



School's Out Gazette

Publication of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association, an Affiliate of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association

December 2019..... Editor Diana Luck..... Volume 24.3



From 2019-2020 President Steve Fritz

Children Sometimes View Things Differently...

I had only recently been appointed as Executive Director of Student and Personnel Services when I decided it was time for me to get out in the buildings to see how our most recent teacher hires were getting along in their classrooms. I called the principal to let him know that I would be dropping by the next day. He assured me that I would be welcome any time. We agreed that I would meet him in his office at 10:30 a.m. the next morning and we would, from there, visit the classroom of one of his new teachers.

As fate would have it, I got involved in an unexpected phone call of some urgency, and by the time the call was resolved, and I looked at the time, I realized I was already thirty minutes late for my appointment. I quickly raced out of the building to my car.

Meanwhile, Mr. Principal naturally had put his schedule on hold waiting for my arrival and needed to get on with other important business. Therefore, he stationed a fourth-grade student at the school's front entrance with instructions to meet the Executive Director when he arrived and to send the man directly to his office; and, to be sure that he got there.

When I arrived at the building, on the run, I came directly face-to-face with a fourth-grade boy with a look of concern on his face.

"Are you the Executive Director guy?"

"Yes, son, you see that I'm running a little late and..."

"Never mind me," the boy interrupted, "the principal says that he is sending you to the office and I have to go with you to make sure you don't run away. I don't know what you did, but boy are you in trouble. I would hide if I were you."

I hope this brings a smile to your lips. For...

The value of worth and the power of mirth can help each of us to get through
when the going is rough, and incredibly tough, and even the sunshine looks blue.
For once you give in to a chuckle or grin your spirits just naturally lift,
and life is worthwhile each time that you smile for a laugh is a God-given gift.

Ella Wheeler Cox

Message from President-Elect Janet Leistner

As we watch the season change again and the holidays approaching, it is important to step back and reflect on the successes and challenges of the previous year and anticipate what will come in the New Year. While we will all be busy with family and friends, be sure to stay safe as the weather changes and schedules are hectic.

Winter is a time of gray, velvet weather drifting towards us. It arrives on "little cat feet" and curls itself around us like the fog in Sandburg's poem. The weather is a friend if you make it one. I look forward to the gray, quiet time for solitude, contemplation, reading, long conversations with friends. Colors are softer, sounds have more depth, the pace is gentler. Instead of resentment at the lack of sun, snuggle into the gray velvet quilt and make yourself a cup of tea.

-Jennifer Jones, Success Is the Quality of Your Journey

Try to spend some quiet time and enjoy the chance for indoor activities. Also, please remember family members and friends who served in past wars or may be serving presently in the military. We honor each of them on Veterans' Day and every day of the year.



Merry Christmas and Happy 2020!



The December ERTA luncheon for this school year will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at the American Baptist East Church at 6300 Washington Avenue. The cost of the luncheon, which is provided by Golden Corral, is \$12. We will start at 11:30 for socializing, and the lunch will follow at 12 noon.

Dues of \$15 will be collected also for those who have not yet paid, \$10 for associate members. Also, the first year's ERTA dues are complimentary for the 2019 retirees.

Special Program: The December program will be a holiday music program by the Harrison High School Choir led by Director Anne Pritchett. It will be a great way to help all of us celebrate these young people and the Holiday Season.



Message from Jan Craig - Reservations:



Thank you for following the new reservation procedure, which Janet Leistner created for our organization.

Please Click the link [ERTA Reservation Form - December, 2019](#) to submit your reservation by Monday, December 2, only if you plan to attend. If you submit a form for two people, please list both names on the form

If you have any issues trying to submit your reservation, please email Jan Craig at jlraig7@gmail.com.

Reminder: If you need to cancel a reservation you made, please call Jane at 812-480-5289 or e-mail her at mymomjane@aol.com. Monday, December 9, is the last day to cancel your reservation without being charged since ERTA will have to pay for any meals after that date.

We are looking forward to celebrating this coming holiday with you in December.



ERTA 2019-2020

December Board Meeting.....December 5
 December Luncheon/Program.....December 12
 Legislative Brunch IndianapolisFebruary 4
 March Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck February 7
 March Board Meeting March 5
 March Luncheon/Program March 12

May Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck April 8
 USI Scholarship Banquet April
 UE Scholarship Banquet April
 May Board MeetingMay 7
 May Luncheon/ProgramMay 14
 IRTA Rep. Assembly, Primo Center, Indy.....June 17

RECORD YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS		
Year: _____		
Hours	Youth	Other
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
TOTAL HOURS		
Name		
Email		
Phone		
Options: 1. Turn in your hours at the December meeting. 2. Email your hours to Janet at j.leistner@twc.com . 3. Mail by USPS before December 31 to: Janet Leistner 613 Berry Court – Evansville, IN 47710.		

Volunteers Are Special!

Pat Claybaugh was a special person who was on the ERTA Executive Committee and handled these volunteer hours for us. She will certainly be missed. Janet Leistner will temporarily handle this responsibility.

Many had volunteer hours but did not turn them in at the December meeting last year. Hours that you serve in any organization or just deliver cookies to a friend may be counted. Hours may be counted if they do not involve a family member or if you are not being paid to do the job. You may even count the time it takes you to get there and return home from your volunteering. You may want to use this form to keep track of your volunteer time. You may add them up to turn in at the December meeting since they are due December 31, 2019. If you are unable to be at that meeting, you may email them to Janet Leistner at j.leistner@twc.com. Extra forms will be available at the December luncheon.

EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Executive Board Meeting

October 3, 2019

Call to Order: President Steve Fritz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Doris Beard, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Janet Craig, Judy Isaac, Janet Leistner, Walt Lewis, Diana Luck, Donna Lutz, Diane Meier, Fred Naab, David Pfettscher, Donna Schmidt, Sandra Schmidt, Jane Staton, and Lino Wiseman.

Approval of August 8, 2019 Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lino Wiseman listed the following information in his financial report:

1. The University of Evansville Scholarship Fund is valued at \$45,764.20.
2. ERTA received a check for \$1,849.31 from Frog Follies. Jim Sharp spent \$348.47 to feed our volunteers. The remaining amount of \$1,500.84 will be deposited in the ERTA Special Projects Account.

Then, Lino spoke about the time that Jim Sharp spent at the 4-H Center setting up on Thursday and working at the registration tables on Friday and Saturday. Also, this year his wife prepared many desserts for our volunteers. As a result, Lino proposed that ERTA give the Sharps a \$50 gift card. Diane Meier seconded. The motion passed.

President Elect: Janet Leistner announced that reservations number 116/117 at this time. USI President Dr. Ronald S. Rochon will be the guest speaker.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship/Necrology: Judy Isaac reported that Donna Lutz is now chair of this committee.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede said that 45 newsletters were mailed this time. She also said that October 31 is the deadline for joining ERTA. Diana Luck added that the membership form will not be in the newsletter after October.

Publications: Diana Luck reported that she will prepare and mail next year's August newsletter to those who don't have e-mail. Those members have been receiving their copy two weeks late.

Legislation: Diane Meier reminded members that the 13th Check is automatic for next year.

Information Items:

Frog Follies: Diane Meier thinks that we need to get out information on how to get to the 4-H Center by way of Darmstadt Road, so participants and visitors can come in the back way. This year there was a major traffic jam on the highway.

Volunteer Opportunity: Steve announced that a Docent Recruitment Meeting will be held on November 10 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Botanical Gardens. Those interested should contact Charlene Talley at Mesker Park Zoo.

Service Hours: Steve asked that all retired teachers turn in their volunteer hours whether they are members of ERTA, IRTA, or not a member of either association.

Information Table: Simone Payne will be at the table explaining about donations needed for the Spell Bowl, Math Bowl, etc. She is the EVSC Manager of Special Projects.

Necrology Report: The names of those who have passed away this year are to be sent to IRTA at the end of June in 2020. The list of deceased members will be compiled by the secretaries of local retired teacher associations and forwarded to Julie Green at IRTA, according to Gene Van Stone.

Steve added that the names of local deceased educators will be announced at our August meeting whether the individuals were members of ERTA or not.

New Area 9 Director: Jim Isaacs will serve as the new Area 9 Director.

Teacher Locker: Janet Leistner reported that the Teacher Locker will be expanding.

Steve said that volunteers are needed. He added that donations collected at our December luncheon will go to the Teacher Locker.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Next Executive Board Meeting: December 5, 2019

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Luncheon Meeting at American Baptist East Church

October 10, 2019

Call to Order: Steve Fritz opened the meeting at noon, and former President Walt Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the recognition of all attending veterans.

Introductions of the Head Table: Steve introduced ERTA President-Elect Janet Leistner, President of the University of Southern Indiana Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, IRTA Region 9 Director Jim Isaacs, and EVSC Academic Affairs-Manager of Special Projects Simone Payne.

Information from the President: The lunch attendees were updated on the health of member Ed Wessel, our ERTA Chaplain and his wife Barbara.

Inspirational Blessing: Steve Fritz provided devotions in Ed Wessel's absence. Steve then sang the song "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

Teachers Locker Update: Steve announced that the Teacher Locker is still looking for volunteers and anyone who is interested should contact Sandy Madriaga. Steve thanked Vic Doty and Sandy and Mike Madriaga for volunteering.

IRTA News: Steve invited Region 9 Director Jim Isaacs to give an update on IRTA events. He stated he is replacing Andy Guarino and that he lives in Oakland City. He encouraged membership in the state organization which has many benefits such as Medicare Supplemental Insurance, travel, AT&T and Verizon discounts, etc. The current Foundation campaign is at \$200,000 with a one-million-dollar goal. He reminded attendees to keep track of all of their volunteer hours, which can include travel time hours.



Frog Follies Update: Steve provided an update on the annual fundraising event and thanked those who volunteered to work at the Frog Follies on August 23 & 24. A special thank you to Jim Sharp for heading up this activity. A special word of appreciation to his wife for baking cookies for the event. Jim has informed the board that next year will be his last year to organize this event. We are looking for someone to step up and take his place and work with him in 2020 to learn the ins and outs of the activity. Next year's event will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 28 & 29, 2020.

Introductions: Steve introduced the new Necrology Chair, Donna Lutz. He also introduced Simone Payne, the EVSC Manager of Special Projects.



Docent Opportunity: Steve received information from Mesker Zoo that the zoo is looking for docents. Anyone who is interested should contact Charlene Talley.

Reminder: Our holiday luncheon will be held on December 12th at the American Baptist East Church and will include holiday musical entertainment by the Harrison H. S. Choir. The money collected at the luncheon will be donated to the Teacher Locker. More information will be provided in the upcoming newsletter. Sign-up for online reservations will be open soon.

Table Decoration Give-Away: Attendees with a sticker under their chairs received a fall pumpkin table decoration.



Lunch: Steve Fritz dismissed those at the head table for meal service. Then, he dismissed members and guests by tables using the title of the fall photos that were taken by Janet Leistner's husband Howard that were placed on each table.

Approval of Luncheon Meeting Minutes from August 8, 2019: The minutes were approved as printed.



Program: After the members moved to the chapel, Janet Leistner introduced the guest speaker Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, USI's fourth president. He provided an inspiring presentation on his personal background and the current educational opportunities at USI. He concluded by saying USI's goal is to see that every student at the university is respected, and his/her educational needs are addressed.



Door Prizes: Drawings were held for three gift cards.



Adjournment: The October meeting was adjourned by 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Craig, Secretary Pro-tem



ERTA Members Volunteer at Teacher Locker

Teacher Locker, the new teacher supply store, opened on July 25, 2019. Since then, over 200 EVSC teachers have taken advantage of this free resource to help outfit their classrooms and to provide additional curriculum resources for students. To date, teachers have “purchased” over 6,000 items including teacher storage units, desk organizers, classroom furniture, bulletin board supplies and hygiene items. Some of the most popular items have been both copy paper and construction paper, student scissors, mechanical pencils, dry erase boards and dry erase markers and anchor charts.

Each item at Teacher Locker is assigned a point value and teachers are given 40 shopping points. For example, a ream of copy paper is 3 points, mechanical pencils are 1 point for a bundle of ten and a new stapler is 2 points. The stock changes often as we receive donations.

The response from both teachers and the community has been so outstanding that Teacher Locker is already expanding into an adjacent room. This will provide much needed storage for supplies and allow for an easier shopping experience for teachers.

ERTA members have been awesome working as volunteers. Most members have volunteered on Monday mornings from 9:00-12:00 to restack shelves and sort donations. Several ERTA members have worked during teaching shopping hours to welcome teachers and to help direct them to wanted items.

Feedback from teachers has been positive. One teacher wrote, “Christmas in October! Thank you for this wonderful opportunity for FREE! I never get anything free! You are all amazing for setting this up!”

You can contact Teacher Locker Board Members, Vic Doty, Mike Madriaga or Sandra Madriaga, for more information.



IN MEMORIAM

"Always in Our Hearts"

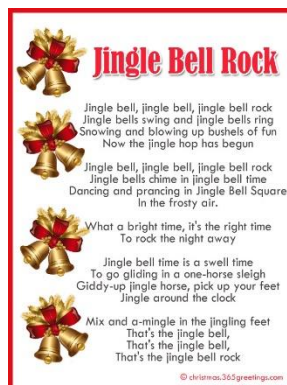
Rebecca Nicholson.....	September 16, 2019
Anna Muriel Pitts	September 19, 2019
Larry L. Lawrence.....	October 1, 2019
Robert Michael Cuprisin	October 6, 2019
Barbara K. Blevins.....	October 19, 2019
Jerome (Jerry) Latham	October 27, 2019
Patricia (Pat) Claybaugh.....	November 8, 2019

KEEPING IN TOUCH

ERTA Website.....	www.erta.info
EVSC Website.....	http://evscicats.com/evscnewsletter/category/latest-news/evsc-news/
IRTA.....	1-888-454-9333
IRTA E-mail	irta@retiredteachers.org
ISTRF (Retirement Benefits)	1-888-286-3544
Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield	1-800-368-9354
Group Insurance Policies.....	1-800-258-7041
IRTA Website.....	www.retiredteachers.org
ISTRF Website.....	www.in.gov/trf

Please e-mail any contact changes (including cell number if you dropped your landline) to Darlene Brockriede, brockriede@twc.com.

Included with this newsletter is the updated membership roster prepared by Darlene Brockriede.





EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report by Lino Wiseman

September 30, 2019



CHECKING ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance September 1, 2019				\$3,080.46
Income		1934.31		
Interest		0.18		
Expenses			0	
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2019</u>				<u>\$5,014.95</u>
REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance September 1, 2019				240.53
Interest		0.01		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2019</u>				<u>240.54</u>
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance September 1, 2019				1,008.92
Interest		0.17		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2019</u>				<u>1,009.09</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT				
Beginning Balance September 1, 2019				\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2019</u>				<u>\$15.00</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26				
Beginning Balance September 1, 2019				5,560.94
Interest		0.27		
Income		0.00		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2019</u>				<u>5,561.21</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 1 CD				
Beginning Balance September 1, 2019				14,014.92
Interest		22.81		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2019</u>				<u>14,037.73</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				\$25,878.52



Happy Holidays!



Evansville Retired
Teachers Association
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