



School's Out Gazette

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

August 2025.....Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 31.1



Message from Janet Leistner, 2025-2026 President

As we begin another year for the Evansville Retired Teachers Association, I pause to reflect on how our chapter has endured more than sixty years providing fellowship for our talented members, community service through volunteer hours, and providing monetary donations to numerous organizations serving the people in our community. While our world endures natural disasters, violence in some communities, and sometimes hardships for families, we continue to work together to support and celebrate our ERTA members. Our luncheons and programs are enjoyable social events, while the core of our work is service. Last year, we collected more than \$400 for our Goodwill Offering donation to the Red Cross. We donated \$1000 to the United Methodist Youth Home from our earnings of our volunteer work at Frog Follies. We turned in more than 10,000 volunteer hours for 2024. At our May luncheon, our members donated several tubs full of school supplies to the Teacher Locker. Needless to say, ERTA is an outstanding group of educators. We must celebrate our work – as Oprah Winfrey stated, “The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.” So, while we each have our personal challenges, let us once again celebrate life together. Join us this year to make more great memories of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in August.

Message from Jan Craig, President-Elect

The warmth and beauty of summer will soon come to an end as fall approaches. With the arrival of this season, we will experience shorter days and less time outdoors. After an extremely hot summer, I’m ready to enjoy a long walk in the crisp fall air, followed by a comforting mug of apple cider or hot chocolate.

Also, it’s time to put our scheduled ERTA luncheons on your calendars. The Thursday dates are August 21, 2025; October 2, 2025; December 18, 2025; March 5, 2026; and May 7, 2026. We have a great year planned. Our keynote speaker on August 21 is Ron Eaton, Owner and Editor of Maturity Journal magazine. I have listed his bio below.

As mentioned in Janet's article about our volunteer successes, please continue to track your volunteer hours, which are due at our December meeting. Frog Follies provides us with an excellent opportunity to volunteer, and it takes place on Friday and Saturday after the luncheon.

We are excited to kick off this year's ERTA luncheon on Thursday, August 21, 2025, in the Assembly Hall at the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center (SICTC) located at 1901 Lynch Road. There is a large parking lot in front of the building, and members should park there and walk straight ahead to Door #1 (left side door when facing the building) to be buzzed in. The Assembly Hall is located straight across the foyer. The room is large enough to accommodate our check-in tables, our luncheon serving lines, our luncheon tables, and our program presentations. We will meet at 11:30 am for a social time with the luncheon beginning at noon. In addition, the cost of the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person.

We welcome all former members back, and we welcome any new members to our Retired Teachers organization. Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday, August 21, at SICTC.

Bio of our Program Speaker: Ron Eaton, Owner and Editor of the "Maturity Journal"

Ron, the son of Maturity Journal founder George Eaton, was a 1968 graduate of Evansville North High School and was a member of the 1967 State basketball champion Huskies. After graduation, Ron attended IU, earning his degree in 1972 to become a teacher and coach. He spent seven years as a head football coach and English teacher before entering the business world in Indianapolis.

Upon his father's passing, he moved his family back to Evansville to take over the magazine that his father started in 1986. In addition, Ron has written two books that tell the stories of many of our area's greatest athletes, teams, and sports programs. His two books are **Local Legends: The Stories behind the Headlines** and **Local Legends II: The Stories Continue**. They are good reads for any local sports fans. If you have any of his books, please feel free to bring them to the luncheon to get them autographed.



- If you have not made your reservation yet, Click the link below to submit your reservation and include your name(s) and number of reservations.
- Click this link [ERTA Luncheon Reservation Form](#) to submit your reservation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 18. 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, August 18, at 10:00 a.m. is the deadline to cancel your reservation without being charged since ERTA will have to pay for any meals after that date.

MENU

- ✚ Pulled Pork
- ✚ Fried Chicken
- ✚ Potato Salad
- ✚ Baked Beans
- ✚ Macaroni and Cheese
- ✚ Salad/Dressings
- ✚ Rolls/Butter
- ✚ Desserts
- ✚ Beverages

Memories from May 2025 Meeting

The Evansville Retired Teachers Association enjoyed our end-of-the-year luncheon and program. We presented a check to the United Methodist Youth Home to help with their work in our community and heard from Tom White from Explore Evansville. We installed our new leadership team for next year and honored Gene Vanstone, who has served as our District 9 Representative, and Victor Doty, our outgoing ERTA President. We also donated a large basket of school supplies to Teacher Locker. We heard a great presentation from the Evansville Civic Theatre. We will continue our volunteer work this summer and next year. Great group of educators!





--Photos by Walt Gleim and Janet Leistner--

Message from Diane Meier, IRTA Liaison/Indiana Legislature, Legislative News

We've secured one more year of the "13th Check" – this is meaningful progress! A key point of clarity: the funding for the "13th Check" comes from the Supplemental Reserve Account, which is supported by the Hoosier Lottery and local corporation surcharges – not from the state's general fund. However, budgetary cuts and limitations were across the board, as fiscal pressures continue to increase. Thus, the check will be 5% less than previous checks. The 13th check will be included in the September check.

We are not locked into a 5% reduction for upcoming years.

We remain steadfast in our primary goal: securing permanent pension enhancements, whether through an annual "13th Check" or a COLA, depending on retirement date.

IRTA General Assembly News:

The General Assembly met on June 11 in Indianapolis. Gene Van Stone and I were the only delegates from ERTA. I would encourage members to attend next June. It is an informative day.

One item of New Business was the raising of IRTA dues; they had not been raised in 20 years. Dues are now \$42.00 a year. If you do not belong to IRTA, I would encourage you to belong. This is the organization that works to bring you the 13th check. You can pay those dues several ways:

Recurring Deductions:

\$42 yearly deducted from your pension – this is the easiest way.

\$42 yearly deducted from a credit card.

\$42.00 one year paid by credit card.

If interested, there are also life memberships:

62 and under \$1000

63 – 75 \$750

76+ \$500

Associate member dues were raised to \$20 yearly. Those can also be deducted yearly from a credit card.

In addition to being the voice of retired teachers in the Legislature, IRTA also supports teachers in the following ways:

- A voice in the forefront of activities that concern all members of Indiana Retired Teachers in the Indiana General Assembly
- Assistance with Retirement Planning
- Access to quality Supplemental Health Benefits like Dental, Vision, Life, and more
- Member discounts on travel, hearing aids, computers, restaurants, cars and more

You can find membership forms on the IRTA website:

<https://www.retiredteachers.org/index.php/membership/new-form>

In other business, Dr. Sharon Mukes Barnes was installed as the new President of IRTA.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Since January 1, 2025, we are pleased to announce that 48 Golden Apples have already been purchased in honor of IRTA's 75th Anniversary! This unique opportunity to obtain a **Golden Apple** is available only until December 31, 2025. For a contribution of \$250 or more, you can play a vital role in supporting our Foundation's Endowment's mission of granting scholarships, awarding Active Teacher Grants, and helping retirees in need through A Hand Up program. The apples will be displayed on the apple tree mural in IRTA's office. Your generosity will support a lasting legacy for future generations of educators.

If you know any active teachers, encourage them to apply for the Teacher Grants.

Fall Workshops:

The Workshop for Area 9 will be held Tuesday, September 16 at Spring Mill State Park Inn in the Lakeview Room, 3333 State Road E, Mitchell, IN 47446. Workshops are from 10:00 to 2:30 EDT, mileage and meal included. Hopefully, we can get a car of people to go. I have always found them informative.

ERTA DATES 2025-2026

Welcome Back Candy Delivery to Teachers July 31
August Board Meeting August 14
August Luncheon/Program August 21
Frog Follies August 22, 23, 24
October Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck September 15
IRTA Fall Workshop September 16
October Board Meeting September 25
October Luncheon October 2
December Newsletter Article to Diana Luck November 17
December Board Meeting December 18
December Luncheon December 11
March Newsletter to Diana Luck February 16
March Board Meeting February 26
March Luncheon March 5
May Newsletter to Diana Luck April 13
May Board Meeting April 30
May Luncheon May 7
IRTA Representative Workshops June TBA

Frog Follies 2025



We will again work the registration tables at Frog Follies on August 22, 23, and 24. Jim Sharp, our registration workers chairman, will contact past workers this summer to again sign up to work. If you have not worked before and are interested, please contact Jim at katsharp623@aol.com. It is a great volunteer opportunity and a lot of fun. The funds we receive for working benefit our local ERTA chapter, and we donate part of the proceeds to a community group.

<https://frogfollies.org/photos/>

Message from Janet Leistner, Membership Chairman

As we begin our 2025-26 year, we will continue to encourage current members to renew and new members to sign up. We want to continue to increase our membership each year. You should have received the information below in a recent email. Please submit your membership through the link or you can submit in person at the August luncheon. We are happy to be able to keep our dues at \$15.00.

We are ready to begin taking memberships for the 2025-2026 year. I have copied the link below to complete your membership online and have also attached a copy if you wish to print it out. We will also have copies available at the first luncheon. Be sure to complete your membership form before October 10, 2025 to ensure that your contact information is updated and to continue receiving the emails and newsletters. We have added a field for birthday month and day (do not need year) so that we can celebrate birthdays throughout the year.

We have two categories on the membership form if you choose to donate to the Scholarship Fund or the General Fund. **You will see the descriptions below on the membership form link.**

If you wish to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please list your donation amount below. The Scholarship Fund is money that ERTA awards annually to junior and senior students at U of E and at USI majoring in education. The scholarships are administered by the two universities. The funds will be distributed evenly between the two universities.

If you wish to make a donation to the General Fund, please list your donation amount below. The General Fund is the money ERTA uses to help pay for office supplies, luncheon supplies including luncheon speakers/entertainment, luncheon decorations, luncheon door prizes, and other expenses as needed.

Please let me know if you need assistance with the membership form.

Click the link below to complete your ERTA 2025-26 Membership.

[ERTA 2025-2026 Membership Form](#)

Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Executive Board Meeting May 1, 2025

Minutes

Members present: Victory Doty, Lynn Arteberry, Debra Forrest, Dave Pfettscher, Fred Bullinger, Judy Issac, Diane Meier, Janet Craig, Donna Schmidt, Jane Staton, Diana Luck and Doris Beard.

Officers: Secretary Sandra Schmidt (Debra Forrest taking minutes today in Sandra's absence), President-elect Janet Leistner, Past President, Doris Beard, and Treasurer, Lynn Arteberry

President Victor Doty called the meeting to order. The minutes from March 6 were approved.

Committee reports

- Community service and volunteer hours, Jane Staton: Members should fill out their volunteer hours in December. The hours will be reported in the newsletter.
- Fellowship/Necrology, Janet Leistner: Linda Hawkins died.
- Membership, Lynn Arteberry (Janet Leistner): Lynn reminded members to give our addresses in case a card needs to be sent.
- Program/luncheon (for May). 85 people reserved for luncheon at SICTC. The Evansville Civic Theater will present a program. A representative from CASA (court-appointed special advocate) will present an explanation of their program and need for volunteers. Donation for \$1000 will be awarded to the Methodist Youth Home at the luncheon.
- Publications/Publicity, Diana Luck: Newsletter received. We need a new leader for publicity as Frankye Calloway resigned.
- Registration, Judy Issac: Judy will get workers to sign in people to the luncheon and to take payment.
- Special projects. Doris Beard and Lynn Arteberry: \$1000 approved for contribution to the United Methodist Youth Home. \$300 remains a continuing donation for students attending USI and UE.
- IRTA liaison/Indiana legislature, Diane Meier: Request for 13th check approved for \$427.50. The amount was reduced by 5% as were all other requests. Teachers will be getting the check in October. The bill passed the House and Senate. IRTA asked for multi-year check approval, but that request was denied. Funding for the extra check comes from supplementary reserve accounts (lottery & EVSC surplus funds), not the general fund. Diane suggested that more members attend the general assembly on June 11-12.
- Historian, Darla Olberding: no report

Information items

- Victor reported that the installation of officers will take place at the May luncheon. Gene VanStone will conduct the installation.
- Janet Craig will prepare a table with information at the EVSC Retirement Reception on May 14. A list of retirees was given. Any board member who wants to attend the reception is welcome to do so.
- Explore Evansville is needing volunteers for July 7 at Deaconess Sports Park. Volunteers are needed for parking help.

Old/New Business

- Candy for teachers will be delivered on July 31. Dave Pfettscher will take care of preparing the candy baskets. Volunteers are needed to help; please meet Dave at SICTC in Room 17 at 9:00 a.m. on July 31 if you can help deliver the candy. Dave said the candy is well received and delivering it is a rewarding experience.
- Frog Follies will be August 22-24. Jim Sharp is the coordinator. Volunteers are needed; please contact Jim Sharp if you can help.
- Janet Leistner emailed a list of board meetings for 2025-2026. Board meetings will be on 8/14, 9/25, 12/4, 2/26, and 4/30. Luncheons are August 21, October 2, December 18, March 5, and May 7. These will be printed in the newsletter.
- Budget discussion led by Lynn Arteberry. She submitted the ERTA draft fiscal year budget for 2025-2026. There is no need for a rise in dues as we received a \$1600 saving by moving to SICTC. We brought in \$3,300 from dues. We earned \$2000 from Frog follies. Fifteen dollars will remain the charge for luncheons. Scholarship charges will be moved to the general fund. There was discussion on changing the gift card amount for those presenting programs, but no decision was made. Lynn also submitted the May ERTA finance report.
- Discussion of giving \$100 to SICTC for helping us acquire and use Assembly Hall but did not want to pay custodian who is an employee (Note: Original proposal was to give to SICTC to use for faculty or students - not to pay custodian - will revisit in August)
- The next executive board meeting is 8/14; the luncheon is 8/21.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The next board meeting is August 14.

Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Luncheon Meeting

May 8, 2025

Call to Order: President Victor Doty called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone. He asked those attending for the first time to stand. Then he recognized those who celebrate a birthday in April and May to also stand.

Introduction of the Head Table: Victor introduced Joe Gilpatrick and Adam Funkhouser from Evansville Civic Theatre, Laura Brown and Shelby Harder from United Methodist Youth Home, Tom White, CEO of Explore Evansville, Sara Reis, Executive Director of CASA, and acknowledged President-elect Janet Leistner.

Blessing/Prayer: Cindy Shoulders presented a short message and gave the Blessing.

Lunch: Janet dismissed the attendees by tables after dismissing the Head Table. Each table was labeled with the name of a summer activity.

After most were finished eating, the business meeting began at 12:35.

Business:

Acceptance of the Luncheon Meeting Minutes for March 13 luncheon. The minutes were accepted as written.

Janet announced that Janet Craig accepted the nomination for the President-Elect position. A vote was taken for her nomination and passed.

Installation of Officers: Gene Van Stone conducted the Installation of Officers.

President – Janet Leistner

President-Elect – Janet Craig

Treasurer – Lynn Arteberry

Secretary – Debra Forrest will fill the final year for Sandra Schmidt and run for next 2-year term

Directors: David Pfettscher, Linda Henderson, Rhonda Carter

Gene Van Stone was acknowledged with the presentation of a certificate for his service as Area 9 representative.

Volunteer Hours: Victor spoke about the importance of keeping track of volunteer hours for the year and reporting them to Jane Staton. He congratulated our members on having more than 10,000 hours of volunteer work reported this year.

Legislative Update: Diane Meier gave an update and introduced Veneta Becker who was in attendance and acknowledged her support of teachers and gave an update of the 13th check status that was approved for \$427.50. The amount was reduced by 5% as were all other requests. Teachers will be getting the check in October. The bill passed the House and Senate. IRTA asked for multi-year check approval, but that request was denied. Funding for the extra check comes from supplementary reserve accounts (lottery & EVSC surplus funds), not the general fund. Diane suggested that more members attend the general assembly on June 11-12.

Frog Follies Update: Frog Follies will be August 22-24. Janet introduced Tom White, CEO of Explore Evansville, who shared what they do to support the community.

Candy Deliver to Schools: Victor announced the Candy Delivery to schools will be July 31. David Pfettscher needs volunteers to help deliver the candy. Please let David know if you are available to help.

CASA Volunteer Information: Sara Reis shared information about CASA (Court Appointed Student Advocates) and explained volunteer opportunities.

AARP Experience Corp: Janet introduced Keely Adams, the Executive Director of AARP Experience Corporation, who shared what they do for students and explained volunteer opportunities. The EVSC Community Foundation is the sponsor.

Program: Janet introduced Joe Gilpatrick and Adam Funkhouser from the Evansville Civic Theatre. They shared a PowerPoint of the history of the Evansville Civic Theatre in Evansville spanning 100 years. They also shared that there was exciting news about the future soon to be released.

Awarding of Gift Certificate to Speakers: Janet gave a gift certificate and gift card to the speakers to thank them for their program and their work in the community

Drawings for Gift Cards: Drawings were held for three Target Gift Cards.

Adjournment: Victor reminded members that the next Board meeting will be August 14, and the luncheon will be August 21. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

ERTA Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairmen 2025-2026

Officers

President – Janet Leistner
President – Elect – Janet Craig
Past President – Vic Doty
Secretary – Debra Forrest
Treasurer – Lynn Arteberry

Directors

Fred Bullinger 2024 - 2026
Darrin Carnahan 2024 - 2026
Rhonda Carter 2025 - 2027
Linda Henderson 2025 - 2027
David Pfettscher 2025 – 2027
Donna Schmidt 2024 – 2026

Standing Committees

Auditing and Budget
Community Service/Volunteer Hours
Fellowship/Necrology
Membership
Programs/Luncheon Planning
Publications
Reservations
Registration
Special Projects
Scholarships
IRTA Liaison/Indiana Legislature
Historian

Lynn Arteberry/Darla Olberding
Jane Staton
Janet Leistner
Janet Leistner
Janet Leistner
Diana Luck/Brenda Beeler
Janet Leistner
Judy Isaac
Vic Doty
Diane Meier /Donna Schmidt
Diane Meier
Darla Olberding



Dr. David Smith!

RECORD YOUR 2025-2026 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Month	Activity	Date
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
TOTAL HOURS		



Service/Volunteer Hours

Please, please, please...keep track of your volunteer hours as we use these hours when we lobby the Legislators. **You will be asked to turn in your hours at the December meeting or email them to Jane Staton (mymomjane@aol.com). Volunteer hours give us clout with the legislature.**

Listed below are some of the ways volunteer hours may be accumulated.

Youth Hours

Church: preparation, teaching, youth groups, VBS

Community Service: Scouts, 4-H, coaching, CASA, Special Olympics

Education: classroom, libraries, speech meets, Read Across America

Other Hours

Church: boards, committees, teaching, mission, calling committees, choir practice, choir, food preparation

Community Service: Kiwanis, VFW, Lions, Rotary, SWIRCA Meals on Wheels, Frog Follies, ERTA, Food Pantry, AARP, ETFCU, Ronald McDonald House

Health Care: hospital visits, nursing home visits/programs, fundraising for charities, chauffeuring others to appointments, Red Cross

Count your travel time for all volunteer effort!

Questions: Contact Jane Staton (mymomjane@aol.com)



ERTA FINANCE REPORT as of 7/1/2025	
Checking Account	\$1,999.99
Scholarship Account	\$3,893.51
Savings Account	\$240.90
TOTAL	\$6,134.40
Reported by: Lynn Arteberry, Treasurer	



In Memoriam

“Always in Our Hearts”

Michael Owen Schellhase.....March 26, 2025
<https://www.browningfuneral.com/obituaries/Michael-Mike-Owen-Schellhase?obId=41782305>
Linda R. HawkinsApril 24, 2025
<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/psbn1161698>
Joyce GodekeApril 25, 2025
<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/psbn1165025>
Terry Phillip Yunker.....May 11, 2025
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/terry-yunker-obituary?id=58386013>
Margaret Moyer.....May 24, 2025
<https://www.schneiderfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Margaret-Moye?obId=42621738>
Karyle K. (Kleitz) Scheessele..... July 23, 2025
<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/psbn1237709>

KEEPING IN TOUCH

**Facebook by Doris
Beard:**
Search Evansville
Retired Teachers
Association

ERTA Websitewww.erta.info
EVSC Website.....<http://evscicats.com/evscnewsletter/category/latest-news/evsc-news/>
IRTA 1-888-454-9333
IRTA E-mailirta@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 Websitewww.retiredteachers.org
ISTRF Website www.in.gov/trf



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