

# 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

10/17 D'Andrea's  
Candidates

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

### October Menu

Minestrone Soup  
Chicken Piccata  
Garlic Potatoes  
Steamed Vegetables  
Ice Cream  
Ice Tea for purchase

## President's Message

*Stephen Polep*

Retirees and survivors who are eligible for the TRAIL MAPD Program should have received a decision guide in the mail notifying them of their eligibility and the requirement to enroll or opt out of the coverage during the TRAIL MAPD Open Enrollment Period. All currently enrolled members should receive a flyer notifying you of any plan changes.

**Note: If you are currently enrolled in TRAIL MAPD, and wish to keep your coverage as is, you do not need to do anything.** However, if you wish to make any changes to your current TRAIL MAPD coverage, you may complete your changes online at [MyBenefits.illinois.gov](http://MyBenefits.illinois.gov) or contact MyBenefits (toll-free) 844-251-1777.

There are changes to coverage next year. The deductible for United Health Care has been increased to \$1100 and there are changes to prescription drug coverage.

Make sure you vote and vote wisely. Do not vote just party but vote for candidates who will protect our retirement.

## October Guests

*Jude La Francis*

Meet the Candidates



# Membership News

*Marlene Griffith and Linda Young*

Currently, 22% of the 2018 retirees in McHenry County have joined MCRTA and 28% 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!

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.**

The Board has decided to keep the email I formerly used:

**membership@mcrt.org**

You can contact me at that site or at my personal email address:

**marlenegriffith@icloud.com**

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

## DEATHS:

Agnes Fortney of Viroqua, WI

Peggy Manning of Huntley

**Special Note:** Johnny Stompanato, one of those featured in the June MCRTA program on famous/infamous McHenry County burials, was not Mary Stompanato's husband. Rather, he was the uncle of her former husband.

## 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**



# Legislative Report

Norb Wolter

I attended the IRTA Legislative Committee meeting in Springfield on Wednesday, September 26. Following are some of the highlights from that meeting:

1. TRS pension recipients are now able to move in and out of the TRIP and Trail programs during the Open Enrollment Period as a result of the legislation passed with IRTA legislative support. Those who have opted out in the past will not receive any special notice regarding this change.
2. Currently, \$200 million is owed by the state to support the TRIP and TRAIL programs. Essentially, the state is about 1½ years in arrears in making its payments to the programs. IRTA hopes to receive a payment plan from the Comptroller's office in the near future. If anyone has been required to make full payment of charges in advance of treatment or been denied services related to this shortfall, they should contact the IRTA office with details.
3. It is likely that a graduated income tax will be under review in the next legislative session. Opening up the income tax for review will likely also bring about a discussion of taxing pensions and other retirement income. We will keep you apprised of any such legislation. Keep in mind that a graduated income tax would require a constitutional change so the process will be lengthy. The Legislative Committee voted to oppose taxing pensions or retirement income. The IRTA Executive Board will consider this recommendation.

## Senate

Althoff - Yes  
McConchie - No Vote  
McConnaughay - Yes

## House

McSweeney - No  
Reick - No  
Skilliorn - No  
Wheeler - Pass

## New Members

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

\*William Donato, Woodstock - Retired 2016, Woodstock D200  
\*Mary Foerster, Woodstock - Retired 2018, Huntley D158  
\*Judy Gavin, McHenry - Retired 2017, Johnsburg D12  
\*Diane Greenman, Crystal Lake - Retired 2018, Crystal Lake D47  
\*Jeff Griffith, Woodstock - Retired 2018, Woodstock D200  
\*Chris Kocol, Cary - Retired 2015, Marengo D165  
\*Jill Kookan, Algonquin - Retired 2016, Community Unit D300  
\*Kathy Krepel, Crystal Lake - Retired 2018, Prairie Grove D46  
\*Kathleen Larimer, Crystal Lake - Retired 2014, McHenry D156  
\*Celeste Mann, McHenry - Retired 2017, Harvard D50  
\*Karla Nussbaum, Poplar Grove - Retired 2018, Woodstock D200  
\*Valerie Oldenburg, McHenry - Retired 2016, McHenry D15  
\*Cynthia Pitzen, Johnsburg - Retired 2016, Johnsburg D12  
\*Sharon Stengel, Crystal Lake - Retired 2016, Schaumburg D54  
\*Joanne Sotiroff, Woodstock - Retired 2018, Woodstock D200  
\*Nancy Tomaso, Woodstock - Retired 2017, Huntley D158

# Member Benefits

*Rose Turk*

If you travel frequently, whether it be local or abroad, you may be interested in a service that **AMBA** provides IRTA members. It is Medical Air Services Association, an international company that provides life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling to its members for over 30 years. MASA provides coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to protect members from catastrophic financial loss when there is an emergency.

Some of the benefits included are:

- Emergency Air Transport - 24 hours a day, medically staffed aircraft on standby in North America, Bahamas, and the Caribbean
- Helicopter Transportation
- Ground Ambulance Transport
- Worldwide coverage - Coverage is extended when written notice is given that travel is outside the coverage area
- Escort Transport - Spouse, family, companion travel inflight if space available
- Return Transport
- Minor children/grandchildren return-an attendant will be provided when necessary
- Vehicle Return - Privately owned or rental vehicles will be returned to residence
- Organ Retrieval

MASA has no claim forms, no deductibles and no dollar limits per flight.

There are several memberships for which you can sign up: Individual, Family, 5-Year, Annual or Charter Lifetime Memberships.

To see the details about MASA, log in to [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org) and go to the **Member Benefits** page, look under **Available Endorsed Benefits** and click on [Medical Air Services Association](#). Next click where it says, "Click here to learn more." Here you will find a page that gives information about MASA. You will also find a phone number that you can call to talk to someone about this benefit. When you go to the bottom of the page you will see that you can look at a brochure about MASA, click on the link. If you know that you want to use this benefit, you can enroll online.

While you are on the **Member Benefits** page, look at all the benefits that you can take advantage of as an IRTA member.