

# 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

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

9/19 Turnberry CC  
Larry Newman, AMBA  
Christy Bartolino  
Liberty Mutual Insurance

10/17 D'Andrea's  
Candidates

11/14 Turnberry CC  
Jim Bachman

12/19 MCC  
CPA—new tax laws

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

#### June Menu

Garden Salad  
Pasta Marinara w/Meatballs  
Rolls and Butter  
Spumoni Ice Cream  
Ice Tea to **purchase**

## President's Message

*Stephen Polep*

I am so proud of the staff at IRTA who worked hard to pass through the General Assembly two bills that the governor needs to sign. One allows retired educators to substitute teach 120 days a year instead of 100 days. School districts need this passed. The second bill would allow annuitants who left TRIP or TRAIL to get their health insurance back during the next enrollment period. Some of our members left the state insurance plan when Medicare Advantage started and would now want to reinstate TRAIL. Both bills passed both state houses and now need the governor's signature. I hope the governor does the right thing.

The unit needs people to step up and become involved. Work will be found for those who volunteer. There is a big need for a finance person to help the treasurer. Please consider helping.

## June Guest

*Jude La Francis*

Laurel Mellien  
Famous and Infamous buried in our county

## Salvation Army School Backpack Drive

We have been participating in collecting funds for the past few years to help support the McHenry County Salvation Army backpack program. Last year, 1100 backpacks were distributed to deserving McHenry County students out of the Crystal Lake office. We collected \$1250 in 2017. Can we beat that with this year's collection? Please bring your checks (made out to Salvation Army) or cash to June's meeting. So far we have collected \$550! Generous retired educators, you can do this! Thanks for your support!



# Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

**PLEASE READ THIS:** In **September**, the Membership Committee will be sending out dues renewal forms to annual members. **Our memberships run from January 1 to December 31.** It would be very helpful if you would try to pay your dues when you receive the notice; otherwise, we end up sending you reminders. That, of course, costs us more money in postage, envelopes, etc., and it is also time consuming. You are always welcome to pay your dues at one of the lunch meetings.

Life memberships are also available. Get one of these and you'll never have to remember if you paid your dues or not!

If you have membership questions or if you change your email or home address, contact **Marlene Griffith** at **marlenegriffith@icloud.com** or at **815-385-5764**. Marlene is usually available from 11:00 until 11:45 on luncheon days.

Questions? Email Marlene at **membership@mcrta.org** or call her at **815.385.5764**.

## DEATHS:

Marian Gebhardt of Palatine  
Marilyn Key of Barrington

**BE SURE TO READ THE  
IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION FOUND LATER  
IN THIS NEWSLETTER!**



## 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.

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

# Scholarship News

*Mary Noe*

We are so pleased to recognize our seven 2018 MCRTA scholarship winners. They were outstanding high school students and we wish them continued success on their route to becoming future educators. They will be receiving their scholarship check after their first semester of college. Please get to know a little bit about them through quotes from their applications.

**James Cormier** is a graduate of Crystal Lake Central High School. He is receiving a Marcia Wright Memorial Scholarship to attend St. Ambrose University (IA) with a major in Secondary Education-Math. "In high school, I never really thought about being a teacher until I had the amazing opportunity to tutor a few students my junior year. After working with them and helping them work through their difficulties, I know that I wanted to do that for the rest of my life."

**Michael Godek** is a graduate of Huntley High School. He is receiving a Marcia Wright Memorial Scholarship. His plans are to major in Secondary Education-Math at Illinois State University. "Teachers are the machines that shape the building blocks of future generations. Teachers are the forefront of developing students."

**Kelsey Hallin**, a graduate of Harvard High School, is planning to attend Missouri Valley College (MO) with an Elementary Education major. "I believe that my true passion for education sets me apart from others, my love for education will show through my teaching. They say you never work a day in your life if you love what you do, and I cannot wait to be able to do what I love every day in the classroom."

**Danielle Klenske** is a graduate of Marengo High School. She is planning to attend UW-River Falls (WI) with a Secondary Education major in Agriculture. "I believe that the teaching profession is the most important profession in the world. Teachers not only educate students but they motivate them to reach for more in life."

**Margaret McGee** is a Huntley High School graduate. Her plans are to major in Elementary Education at Illinois State University. "Becoming an elementary school teacher who excels in the classroom using teaching styles and practices to grow students has been my greatest personal goal from a young age."

**Brianna Mudra**, a McHenry East High School graduate, is receiving a Margaret Anne Vadnais Memorial Scholarship. Her plans are to major in Elementary Education at Midway University (KY). "My outlook on the education profession is that teachers want nothing else but for our students to succeed and will stop at nothing to make sure their students are on the right path to success."

**Lauryn Straub**, a graduate of Woodstock High School, is receiving the Sally Ronan Memorial Scholarship. She is planning to attend Lee University (TN) with a major in Elementary Special Education. "I have always known that I wanted to be a teacher, and I hope that someday through my time, talents or resources I would be able to inspire students to work towards their dreams of building a positive future."

## Member Benefits

*Rose Turk*

Finally, summer is upon us! Are you planning to go on a vacation and relax? Illinois Retired Teachers' Association is teamed up with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to make member only benefits available to our association. Here are some benefits you can use to save money on your vacation.

If you are looking for a hotel room this summer, IRTA through AMBA offers members discounts on hotels. As an IRTA member you can save between 15-20% on hotel reservations at thousands of destinations for La Quinta Inns and Suites. Discounts for members also apply for car rentals. The top 3 car rental agencies (Avis, Budget, and Hertz) will give members up to a 25% discount on the rentals of cars, vans, and SUV's that are available at airports or neighborhood locations. 800 phone numbers and codes are available on the link from IRTA for the hotel chain and rental car companies.

AMBA and Restaurant.com have teamed together to offer members exclusive dining discount cards for use on Restaurant.com. First buy your discounted gift certificates from [www.myAMBAdining.com](http://www.myAMBAdining.com) and you will receive an email with a voucher in 24 hours. Then go to [www.dine.restaurant.com](http://www.dine.restaurant.com) to use your voucher for dining deals.

To find out more about these deals go to [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org) and log in. On the top of the page select MEMBERS BENEFITS. Then scroll down to Available Endorsed Benefits and look for LaQuinta Inns, Rental Cars, or myAMBAdining.com. Click on any one. It will take you further down the page and then click here. This will take you to the AMBA page. (It may ask you to register. Do so.) Click on the Travel or Dining icon on the left side of the page and you will see information on hotels, car rentals, or dining discounts. Here you will find phone numbers and codes to use for your discounts on hotels, car rentals, or dining discount cards.

IRTA is planning a trip to Portugal in October. Go to the IRTA website and login. On the Home page you will see a link to click to get more information about this trip. Or you can call 877-482-8747 and ask for Anita and the IRTA Portugal tour.

**Come to Springfield on August 13 and join fellow IRTA members at the Illinois State Fair. Governor Rauner has declared this day at the fair as Retired Educators' Day in Illinois.**

If you have time this summer, check out some of the other deals and benefits that you can get as a member of IRTA.

Have a great summer! See you in September.

## American Flag Disposal

Are you looking for a way to dispose of your American flag appropriately?? The American Legion, Amvets and Boy Scouts of Cary and Fox River Grove sponsor an official flag burning ceremony on Flag Day. You may bring your flags to our MCRTA meeting and Linda Young will see that your flag will retired with honor.

# Legislative Report

*Norb Wolter*

The new State of Illinois budget maintains funding for the retired teacher health insurance program (TRIP). IRTA legislative personnel were successful in opposing Governor Rauner's efforts to cut state support for TRIP.

SB 3046, which would allow TRS members to opt back into TRIP has passed in both the House and the Senate. During a recent Legislative Committee telephone conference it was mentioned that 75,000 retirees participate in TRIP but that 45,000 eligible members had opted out. We are waiting to see if the Governor signs this legislation.

HB 3080, which would increase the number of days a retiree could work in schools to 120 days per year remains in the Senate following a third reading. It has passed in the House.

## Additional Important Membership News

**STATISTICS:** McHenry County has 1515 retired educators who belong to IRTA. Statewide, just 1/3 of retirees join IRTA. **Why don't the other 2/3's join?** Perhaps they do not know that IRTA is the organization that saved their 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment. Perhaps they do not know that the Member Benefits that they could be receiving would more than cover the \$30 annual cost of dues. Perhaps they don't know that the State Legislature is continually looking for a way to cut our benefits, and it is only by the diligent efforts of the IRTA membership and of Executive Director Jim Bachmann and his staff that we have kept our pension and insurance benefits. Perhaps non-members are just uninformed and don't know that by not joining IRTA, they are not doing their part. **YOU CAN HELP!** Highlight this message and give/send this newsletter to a non-member. Let's try to get all McHenry County TRS retirees to **support the only organization in the state that exists solely to protect them.**

**ONE MORE THING:** When some retirees move out of state, they drop their IRTA membership. This is not a wise move. Although they no longer live in Illinois, they still receive their pensions and benefits from Illinois. If our legislature again attempts to pass legislation to limit our benefits, annuitants living out of state will also be affected. **IRTA needs the support of everyone who receives a TRS pension from Illinois.**

# Globus Information

*Greg Poniewaz—Midwest Territory Rep*

*Traveling with COSMOS = Value AND Affordability*

**Irish Explorer:** 8 Nights/9 Days. Overnights in Dublin, Tramore, Killarney, Limerick, Sligo, and Belfast. Full Irish Breakfast Daily and 3 dinners. Highlights include Ring of Kerry, Avoca Handweaving Mill, House of Waterford Crystal, Cliffs of Moher, Giants Causeway, and much more. **\$999 (shoulder) - \$1,519 Land only pp.**

**Apulia - the Heel of Italy:** 7 nights/8 days. Overnights in Naples, Bari, Fasano, and Lecce. Full Buffet Breakfast Daily and 4 Dinners. Highlights include a tour of the Castel Del Monte, Castellana Grotte Limestone Caves, Wine Tasting, a tour of an Olive Mill, and much more. **\$1,199 Land pp in April, May, and September.**

**Highlights of Morocco:** 9 nights/10 days. Overnights in Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez, Erfoud, and Ouarzazate. Buffet Breakfast Daily and 6 dinners. Highlights include visits to the Roman Relics of Chellah, the Royal Stables, Jemaa-El-Fna Square/bazaar and the Baha Palace and Saadian Tombs. **\$999-\$1,150 March-October**

**PRAGUE, VIENNA, & BUDAPEST:** Experience some of Europe's most iconic cities along with Munich and Salzburg during this 8 night/9 day program. . Breakfast daily and 2 dinners. Land only prices range from \$999 (Shoulder) to \$1,399 (Peak).

**COSTA RICA:** If you prefer to experience nature more than historical cities, our 7 night/8 day Costa Rica program includes great locations and lots of included activities. Experience the Cloud Forest Reserve, the Poas Volcano, nature walks, and the Hanging Bridges; visit a coffee plantation and butterfly garden; If you are interested, there are optional activities like the Hot Springs or Zip Lining. Breakfast daily and 1 lunch. Our 2018 land pricing: \$999 for any date!

If you are interested in traveling with Globus, COSMOS, or Avalon Waterways, 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 and 2019 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.