



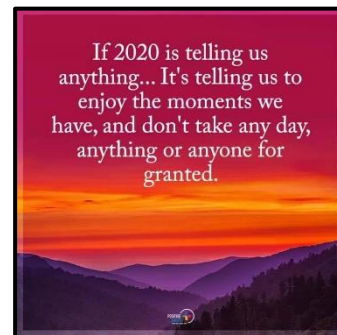
School's Out Gazette

Publication of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association, an Affiliate of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association
December 2020Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 25.3



From our 2020-2021 President, Janet Leistner

Hello and Happy Holidays 2020. It has been quite an interesting year, and I wish that we had been able to meet, but we want to ensure the safety of our members by encouraging everyone to continue to stay home as much as possible and not gather. I was hoping we could gather in December, but the virus continues to explode in our community. Maybe we can next spring. Our ERTA Executive Board continues to meet on Zoom to ensure that we discuss plans and updates as needed. I have spoken with a few of our members who have experienced COVID, and I have had a few friends and neighbors who have had it. I hope that each of you is safe and healthy and that you will be able to enjoy the Holidays as you make important decisions about your family gatherings. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need assistance in any way. I so enjoy this organization and am looking forward to when we can meet again!



I thought you would enjoy this article from [IRTA Bulletin Board](#):



Christmas 1954 - IRTA Executive Director, Trish Whitcomb with parents, Ed & Pat.
Ed was the 43rd Governor of Indiana from January 13, 1969 - January 8, 1973.

Brenda Walls, Area 4 Director, shared this precious story:

Several years ago, when both my sons were teenagers, I started a Christmas tradition with gifts of wool socks. Being a mom, I always wanted to take good care of them and to keep their feet warm in the winter. Year after year, each of my sons would get a pair of socks. My youngest son would always lose his or wear them out, but my oldest son did not. Nevertheless, both boys would get wool socks for Christmas.

The years passed and I lost my youngest son. My oldest son moved back in with us. He opened a tub filled with pairs of wool socks. I asked, "Where did you get all those wool socks?" He answered, "You keep buying them for me! Please, Mom, don't buy me anymore!" Of course, I reluctantly agreed.

However, it just didn't seem like Christmas without wool socks. So, without him knowing, I would take a pair of wool socks from his dresser and hide them in one of his other Christmas gifts. Each year I take a different pair from his dresser, so he doesn't know what color is missing. I put them in a variety of places. One year I put them in his Christmas stocking. Another year I wrapped them in a huge box. One year, I separated them into two gifts. It has become a tradition for both of us. He tries to figure out which pair is missing, and I love the look on his face when he finds them in a gift! Evidently, I will be keeping this tradition for a long time because he just doesn't wear out or lose his wool socks like his brother did!



Message from President-Elect Jan Craig

The wondrous spirit of the Christmas season will soon be upon us. Even though we will not be gathering together due to the Covid on December 10, we hope that we will be able to in 2021. Once again, we will draw three names for a \$10.00 gift card each, and the cards will be mailed before Christmas. In a future email, we will announce the winners.

We hope you have a safe and healthy holiday. Wishing you and your family a Christmas that is merry and bright.

Warmly,
Jan Craig, President-Elect
Email: jlcraig7@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 812-459-1356



Message from Sandra Schmitt, ERTA Secretary

Evansville Retired Teachers Association Executive Board Meeting August 6, 2020

Call to Order: President Janet Leistner called the Zoom meeting to order around 1:05 p.m.

In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Doris Beard, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Jan Craig, Walt Lewis, Diana Luck, Diane Meier, Don Mosbey, Donna Schmidt, and Lino Wiseman.

Opening Thoughts: Janet read an inspirational poem written by a teacher with encouraging thoughts as educators face returning to the classroom during Covid-19 this Fall.

Approval of March 5, 2020 Executive Board Minutes: The minutes were accepted as printed.

Doris Beard made a motion to accept the minutes as printed and Don Mosbey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lino Wiseman stated the financial report was filed for audit and passed.

He reminded current members to mail their membership dues directly to him since the August meeting was cancelled. All new retirees' memberships are paid by the organization during their first year. Janet Leistner will send out an email reminding members to pay their yearly dues of \$15. Janet shared with the ERTA Board that Lino had informed her that this would be his last year serving as our Treasurer. Lino has served and performed this financial role for ERTA exceptionally for many years and he will be missed. Thank you, Lino.

President Elect: Janet Craig reported that the Golden Corral agreed to cater the meals again this year. She contacted Debbie at Golden to remind her that our August meeting was cancelled due to an increase in the virus. Jan will contact Golden Corral when the board decides in September about the October 8 luncheon meeting. The October meeting can be in-person or as a Zoom meeting depending on the Covid-19 status.

Current President: Janet Leistner will continue to create the reservation Google form this coming year.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Jane Staton could not participate today, and Janet Leistner explained that Jane is continuing to collect members' volunteer service points to be submitted later to IRTA.

Fellowship/Necrology: Donna Lutz was not able to attend. Diana Luck stated that Brenda Beeler and other members let her know when someone passes away. Janet mentioned Candice Dodson's sudden death and shared her many contributions for the advancement of technology in both EVSC and at the state level even though she was not a member. Diana Luck shared that Mark Freece, a History teacher at Reitz, passed away in May.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede announced that membership information was mailed to new retirees and only three were returned with insufficient addresses.

Program/Luncheon: Jan Craig reported that Dona Bone from the Evansville Wartime Museum will be our speaker for the October 8 luncheon meeting. Golden Corral will be able to provide whatever style meal we request from box lunches to buffet. Jan stated that she has received some member pictures for the Veterans slideshow and Walt Lewis's photo of himself in Egypt in 1985 was the first one submitted.

Publications: Diana Luck suggested a newsletter be sent to the membership after the ERTA Board decides about the October meeting. A Board meeting will be held in September to determine whether to meet in person or virtually in a Zoom meeting based upon the Covid-19 status. Diana was thanked for the awesome newsletter she publishes for the organization.

Publicity: Doris Beard discussed the ERTA Facebook page and encouraged Board members to like and join the page. Representatives of ERTA could appear on various local talk shows such as Midday with Mike and ABC 25 Local Lifestyles with Ange Humphrey.

Scholarships: Diane Meier and Donna Schmidt reported that due to the EVSC schools closing scholarship checks will not be mailed out until next spring. The scholarship amount available is about \$20,000.

IRTA Liaison/Legislative: Diane reported the Legislative Committee met on June 30, 2020. She shared Indiana state funds will be 1.4 billion less than projected. It was discussed whether state taxes will need to be raised to make up for the shortfall. This will again affect the approval of a 13th check or the slim chance of ever receiving a COLA. She shared that there are some retirees in the state suggesting on the internet or social media platforms to give current teachers

the money from our 13th check funds. This cannot be done because teachers are paid out of a different fund. Please remind any retirees that giving up a 13th check will make it next to impossible to ever get it back.

Historian: Darla Olberding was unable to attend today's meeting. Janet Leistner informed the Board that the ERTA filing cabinet was located, but it was locked with no key. She will attempt at a future date to have it opened by a locksmith.

Information Items:

1. Janet Leistner shared a letter she drafted to send to Dr. Smith and the EVSC School Board from our organization offering our support for all their endeavors during these Covid-19 challenges. The ERTA Board approved the sending of the letter and thanked her for her leadership and efforts.
2. Janet informed the Board that teacher candy baskets have been put on hold due to the uncertainty of the start of school. An attempt to distribute them closer to Christmas will be scheduled.
3. Proposed fundraising ideas will be welcome due to the cancellation of Frog Follies this August.
4. Teacher Locker is gearing up for the start of the school year according to Janet. Four teachers are allowed in at a time with two volunteers assisting them. Let Janet know if you or anyone you know might be interested in volunteering, and she will let Jeff Berger know. Doris Beard suggested that the Board donate \$100 to Teacher Locker with the table decoration money not used for our cancelled August meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved. Lino will mail the check.
5. Installation of officers will take place during the October meeting.
6. Due to the cancellation of the May and August meetings, various ideas were discussed on how to stay in touch. Doris Beard suggested meeting at a park like Wesselmans to socialize. Of course, we would wear masks and social distance six feet apart in our lawn chairs.

Next ERTA Executive Board Meeting: October 1, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. (In person or Zoom to be determined)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Submitted by Jan Craig, President-Elect for Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



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

Facebook by Doris Beard: Search Evansville Retired Teachers Association

ERTA 2020-2021

December Zoom Board Meeting..... Dec. 3 – 1:00 p.m.	May Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck April 5
December Luncheon December 10 - Cancelled	USI Scholarship Banquet April - TBA
Legislative Brunch Indianapolis Pending	UE Scholarship Banquet April - TBA
March Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck February 8	May Board Meeting May 6 - Pending
March Board Meeting March 4 - Pending	May Luncheon/Program May 13 - Pending
March Luncheon..... March 11 - Pending	IRTA Rep. Assembly, Primo Center, Indy.....June 17



IN MEMORIAM

“Always in Our Hearts”

David Eger.....	May 3, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=david-g-eager&pid=196138201&fhid=15841	
Dr. Anthony Brooks	September 20, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=anthony-m-brooks&pid=196835963&fhid=24979	
Martha Thomas	September 26, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=martha-ann-thomas&pid=196902619&fhid=24979	
Shirley Huber.....	October 6, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=shirley-ann-huber&pid=196926868&fhid=10665	
Charlotte DeWig	October 10, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=charlotte-ann-dewig-smith&pid=196941258&fhid=14467	
Mark Paulson	October 18, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=mark-paulson&pid=196978921&fhid=15841	
Dena Bauer	October 27, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=dena-charlene-bauer&pid=197010377&fhid=24978	
Lisa Kilmartin.....	November 4, 2020
https://www.goodwinsieversfh.com/obituary/lisa-ann-foncannon-kilmartin/	
Linda Goodridge.....	November 14, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=linda-goodridge&pid=197127757&fhid=15745	
Lydia “Sue” Dauby	November 16, 2020
https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=lydia-dauby-sue-watson&pid=197127742&fhid=14467	



Volunteers Are Special!



Since the December meeting has been cancelled, please email your volunteer hours to Jane Staton at mymomjane@aol.com by December 31. Thank you!

EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2020-2021 Membership Dues

Name _____ Date _____
 Last First Middle Initial

Address _____
 Street City State Zip+4 numbers

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail _____

Cell: (____) _____

Retired Teacher (\$15.00) _____

Associate Member (\$10.00) _____

I wish to make an additional contribution to the ERTA Scholarship Fund _____

Check # _____ TOTAL: _____

Make checks payable to: **EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (ERTA)**

Mail to: Lino Wiseman
5950 Knight Dr.
Evansville, IN 47715-3472

		ERTA		
		TREASURER'S REPORT		30-Sep-20
CHECKING ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2020				\$2,527.12
Income		1830.02		
Expenses			46.2	
Interest		0.02		
<u>Ending Balance Sept 30, 2020</u>				\$4,310.96
REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2020				240.65
Interest		0.01		
<u>Ending Balance Sept 30, 2020</u>				240.66
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2020				3,088.77
Interest		0.51		
<u>Ending Balance Sept 30, 2020</u>				3 089.28
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2020				\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance Sept 30, 2020</u>				\$15.00
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2020				13,694.07
Interest		0.54		
Transfer			565.02	
<u>Ending Balance Sept 30, 2020</u>				13 129.59
TOTAL ASSETS				\$20,785.49



Message from Diane Meier, IRTA Liaison/Legislative



The IRTA Legislative Committee met virtually via Zoom on November 10, 2020.

Steve Beebe, IRTA lobbyist announced that both the House and the Senate will maintain a Republican super majority at 71-29 and 39-11 respectively. The results of Covid-19 will make it difficult to contact legislators. The House is moving to the Government Building for this session. The Senate is spreading into their gallery. Beebe plans to go to the Statehouse every day but is not sure about the restrictions because testimony in Committee meetings will be limited to video shown from "side rooms." For that reason alone, it will be even more important for IRTA members to continue to contact their legislators using whatever method works.

Due in part to the pandemic, state revenues are down, and it could take us 2-3 years to see them return to normal. The Legislature will be looking for revenue and for ways to cut budget items. We will have to watch to see that the Pension Stabilization Fund is protected. However, the SRA account created in 2018 has about \$60m in it and is expected to get another \$30m. This is enough to cover a two-year 13th check including a \$50.00 enhancement. It is Beebe's opinion that we can ask for the "13th check" and an extra \$50 on it because there is enough in that account to cover the cost.

We ask that you contact your Legislature, especially if you know him/her to remind them of the following:

- a. The money is already in the SRA (Supplemental Reserve Account.)
- b. This is dedicated money that is not supposed to be used for any other purpose.

If you do not know your legislators, go to <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>. When you enter your address, it will tell you the legislators who represent your district. If we do not want to lose the money in the SRA account, we need to make these contacts.

The Legislative Committee's goals are to protect the PSF (Pension Stabilization Fund) and move ahead with the "13th check," including a \$50.00 enhancement.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me at demeier@aol.com.

Diane Meier

For Your Information: Trish Whitcomb, Executive Director of IRTA, submitted her resignation last week.

Message from IRTA:



At Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation, we promote the welfare of teachers through all stages of their journey. As a partner of the IRTA, our Foundation promotes the welfare of retired teachers, supports those who are currently teaching, and encourages people to enter the profession. The Endowment creates a permanent funding source for the important grants and scholarships the Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation gives every year. Right now you can Be the Match! Donations of more than \$50 to the Endowment will be matched!



Our Programs

Active Teacher Grant
This program provides one-time grants to active teachers who foster creativity in the classroom.

A Hand Up Grant
This program provides financial assistance for an immediate need of an IRTA member who is undergoing a temporary or emergency hardship.

Scholarships
Each year, IRTF awards 10 scholarships (one in each Area) to help promote our profession and assist college students who have a passion for the classroom.

Learn more at
retiredteachers.org/foundation

\$40,000 

Amount needed annually to support current programs established by IRTF

\$1M 

Amount needed for Endowment fund to cover these costs "forever"

+\$200,000 

Contributions from IRTF as seed money for the IRTF Endowment Fund

+\$400,000 

IRTA Representative Assembly graciously allocated to be used as matching funds

Donation Form

IRTF DONATION INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
WWW.RETIREDTEACHERS.ORG OR
ON FACEBOOK @INDIANARTF

**Donations of
\$50+
will be matched
by the IRTA**

Matching ends December 31, 2020.

**Donations of
\$250+
qualify for an
inscribed apple on
the Giving Tree**

I am enclosing a \$_____ contribution to assist
the Foundation with its work.

Please direct my contribution to the endowment:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Name on apple if above \$250: _____

Please make check payable to: Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation,
2629 Waterfront Parkway, East Drive, Suite 105, Indianapolis, IN 46214
The Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)
(3) organization. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

