

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2023 Meetings

October 18—JB Moose
November 15—31 North
December 13—MCC

Upcoming Programs:

Oct: Jerry Gudauskas
Bee Keeper
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—\$20

Pork Schnitzel with gravy
Red cabbage
Potato pancakes with apple sauce
and sour cream
Dinner Rolls
Apple Strudel
Coffee, tea and lemonade.

President's Message

Joann Jazak

"Welcome back!" Just like starting a new school year, it is always good to see old friends and new as we embark on this year. Thank you to everyone who attended today.

Bob Frenz, one of our own and our speaker for the meeting did a great job on talking about his book Historic Country Schools of McHenry County. Bob kept the audience engaged with his stories and visuals. If you missed getting one of Bob's books he will be bringing some to our meeting in October.

If you are Aetna Medicare Advantage Insurance, new I.D. cards will be coming in the mail before the end of the year. These will be the cards to use starting January 1. If you wish to keep the same insurance nothing needs to be done. Before the first of the year we will be informed of our monthly premium costs.

October Program

Beth Miller

Our speaker will be Jerry Gadauskus one of our McHenry county retired teachers. He is a Master Beekeeper and will talk about the benefits of bees. Jerry is a TWO state Master Gardener- Florida and Illinois! He went through the Illinois training back in 1997. Jerry is a prolific vegetable gardener at his home in McHenry. He is also active in hydroponic gardening, and has his Master Beekeeping certificate from the University of Florida.



Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

THANK YOU to those of you who have paid your dues for 2024 or have paid LIFE or three-year dues.

You have saved me much time and have saved the organization money when I don't have to mail reminders to everyone. Thank you also for your notes to me. I appreciate your kind words.

I will be sending an updated membership list out late in October.

As always, if you have questions about your membership, please call or text me at 815-385-3533.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER
JANE MCDONNELL FROM MCHENRY!**

DEATHS:

- Gaye Boland David Fredin
- Kendall Hastings John Kleiss
- Jeannie Ludwig Betty Womack

*Some of these deaths may have been long ago, but I was not aware of them.

Why Join MCRTA?

The **McHenry County Retired Teachers Association (MCRTA)** is our local connection to IRTA. The MCRTA board is active at the state level as we have members holding positions on their boards/committees. We add our local influence for the passage of favorable legislation in Springfield. We keep our membership informed of current Teachers' Retirement System changes. We also support current and future teachers by giving scholarships and grants.

We are always looking for entertaining/informative programs and fun activities for our members. You can help by bringing new members to our meetings and by bringing us your good ideas!

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: Dick Seaborn

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**



President's Message (continued)

There will be thirteen delegates heading to the convention in Springfield on Oct 16-17. When we gather on October 18th at the Moose we will inform you of the information from the convention. If you have any questions before that time please contact one of the board members.

REACH FOR THE GOAL our new theme for this year. We are looking for seventy members for three consecutive months to attend our general meetings. This is the time to grab someone who is newly retired, someone who has not come in a while, or someone who may have never attended. Sometimes all we need to do is to ask them.

Our winners of the **REACH OUT** from last year's goal are the following.

Kathy Brandwein, Olivia Santarelli, Beth Marcello, Kathy Englund

Each winner either received a \$25.00 gift card from Benedict's La Strata or \$25.00 gift card from Target.

Until we see you at the Moose in October enjoy the fall weather and hopefully the fall colors.

Legislative Report

Norbert Wolter

Election season is officially underway with Legislative candidates able to circulate petitions for filing November 27 through December 4. Candidates are working to secure a position on the March 19, 2024 primary ballot.

Illinois legislators met for a third time to discuss a proposal that would provide an additional \$500 million yearly for the state's pension systems to address unfunded liabilities. This proposal is a major feature of House Bill 4098, which is being watched closely by IRTA. IRTA lobbyist Andrew Bodewes and Government Affairs Coordinator Courtney Hayes recently gave testimony regarding WEP and GPO at the House Pensions hearing on Tuesday, Sept 5. IRTA has long supported legislation that would provide our retirees with the full social security benefits that they have earned.

IRTA Convention

As a board, we are looking ahead into the fall. The IRTA Convention will be held on October 16-17, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois. At this time we have 13 delegates going from our organization.

The proposed amendments to our constitution that will be voted upon by the delegates. <https://www.irtaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-Proposed-changes-with-Rationales-final.pdf>

Teacher Grants

Peggy Hart

Do you know teachers who need a way to fund unique activities for their students? The **McHenry County Retired Teachers Association** is working toward the future by offering grant money to Pre K -12 public school educators in McHenry County.

How the Program Works

Excellence in Education grants will provide additional funds, enabling students to participate in special projects. These enduring projects should impact students year after year.

What Qualifies for an Excellence in Education Grant

Suggested materials include, but are not limited to:

- Trade Books to support specific projects or related curriculum
- High interest books to support student reading
- Manipulatives and interactive materials to support STEM
- Reference books
- Learning games
- Digital cameras
- Software

Interested teachers can download an application at www.mcrt.org and submit between August 28 and November 30, 2023. Grants will be announced in January 2024.

TRS News

TRS was recently made aware of a SMS phishing attempt at another retirement system within the State of Illinois.

Phishing and spam texts are fraudulent attempts to get personal information from you. They typically ask you to click a link. Clicking the link may take you to a website asking you to provide credentials or personal information.

In an attempt to share information with our members and annuitants, we are posting this to let you know that **TRS would never ask or request information through a text message**. We will not share any personal information through text with any entity.

If you receive text messages of this type, which appear to be from TRS, please let us know by [emailing us](#) and provide any relevant information.

Member Communications

Kathy Speaker

You will get 3 notices about an upcoming luncheon. You need only respond to one of them. We will send you a reply. If you don't get a reply, please contact us at mchenryrta@gmail.com.

Keep in mind that we turn in our guaranteed count, 1 week ahead of the date. If you cannot make the luncheon, we will need you to pay for your lunch as we have already guaranteed your spot.

A Great Way to Help!

How can the MCRTA help the Huntley H.S. Medical Academy?

Renaë St. Clair was the McHenry County Educator of the Year and came to our June meeting. She started a Medical Academy a few years ago for Huntley High School. She also is willing to help other high schools with their medical programs. She has asked for our help in a couple of ways:

1. The biggest most urgent needs for us are wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and canes. I know sometimes people have trouble letting go of these items because they might need them but you are welcome to put a luggage tag type label on them and if you should ever need them back you can just contact me. These items we would start using this year and once again I am happy to come pick them up. People can text or call me at 815-403-6614 or email me at rstclair@district158.org to schedule a pickup.
2. We are going to try to start a Certified Nursing Assistant class next year so we also need things like working hospital beds and linens for them (which unfortunately are not standard size sheets), pillows, over bed tables, bedside cabinets, chairs, stethoscopes, thermometers, blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes, bedpans, urinals, emesis basins, wash basins, and transfer/gait belts.
3. Any other medical supplies someone wants to get rid of we can take and use in some capacity with our students.

Finally we are working on a date or two where we will be requesting volunteers to be pretend patients to work with our students. I already have two McHenry County Retired Teachers that have said they would volunteer if the date works for them and I'd love to have more. Anyone interested in volunteering can again text, call or email me.

Thank you so very much for your support! Contact me anytime.

Renaë St. Clair
Huntley High School Medical Academy
13719 Harmony Road
Huntley, IL 60142

Cell: 815-403-6614
Email: rstclair@district158.org



trail Open Enrollment
October 15 - November 15, 2023

TOTAL RETIREE ADVANTAGE ILLINOIS

The TRAIL Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) Program Open Enrollment is coming soon.

During the open enrollment period, members will be able to enroll and make changes at: **MyBenefits.illinois.gov** or by calling the MyBenefits Service Center at **844-251-1777**, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM CT.

No changes can be made prior to October 15, 2023.

In-person TRAIL seminars are available to provide additional information and answer any questions you may have. Feel free to bring a family member or someone who helps you with your health care decisions to learn more.

Reservations are **not** required to attend these seminars.



No need to enroll, unless you have changes or you wish to opt-out of the plan.

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**