



School's Out Gazette



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

May 2023.....Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 28.5



Message from Janet Craig, 2022-2023 President

“A Goodbye and A Welcome”

I have never been good at goodbyes. Family and friends will tell you that I'm prone to tearing up at the slightest hint of sentimentality from send-offs to celebrations of key life events. I even tend to cry at the end of every Hallmark movie watched. For 18 1/2 years, I returned to Evansville to visit family and friends or to attend various events as I lived in Peoria and Chicago, IL. Each time I left Evansville, I could not get more than a 1/2 a block away when I would start tearing up as I looked back in my rearview mirror. In that mirror was an image of my parents standing in the middle of East Florida Street waving goodbye to me.

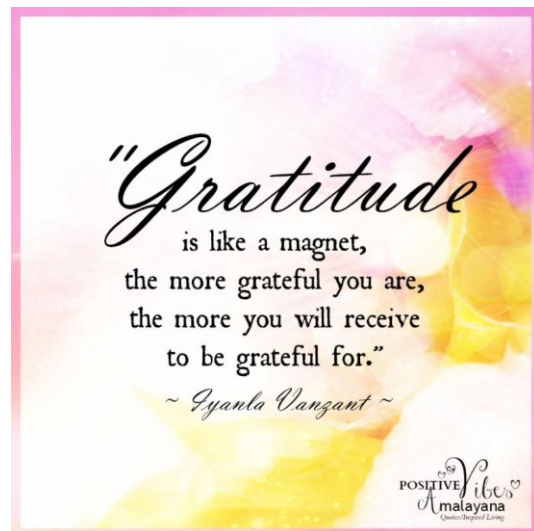
Since I became president-elect (for two years due to the pandemic) and then president this past year, it has been an honor, a joy, and a privilege to serve on the ERTA Board. I can't say it has always been easy, but it has always been fun and inspiring to lead and collaborate with such passionate and creative Board members and our faithful ERTA members--each of you.

When Janet Leistner first called to ask me to serve on the ERTA Board several years ago, I was not sure I had the skills to serve this organization. Little did I realize the many rewards I would receive from being blessed by a great group of retired educators through this leadership experience.

My successor, Doris Beard, began teaching mathematics at Henderson County High School and finished her teaching career at Harrison H.S., where she taught all levels of math. She also taught part time at UE and the Virtual Academy. She is actively involved in her church, the Evansville Philharmonic Guild, the Walk to Emmaus, and the Mesker Park Zoo, as well as teaching and leading an online BSF Bible study. So, I leave you all in extremely capable and talented hands as she takes over as ERTA president in July.

I couldn't possibly say goodbye without first wishing each of you peace, happiness, and God's richest blessings. My sincerest thanks for your kindness and support as I served as your president this past year. I'll truly miss writing to you in this newsletter. Yes, I am tearing up as I am writing this right now.

Gratefully yours,
Jan



Message from Doris Beard, 2022-2023 President-Elect

The ERTA luncheon will be May 11, 2023, at the Embrace Church at 6300 Washington Avenue. Our program will feature Roger Kalia, Evansville Philharmonic Conductor who will share information about our community orchestra.

The cost of the luncheon, which is provided by Golden Corral, is \$14. We will start at 11:30 for socializing, and we will begin the luncheon at 12:00 noon followed by the program.

Please Click the link below to submit your reservation if you plan to attend and include your name(s) and number of reservations.

Click this link [ERTA Luncheon Reservation Form](#) to submit your reservation by **Noon on Monday, May 8. 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 Janet Leistner at j.leistner@twc.com or call 812-455-0384.

Reminder: If you need to make changes or cancel a reservation you made, please contact Janet Leistner at j.leistner@twc.com or call 812-455-0384. Monday, May 8 at noon, is the deadline to cancel your reservation without being charged since ERTA will have to pay for any meals after that date.

We are looking forward to seeing you in May.

MENU

- Roast Beef/Gravy
- Chicken and Dumplings
- Green Beans
- Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
- Glazed Carrots
- Salad/Dressings
- Rolls/Butter
- Desserts
- Beverages



This month's speaker will be Roger Kalia. With a dynamic podium presence and noted passionate interpretations, Indian American conductor Roger Kalia has been celebrated by audiences and industry professionals alike, with Symphony Magazine recently recognizing him nationally as one of five first-year music directors for his innovative programming during the pandemic.

Praised for bringing a "fresh view to classical music" (The Republic, IN), Kalia is now in his third season as Music Director of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, his fourth season as Music Director of the 100-year-old Symphony New Hampshire, and his fifth season as Music Director of Orchestra Santa Monica. He is also Co-Founder and Music Director of the 12-year-old celebrated Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York. The recipient of several awards from the Solti Foundation U.S., including an Elizabeth Buccheri Opera Residency with Lyric Opera of Chicago and five Career Assistance Awards, Kalia has been praised for his "extraordinary leadership."

<https://rogerkalia.com/>

A Message from Dr. Gene VanStone, IRTA Area 9 Director

The 58th IRTA Representative Assembly will be held at Primo South Convention Center in Indianapolis at 9:30 a.m. on June 7. Evansville will have 12 voting delegates. All other members are invited to attend. The cost of the lunch is \$30.

In Memoriam

“Always in Our Hearts”

- Elizabeth Castle Hanisch**..... February 17, 2023
<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc040685>
- William (Bill) F. Holsey** February 22, 2023
<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/evc040766>
- Cynthia Forbes**..... February 28, 2023
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/newburgh-in/cynthia-forbes-11180092>
- Donald “Don” LeDuc** March 29, 2023
<https://www.ziemerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Donald-Don-Leduc/#!/Obituary>
- Donna Hillyard**..... March 31, 2023
<https://www.boonefuneralhome.net/obituary/Donna-Hillyard#obituary>

**ERTA CALENDAR
 May 2023-June 2023**

- May Board Meeting..... May 4
 May Luncheon/Program..... May 11
 IRTA Representative Assembly, Indianapolis..... June 7

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 4/13/2023	
ASSETS	Actual
Checking Acct. Balance	\$2,385.72
Savings Acct. Balance	\$ 240.90
Scholarship Acct. Balance	\$ 9,843.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 12,470.42
Reported by Lynn Arteberry, Treasurer	

Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Executive Board Meeting
March 2, 2023

Call to Order: President Jan Craig 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, Doris Beard, Karen Bippus, Fred Bullinger, Janet Leistner, Donna Lutz, Diane Meier, Darla Olberding, David Pfettscher, Donna Schmidt, Sandra Schmidt, and Jane Staton.

Approval of Executive Board Minutes from December 1, 2022: The minutes were accepted as written.

Officer Reports:

President-elect: Doris Beard announced that Lauren Norvell, the Conservation Education Curator at Mesker Park Zoo, will speak at this month's luncheon. Philharmonic Music Director Roger Kalia will speak in May.

Past President: Janet Leistner shared information about the United Methodist Youth Home's fund raiser. "Walking for Dreams" will take place on the Evansville Riverfront on May 21, 2023. Volunteers are needed.

Treasurer: Lynn Arteberry gave the following financial report:

Checking: \$3,190.35 Savings: \$240.90 Scholarship: \$9,843.72 Total: \$13, 274.97

Lynn also reported that a note in the United Methodist Youth Home's newsletter thanked ERTA for its donation to the youth home. The money that was donated was earned by ERTA through community service.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Jane Staton announced that she had submitted the number of volunteer hours turned in by the membership for last year. The total was 7,055.

Publicity: A chair is still needed for this committee.

Membership: Janet Leistner said that she had sent out a list showing 248 members at this time and plans to send out another list soon. She added that some information, such as phone numbers and addresses, possibly needs to be updated.

Diane Meier suggested putting membership lists on each luncheon table so those in attendance could make any needed changes.

Scholarships: Diane Meier believes a decision maybe needs to be made in May concerning the remaining funds in the Hensley. Diane said that if someone is willing to take over this committee, she will turn over the method she has been using. If no one volunteers to do so, we could donate the remaining funds, possibly to Teacher Locker. The amount remaining will be finalized in May.

IRTA Liaison/Legislative: Diane Meier began by saying that there is information in the newsletter. The membership can go to the IRTA website and click on Advocacy. Diane ended her report by announcing that the Legislative Committee will meet March 21, 2023. Nancy Tolson chairs that committee.

History: Darla reported that ERTA's history is stored at Willard Library.

Information Items:

Gene VanStone invited Blue River RTA President Robert Harmon and his wife Susie to next week's luncheon. Blue River is in Area 9.

Congratulations to Jim Sharp and Mike and Sandy Madriaga who will be inducted into the EVSC Foundation Hall of Fame on March 8, 2023.

Old Business:

EVSC Retiree Reception: Janet Leistner reported that EVSC will hold a reception for its new retirees on May 17, 2023.

Installation of ERTA Board Officers: The following installations will take place at the May luncheon:

Treasurer - Lynn Arteberry 2023-2025

Directors – Earsie Kelly, Donna Lutz, and David Pfetscher 2023-2025

Revision of ERTA By-Laws: Darla Olberding went over the changes recommended by a committee that included Darla Olberding, Janet Leistner, Jan Craig, Doris Beard, and Sandra Schmidt. Board members in attendance voted to accept the revisions.

New Business:

Christmas Luncheon Donations: Donations collected at the luncheon totaled \$428.00. The president selected the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana who sponsors the "Young at Art" exhibit for K-8 students. The exhibit will be held from March 14-31, 2023.

Donation of March Table Decorations: Jan announced that she would like to donate the stuffed animals that will be displayed at next week's luncheon to the non-profit The Isaiah 1:17 Project. Darla made a motion to donate the stuffed animals to The Isaiah 1:17 Project. Diane Meier seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcement: The next ERTA Executive Board meeting will be May 4, 2023.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Luncheon Meeting
March 9, 2023

Call to Order: President Jan Craig called the meeting to order at noon and asked those attending for the first time to stand. She then recognized those who have a birthday in March or April.

Jan continued by thanking those who had brought pencil donations for Teacher Locker. She then read "Ways You Know You Are a Retired Teacher."

Introductions of the Head Table: Jan introduced Anne McKim, the Executive Director of the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. Jan then asked Gene VanStone to introduce his guests: Robert Harmon, who is the President of Blue River RTA, and his wife.

Pledge of Allegiance: Jan led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Luncheon Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2022: The minutes were accepted as written.

Blessing: Steve Fritz spoke briefly about Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founders of the Constitution. Before Steve prayed, he read Benjamin Franklin's prayer.

Presentation of Christmas Meeting Donations: Anne McKim, representing the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, was presented a check for \$428. The money was donated by members and guests who attended the Christmas lunch/program.

By-Laws and Procedures: A copy of the updated ERTA By-Laws and Procedures was e-mailed to members. A vote will be taken at the meeting in May. Anyone who has a correction or a revision should contact Janet Leistner before the ERTA Executive Board meets on May 4, 2023.

Acceptance of Board Nominations: The following nominations were accepted by acclamation:
Lynn Arteberry – Treasurer Earsie Kelley, Donna Lutz, and David Pfetscher – Directors

Call to Lunch: The Head Table went first. Doris Beard called members and guests by tables.

Announcements:

The stuffed animals on the tables will be donated to The Isaiah 1:17 Project, a non-profit.

The application for the IRTA \$2,000 Scholarship for future teachers is due April 1, 2023. The applicants need to be enrolled in a college or university in Indiana. An incoming junior or senior who is enrolled in a Teacher Education Program is eligible. See Gene VanStone for further details.

Program: Doris Beard introduced Lauren Norvell, the Conservation Education Curator at Mesker Park Zoo. She runs programs at the zoo, a summer day camp, and volunteer programs as well as programs around town. Lauren Norvell has taught life science in grades 6-12. She believes there is a connection between people and nature and a need to save animals.

Laura Norvell was given a gift certificate. Drawings were held for three \$10 gift certificates.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

ERTA Donation to Teacher Locker

Evansville Retired Teachers Association donated pencils to the Teacher Locker. Thank you for the generous donations.

Special thanks to volunteers Sandra and Mike Madriaga, Janet Leistner, and Jeffrey Berger, volunteer coordinator, for many hours of volunteering. Special thanks also to all the ERTA volunteers at Teacher Locker this year. Teacher Locker continues to grow, and we will continue to need volunteers this summer and next school year.



EVSC Hall of Fame 2022

The Evansville Retired Teachers Association is proud of our members who were inducted in the EVSC Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Mike and Sandra Madriaga and Jim Sharp. It is certainly a well-deserved honor for these educators and all of those who were honored.

Also, we are proud of Diane Meier, Sylvia Blice, and Bill Bartelt who attended as former teachers and guests of Hall of Fame recipient Dr. Jeffrey Balsler, M.D. Ph.D.



ERTA March Luncheon

The Evansville Retired Teachers Association enjoyed our March luncheon. We presented a check from membership donations to Anne McKim representing the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana to use for their student art shows. The program was presented by Lauren Norvell from Mesker Park Zoo who shared information about our local zoo and the opportunities to volunteer.





Recent Legislature Developments – Diane Meier

As the Legislative session is coming to an end, there are some Senators who are opposing the 13th check. This is the latest update from Executive Director Laura Penman: Our office has sent out a second round of email blasts requesting all retired educators to act immediately and contact their local senator if they have not done so. It is important to note for Morgan County and parts of Johnson, Owen, and Putnam counties that we have been told by reliable sources that Senator Rodric Bray has stated there will be NO 13th check for retired educators. This could mean retired educators would receive no pension enhancement for the next two years. We need members to act now! Please [contact your local senator!](#)

Also continue to check retiredteachers.org for the latest updates.

Photos from the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana “Young in Art” Exhibit



Anne McKim, Executive Director, and Zach Evans, Community Director, greeting attendees to the Young at Art Exhibit on March 18th.



Students & parents viewing the “Young at Art” Exhibit.



Jan Craig, ERTA President, attended the opening reception.



**Evansville Retired
Teachers Association
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