

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2023 Meetings

November 15—31 North
December 13—MCC

Upcoming Programs:

Nov: Annie Ballin
Cellist

Dec: Woodstock Carolers

**Suggestions for future venues
or speakers are welcome.**

Please contact Beth Miller
millerfam80@sbcglobal.net

Programs subject to change
Doors open at 11:15
Meeting begins at 11:45 am
Lunch begins at Noon

October Menu—\$25

Homemade bread and butter
Signature 31 North salad
Sliced turkey with gravy
Glazed carrots
Creamy mashed potatoes
Sage dressing
Assorted Desserts
Coffee, Hot Tea or Iced Tea.

President's Message

Joann Jazak

As many of you know MCRTA had thirteen delegates who attended the convention in Springfield on October 16-17. The details of the Constitutional Changes were sent out last week. Also a big shout out to Norb Wolter for keeping our organization so informed this past year about the various proposals. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!!!! The thirteen delegates had a good understanding of everything that was proposed.

On another note, our organization did receive for the 2021 and 2022 year the IRTA "Unit of Distinction Award". This is a voluntary program based on the honor system which helps to guide local units. For each year we received a gift of \$250. Do not forget to claim your rewards from Aetna by December 31, 2023. Go to your AETNA page and fill out the rewards portion. You can claim anywhere from \$10- \$50 in the form of a gift card.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in November at North 31! Annie Ballin, the cello player, will be entertaining us during lunch.

November Program

Beth Miller

Annie Ballin
Cellist

Annie will be entertaining us during lunch.



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: **Judy Poynter**

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 week's notice.

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

Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

Thank you to all those who have paid their dues. You help our organization fund scholarships, teacher grants, and luncheon programs. Many students around McHenry County benefit by YOUR participation in MCRTA.

Please check the link in this newsletter to find out when your dues expire. We have 145 members whose dues expire December of 2023. If you are one of those members, we would appreciate it if you would pay your dues now. You can pay \$10 for 2024; or \$25 for 2024, 2025, and 2026; or \$150 for LIFE dues. Make your check payable to MCRTA, and send it to the following address:

MCRTA
PO BOX 1776
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60039

If you wish to pay your dues at the November meeting, please give them to VICE-PRESIDENT LINDA YOUNG.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS....

VINCENT "PAUL" HANRAHAN of Johnsburg; taught in D12

CAREN S. MACKENZIE of Harvard; taught in D50

Why Pay MCRTA Dues for more years ?

The **McHenry County Retired Teachers Association (MCRTA)** is your local connection to IRTA. We create a monthly newsletter with important state and local news. We are fortunate to have Norm Wolter whose newsletter articles always have important legislative news that affect us directly. Rose Turk reminds us of the many benefits IRTA and AMBA offer members. Grants and Scholarships are announced here. Important health insurance information is often included. Our board, including president Joann Jazak are always looking to find information important to you—retired IL teachers living in IL or outside of IL to include in our newsletter. Renew with Marlene today to keep getting our newsletter.



Legislative Report

Norbert Wolter

The fall veto session concluded with the adoption of a new budget. This budget provides more to TRS than was required, however, legislation to insure proper notice of changes to health insurance has not yet been adopted and will be taken up again in the next legislative session. SB 250, as amended, became the budget, and it appropriates \$50.618 billion in General Revenue Funds and assumes revenue of \$50.717 billion. The budget allowed for \$200 million more than the statutory payment for pensions (of which approximately \$100 million will go to TRS). The Budget fully funded the statutorily mandated payment for health insurance, albeit at the lower rate that CMS established for this year.

HB 3504 120 day's notice requirement for changes to TRIP/TRAIL. This legislation was an initiative of IRTA to make sure that individuals are given notice of changes to their healthcare at least 4 months prior to those changes being implemented. Ultimately, the General Assembly was consumed with saving the community college health insurance fund from bankruptcy and chose not to address TRIP or Trail this year; however, we will be continuing this conversation into the next legislative year.

SB 1468 extends the sunset until 2026 for returning to work for up to 120 days or 600 hours. This provision, although in law for over a decade, was set to expire at the end of this year.

IRTA Convention

Some of you have asked how you can donate \$1 per paycheck to the very important PAC (Political Action Committee). The form can be found on the IRTA website. Remember it is very expensive to protect our pensions and insurance benefits. What the State gives, the State can try to take away.

Here is a link to the donation page.

<https://www.irtaonline.org/pac/donate/>



Convention Attendees

Member Communications

Kathy Speaker

Yes, we do respond back when you sign up for the meeting. We are finding that the response may come from "Kathy" and not "MailChimp". We have not found out how to change that so if you think you are not receiving something back from us, it might be coming from "Kathy".

Also we are finding although in the past you received our email with no issues, the emails might start going back into your junk/spam folder. If you think you missed one, please look for it. You can always contact us at mchenryrta@gmail.com.

Teacher of the Year

Linda Young

Congratulations to Joann Jazak our MCRTA Teacher of the Year!

Joann was formally recognized at the IRTA convention along with other unit honorees. She will be honored at the MCRTA November General Meeting.



It was an easy task for our unit to nominate Joann as our unit's Teacher of the Year. Joann has accepted being our president with enthusiasm. She always is suggesting ways to increase our membership. (We do enjoy receiving those goodies to take home every month.) As president, she actively communicates with our membership concerning our pensions and health insurance. Our meetings proceed smoothly because our president is prepared and pursues input from board members. Joann Reaches Out to all our members. A true friend.....her welcoming smile says it all.

Thank you, Joann for all you have done...and are doing for MCRTA!

A listing of our past Teacher of the Year recipients can be found on the MCRTA website.

New MCRTA Volunteers

As many of you know, the passing of Nancy Tober a few months ago left a void on our Budget Committee. We would like to express our gratitude to Judy Poynter for stepping up and taking the role as one of our Budget Committee members. The board looks forward with working with Judy in the coming year.

A thank you also goes to Lou Ann Nystrom. Lou Ann has accepted the position of collecting your lunch money at our meetings. We appreciate the help that Lou Ann will bring to the group. Please welcome her when you see her at the November meeting. Thanks Lou Ann

We are still looking for an individual or individuals to help plan maybe just one or two events a year. At our last meeting we created a list of places that individuals would be interested in visiting. If this is an area you are interested in please contact one of the board members.

THANK YOU AGAIN JUDY AND LOU ANN!!!!!!!

Teacher Grants

Peggy Hart

Excellence in Education Awards Deadline is November 30

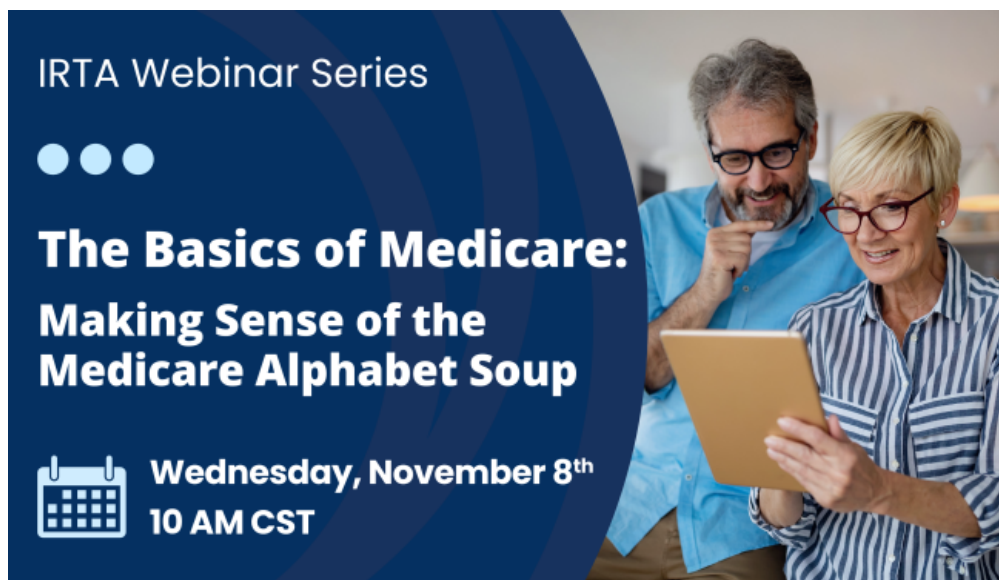
Applications are now being submitted for MCRTA's Excellence in Education Awards. We currently have three applications—one each from Cary Junior High for grades 6-8, Riverwood Elementary School in McHenry for 4th grade, and Edgebrook in McHenry for kindergarten and 1st grade dual language. If you know of any public-school teachers in McHenry County who would benefit from a grant to support classroom projects, please have them go to our website and check out the Excellence in Education awards. The deadline for submission is November 30. Winners will be announced in January.

MCRTA Volunteers

MCRTA Members Are Mock Patients at Huntley H.S.

Did you know that.....Lois Voss, Linda Young, Jan Welch and Karen Colomer were mock patients on Monday October 23rd at Huntley HS? These four MCRTA members volunteered to be mock patients at the Huntley H.S. Medical Academy. Retired educators helped approximately 50 students practice skills in measuring the movement of certain body parts, doing some very easy strength testing, and balancing. The two hour session was very well organized by their teacher Renae St. Clair. Renae was the 2023 McHenry County Educator of the Year. She also spoke at one of our Spring Meetings.


The volunteers felt that being in a huge high school talking to sophomores, juniors and seniors was very worthwhile. The students were very polite and respectful. It didn't take long for each of us to put on our "teaching hat". Renae hopes to have another mock patient session in the spring. Think seriously about volunteering!



IRTA Webinar Series

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**The Basics of Medicare:
Making Sense of the
Medicare Alphabet Soup**

 **Wednesday, November 8th
10 AM CST**

The graphic features a dark blue background with a large, semi-transparent image of a man and a woman looking at a tablet. The text is white and yellow, providing details about a webinar series.



Need help making sense of Medicare A & B and how they relate to F, D, H, & N? Do you want to make informed decisions whether you are already on Medicare or are about to be?

If so, join us and our benefits partner, AMBA, on Wednesday, November 8th, at 10 AM CST to get a basic overview of Medicare and learn what Medicare does and doesn't cover.

This webinar is FREE, but registration is required.
Click below to reserve your spot today!

[**Register Now**](#)

Member Benefits

Rose Turk

Are you looking for Dental and/or Vision Insurance for you and/or your family? You can purchase each insurance separately or together.

The dental plan for IRTA is covered by Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation. Coverage for the dental plan includes:

- Use of the dentist you want or select a dentist within the Ameritas Dental
- Network and save up to 50%
- No waiting period
- You can access providers nationwide
- Routine cleanings 100% covered
- Routine oral exams 100% covered

\$50 calendar year deductible per person for GOLD and \$100 deductible per person for PLATINUM.

\$1000 calendar year maximum per person for GOLD and \$1500 calendar year maximum for PLATINUM

The price for coverage for GOLD is \$40.41/member per month, \$80.84 monthly for a member plus 1, and \$102.05 monthly for a family. The price for coverage for PLATINUM is \$69.25/member per month, \$138.51 monthly for member plus 1, and \$174.86 monthly for a family.

The eye insurance plan emphasizes eye health from independent, private practice VSP eye doctors. Coverage for the VSP plan covers both in and out of network. It includes:

- Exam covered in full once every 12 months after a \$15 co-pay
- Prescription glasses obtained after a \$25 co-pay
- Frames covered up to \$150 once every 24 months and lenses fully covered
- every 12 months
- Contact lenses covered once every 12 months

The price for this coverage per member is \$12.72 per month, \$22.30 monthly for a member plus 1, and \$27.75 monthly for a family.

To see all the details about the insurances, go to ambadentalvision.com/ilrta. Scroll down and you will see all the information on both dental and vision insurances. If you want more specific information, call the numbers that are provided on the page. These rates are valid from March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2025.

Ideas Generated for MCRTA Field Trips

At the last meeting, members were asked what field trips should MCRTA organize for our members. Below is the list that was generated. Do you have any additional ideas? Just email us at mchenryrta@gmail.com. Do you like organizing events such as these? We could always use help on this endeavor.

Historic School House Tour	Marriott Theater	Fireside Play	Japanese Gardens
Lake Geneva Boat Tour	San Filippo Mansion	Botanical Gardens	Morton Arboretum
Holocaust Museum	Raue Center	Opera House	Elmhurst Museum
Art Institute Shows	County Underground Railroad Sites	Chicago Historical Museum Show	Lake Geneva Clue Room

MCRTA Membership Enrollment/Renewal

DO YOU NEED TO RENEW FOR NEXT YEAR?

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 2024
- 2) 3-year dues, \$25 for 2024-2026
- 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