



School's Out Gazette



Publication of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association, an Affiliate of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association
March 2022.....Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 26.4



From our 2021-2022 President, Janet Leistner

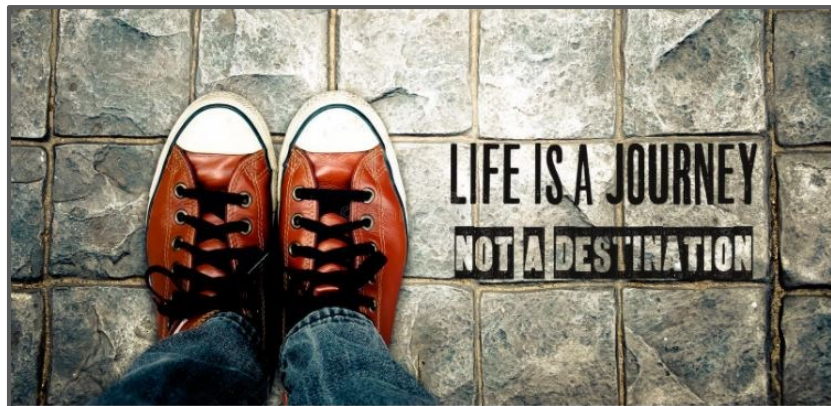
Hello to all ERTA members as we look forward to spring and the hope that our world will move forward with good health and happiness. Certainly, the last two years have been challenging for everyone as we have navigated a pandemic invading our lives. While we often hear about the negative behaviors that some have displayed, I reflect also on the kindness I have seen as neighbors help neighbors and families and friends help each other. Our community's leaders have helped those in need during the pandemic and have helped schools try to survive the daily uncertainty of providing education for our students.

I remember a poster that we hung in the media center many years ago that seemed to spark interest from the students. The poster pictured a nice landscape with the words, "Life is a journey, not a destination." The students wrote reflective essays about what that meant to them. The quote has been credited to Ralph Waldo Emerson, although research has not shown those exact words in his writings. What Emerson did say was: "To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom."

In our journey of life, we have all had many exciting adventures in our careers and with our families, and I am sure some obstacles along the way. However, as we journey through life, we must remember to try to find a healthy balance of enjoying each day while accomplishing the tasks that need to be done.

As I searched for a meaningful image, the poster below seemed appropriate for our world today. The shoes reminded me of all the students who have tried to navigate their education in a world that looks and feels different – whether they are studying at a school or in their home. I applaud all of our schools who continue to try to provide the best education and extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

I wonder how different the essays might be if students today wrote what the quote means to them!



Message From Our 2020-2021 President-Elect, Jan Craig

March is the month of March Madness, MLB opening day, St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring, daylight savings, and ERTA's **March 10 meeting at Embrace Church located at 6300 Washington Ave.** We will gather at 11:30 am for a social hour followed by a catered luncheon at noon. Golden Corral will provide the meal. The menu is listed in this newsletter. The cost of the meal will be \$12.00.

The program will consist of a panel of former EVSC graduates who lead an Evansville non-profit organization. They will share how their EVSC education and experiences prepared them for their current leadership roles. We welcome Aimee Buckingham Stachura, CEO of Girl Scouts of Southwest IN, Kendall Paul, CEO of Vanderburgh Humane Society, and Andrew Backes, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern IN, as panelists.

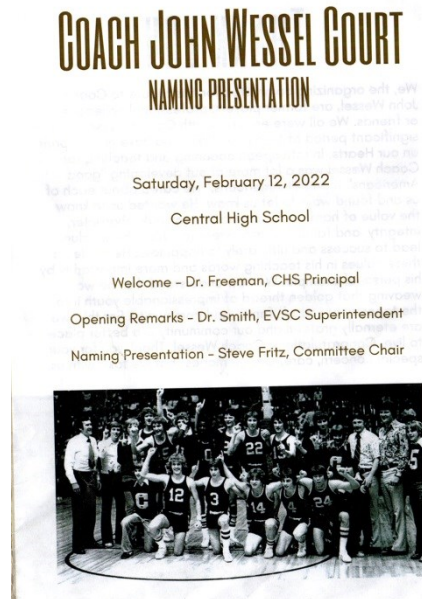
Since March is the month to "spring" into action, we encourage you to mark your calendar and make your reservation soon.

March Luncheon Menu:

Pot Roast/Baked Chicken
Roasted Potatoes &
Carrots
Corn
Lettuce Salad/Dressings
Dinner Roll
Drink
Dessert



ERTA is very proud to recognize Mr. John Wessel, who was honored at Central High School at a special ceremony for the naming of the basketball court as the John Wessel Court. Coach Wessel was a graduate of Central High School and served as the head basketball coach for many years. His wife, Diane, is his great partner in life and his #1 fan. Go Bears!





ERTA is also very proud to recognize Ken Wempe who was recently named the NFHS Indiana Girls Golf Coach of the year. Ken's wife, Janet, supports Ken's many events during his golfing season and is his #1 fan.



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

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**Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Executive Board Meeting
December 2, 2021**

Call to Order: President Janet Leistner called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. at Embrace Church and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Lynn Arteberry, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Jan Craig, Steve Fritz, Judy Isaac, Walt Lewis, Donna Lutz, Diane Meier, Don Mosbey, David Pfettscher, Sandra Schmidt, and Jane Staton.

Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2021: The minutes were approved as received.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lynn Arteberry distributed a financial report for July through November. The figures for July through the end of September were printed in the October newsletter. The figures for October through the end of November are the following:

	October 31, 2021	November 30, 2021
Checking Balance	\$5,250.65	\$4,944.89
Savings Balance	240.79	240.80
Scholarship Balance	16,829.57	16,105.26
Total Assets	\$22,321.01	\$21,290.95

Lynn reported that she had received thank you notes from USI and UE for our sustaining scholarships. Alyssa Lasley, who is majoring in Early Childhood Special Education, was the recipient at USI. Grace Johns, who is majoring in Early Childhood Education, was the UE recipient.

The financial report will be filed for audit.

Immediate Past President: Steve Fritz announced that \$1,259 earned from Frog Follies will be awarded to CenterPoint YMCA, his designated project as immediate past president. The facility, formerly known as the Caldwell Center, is located in the Glenwood neighborhood. Steve explained that the center is an outreach for kids, but it also feeds families.

Jane Staton made a motion to approve the \$1,259 donation to CenterPoint YMCA. Diane Meier seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Jane Staton said members need to send their volunteer hours to her. Sheets will be on the tables at the luncheon for members to record their hours.

Fellowship/Necrology: Donna Lutz announced that she had sent a card to Doris Beard.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede reported that there are 298 memberships. Janet said that we have a few more members than last year, gaining about eleven. She added that we will start with dues next year.

Program/Luncheon: Jan informed those in attendance that the luncheon would begin at 11:45 instead of noon because the Reitz students who will be singing must be back to school on time so students can catch buses home. She said that poinsettias will decorate the tables, and three gift cards will be awarded. EVSC Superintendent Dr. David Smith will attend. Golden Corral will provide the food and servers.

Scholarships: Lynn said that a contribution of \$10 goes into our scholarship account when a member passes away. A \$1.00 for each paid membership is also deposited into this account. This takes place in May.

IRTA/Liaison/Legislature: Diane Meier reported that Indiana has lots of stimulus money. There was a discussion about COLA vs. the 13th Check. The 13th Check is better for the older retirees while the COLA is better for the younger ones. Diane said that redistricting has hurt us.

Historian: Janet announced that ERTA will celebrate its 60th birthday in October of 2022.

Darla Olberding is working on that.

Information Items:

Nominations: Janet reported that Jan is working on nominations for open positions. The slate of candidates will be ready for the board meeting in March.

December Luncheon: Board members donated funds to pay for the poinsettias that will decorate the tables at next week's luncheon.

President's Project: Donations for Tri-State Food Bank will be accepted at the luncheon.

Teacher Locker: A book giveaway will be held on December 4, 2021, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Announcement: The next ERTA Executive Board Meeting will be held on March 3, 2022.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



**Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Luncheon Meeting
December 9, 2021**

Call to Order: President Janet Leistner called the meeting to order at 11:53. a.m. She welcomed everyone and asked those who were first-time attenders to stand. Janet noted that we were starting a little earlier today. She explained that the Reitz Choir needs to return to school on time so students can catch buses home.

Introduction of the Head Table: Janet introduced ERTA President-elect Jan Craig, EVSC Superintendent Dr. David Smith, EVSC Foundation President Ely Martin, and Executive Director of the YMCA Community Outreach Sean Kuykendall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Walt Lewis led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business:

Approval of Luncheon Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2021: The minutes were approved as received.

Announcements:

Reporting Volunteer Hours: Janet reminded those in attendance to complete one of the forms on the tables or send an email to Jane Staton. Forms were also on the Membership Table.

Volunteer Opportunities: Janet announced that there is information about a volunteer opportunity with the Association for the Blind on the tables. Volunteers are needed to read to the Blind.

She also noted that there is a paper bag on each table for voluntary donations to the Tri-State Food Bank. She reported that some students work at the Food Bank.

Presentation of Special Project Money: Steve Fritz announced that \$1,259 earned from Frog Follies will be donated to CenterPoint YMCA, his designated project as immediate past president. The donation was presented to Sean Kuykendall, who reported that there are 37 programs available to 25 schools. The facility was formerly known as the Caldwell Center.

Introduction of the President of the EVSC Foundation: Janet introduced Ely Martin who spoke about volunteer possibilities available at Hangers as well as other EVSC Foundation programs.

Greeting from Dr. Smith: Dr. Smith spoke about being a 40-year employee of EVSC.

He said that EVSC is the largest corporation out of 17 states that was open each day last year during the pandemic.

Dr. Smith announced that the corporation is looking for teachers. There will be a pay increase for teachers.

Blessing: John Wessel prayed before lunch was served.

Luncheon: Before dismissing attendees for lunch, Jan Craig announced that the poinsettia on each table was donated by members of the board. The person at each table who had an Albino Santa at his or her place setting was awarded the poinsettia. Jan then called tables by countries and gave a brief description of the ways the countries celebrate.

Program: After lunch the membership and guests moved to the sanctuary. Choirs from Reitz under the direction of Michael Miller sang Christmas songs. The program ended with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

The director was given a certificate and gift card. A check for \$100 was awarded to the Reitz Music Department.

Door Prizes: Drawings were held for three \$10 gift cards.

Next Luncheon Meeting: March 10, 2022

Dismissal: 1:40 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



ERTA January to June 2022 CALENDAR

March Board Meeting	March 3
March Luncheon/Program	<u>March 10</u>
May Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck	April 4
USI Scholarship Banquet	April - TBA
UE Scholarship Banquet	April - TBA
May Board Meeting	May 5
May Luncheon/Program	<u>May 12</u>
IRTA Representative Assembly, Indy	June – TBA
IRTA Areas 8 and 9 Workshop	September 21 – Location TBA

Special Project Check Presentation



Past President Steve Fritz presented a check for \$1,259 to Sean Kuykendall for improvements at the CenterPoint Energy YMCA, which provides programs for local youth. The Special Projects money was earned by ERTA by our members volunteering at the registration tables at the 2021 Frog Follies.

President's Project Check Presentation

Janet Leistner and Joseph Wyman presented a check for \$423 to Glenn Roberts, Executive Director of the Tri-State Food Bank. Joseph, an EVSC graduate, is a worker at the food bank and is the son of ERTA members Anna Jo and Will Wyman. The money was collected from the ERTA members at the December luncheon. The money will be used for meals for those in need and help provide food for the victims from the recent tornadoes in the tri-state.



IN MEMORIAM

"Always in Our Hearts"

Barbara King January 31, 2022

<https://www.sunsetevansville.com/obituary/7003/>

Ira L. Harris III January 20, 2022

<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc033271>

Robert Williams January 8, 2022

<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc033011>

Sabra Burger December 27, 2021

<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc032787>

Ronald Kelley December 25, 2021

<https://www.osbornefh.com/obituaries/Ronald-Kelley-12/#!/Obituary>

Tim Ashby December 4, 2021

<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc032314>

Janet (Roberts) Martin November 25, 2021

<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc032081>

Mary Casper May 31, 2020

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/evansville-in/mary-casper-9203471>

December 2021 Luncheon

The ERTA luncheon was a success! Everyone enjoyed visiting with one another and enjoying a great meal. Dr. Smith gave words of greeting and encouragement that the schools are doing well during the pandemic. We enjoyed an excellent program presented by the Reitz High School Choirs.



Message from Diane Meier, IRTA Liaison/Legislative

Legislative News

In this year's legislative session, some bills were submitted for a 13th check; however, all were from Democrats, so they didn't get a hearing.

Because this is the short session, and there isn't a bill concerning additions to pensions, there isn't a lot we can do at this time. The Legislative Committee will meet on March 22 to work on goals for next year.

As it comes time for elections in the fall, we need to be aware of how our candidates feel about retirees and their need for an increase in pensions.

Hensley Scholarship News

Hensley Grants were awarded in March 2020; soon after they were awarded, COVID appeared, and most of the teachers were not able to attend their conferences.

Presently, only about a third of the teachers for whom we awarded grants have been able to attend conferences; consequently, I am going to ask the Board to defer the money for another year. Hopefully, by the summer of 2023, those who want to attend conferences will be able to attend.

Message from Gene VanStone, IRTA Area 9 Director

I plan to be at the March meeting. As Area 9 Director, I invite any questions or concerns I might respond to prior to the meeting.

Also, Janet and I have touched base on how we as a local RTA group can contribute to the success of the September 21 planned workshop for Area 8 and Area 9. The combined area workshop must be held in a centrally located spot, and our areas extend from our location to just north of Bloomington.

Financial Report from Lynn Arteberry, Treasurer

ERTA Finance Report	
as of 2/15/2022	
ASSETS	Actual February
Checking Acct. Balance	\$ 3,626.11
Savings Acct. Balance	240.82
Scholarship Acct. Balance	16,121.62
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 19,988.55



Just a reminder from Jane Staton to keep track of your volunteer hours that you serve in any organization.



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