Foundation Scholarship, available to college sophomores or juniors (resident of Illinois or a graduate of an Illinois High School) is now available for the 2020-2021 school year. Applications are on the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org and located under the Foundation tab. Postmark deadline is March 7, 2020.

Excellence in Education Awards

Peggy Hart

The Excellence in Education Selection committee met recently to choose the recipients of the 2020 awards. Luckily, we were able to fund all seven of the requests. Thanks to Laura Krepel, Judith Peterson, Donna MacKay, and Carol McConnell for their interest and work on this committee.

The following educators will be receiving checks in early January to fund their special projects:

Brooke Matthys, Three Oaks School, Cary

Brooke is a special education teacher who wants to further support her school's commitment to STEM. She requested money to purchase STEM kits for grades K-6 that will support learning for all students in the school. The emphasis will be on designing, building testing, and improving solutions to problems with all students working together learning how to listen to each other, work as a team, and manage their emotions.

Cathy Cartland, Jefferson Elementary, Harvard

Cathy works with 9-11 year-olds and is requesting funds to purchase the complete works of Beatrix Potter in English and Spanish. These books will be used to inspire creative writing centered around the students' interest in the live rabbits that the school uses to expose students to living/loving animals and their environment.

Kecia Griffin, Westwood Elementary, Woodstock

Kecia is the leader of the Chess Club at Westwood which meets 20 times a year and includes over 60 members. She is asking for funds to purchase new chess boards and pieces. The students enjoy competing against other schools in the district and are learning strategic thinking skills and sportsmanship while building relationships and making friends.

Amy Frishman, Briargate Elementary, Cary

Amy is a Technology Innovative Coach, working with students in grades K-5. She will use her money to purchase Specdrums for the music teacher to use in the music enrichment groups and for the computer lab teacher. Specdrums are app-enabled rings that turn colors into music with a simple tap. Students can create music anytime, anywhere, making the world an instrument.

Scott Becker, Dean Street Elementary, Woodstock

Scott works with 3rd-5th grade special education students. He is planning to use his award to purchase high interest, engaging books to encourage his students to understand that reading is both a social and enjoyable activity. Books will have engaging subject matter, including science, technology, and current events.

Laura Dill, Lundahl Middle School, Crystal Lake

Laura works with grades 6-8 autistic students in a self-contained classroom. She wants to purchase gel floor tiles that help students when they are feeling overstimulated. As students step on the tiles, the gel shifts and changes color, creating a calming space with a unique sensory component that supports students struggling with sensory processing.

Edgar Pereda, Evergreen Academy/McHenry County Safe Schools program, Union

Edgar works with students in grades 6-12 in a small school environment that allows staff members to focus on individual needs. He will use the award to purchase software and other tools that students will use to create their own t-shirt business.