

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcrtta.org

2023 Meetings

April 19

May 17

June 21

September 20

October 18*

November 15

December 13

*Subject to Change

Doors open at 11:15

Meeting begins at 11:45 am

Lunch begins at Noon

Suggestions for future venues or speakers are welcome.

Please contact Beth Miller

millerfam80@sbcglobal.net

Need to Cancel?

If you cannot show the day of the meeting, call Linda Young at 847-209-8047. We do need you to pay for your meal if you do not cancel with one week's notice.

A UNIT OF DISTINCTION

February 2023

Dear Joann Jazak,

Congratulations, the McHenry County RTA Unit is being recognized as a 2022 IRTA "Unit of Distinction." The "Unit of Distinction" Program is a voluntary program based on the honor system that is designed to help guide and direct local unit leaders, as well as recognizing IRTA units that are the best in the state.

Units receiving the "Unit of Distinction" Award will be recognized at the IRTA Biennial Convention, in the IRTA ACTION, e-newsletter, and on the IRTA Website. Your unit will also receive a gift of \$250.

Again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Jim Bachman
IRTA Executive Director



Board Members

Elected Members

President: Joann Jazak
 Vice President: Linda Young
 Board Secretary: April Shouse
 Unit Secretary: Cathy Schiller
 Treasurer: Dick Seaborn

Appointed Members

Membership: Marlene Griffith
 Programs/Venues: Beth Miller
 Scholarship: Mary Noe
 Member Benefits: Rose Turk
 Information: Kathy Speaker
 Legislative: Norb Wolter
 Public Relations: Peggy Hart
 Nominations: Olivia Santarelli
 Constitution: Lois Shartiag
 Finance: Olivia Santarelli
History: Robert Frenz
 Budget: Nancy Tober

**Special Welcome
 to our new Historian:**

Robert Frenz

Reach us at:
PO Box 1776
Crystal Lake, IL 60039
mchenryrta@gmail.com
mcrrta.org

SPELLING BEE HELPERS

The McHenry County Regional Spelling Bee will be held on 3/22/23 at MCC. The McHenry County ROE will be sending the regional winner to the national Scripps spelling bee. The ROE is looking for 2 judges from the retired teacher's association to assist at the event. Please email

dkhartmann@mchenrycountyil.gov if you would like to help with the event. Kathy Speaker helped last year and enjoyed it. You can always contact her if you have any questions as well.
kspeaker@charter.net

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 Regional Superintendent
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ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

JOIN OUR FUN GROUP!

Wouldn't it be nice to have organized trips to fun places? Are you good at planning events? Consider joining our board as our Event Coordinator. Just plan 1 or 2 fun events for the membership outside the regular meetings. Maybe a trip to a zoo, museum, or ball game would be nice. Maybe a longer trip to Branson or Paris! Now there's a dream!

Another suggestion for a board member would be someone to organize volunteer coordinator. This person would coordinate volunteer activities such as collecting food for the food pantries and other various activities in McHenry County



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT-JOANN

As an organization we felt that we wanted to keep in contact with everyone during our winter months when we are not meeting as a group. Some of our board members are vacationing in various states for the winter and others of us are still working from the confines of Illinois. Regardless of where any of us who are on the board are residing in the winter months, we are still working in various aspects to help our organization to become even more successful in the year ahead.

Again if any of you have any questions or concerns you can ask the question through our website, or call a board member. Any of us are happy to get you to the right person to answer your concern. For those of you on the **Trail Insurance-(Aetna Medicare Advantage)** please take the time to set up your portal with this insurance. It is very similar to how we did it with United Healthcare, and many of the insurance questions can be answered on the site.

Also, Aetna Medicare Advantage does endorse the **Silver Sneakers** Program. There are many workout facilities in McHenry County that will accept this program. It is very easy to enroll and worth the time to ask your facility if they are a part of this program. The Silver Sneakers cost you nothing per month for the membership.

Please take a look at **2023 IRTA Foundation Grant** information that is attached. All of us know either relatives, or friends that are active teachers. Let us **REACH OUT** to individuals and let them know that this is available. It would be nice if an educator from McHenry County could receive one of these grants. This is another way for the MCRTA organization to help make individuals aware of what we do as well as the IRTA.

On another note, IRTA defends your pension and all of your benefits yearly. All of us appreciate the annual **3% raise** we receive. Remember to **Reach Out** and encourage someone to join our local organization.

REACH OUT!!!!!!

LOOKING FOR LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

Do you know anyone who may have something of interest to share with our group? Heard any good speakers lately? If so, please let BETH MILLER know so we can ask them to join us for one of our luncheons. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Contact :
Beth Miller

bmillerteach943@gmail.com

IRTA FOUNDATION GRANT

Do you know any active teachers—family members, friends, former colleagues? Do they know about the 2023 IRTA Foundation Grants for active teachers? Please pass this information on as this is an excellent opportunity for current educators to fund that "special" project for their students. Let's get some of this money for McHenry County!



2023 Excellence in Education Grants for Teachers

The IRTA Foundation continues to work toward the future by offering **\$42,000** in grant money to educators.

Being an educator, do you often think of this phrase — Extra Funds Needed — when it comes to planning special projects for your students? You may be finding that revenue sources are not available for such unique activities.

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is making \$42,000 in grant money available to ALL counties in Illinois. This special grant will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects. The funds are not intended to provide regular curricular materials.

Please visit the **IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org** for further instructions. You can download, complete, and submit the application online from the IRTA website. All proposals must be submitted by **June 1, 2023**. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money over the summer. Grant awards will be presented in the fall.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) Office by phone at 1.800.728.4782 or by e-mail at irta@irtaonline.org.

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation, 828 S. Second St., 4th Floor, Springfield, IL 62704

* Chicago Public School employees are not eligible for this grant program.

Printed January 2023

- **\$42,000** is NOW available in Grant Money!

- **Dead-line:**
June 1, 2023

- **Submit your application online Today!**



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

The Excellence in Education awards are given by our local unit and were distributed in early January. We received thank you notes from each of the five winners. Below are two of the responses—Amy Costello, Harrison School in WonderLake, will purchase a classroom set of the novel, *Wonder*, for her 6th graders, and Kathleen Choi, Algonquin Road School in Fox River Grove, will use her award to add musical instruments to the school's music program.

I want to sincerely thank you and the other members of the MCRTA! This is such exciting news! I am looking forward to teaching the novel. Not only do I feel like it will foster SEL learning with my students, but I love seeing my students engaged in a novel. Some students rarely read on their own. Not only does reading a full novel during school hours help reluctant readers feel successful, but it also helps them visualize completing other novels. By doing it, they learn that finishing a novel is within their grasp.

Again, thank you and the MCRTA for making this possible.

Gratefully,
Amy Costello

On behalf of my students, thank you and the MCRTA for this grant. They will be so excited to use the instruments provided by your generosity and support of the arts. I greatly appreciate your organization for choosing our music program as a recipient of this grant. I promise that I will put these instruments in the hands of my students often.

Once again, thank you

Kathleen Choi

IRTA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE—Hosted by Area 1

As a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, you are invited to the 2023 Virtual Conference hosted by Area 1. The conference is a fully online, virtual experience that will take place on **Wednesday, February 22nd at 9:30 am (central time)**. A Virtual event makes it possible to broaden the learning opportunities and engagement with all IRTA members. You will need to register for the event.

[Click Here to Register](#)

ANOTHER IRTA OPPORTUNITY

IRTA Webinar Series
(All About Long Term Care)
 February 8, 2023
 (10:00 AM Central Time)

[Click Here to Register for this event.](#)

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

I would love to shed some sunshine to any of our members that need a friend. I need to know the names of any of our members that a card or phone call would help bring a friendly person into their lives. So if you know of anyone that I could help, please share that information with me. Linda Young postteach@att.net or call 847-209-8047. If you would like to help with this, just let Linda know.

DO YOU NEED TO PAY YOUR DUES?

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND YOU WOULD LIKE TO INVITE TO JOIN?

MCRTA Dues --- You have three choices:

- 1) Annual dues, \$10 for 2023
- 2) 3-year dues, \$25 for 2023-2025
- 3) LIFE membership for \$150

I choose to pay (CIRCLE ONE)

Annual Dues \$10
 3-Year Dues. \$25
 LIFE membership. \$150

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____

**WRITE CHECK PAYABLE TO MCRTA. MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO
 MCRTA
 PO BOX 1776
 CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60039**