

# 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

11/14 D'Andrea's  
(venue change)  
Jim Bachman

12/19 MCC  
Tony Quagliano, CPA  
New tax laws

March: McHenry CC

April: D'Andrea's

May: MCC

June: D'Andrea's

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

#### November Menu

Roast Sirloin of Beef  
Garden Salad  
Baked Potato  
Green Beans  
Ice Cream Sundae

## President's Message

*Stephen Polep*

We are in need of greeters at our meetings. We need to welcome new members and make them part of the unit. Greeters could find seats and point out the membership and scholarship tables. Greeters could also help collect name tags.

Jim Bachman is talking at the November meeting and will talk about our legislative successes. It's been a good year for IRTA's legislative efforts. IRTA is worth the \$2.50 per month. Tell your retired educator friend to join.

## November Guest

*Jude La Francis*

Jim Bachman

## New Members

#### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- \*Joyce Bell, Woodstock – Retired 2018, Crystal Lake D47
- \*Laure Foerster, Woodstock – Retired 2018, Woodstock D200
- \*Richard Foerster, Woodstock – Retired 2016, Crystal Lake D155
- \*Mary Hall, Cary – Retired from Chicago Public Schools
- \*Kelly Lauber, Huntley – Retired 2018, Huntley D158



## Membership News

*Marlene Griffith and Linda Young*

Marlene is in Florida this month so if you would like to pay your dues today, please see Vice-President Linda Young.

As of October 31, 26% of the 2018 retirees in McHenry County have joined MCRTA and 34% have joined IRTA. If you know a retiree who does not belong to our organizations, please inform that person of how important our organizations are to them. Every person collecting a TRS pension should be thanking the IRTA membership and should be joining the effort to keep our benefits. We are the ones who fought the legislators who wanted to reduce our pensions. We won that fight for members and non-members. Perhaps you can send a non-member this newsletter and highlight this paragraph!

Another way to encourage non-members to join MCRTA is to invite one to an MCRTA lunch. If the retiree then joins our organization, YOU get a free lunch. NOTE: This applies only to new members, not to those who have let their membership dues lapse.

Membership has begun collecting dues for 2019. If you are a LIFE member, you owe no dues. If you are not a LIFE member, you have three choices:

- 1) \$10 for 2019
- 2) \$25 for 2019, 2020, 2021
- 3) \$150 for LIFE membership

You may pay your dues at the meetings by seeing Marlene or Linda at the Membership Table, or you can send them to this address: MCRTA, PO BOX 1776, CRYSTAL LAKE 60039.

**Questions?** Email Marlene at [membership@mcrt.org](mailto:membership@mcrt.org) or at [marlenegriffith@icloud.com](mailto:marlenegriffith@icloud.com).

You can also call or text her at **815-385-3533**.

### DEATHS:

Charlotte Baxter, Woodstock

Walter Reeves, La Porte, IN

### 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**



## Member Benefits

*Rose Turk*

Did you know that you can get insurance for your pets? IRTA through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) offers insurance for your cat, dog, bird or even exotic animal. Nationwide Insurance Company offers Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI). Just mention that you belong to IRTA and you will receive 5% discount on a new pet insurance policy.

There are three pet health plans from which to choose:

Pet Wellness is an everyday preventive care policy that covers wellness exams, tests, flea prevention, and vaccinations.

Major Medical covers exams, lab tests, surgeries, chronic conditions, some hereditary conditions, and more.

Whole Pet with Wellness bundles major medical and wellness for more coverage and savings.

VPI has plans to fit your needs and budget and you automatically receive a 5% discount for being an IRTA member. A good feature of this insurance is that you can use any veterinarian, specialist, and/or emergency provider you want. Sign up for a plan. Then go to the vet of your choice for the service you need and submit a claim. You will then receive a check reimbursement for the bill.

To see details about this insurance, log in to [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org). See the new "face" for the IRTA website. Across the top, click **Members Only** and login. On this page you will see **Membership Benefits** where you click the arrow. Scroll down the page to **Informative Benefits**. Under **Available Informative Benefits** go all the way to the last benefit, Veterinary Pet Insurance, and "click here". This will take you to the AMBA page. Click the website for the pet insurance. On this page go all the way to the bottom of the page (dark blue area) and click Pet Healthzone. Take a look around this page. To find out more information about the insurance, at the top of the page click Pet Insurance and then Buyers Guide. This page explains what the insurance covers. If you are interested in the pet insurance, take a look at the website to see if this is what you can use for your pet. Then you can enroll your pet and there is also a phone number you can call. Take advantage of this Benefit now.

## Globus Travel Report

*Greg Poniewaz*

If you are like most travelers, you want to see more than just the destination. You want to experience the local traditions, see how others live and embrace those customs yourself.

Globus takes you behind the scenes and off the beaten track for hands on, in depth, local experiences. We call these **Local Favorites** and we've thoughtfully selected them so you can experience your destination like an insider. Look for the yellow box with the LF inside on our Globus brand itineraries – that designates a Local Favorite. Something you won't find on other travel programs.

What does a Local Favorites look like? In North America, enjoy a traditional **Lobster Supper** at a local restaurant in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, or spend a night in the historic **Hotel Gettysburg and have dinner at the Dobbin House Tavern**, or enjoy a behind the scenes look and dinner at the **Newport Aquarium in Oregon**.

In Europe, our local favorites are truly unique. Experience a train ride on **the Waterford & Suir Valley Railroad** in Ireland, or overnight at the beautiful and peaceful **Tenute al Bano Carrisi estate** on our new Hidden Treasures of Italy trip, or enjoy lunch at a **traditional working farm** in Switzerland, or attend a **private Chopin concert** in Poland.

Local Favorites. Another reason why Globus is different. Experience for yourself.

**REMINDER: You can still take 10% off the price of a Globus land program with your booking by NOVEMBER 27, 2018. The discount is reduced after November 27!**

If you are interested in traveling with Globus, COSMOS, Monograms, or Avalon Waterways, you **must** 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 2019 trips, **you can earn an additional 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.

Greg Poniewaz  
Globus Family of Brands  
Midwest Territory Rep - St. Louis, MO

## Legislative Report

*Norb Wolter*

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association sent a letter on October 11, 2018 to all Illinois Congressional Candidates seeking their position on the repeal or modification of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP/GPO). It is the position of the Legislative Committee that there needs to be an attempt made to secure these earned benefits for our members.

We received a nice thank you note from legislative candidate, Trisha Zubert, who was very appreciative of the opportunity to voice her positions at our Candidate's Forum on October 17. The following candidates shared their views with us:

Mary Mahady 32<sup>nd</sup> Senate  
Craig Wilcox 32<sup>nd</sup> Senate  
Nancy Zettler 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate

Trisha Zubert 64<sup>th</sup> Representative  
Tom Weber 64<sup>th</sup> Representative