



School's Out Gazette



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

December 2022.....Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 27.3



Message from Janet Craig, 2022-2023 President

Happy Holidays!

Cheers to 60 years! Thank you to all the past presidents for participating in the 60th-anniversary celebration on Oct. 13. We are sorry that we did not get to hear from each one. Plans are in the works to hear from the remaining past presidents at upcoming luncheons as time allows.

We appreciate and thank past President and Historian Darla Olberding for her interesting presentation documenting the history of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association. Thank you to Doris Beard, President-Elect, for organizing this successful event.

It's that time of year when our lives seem to get a little hectic as we indulge in the festive spirit of both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Whether it's overeating, watching favorite old movies, playing board games, or spending quality time with family and friends - ERTA hopes you have amazing holidays this season.

Christmas isn't just about the gifts. Often, it's about the memories you make with your loved ones and dear friends while gathered around a decorated Christmas tree.

For many families, Christmas is one of the few holidays in the year when everyone can be together. Christmas memories are precious to all. Some of my favorite memories are enjoying an amazing pink flocked real Christmas tree, drinking eggnog in my Mom's ruby glasses after opening presents, going to an 11:00 pm candlelight church service together on Christmas eve, and driving around looking at Christmas lights as I shouted out "too many lights" from the back seat of the car.

So please join us on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at Embrace Church for our holiday festive luncheon as the Bosse High School choir comes to entertain.

Then we hope to see you in the New Year on March 9, 2023.



Christmas is a time of giving. It's also a time to give back. In 2011, past President Pat Eager started the Christmas collection at the December luncheon. Since then, more than \$10,000 has been collected and given to various local organizations. Thanks to Pat for initiating this ERTA holiday tradition.

So, this festive season, we're continuing to support a non-profit organization with our financial gifts. A designated gift bag will be at every table to place donations in.

Please join us on December 8th and help to make a difference. "Together we can do so much!"



To enable the Bosse choir students to catch their buses by 2:20 pm, we need to start our luncheon/meeting around **11:45 am**, not noon on **Thursday, Dec. 8.**

Message from Doris Beard, 2022-2023 President-Elect


Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

As we gather together with our friends and family, may we remember the many blessings we have received. I count as blessings each of you for your loyalty and love of your time spent as a teacher. Your time spent in the classroom has changed the lives of so many of your students.

As we prepare to enter the Christmas season, another of our blessings will be seeing each other at the ERTA Christmas luncheon. We will be blessed to hear the Bosse choir, directed by Madeline Beeson, present Christmas music. Our Christmas meal is being catered by the Golden Corral. Some of you will also be blessed to win a poinsettia as a door prize.

As we gather together this Christmas season, may we remember the reason for the season.

Please note that the ERTA meeting will start at 11:45.

 **Christmas Menu:**
 Turkey and Ham
 Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
 Green Bean Casserole
 Coleslaw
 Cranberries
 Dinner Roll
 Drink
 Dessert

I Know Something Good About You

Wouldn't this world be better,
 If folks whom we meet would say
 "I know something good about you,"
 And treat you just that way?

Wouldn't it be splendid,
 If each handshake, good and true,
 Carried with it this assurance:
 "I know something good about you"?

Wouldn't life be happier,
 If the good that is in us all,
 Were the only thing about us
 That people would recall?

Continued...

Wouldn't our days be sweeter,
 If we praised the good, we see,
 For there is a lot of goodness,
 In the worst of you and me?

Wouldn't it be fine to practice,
 This way of thinking too;
 You know something good about me, I know something
 good about you?

Unknown



ERTA CALENDAR December 2022-May 2023

December Board Meeting	December 1
December Luncheon.....	December 8
March Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck	February 10
March Board Meeting.....	March 2
March Luncheon/Program.....	March 9
May Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck	April 14
USI Scholarship Banquet.....	April - TBA
UE Scholarship Banquet.....	April - TBA
May Board Meeting.....	May 4
May Luncheon/Program.....	May 11
IRTA Representative Assembly, Indianapolis.....	June



The President's Associates Dinner

USI held its annual "The President's Associates Dinner" on Friday, October 21, 2022, at Carter Hall. It was held to express appreciation to its donors who have given so generously to the University. Donations are a vital element in contributing to student scholarships.

After a sumptuous meal and a welcome by President Ronald Rochon, many donors were acknowledged publicly by the President of the Foundation Board. ERTA sponsors a scholarship yearly to a USI student pursuing education as a career. Jan Craig represented ERTA by attending this event.



Message from Janet Leistner, 2022-2023 Membership Chairman *October Luncheon*

We enjoyed a great gathering in October of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association with 96 members attending to celebrate our 60th anniversary and recognize our Past Presidents. We were honored to welcome Mayor Lloyd Winnecke who proclaimed October 13 as Evansville Retired Teachers Day.





Photos by Walt Gleim and Janet Leistner



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 Finance Report
as of 11/10/2022**

ASSETS	Actual
Checking Acct. Balance	\$ 4,805.52
Savings Acct. Balance	\$ 240.90
Scholarship Acct. Balance	\$ 12,294.24
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 17,340.66

Reported by Lynn Arteberry, Treasurer

In Memoriam

“Always in Our Hearts”

Cheryl Stroud	November 10, 2022
https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc038975	
Katherine Ann (Whetstone) Widick	November 6, 2022
https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc038904	
Elvin Reed	October 31, 2022
https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc038812	
John Wessel.....	October 28, 2022
https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc038755	
Doris Jean (Breeze) Mudd	October 20, 2022
https://www.ziemerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Doris-Breeze-Mudd/#!/Obituary	
Loyd Webber	October 14, 2022
https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/evansville-in/loyd-webber-10972004#:~:text=Loyd%20V%20Webber%2C%2098%2C%20of,He%20enjoyed%20fishing%20and%20reading.	
William Knapp	August 24, 2022
https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/evansville-in/william-knapp-10899374	



Message from Diane Meier, IRTA Liaison

The Legislative Committee met on October 5, 2022. Here are some key points from that meeting:

Steve Beebe, IRTA lobbyist since 2013, reported on significant events that have happened since the end of the General Assembly last spring. He met with Senator Ryan Mishler, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, on September 1. Sen. Mishler indicated he was not opposed to either a COLA or a “13th check” (stipend) as long as neither was funded by the General Fund. Senator Mishler is adamant that no money be taken from the General Fund.

Steve Russo, from INPRS (Indiana Public Retirement System), indicated in a late September meeting with Beebe present that the Supplemental Reserve Account (SRA) could pay the current “13th check” (stipend) amount for each of the next two years of the new budget.

Very recently, the teacher retirement fund received \$2.5B from the state surplus dollars left after the state budget concluded their fiscal year. This results in the unfunded liability being reduced to \$8.8B, which Sen. Mishler is wanting to be paid off by 2030, if not sooner.

The House Ways and Means Com. is now chaired by Rep. Jeff Thompson, a former teacher. He will be asked to recommend a House member to carry our IRTA bill.

The Legislative Committee recommends, and the IRTA Executive Board concurred, we should support a bill that would enact a "13th check" (stipend) in its current form (\$450.00) for each of the next two years.

As the time for the Legislative Session nears, we will be sending out more information as to how our members can impact the Legislation. As members, they should contact their respective Senators and Representatives. It is very important to be polite and positive with a “thank you” for the large contribution to the pension fund right up front. Postcards, letters, phone calls, and emails were all discussed as to our method of speaking to our legislators. Steve Beebe believes that emails are the most effective.

The Committee encourages members to check the IRTA Legislative webpage for updated information during the session: <https://www.retiredteachers.org/index.php/advocacy/> or <https://www.retiredteachers.org/index.php/advocacy/find-your>

Message from Gene VanStone, IRTA Area 9 Director

Two items for your consideration:

1. I hope to see Evansville active teachers be recipients of "Active Teacher Grants" next year. The process is "somewhat burdensome," but local presidents, or their designees, can make these grants from the Indiana Retired Teachers Association FOUNDATION a reality. I will be glad to assist in the process.
2. We have a strong local retired teachers' group; our collective "voice" is proportional to our involvement as members of the STATE IRTA. Please join with us in our efforts to support retired teachers.

genevanstone@gmail.com

812-480-2000



Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Executive Board Meeting
October 6, 2022

Call to Order: President Jan Craig called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. at Embrace Church and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Lynn Arteberry, Karen Bippus, Fred Bullinger, Judy Isaac, Janet Leistner, Donna Lutz, Diane Meier, Darla Olberding, David Pfettscher, Donna Schmidt, and Sandra Schmidt.

Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2022: Darla Olberding noted that the Fellowship/Necrology Committee was listed as Necrology only. Darla made a motion for the minutes to be corrected to read Fellowship/Necrology. Judy Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lynn Arteberry gave the following financial report as of October 4, 2022:

Account Balance: \$2,989.70 Savings: \$240.90 Scholarship: \$13,930.24 Total Assets: \$17,160.84

Lynn then reported on several forms that she had filed.

Form NP-20 was filed with IN Department of Revenue to keep our nonprofit status.

Form 8822-B was filed with the IRS Department of Treasury for a Change of Address of the Responsible Party. Lino filed this form in June of 2021. Nothing was heard from the IRS until July of 2022. The IRS had changed the address to Lynn's address but left Lino's name. A new 8822-B form had to be sent to correct the error.

Form 990-N was filed with the IRS so ERTA could remain tax exempt.

Lynn then reported on insurance coverage for the normal operating budget and the Hensley Scholarship. The first policy was written in 1989 by Schultheis Insurance for \$136 for three years of coverage. The underwriter was Cincinnati Insurance. Lynn reported that she learned this summer that Cincinnati no longer carried this product. As a result, she contacted Schultheis for a similar policy. The company quoted her a price of \$518 a year for bonding only

and suggested adding a general liability policy to cover the ERTA Board at a cost of \$575. The total annual premium would be \$1,093.

It was recommended that Lynn contact Shepherd Insurance, a company that writes for nonprofit organizations. She was given a quote of \$147 a year for coverage for \$5,000 for the treasurer only. The agent didn't see the need for the ERTA Board to be covered. The policy is underwritten by Liberty Mutual.

Darla made a motion to go with Shepherd Insurance for \$147. David Pfetscher seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Past President: Janet Leistner gave the following reports:

There are currently 298 on the list of members which includes new retirees. Seventy-four have not yet renewed. Janet said that she would send out an updated list in December.

Special Project funds in the amount of \$1,317.28 were received from Frog Follies. Janet made a motion to donate \$1,317.28 to the United Methodist Youth Home. David Pfetscher seconded. The motion passed.

Applications for United Way Grants are currently being read.

President: Jan reported that Janet will help with membership until a chair for the Membership Committee can be found. Jan then addressed various luncheon issues such as speeding up lunch service, returning to self-service as well as moving to the Sanctuary for the program and announcements.

Janet reported 89 reservations at this time.

Committee Reports:

Community Service and Volunteer Hours: Jan reminded members to keep track of their volunteer hours.

Fellowship Necrology: Donna Lutz reported sending a card to President-elect Doris Beard. Janet asked that a card be sent to Carol and John Koehler and that a sympathy card be sent to John and Nancy Roberts.

Program/Luncheon: Doris Beard reported by phone. She outlined next week's program celebrating ERTA's 60th Anniversary. Darla Olberding will begin the program with a presentation on the highlights of the last 60 years. A number of other past presidents will be honored and asked to share.

Jan added that Mayor Winnecke will read a Proclamation celebrating our 60th Anniversary. She said that ERTA is the third largest in Indiana.

Scholarships: Diane Meier spoke about a Hensley recipient who had been awarded \$1,000 but would like to attend the National Art Education Association in San Antonio that was not on the schedule earlier. The committee is recommending that \$1,661.00 be awarded to Heather Swade. Diane said that she will contact those on the original list to see if there are any other changes.

IRTA Liaison/Indiana Legislature: Diane spoke about various financial issues in Indiana concerning educators who must ask year-by-year for money. She said that the Senator who chairs the Appropriation Committee is not opposed to a COLA or a 13th Check.

Information Items:

Jan announced that Veterans will be honored at the luncheon since we don't meet in November.

Old Business:

IRTA Reconnect Workshop: Jan gave a short summary of the workshop that was held on Thursday, September 21, 2022, at the Gasthoff Restaurant in Montgomery, IN.

New Business:

Otters Baseball: Jan received a message from Nolan Vandergraff asking if ERTA wanted to reserve a tent next year for May or June. The consensus was that we do want to reserve a tent, probably in May.

Next ERTA Executive Board Meeting: Thursday at 1:00 p.m. on December 1, 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Luncheon Meeting
October 13, 2022

Call to Order: President Jan Craig called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed first time attendees as well as members. Then she recognized those who have birthdays in October or November.

Introduction of the Head Table: Jan introduced President-elect Doris Beard.

Pledge of Allegiance: David Elfreich led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement: Jan announced that Mayor Lloyd Winnecke would be arriving later to present the City of Evansville Proclamation to the Evansville Retired Teachers Association in recognition of ERTA's 60th Anniversary.

Approval of Luncheon Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2022: The minutes were accepted as written.

Blessing/Prayer: Jan read a blessing, and Steve Fritz read a devotional and prayed.

Recognitions: Jan asked those who served in the Armed Forces to stand and be recognized. Each one received a card and a patriotic-themed Chap Stick.

All ERTA Past Presidents were asked to stand and be recognized as well.

Lunch: Veterans, past presidents, and their spouses went through the lunch line first. Members were called by random years. Doris thanked Golden Corral.

Drawings for Gift Certificates: Jack Weatherholt drew the first number; Walt Lewis drew the second; and Jack Weatherholt drew the third.

Doris asked past presidents to report to the Sanctuary. Members reported shortly after.

Program: Past President Darla Olberding gave a twenty-minute presentation documenting the history of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association.

The first meeting was held in 1952; however, at the end of five years, no would take leadership. The organization resurfaced in 1962 and was known as the Southwest Indiana Division of Retired Teachers.

As of today, there have been 56 presidents, four who have served two terms.

In 1972 the organization affiliated with NEA.

Teachers began acting as tour guides for the Visitors Bureau and later became involved in Frog Follies, sponsored by the Visitors Bureau, in 1980.

In 1995 ERTA had a new newsletter, School's Out Gazette.

In 1999 ERTA became affiliated with IRTA.

Around 2003 the Hensley Scholarship was established with an approximate donation of \$130,000 from an educator who had passed away. The money was for teacher scholarships.

In 2004 archives were established at Willard Library.

In 2011 Past President Pat Eager started the Christmas collection at the December luncheon. More than \$10,000 has been collected.

Welcome Back Candy Baskets were distributed to all EVSC Schools in August of 2013 for the first time to welcome teachers back to the classroom.

In 2019 ERTA became one of the sponsors of Teacher Locker.

ERTA has given approximately \$140,000 in scholarships over the 60 years.

Words from Past Presidents:

Jan read a message from Bob Kraft. Then Diane Meier, Jerry Noland, Jack Weatherholt, Mike Madriaga, Earl Pfettscher, Sylvia Blice, and Pat Eager spoke briefly. Other past presidents in attendance were Terry Becker, Steve Fritz, Andy Guarino, Janet Leistner, Walt Lewis, Bob Surheinrich, Gene VanStone, and Brenda Weber.

Introduction of Mayor Lloyd Winnecke: Jan introduced Mayor Winnecke who read the City of Evansville's Proclamation celebrating October 13, 2022, as the Evansville Retired Teachers Association's 60th Anniversary Day.

Mayor Winnecke then spoke about a large number of improvements, some already completed, some currently in process, and some upcoming, in Evansville.

A Certificate of Appreciation was given to the mayor and to each past president. Darla Olberding received a \$25 gift card.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

FORM FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS – 2022, Jane Staton

RECORD YOUR ERTA 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 Jane Staton at mymomjane@aol.com		
3. Mail by USPS before December 31 to:		
Jane Staton		
116 S. Alvord Blvd - Evansville, IN 47714		



**Evansville Retired
Teachers Association
P.O. Box 15064
Evansville, IN 47716-0064**