

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2023 Meetings

May 17—MCC

June 21—31 North

September 20—31 North

October 18—JB Moose

November 15—31 North

December 13—MCC

Upcoming Programs:

May: TRS

June: Nancy Cramer AMBA
& Scholarship Winners

Sept: Bob Frenz
Historic Schoolhouses

Oct: TBD

Suggestions for future venues or speakers are welcome.

Please contact Beth Miller
millerfam80@sbcglobal.net

Programs subject to change

May Menu—\$20

Garden Salad
Rolls and Butter
Roast Pork w Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing and Sauerkraut
Mixed Vegetables
Applesauce
Fudge Brownies

President's Message

Joann Jazak

It was great to see so many people at our April Meeting. We are now back in full swing and hope to see a much bigger group rejoining us at the McHenry County College. Our main speaker will be talking about TRS. This gives everyone the opportunity to ask any questions you have about our pension.

Do not forget to sign into the IRTA website and find out the latest information about what is happening in the state. If you have not signed up for Voters Voice look for the directions later in this newsletter. This is a place where as Retired Teachers our elected officials can see how we feel about issues affecting us. Everyone needs to take the time to do this. Get involved.

Yes, we know that are some insurance issues that are taking place with AETNA. IRTA is well aware of this also, and is working to improve things in this area for all of us.

Do not forget to REACH OUT for May. Let us light up MCC with our presence.

Marlene (membership) and I are looking to add more names to our jar. Please inform us if you have REACHED OUT and brought someone.

May Program

Beth Miller

TRS

Bring your questions!



Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

MCRTA currently has 990 members: 657 of us are LIFE members and 333 pay annual dues. Those who pay annual dues pay \$10 a year or three years for \$25. We will be notifying you in September if you owe dues for 2024.

If you change your email address, please let Marlene Griffith or Kathy Speaker know so we can update our records.

May means RETIREMENT! Because of the privacy laws, it is becoming more difficult for us to obtain the names and addresses of new retirees. If you know of any teacher or administrator retiring from a school in our county, please pass this information on to Marlene Griffith.

Questions? Email Marlene at marlenegriffith@icloud.com or text/call her at 815.385.3533.

As a long-time Board member, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work that Joann Jazak, Linda Young, and Kathy Speaker are doing for MCRTA. Joann stepped into a role that Steve Polep held for over a decade. Steve was not an easy act to follow, and, sadly, he was not there to mentor her. Nonetheless, Joann has done an extraordinary job of holding the organization together and finding new ways to keep it vibrant and interesting. Her enthusiasm is contagious!

Joann would be the first one to admit that she could not have done this without her good friend and our vice-president, Linda Young. Linda has always been that officer who works behind the scenes to help everyone on the Board. She may have a quiet voice and an unassuming nature, but Linda is a woman with great ideas, dedication, and a hand extended to assist all of us.

Without Kathy Speaker, MCRTA would not be functioning well in this computer age. Kathy is a technology wiz who has brought her exceptional skills to our organization. She spends hours of her days creating the monthly newsletters, sending emails about meetings and other matters affecting members, and helping those of us who are not gifted with her skills.

Well done, ladies! We are grateful.

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

Need to Cancel?

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 weeks notice.

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



Scholarship Report

Mary Noe

We are please to offer 5 scholarships to the Class of 2023. The two Wright Memorial Scholarship recipients are from Crystal Lake South and McHenry Upper Campus High Schools. We have scholarships going to students from Marengo and Woodstock North High Schools. Our first Stephen Polep Memorial Scholarship will go to a student in Huntley High School.

Thank you to all who have donated toward the Polep Memorial Scholarship. Our current collected amount is \$5,021.66. These 5 students will be recognized at Honors Assemblies in their respective high schools in May and will be invited to our June luncheon. What outstanding "future educators" these students are! Our money collected from the 50/50 drawings and notecards goes toward scholarships. We always welcome donation checks for the scholarship account.

Something to Do

Anderson Japanese Gardens opened April 21. Spring is breathing fresh new life into the Garden's landscape. Waterfalls are flowing, azaleas are blooming, and the koi eagerly await visitors. They are located at 318 Spring Creek Road. Rockford, Illinois. www.andersongardens.org

Member Benefits

Rose Turk

Last month in the Members Benefits article in the newsletter, you were instructed on how to get to the discounts AMBA offers IRTA members. (If you still need to set up the website for the discounts, go to the MCRTA website and get the April newsletter. Look at the Members Benefits article to see how to sign up for the discounts.)

Now you can get to all the discounts by going to passportcorporate.com. Once on this page you will be asked to put in your email address and it will let you in to AMBA discounts on the Passport Corporate website.

Take a look at all the discounts AMBA offers IRTA members. Look at everything you can get discounts on. Choose from Travel, Dining, Tickets, Shopping, Insurance, and more. Click on one and look at all you are offered. Take more time and look at some other discounts. You will be amazed at all the discounts you are entitled to as an IRTA member.

TRAIL (Medicare Advantage) health plans utilizing Memorial physicians or hospitals will have no interruptions of services.

Should you have any questions, call the toll-free number on the back of your insurance ID card.

Legislative News

Norb Wolter

Recent Voter Voice emails have had several members reporting that they did not receive them. If you are not receiving Voter Voice emails, please check your spam or junk folders to see if those emails were sent there. The first action you should take to correct this situation is to make certain that the IRTA email address is in your contacts folder (irta@irtaonline.org). If this does not correct the problem, send an email to Norb Wolter (woltern@comcast.net) to explore other options. IRTA is working with the Voter Voice provider to correct this situation.

Some IRTA members have been having problems with the new AETNA Medicare Advantage insurance program. Because of these concerns, IRTA is working with legislators on HB 3504 which would require CMS to post any proposed changes to our insurance at least 120 days before the effective date. You can use the Voter Voice option in the members only section of the IRTA website to notify your legislators of specific problems that have resulted from the changeover to AETNA.

IRTA continues to work diligently to get a bill introduced to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset to social security benefits earned by some of our members. A Voter Voice notification was sent out for us to urge support from our U.S. Representatives and Senators in Illinois. If you did not receive this notice, you can use the Voter Voice option on the IRTA website to act in this regard.



DID YOU FORGET TO PAY 2023 YOUR DUES?

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

MCRTA Dues --- You have three choices:

I choose to pay (CIRCLE ONE)

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

- 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**