

# 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:**

**Sept: Anette Isaacs**

**Oct: Jim Bachman**

**Nov: Ellen Amore—CASA**

**Judge David Gervais—**

**McHenry Court System**

**Dec: Rich Frankenfeld—**

**TRS**

**September Menu**

- Caesar Salad
- Turkey with Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Steamed Carrots
- Ice Cream Sundae
- Coffee (Hot Tea on request)

## President’s Message

*Stephen Polep*

- The TRAIL Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period for the 2019 plan year will be October 15 - November 15, 2018.
- If you are a TRIP member and are eligible for Medicare Parts A and B before October 1, 2018 you must enroll in one of the TRAIL Medicare Advantage insurance plans offered in your county of residence in order to keep your health insurance after December 31, 2018.
- In the fall you will receive a letter informing you that you must sign up for TRAIL if you want to continue to receive health insurance under TRIP.
- If you are already enrolled in a TRAIL insurance plan you have two options:
- If you want to make a change to your TRAIL health insurance coverage or add a dependent, the fall Open Enrollment Period is the time when you can make that change.
- If you want to maintain your current TRAIL coverage, you don’t have to do anything. Your health insurance coverage automatically will continue as it is in 2019.

Give me a call if you have more questions on any MCRTA subject and I will find you an answer.

## September Guests

*Jude La Francis*

Anette Isaacs speaking on Margaret Steiff  
The woman responsible for the Teddy Bear



# Membership News

Marlene Griffith and Linda Young

*Thank you to Regional Superintendent of Schools Leslie Schermerhorn for allowing me to use her office to duplicate all the letters we send out about dues and about joining IRTA and MCRTA. Linda Young and I mailed almost 700 letters in early September to members and prospective members.*

## 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.

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 2020
- 2) \$25 for 2020, 2021, 2022
- 3) \$150 for LIFE membership

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](mailto:marlenegriffith@icloud.com) ; call or text 815-385-3533

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (as of 9/5/2019):

- Cress Anderson*, Wauconda - Retired 2019, McHenry D15
- JoAnne Backhaus*, McHenry - Retired 2019, McHenry D15
- Kim DuBois*, Spring Grove - Retired 2019, Nippersink D2
- Diane Durik*, Cary - Retired 2019, Cary D26
- Rita Kaminski*, Woodstock - Retired 2019, Woodstock D200
- Mary Jo Lemke*, McHenry - Retired 2019, McHenry D15
- Stacy Nordengren*, Cary - Retired 2019, Cary D26
- Carla Voss*, Woodstock - Retired 2019, Woodstock D200
- Kelly Wessel*, Crystal Lake - Retired 2019, Cary D26
- Pamela White*, Lake in the Hills - Retired 2019, Crystal Lake D47

### DEATHS:

- Ron Bendis, Woodstock
- Nita Cherry, Rogers, Arkansas
- Ruth Collins, Columbia, Missouri
- James Crabill, Union
- John Husmann, Monroe, Wisconsin
- William Mack, Crystal Lake
- Patricia McCaleb, Woodstock
- William Schuette, Woodstock

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



## Financial Report

Our organization is pleased to announce we have a new Finance board member, **Olivia Santarelli**. This person will work closely with the current treasurer to provide financial oversight for our organization. The main task areas are financial planning and reporting.

## Legislative Report

*Norbert Wolter*

The Governor signed HB 2700 on August 23, 2019, making the legislation Public Act 101-483. The legislation increased the time period that an individual may receive a refund of an overpayment to TRIP or TRAIL to 7 years. Prior to this law, a retired teacher was only entitled to receive a refund of an overpayment to their TRIP or TRAIL program by a maximum of 6 months' worth of an overpayment. After becoming aware of this issue, the IRTA worked with Representative Katie Stuart, a Democrat from the Metro-East area near St. Louis, to introduce HB 2700 to correct this issue.

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

## Scholarship

*Mary Noe*

A big thank you for your spring donations totaling \$1100 for the McHenry County Salvation Army backpack program. Backpacks have been stuffed and distributed in August. You are such a generous group of retired educators!

## 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.mcrta.org](http://www.mcrta.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.

# 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, Life, Dental/Vision, Liberty Mutual home and auto, Pet
- \*Tax deferred annuity
- \*Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- \*Orlando Employees discounts
- \*American Hearing Benefits (AHB)
- \*Apple and Dell discounts
- \*Car rental discounts
- \*LaQuinta discounts
- \*Dining discounts
- \*Flower discounts

Other benefits that are available to us as IRTA members:

- \*Globus (See message on the next page from them)
- \*Medipendant
- \*Vacation By Rail

If you have not already done so, go to [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org). At the top of the page go to **Members Only** and click it. Create a profile if you do not have one already. Once you are logged in at the left side of the page select **Membership Benefits**. 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.

Every month there will be a different benefit presented to you. Be looking for the Member Benefits report in the newsletter. Did you know?

Newsletters are posted on the MCRTA website ([www.MCRTA.org](http://www.MCRTA.org)) each month. Also the April presentation on IRTA and TRS websites is posted. Check out all the good information on that site!

## Volunteer Celebration

Linda Young ([postteach@att.net](mailto:postteach@att.net)) and Joann Jazak Turk ([jjazek@hotmail.com](mailto:jjazek@hotmail.com))

The IRTA is proclaiming the month of September as Retiree Volunteer Celebration Month. The IRTA will highlight the many acts of volunteerism performed by retired teachers in the media, on the IRTA website and Facebook, as well as at the IRTA convention. MCRTA is encouraging members to wear a volunteer badge and take photos of themselves at their various volunteer activities.

We are encouraging all our members to help by doing three simple things:

One ...Wear a volunteer badge

Two... Take a photo of yourself volunteering

Three... Send that photo to Linda Young [postteach@att.net](mailto:postteach@att.net)

Badges will be available at our September General meeting.

This is a positive way to let communities all over the state recognize that retired teachers continue to serve.

## Globus/Avalon Waterways at IRTA Conference

Globus Family of Brands Travel and Avalon Waterways will be attending the IRTA conference this year, scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2019. **Our booth number is 14.**

If you are interested in traveling with Globus, Avalon or any of our brands, please stop by the booth and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. As a reminder, you can save an **additional 5%** on any of our travel programs if you **call the IRTA Travel Hotline** and book a trip. Stop by to pick up a flyer on specific directions on how to do this. If you will not be attending, please email or call for more information.

We also just announced our new 2020 Europe and NA travel product. New trips include an **Irish Manors & Castles tour**, a **9 night Scottish Highland Fling** program, and a **Quebec/ Gaspe Peninsula** program.

Greg Poniewaz, Midwest Territory Rep  
Globus Family of Brands Travel  
314-852-2447     [gponiewaz@globusfamily.com](mailto:gponiewaz@globusfamily.com)