

# 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)

### 2019/20 Meetings

#### D'Andrea's

April, June,  
September, November

#### MCC

May, December

#### McHenry Country Club

March, October

#### Upcoming Programs:

**Oct:** Jim Bachman

**Nov:** Ellen Amore—CASA

Judge David Gervais—

McHenry Court System

**Dec:** Rich Frankenfeld—

TRS

#### October Menu

Mixed Green Salad  
Stuffed Pork Loin  
Red Roasted Potatoes  
Vegetable Medley  
Ice Cream  
Coffee or Tea

## President's Message

*Stephen Polep*

Great news in the TRAIL booklet for those of us over 65 and on the PPO or HMO. Pages 5 and 6 have the following information: \$2,500 for hearing instrument and related services every 24 months for individuals 65 and older, when a hearing care professional prescribes a hearing instrument. Contact plan for additional details. This should start in January.

Thank you MCRTA board members for volunteering to serve a new term. Special thanks to April Shouse replacing Jane Gritmacker as board secretary. Jane needed to retire and April was there when MCRTA needed her.

## October Guests

*Jude La Francis*

**Jim Bachman**—IRTA

**Nancy Cramer**—Member Benefits



# Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

## Autumn = Dues Collection for IRTA and MCRTA

I have printed lists that inform you of your membership status in both IRTA and MCRTA. After your table has looked at the list, please pass it to another table. If you have any questions about your status, please see me after the meeting. You can also contact me at my email address:

**marlenegriffith@icloud.com or call/ text me at 815-385-3533.**

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- \*Colleen Beldin, Woodstock – Retired 2019, Crystal Lake D47
- \*Lisa Connell, Crystal Lake – Retired 2019, Crystal Lake D155
- \*Wendy Lane, Crystal Lake – Retired 2019, Crystal Lake D47
- \*Diana Nelson, Crystal Lake – Retired 2018, Crystal Lake D155
- \*Gina O’Connor, Algonquin – Retired 2007, McHenry D15
- \*Toby Parker-Goad, Woodstock – Retired 2019, Woodstock D200
- \*Kurt Pearson, McHenry – Retired 2016, McHenry D156
- \*Kathleen Rigby, Johnsburg – Retired 2017, McHenry D15
- \*Dee Shabosky, McHenry – Retired 2018, McHenry D15
- \*Kathy Weinger, Johnsburg – Retired 2017, Johnsburg D12
- \*Susan Wittum, Spring Grove – Retired 2016, Nippersink D2

### DEATHS:

- Jane Setzler of McHenry - Retired 1986
- Charles Wightman of Hebron – Retired 1991

## 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

*Norbert Wolter*

Governor Pritzker will be releasing a report this month from a special committee on consolidating municipal pension funds aimed at correcting shortfalls for municipal retirees including police and firefighters. There may also be mention of consolidation of the CPS and TRS funds. IRTA leadership does not look on such a change favorably as it would mean TRS taking on even more unfunded liability.

At the recent Legislative Committee meeting in Springfield, our lobbyist Andrew Bodewes indicated that the legislative arena would be relatively quiet during the next year as Legislators are unsure of what will happen during this unusually turbulent election cycle. He indicated that few bills of consequence would be called for a vote.

The IRTA Legislative Committee meets on Tuesday, September 10. Info from that meeting will be shared at our September luncheon meeting.

## Excellence in Education Awards

Excellence in Education Award applications are now being accepted. These grants will provide additional funds so students can participate in special classroom/school projects. Any public school, Pre-K – 12 teacher is eligible to apply. Additional information and the application form are available for downloading at [www.mcrrta.org](http://www.mcrrta.org). Applications will be accepted between August 1 and October 31, 2019. Awards will be announced in January 2020. This project has been made possible by a generous bequest from the late Marcia Wright, teacher in Crystal Lake.

## Elections

*Joann Jazak*

*Our MCRTA elects officers every two years. Below is a list of individuals who have come forward to be on the board. If you are interested in a position on the board nominations are still open. A vote at the general membership meeting will be held in October.*

President: Steve Polep  
Board Secretary: April Shouse  
Treasurer: Dick Seaborn

Vice-President: Linda Young  
Unit Secretary: Cathy Schiller

# 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. This is an international company that provides life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling. MASA has provided this service 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, go to [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org). At the top of the page click on **Members Only** and login. Along the left side click on **Members Benefits**. Look under **Available Endorsed Benefits** and scroll to the bottom of these benefits where you will find **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. 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 for more information. You will find a phone number that you can call to talk to someone about this benefit. If you know that you want to use the benefit, you can also 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. AMBA offers our members many great discounts.

## MCRTA Teacher of the Year

1988	Vera Perry* - Woodstock	2003	Mary Stompanato - Woodstock
1989	Carrie Hage* - Harvard	2004	Herb Rangl - Marengo
1990	Verda Dierzen* - Woodstock	2005	Venus Nienow - Woodstock
1992	Eleanor Wilkens - Woodstock	2006	Velma Dysart - Crystal Lake
1993	DuWayne Sheldon* - Crystal Lake	2007	Greg Johnson - McHenry
1994	Edith Newcomer* - Crystal Lake	2008	Henry Kenyon - McHenry
1995	Marie Husmann - McHenry	2009	Al Boeldt - McHenry
1996	Edith Brandt - Crystal Lake	2010	Beth Marcello—McHenry
1997	Ken Swanson - Ringwood	2011	Mike DeWolfe—Johnsburg
1998	Marti Swanson - Ringwood	2012	Norb Wolter—Johnsburg
1999	Betty Anderson - Huntley	2013	Lois Shartiag—So Barrington
2000	Don Seaton - McHenry	2014	Bev Aweve--McHenry
2001	Steve Polep - Cary	2015	Jude LaFrancis—McHenry
2002	Beulah Allyaud - Woodstock	2016	Dick Seaborn--Johnsburg
		2017	Marlene Griffith—McHenry

\*\*Beginning 2017 Award is given only in IRTA Convention Years

**Congratulations to Mary Noe**, the 2019 Teacher of the Year. Mary retired in 2009 and became the Scholarship Chair that same year. She serves in that same capacity on the board still. Mary resides in Union.

## IRTA Convention

Highlights of the convention:

- President Roger Hampton asked IRTA members to be a Beacon. We should be a Guiding Light for retired teachers, a shelter (House) of consolidated purpose, and a Shield as a pension protector of retiree benefits.
- Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier spoke about the the court system and the decision in the Heaton v Quinn case. "Crisis is not an excuse to abandon the rule of law; it is a summons to defend it," Justice Karmeier wrote, giving the opinion which penned the court's position that the justices did take note of the state's dire financial condition, but even so, they could not ignore, neglect, or reject the Illinois Constitution. The Illinois pension protection clause promises that benefits shall not be diminished or impaired."
- John Flaherty was elected President of the IRTA and will begin his 2 year term on January 1
- Wendy Weigers was elected the Area 2 representative.



**IRTA:**  
**OUR LIGHT, OUR HOUSE, OUR SHIELD**  
*Biennial Convention*  
**OCTOBER 14-15, 2019**  
**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**