

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2019 Meetings

D'Andrea's

April, June,
September, November

MCC

May, December

McHenry Country Club

March, October

Upcoming Programs:

June: Scholarship Winners

Sept: Anette Isaacs
Berlin Wall

Oct: Jim Bachman

Nov: CASA and others

Dec: TRS

Programs subject to change
Meeting begins at 11:45 am

June Menu

Mescaline Salad
Chicken
Roasted New Potatoes
Julienne Vegetables
Ice Cream
Coffee/Tea

President's Message

Stephen Polep

MCRTA is doing great work through scholarships, teacher grants, and donations to charity groups. We should be very proud of our accomplishments.

Have a great summer and come to meetings next fall.

Again, I am getting calls from members who have questions about Health insurance, pensions, income tax, legislation and benefits. I am happy to help so keep the calls coming. I will do my best to help you.

June Guests

Jude La Francis

MCRTA Scholarship Winners

More information in this newsletter!

Financial Report

Our organization is pleased to announce we have a new Finance board member, **Olivia Santarelli**. This person will work closely with the current treasurer to provide financial oversight for our organization. The main task areas are financial planning and reporting.

Welcome Olivia!



Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

STATISTICS:

McHenry County has **1567** retired educators who belong to **IRTA**, 414 of whom are LIFE members.

We have **1136** retirees who belong to **MCRTA**, 710 of whom are LIFE members.

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.

ARE YOU MOVING OUT OF STATE?

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.**

PLEASE READ THIS:

In **September**, the Membership Committee will be emailing or sending 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. **Dues will not be increasing.**

If you have membership questions or if you change your email or home address, contact **Marlene Griffith** at **marlenegriffith@icloud.com** or at **815-385-3533 (call or text).**

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



Legislative Report

Norbert Wolter

Governor Pritzker has withdrawn his proposal to reduce pension payments. This action coupled with the fact that TRIP appropriations are in the state budget indicates that IRTA lobbying efforts are having an impact.

The IRTA endorsed candidate for the TRS Board , Douglas Strand, was elected by members of the Teachers' Retirement System. The vote totals showed the strength of our organization and will allow us to have meaningful representation on the board.

During the past few weeks, members of our legislative committee have met with some of our local legislators to discuss IRTA legislative goals. Representative Tom Weber from the 64th District and Senator Craig Wilcox from the 32nd district were available during the recent legislative recess to discuss issues that affect our members. Representative Steve Reick from the 63rd district will meet with us on June 17.

Volunteer Celebration

Linda Young (postteach@att.net) and Joann Jazak Turk (jjazek@hotmail.com)

The IRTA is proclaiming the month of September as Retiree Volunteer Celebration Month. The IRTA will highlight the many acts of volunteerism performed by retired teachers in the media, on the IRTA website and Facebook, as well as at the IRTA convention. MCRTA is encouraging members to wear a volunteer badge and take photos of themselves at their various volunteer activities.

We are encouraging all our members to help by doing three simple things:

One ...Wear a volunteer badge

Two... Take a photo of yourself volunteering

Three... Send that photo to Linda Young postteach@att.net

Badges will be available at our June and September General meetings.

This is a positive way to let communities all over the state recognize that retired teachers continue to serve.

Member Benefits

Rose Turk

Summer is finally here! Are you looking for places to go for a vacation? Somewhere to take the family? IRTA has more discounts to offer on vacation options.

Take the family on a vacation to the Orlando area! Orlando Employee Discounts offers exclusive pricing on hotels and vacation homes in or near Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando. You will also be able to receive discounts on attractions like Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, I-Drive 360 and more!

You can find homes and condos for as low as \$100 a day, hotel prices starting at \$50 a night or vacation packages for as low as \$110 a day. There are ticket discounts for all the parks in the Orlando area. Set up your own vacation using the many discounts available on rentals and attraction tickets, take advantage of the vacation packages that Orlando Employee Discounts offers IRTA members, or call a vacation specialist to help you plan your trip. You need to go to their website and look at all they offer!

Another vacation option IRTA has to offer is Vacations By Rails. It is a trusted authority on rail travel and tours. Travelers can choose from the largest selection of independent rail vacations, escorted rail tours, and luxury rail journeys to destinations in North America, Europe, and beyond. There are so many interesting and exciting trips presented on their website.

See the best of the USA by rail. There are train trips to the National Parks, rail and cruise vacations to popular destinations, and vacations on Amtrak to the big cities of the US. Canadian train vacations offer trains across Canada, rail trips from coast to coast and the Canadian Rockies, and train trips to French Canada and the Maritimes. Explore Europe by taking a train vacation in Italy, a rail tour through Switzerland, or try a multi-country tour by train. If you are looking to travel beyond North America and Europe, you can travel by train to places throughout Asia, South Pacific, India, Africa, South America, and Australia. Embark on a journey where ancient cultures and modern worlds collide.

To see details about these incredible benefits, go to irtaonline.org. Click on **Member Only** at the top of the page and login. Then click on **Member Benefits**. Go down to **Informative Benefits**. Now scroll to **Orlando Employee Discounts** and/or **Vacations By Rail**. Read the paragraphs and then click on the link that is given. It will take you to their websites where you will find much more information on both vacation options. Even if you are not planning a vacation now to the Orlando area or traveling by train anywhere in the world, go to their link and look at all of their exciting offerings. Maybe this will prompt you to take a vacation soon!

If you have time this summer, take a look at all the benefits IRTA offers you as a member.

Salvation Army Backpacks

Thanks to all of you for your generous donations! Today will be the last day we will collect money for the McHenry County Salvation Army. We have already collected \$515 to help stuff the back packs!

Congratulations to our MCRTA 2019 Scholarship Winners!

We are so pleased to recognize our eight 2019 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 checks after their first semester of college. Please get to know a little bit about them through quotes from their impressive applications.

Ruby Galarza, a graduate of Harvard High School, is planning to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Secondary Education-English major. She received our first Greg Johnson Memorial Scholarship. "My goals in teaching are to expand my future students' knowledge, to inspire them, and to help them find their voice. In other words, I want to show students that they are capable of achieving many amazing things." Ruby also received an Illinois Seal of Bi-literacy upon graduation. Congratulations, Ruby!

Makayla Golden, a McHenry East High School graduate, is receiving a Daniel J. Melchionda Memorial Scholarship. Her plans are to major in Secondary Education-English at Western Illinois University. "Without a doubt, teachers are the most influential and patient people that we are surrounded by. I have always looked up to my teachers in a way they have guided me and encouraged me to be better. This is what I want to accomplish with my students."

Kayly Hogan is a graduate of Richmond-Burton High School. She is planning to attend the University of Iowa with an Elementary Education major. "I believe that I am an excellent candidate for the Future Educator Scholarship, as I understand the struggles of being a student with a learning disability. I have learned that through hard work, determination and perseverance, I can reach my goals and be the best student, person, and teacher I can be. I want to pass on that trait to my students and be a teacher that relates to their issues and can be a resource in helping them achieve their goals through hard work and education."

Nathaniel Murrin is a McHenry West High School graduate and a Swanson Memorial Scholarship recipient. He plans to major in Secondary Education-English at UW-Platteville. "I believe that teachers are gateways to the world and that they should support, and even cheer on students as they enter the next stage of their lives. Furthermore, my goals as an educator would be to relate what I am teaching to something that matters to them, and to be engaging, attentive, and a positive role model within my future classroom and school."

Jourden Reis, a graduate of Woodstock North High School, is receiving the Sally Ronan Memorial Scholarship. She is planning to attend Illinois State University with a major in Elementary Education. "When granted the chance to teach children like myself with the aid of this scholarship, I will use my own experiences of struggle and determination to help encourage and better my students, because there will most likely be multiple opportunities for myself to influence children who may possess the same difficulties as I had, with my own experiences in the classroom which will hopefully influence that student out of a classroom setting as well." Congratulations to Jourden who was also just recognized as an Illinois Golden Apple Scholar!

Bailey Schneyr is a graduate of Prairie Ridge High School. She is receiving a Marcia Wright Memorial Scholarship to attend Carthage College (WI) with a major in Instrumental Music Education. "The education profession, in my opinion, is the most important profession there is. Without teachers, there would be nobody to educate the youth of the world. But more importantly, nobody to inspire the youth of the world. As a future music educator, I hope to inspire a love for learning music in all of my students. I will provide a fun, challenging, and reflective music education to enrich the lives of the youth."

Mairead (Maggie) Stotz is a graduate of Crystal Lake South High School. She is also receiving a Marcia Wright Memorial Scholarship. Her plans are to major in Secondary Education-English at the University of Nebraska. "My most inspiring teachers, grade school to present, have taught me so much more than their coursework. They have given me the courage and passion to want to educate and help others. They showed me how to be an enthusiastic, inspirational teacher in the future. Knowing how much of an influence my teachers have had on my life makes me want to be that same beacon of light for someone else, for the next generation of students."

Kathryn (Kate) Urosevich is a graduate of Huntley High School. She is planning to major in Secondary Education-History at Ohio Northern University. This is the reason she chose a history major. "I see history as one long, connected story, but it is rarely taught as such. I want to teach my students the story of this world, both the pain and the joy, the wins and the losses, but most importantly, I want them to leave my classroom with a newfound passion for history and a newfound respect for the men and women who fill the pages of our history books."

Did you know?

Newsletter are posted on the MCRTA website (www.MCRTA.org) each month. Also the April presentation on IRTA and TRS websites is posted. Check out all the good information on that site!