

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2022 Meetings

September 21—31 North
Jim Bachmann, IRTA

October 19—31 North
Candidates Forum

November 16—31 North
TBD

December 14—MCC
Note Date Change
Cello Player Annie Ballin

Suggestions for future speakers are welcome. Please contact Joann Jazak 847-738-3036

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

September Menu

Signature 31 North Salad
Bourbon Glazed Roast Pork
Rosemary Mashed Potatoes
Trio of Vegetables
Homemade Bread & Butter
Dessert Plate
Coffee, Tea, Water

President's Message

Linda Young, Interim President

Since the passing of our dear friend and President Steve Polep, I have now taken on the roll of Interim President of MCRTA. At the last board meeting a nomination committee was formed to find candidates for this important position in our organization. At our October meeting an election will be held. If you would like to be considered for a board position, please contact me and I will pass your name to the nominations committee. This will be a year of changes for our distinguished unit. We need the support from our membership. The MCRTA unit has openings now for President and other committee chairs. Can YOU help! If you have any questions or concerns, contact me and I will try to obtain information for you. This includes canceling a luncheon reservation before the deadline.

Linda Young postteach@att.net 847-209-8047

September Program

Joann Jazak

James Bachmann, IRTA Executive Director
IRTA updates on insurance, pensions,
member benefits

Bring your questions!



Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

If you know a retired educator who does not belong to MCRTA, consider inviting that person to one of our meetings. We are a group worth joining. Although we are all retired, we still encourage and support youth in our area. We provide grants to McHenry County teachers who use the funds to enrich the education of their students. Through our scholarship program, we award thousands of dollars to graduating seniors from our McHenry County high schools who are going to become teachers. We make a positive impact upon education and the young people of our county, and we provide our membership with informative programs and the chance to socialize with colleagues.

Sometimes new retirees confuse IRTA and MCRTA. IRTA is the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. IRTA is primarily our "watchdog" in Springfield. IRTA protects our pensions and benefits and is the ONLY organization in the state that represents ONLY retired educators. MCRTA (McHenry County Retired Teachers Association) is the local arm of IRTA. We each collect our own dues. Neither IRTA or MCRTA is connected to IEA, NEA, IFT, or AFT.

Membership starts collecting MCRTA dues for 2023 in September. Be on the lookout for an email or letter from MCRTA. If you are a LIFE member, you owe no dues.

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

Questions? Email: marlenegriffith@icloud.com; call or text 815-385-3533.

Another loss for MCRTA:

Marie Amelia (Schultz) Husmann, aged 94 years, died at Pleasant View Nursing Home in Monroe WI. Marie was a former board member and she and her husband John were both members of this organization. Condolences may be sent to the family at: shriner111.com. Her obituary can be found in the Northwest Herald.

If you have a new email or want to add your email to our list, please email mchenryrta@gmail.com.



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 Linda Young on her cell at 847-209-8047 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.

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

Legislative News

Norb Wolter

The mid-term election will be held on Tuesday, November 8. Early voting begins on September 29 in the County Clerk's Office in Woodstock. First day of early voting at satellite locations is October 24. To help you get acquainted with our area legislators, MCRTA will host a Candidate's Forum at our October 19 meeting.

A recent Voter Voice request was sent out via email to allow us to air our concerns to Governor Pritzker related to the CMS decision to replace United Health Care with Aetna Co. as the Medicare Advantage provider. United Health Care is appealing this decision, but we may have to switch to Aetna in the fall enrollment period. The IRTA staff will keep us informed about steps needed to maintain our coverage.

Some MCRTA members said that they did not receive this Voter Voice email. Please check your spam or junk mail folder as some members reported that this was where they found the email. IRTA is working on this problem and hopes to make needed corrections soon. IRTA staff asked all members signed up for Voter Voice to check their contacts file to be sure the Illinois Retired Teachers Association email address is included. (irta@irtaonline.org)

Excellence in Education News

Peggy Hart

After a hiatus of two years due to COVID, the McHenry County Retired Teachers Association is once again seeking applications for its Excellence in Education grant program for public school teachers in McHenry County. These awards will provide additional funds so students can participate in special classroom/school projects. Any public school, Pre-K - 12 teacher is eligible to apply for one of these grants.

Additional information and the application form are available for downloading at www.mcrtta.org. Applications will be accepted between August 1 and October 31, 2022. Awards will be announced in January 2023. Please share this information with any Interested teachers. These awards are made possible through a bequest from the late Marcia Wright, English teacher at Crystal Lake High School.

STEVE POLEP SCHOLARSHIP

The MCRTA board has decided to establish The Stephen Polep Memorial Scholarship. We felt that Steve would be happy having a scholarship in his memory, helping young people open the door to a teaching career.

If you would like to make a donation, please indicate Polep Memorial in the memo section and mail your check to:

MCRTA
PO Box 1776
Crystal Lake IL 60039

IRTA MESSAGE

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRINTED IN THE IRTA NEWSLETTER. We reprinted it here in case you didn't see it.

During the past 28 years, Steve served in several capacities including: McHenry RTA Unit President, the first unit website coordinator, IRTA Region 2 Director, Area 2 Representative, State Member Benefits Committee Chairperson, IRTA Vice President, President, and Past President.

As State Member Benefits Committee Chairperson, Steve played an instrumental role in expanding the menu list of benefits available to IRTA members. When Steve served as IRTA President (2008-2009), he realized the many challenges that IRTA faced. Membership and communication were two of his main priorities. During Steve's term as president, the following concepts were developed: VoterVOICE, an IRTA website redesign, Board of Director dinners, and the PAC candidate endorsement procedures. VoterVOICE was initially used to combat the calling of a State Constitutional Convention and is still used today to inform members and contact legislators. The Board of Director dinners enabled the members of the Board to socialize and familiarize themselves with local unit and association issues. The PAC candidate endorsement procedures were developed and are still being used today.

Steve's drive, helpfulness, generosity with his time, sense of humor, and passion to help others will be greatly missed! A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Please keep Steve's family in your prayers.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Did you know SOAR@Dorr is celebrating its first anniversary? SOAR (Serving Older Adult Residents) is a collaboration between the city of Woodstock and Dorr Township that was launched in July 2021. It is open to all residents of McHenry County.

Under the very capable and enthusiastic leadership of Laura Wassinger, SOAR offers a wide range of activities, including mahjong, bingo and other games, crafts, art activities, a book club, lunches, movies, current events, and periodic speakers. SOAR also provides SHIP services (free program to help seniors navigate medical insurance), a team of advisors to help in learning how to operate computers and tablets, and periodic AARP driver safety classes.

The Loss of a Child grief group is the newest offering at SOAR. The SOAR center is housed at the Dorr Township facility at 1039 Lake Ave. in Woodstock (just east of the intersection at Rte. 47 and Lake Ave and across the street from Nikos Red Mill Tavern). A monthly calendar of activities and more detailed information can be found at SOAR@Dorr

MailChimp

The September meeting notice was sent out using the program MailChimp. We also were able to send out the notice about the passing of Steve Polep.

The first meeting notice had the May newsletter linked. The second one has this June newsletter. The newsletter will no longer be printed. This way you will receive the newsletter even if you cannot attend the meeting.

Don't forget to continue to check your spam/junk folder for emails from our organization. Also check with your friends and make sure they are receiving it. Our email is mchenryrta@gmail.com if you need to reach us.

Member Benefits

Rose Turk

Welcome to a new year with MCRTA! Whether you are a new retiree or a returning friend, we want you to be aware of the benefits, services, and discounts offered through the association to you as an IRTA member.

One of the benefits IRTA offers is discounted services from Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). Another benefit offered is products that IRTA has negotiated at rates for our membership.

Some of the benefits that we can take advantage of through AMBA are:
Insurances:

- Long term care, Long term, Short term, and Whole Life, Dental/Vision, Liberty Mutual home and auto, Veterinary Pet
- Tax deferred annuity
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- American Hearing Benefits (AHB)
- Apple and Dell discounts
- Car rental discounts
- Hotel discounts
- Dining discounts
- Flower discounts

Other benefits that are available to us as IRTA members:

- Globus
- Orlando Employee Discounts
- Vacations By Rail

If you have not already done so, go to irtaonline.org. At the top of the page go to **Members Only** and click it. Login in by putting in your email and creating a password. Once you are logged in click on MEMBER ONLY. Then go to the left side of the page select **Membership Benefits**. Click to download on the second paragraph or scroll down to see all the benefits IRTA has to offer. To find out more information on any of the benefits, discounts, or services click on it. Take advantage of the many deals you have as a member of IRTA.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Mary Noe

We were honored to hear from 3 out of our four 2022 scholarship winners at our June meeting. We would like to recognize the four 2022 MCRTA scholarship winners. Please take a few minutes to read about all of them.

They were outstanding high school students and we wish them continued success on their route to becoming future educators. They will be receiving their \$1500 scholarship checks after their first semester of college. Please get to know a little bit about them through quotes from their impressive applications. A big thank you to the 2022 selection committee members: Peggy Hart, Cathy Schiller, and April Shouse. Mary Noe, MCRTA Scholarship Chair

Linnea Diersen, a Crystal Lake South High School graduate, is receiving a Marcia Wright Memorial Scholarship. Her plans are to major in Secondary Education-English at Wheaton College. "Teachers only enter students' lives for brief periods of time, and within that short time it is a teacher's job to adequately prepare and inspire them to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. Educators have the unique opportunity to directly influence the next generation, and what they teach or how they inspire will have an effect on the impressionable minds of the youth. There are very few other professions that have the same possibility which is what makes teaching so valuable." Among her many talents, Linnea has participated not only in CLS band productions but also in the McHenry County Honor Band, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Woodstock City Band as an oboe player. Linnea's teacher said, "Linnea is eager to learn. She brings joy to the classroom. She is a dream student---prompt, prepared, polite, passionate---the kind of young woman I can only hope my daughter will become. Linnea will, without a doubt, demonstrate excellence both in college and beyond."

Maxwell Folbrick, a graduate of Richmond-Burton Community High School, is planning to attend University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a major in Secondary Education-History. "My history teachers have really inspired me to pursue a career in education and I want to inspire and do the same for my future students. Teachers are needed now more than ever and I want to help with the teacher shortage to help better the lives of students, the school, and the community. I want to build a welcoming learning environment so that students can learn not only about history but life as well. Teachers are so valuable to our society and I want to be a part of the difference they make in the community." Maxwell received the sportsmanship award in both soccer and basketball. He has been involved in his church's vacation bible school program for 5 years. Max' teacher said, "Max is a compassionate and caring young man. He is the type of student that will lend a helping hand to any peer, regardless of whether or not they are friends outside the walls of RBCHS. Max also never hesitates to help his teachers and other staff members when needed. He truly is a positive light and strong role model to all that he encounters."

Thomas Oeffling is a graduate of Johnsburg High School and is planning to attend Marquette University with a Secondary Education-History major. "An education can be an equalizer of people, opening opportunities regardless of background or financial means. With all we have faced in our world, including, but not limited to, global pandemics, wars, and shortages of goods, a history and civics education is of immense importance. That's why I'm going into history education; I believe understanding the past means understanding the present, and I hope to someday allow students to love history and understand the world around them as I do." Tom has been raised by a family of educators and has already helped others by high school tutoring and working with JHS Reading Mentors for younger students. His guidance counselor said, "What sets Tom apart from other smart kids is his ability to work with others, be compassionate, take things in stride and be a positive force for those around him. Tom has the infectious ability to make those that come in contact with him better and want to achieve more."

Lauren Snelgrove, a graduate of Marengo Community High School, receives the Marcia Wright Memorial Scholarship. Her plans are to major in Early Childhood Education at Elmhurst University. "Pursuing a degree in Education means that I will be shaping the future minds of America. This is something that I will take seriously and be prideful of my profession. As a teacher, my main goal is to instill the love of learning into each one of my students. I want every student of mine to be the best person and learner that they can be, consistently putting their best version of themselves into school. I hope to create a safe, loving, and accepting environment." Her Family and Consumer Science teacher noted that Lauren has completed the full sequence in the field of Child Development. As a junior she worked two hours every afternoon at the preschool at Zion Lutheran School. "Lauren's evaluations were at the top of the scale in areas of attendance, being a team player, initiative, acting professionally, and responding positively to instruction and directions given by others." As a senior, she continued her classes at District#165 in the PreK department working with regular and Special Needs students. "She will be an outstanding student at the college level and in her future career goal in working in the classroom with children."