



School's Out Gazette

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

December 2014 Volume 19.3



From Our President, Andy Guarino

I would like to first of all wish you and all your friends and loved ones the very best of the upcoming holiday season.

The year, no doubt, has probably had its ups and downs, but we need to count all the many blessings that have come our way and know that other blessings will soon follow.

I am blessed in the reality that I am leading the best group of "giving" people in ERTA that anyone could imagine, and that gives me great pleasure to be just a small part of it.

When you look at what we mean to this great community of ours, in regards to volunteer hours and support, it has to give you "pause," that we are definitely "giving back" to those who are counting on us for guidance, scholarship, and even financial support. We are the one group that stands fully behind our current working teachers, and we are here to help serve them in any way we can. They are serving that student population that we once served and, especially now, deserve our continued support.

Please come to our special Christmas luncheon meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014, and then stay for our award-winning North High School Varsity Singers in the sanctuary for a very festive Christmas program.

Please remember to bring your volunteer hours to give to Jan Kraft, as this is an extremely important part of what we do.

Until then, have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and be safe. I will see you on December 11 at 11:30 a.m.

ERTA Christmas Luncheon *Thursday, December 11, 2014*



- 🌿 American Baptist East Church
6300 Washington Ave.
- 🌿 11:30 for socializing/lunch at 12 noon. Cost: \$10.
- 🌿 Please reply to my e-mail of 11/13/14 only if you plan to attend.
- 🌿 Include your name and number of reservations.

Reminders: If you need to cancel a reservation, please call Brenda Beeler (812-422-1637) or e-mail me ASAP.

If school is cancelled, the luncheon is cancelled. If school is delayed, the luncheon will still be held.

There will be two more luncheons this school year: March 12 and May 14.

Our Menu



Turkey/Dressing
Baked Ham
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Shoe Peg Corn
Salad
Rolls
Desserts



Reminder from Nancy Tolson, Executive Director of IRTA, and Andy Guarino:



Remember the Benefits of Joining IRTA (www.retiredteachers.org):

- Verizon Wireless and AT&T Mobility
- Homeowners, auto, dental, vision, pet, and long-term care insurance
- First diagnosis cancer coverage, hearing aids, medical emergency air transportation
- Travel programs, motels, and rental cars
- Computers, flowers, and much more

Many of these are benefits with AMBA.

Other Important News for Our Members:

- David Pfettscher reported the luncheon information for October 9, 2014. We had 148 total attendees, 140 paid, 3 new teachers, and 5 guests. We also had 18 no-shows and 5 cancellations. Please let us know when you are not able to attend if you have made a reservation.
- Please remember our collection for ARC of Evansville's Christmas gift. Please give as much as you can.
- I attended the USI Scholarship Donor Banquet on October 29, 2014. Our representative scholars were Miss Megan Hipp and Taylor Ellis.

COLA Bill (Cost of Living Adjustment):

The COLA bill could be a hard sell this legislative session because the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Luke Kenley, and others are not proponents of the bill at this point.

The last time a COLA was given for teachers was in 2009, and retired teachers were given the 13th check each year since 2009.

According to an INPRS presentation to the Pension Oversight Management Committee this interim, the cost of a 1% COLA is \$88.12 million for members of the pre-1996 Teachers Retirement Fund and \$6.43 million for members of the 1996 Teachers Retirement Fund. The cost of a 13th check is \$20.3 million for members of the pre-1996 Teachers Retirement Fund and \$5 million for members of the 1996 Teachers Retirement Fund. Please note that the TRF pre-1996 retirement fund is a pay-as-you-go pension plan and subsequently any time a COLA or 13th check is given, the state must pay for the benefits from the state general fund. The TRF 1996 retirement fund is actuarially funded, so typically the COLA or 13th check would be paid for as a part of the employer (aka school corporations) contribution rates. So you can see why the state is hesitating for a change.

However, with the \$22 million (\$22 per hour) donated in volunteer hours over the last six years, which equates to over a million hours of community service, the gap becomes smaller. Also, the amount of money pumped into the community economy by our retired teachers is very consistent.

So, even though this will be a tough sell, it is a budget session, and if we lobby our legislators assertively, it could be possible. I will have a sample letter to send out to all legislators that I will make available in the March newsletter. You can use it or write on your own. This may be our last chance at a COLA for a while. We need to act quickly and precisely. Thank you! Andy Guarino, ERTA President

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2014-2015

ERTA

Calendar

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October 2, 2014, Board Meeting

October 9, 2014, Luncheon Meeting, Wear Spirit Shirt or Colors from School of Choice

October 2014, USI Scholarship Banquet (Date TBA)

December 4, 2014, Board Meeting

December 11, 2014, Christmas Luncheon Meeting

March 5, 2015, Board Meeting

March 12, 2015, Luncheon Meeting

April 8, 2015, Legislative Lobby Day

April 2015, UE and USI Scholarship Banquets (Date TBA)

May 7, 2015, Board Meeting

May 14, 2015, Luncheon Meeting

June 2015, IRTA Representative Assembly, Indianapolis, IN (Date TBA)



Message from Brenda Weber, ERTA President-Elect:



Happy Holidays, Everyone!

Thanks to everyone who responded to the questionnaire at the October luncheon. The results are as follows:

Four meetings per year: 39

Five meetings per year: 64

Eat with speaker in the gym: 55

Eat and go to the sanctuary: 51

Six people volunteered for committees and board positions.

Several suggestions were given for other venues when, and if, we outgrow American Baptist East. In addition, there were numerous suggestions for speakers, as well as additional comments.

When speakers have a power point, we will need to go to the sanctuary. Also, if the church has another event the same day as our luncheon, we will need to go to the sanctuary so the gym can be cleaned. Otherwise, we will try having the speaker in the gym.

President Andy Guarino has chosen Evansville ARC as his philanthropic organization. At the December luncheon, there will be baskets at each table for donations to Evansville ARC. Please donate what you can, and if you need a tax write-off, checks are gladly accepted.

As you know, 2015 is a critical year for COLA. Lobby Day for retired educators is Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in Indianapolis. Please mark your calendar. We need a strong representation at the State House.

We all have so much to be thankful for in our lives. I wish you, and your family, a very blessed holiday season.

Looking for a place to volunteer in Nov. and Dec.? Contact Steve Marchand at stevemarchand@tristatefoodbank.org.



Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Executive Board Meeting

October 2, 2014

Call to Order: President Andy Guarino called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. at the Phipps Center. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Brenda Beeler, Darlene Brockriede, Linda Hape, Diana Luck, Mike Madriaga, Diane Meier, LaVonne Miller, Fred Naab, Jerry Noland, Nancy Noland, Darla Olberding, Ed Rusk, Sandra Schmidt, Linda Staley, Brenda Weber, and Lino Wiseman.

Meditation: Chaplain Ed Rusk read "Sometimes We Are So Busy Adding Up Our Troubles That We Forget to Count Our Blessings." He then read Psalm 77:11,12 and prayed.

Approval of August 7, 2014 Executive Board Minutes: The minutes were approved as presented.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lino Wiseman distributed the financial report. He reported that ERTA received \$1,702.31 from Frog Follies. Expenses for food and stamps totaled \$254.76. There is a balance of \$1,506.77 in the Special Projects account.

Secretary: Sandra Schmidt read a copy of the note of appreciation sent to Indiana State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Glenda Ritz, who spoke at the August luncheon.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Andy reported that ERTA members have volunteered over one million hours over six years, which is equal to 22 million dollars.

Fellowship/Necrology: Linda Staley said that six get well cards have been sent since the August newsletter. Linda Hape added that seven retired teachers have passed away during the same time period.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede announced that 187 have paid their dues this year, but 140 who paid last year have not paid this year. Darla volunteered to send those without e-mail a reminder. Darlene added that there are 111 retirees this year.

Nominating: President-Elect Brenda Weber asked that the members of this committee plan to stay after the December Executive Board meeting for a few minutes to determine when the committee will meet.

Publications/Newsletter: To avoid paying for extra postage, the newsletter can be no longer than ten pages.

Website: Scott Riley has updated the information on the ERTA website.

Reservations: Diana Luck reported approximately 150 reservations for the October luncheon.

Scholarship: Mike Madriaga announced that teachers will be notified in December of the availability of the Hensley Scholarship. Notification is made through Marsha Jackson's office; the information will be in the E-News.

IRTA Legislative: Diane stated that if there is no COLA this year, it probably will never happen. The money is in the retirement fund, but the legislature controls it. Andy reported the cost of a COLA at 81.6 million, a stipend at 19.3 million. Jerry Noland said the lack of a COLA has cost each retired teacher about \$2,000.

Publicity: Nancy Noland informed the Executive Board that she will be working with Jack Schriber to obtain more publicity for ERTA.

General Information:

Information Table: Jerry and Nancy will be at the table to give information and encourage associate memberships.

IRTA Workshop: Discussion centered on the need for a COLA and the push to increase the number of associate members.

Unfinished Business:

Christmas Project: The ARC of Evansville is our Christmas project. Money collected at the December luncheon will be used to provide pre-k for disabled children.

New Business:

Membership Survey: Those in attendance received a copy of the questionnaire prepared by Brenda and Andy. Brenda asked for our thoughts. After some discussion, Darla made a motion to distribute the questionnaire at the luncheon with the addition of a place for members to comment. Linda Hape seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Forming "A Hand Up" Committee: The Executive Board decided that a local committee was not needed.

Christmas Gift for the American Baptist East Custodian: Lino stated that what ERTA pays the church is only for the use of the church; none of the payment goes to custodian Jason Miller for his help. As a result, the Executive Board decided on a one-time Christmas gift for Jason. Ed was asked to make a motion. The motion was to give Jason a \$100 gift card for his year's work. Diane seconded. The motion passed.

Announcements:

1. Deidra Conner and Bix Brannon of The Arc of Evansville will speak at next week's luncheon.
2. ERTA members need to make a push to increase the number of associate members.
3. The next Executive Board meeting will be on December 4, 2014.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Luncheon Meeting

October 9, 2014

Call to Order and Welcome: President Andy Guarino called the meeting to order at noon at the American Baptist East Fellowship Hall. He welcomed everyone and asked those who were wearing school colors to stand. Bob and Jan Kraft were recognized and welcomed back.

Introduction of the Head Table: Those seated at the head table were the following: Deidra Conner, president of The Arc of Evansville; Bix Branson, president of The Arc of Evansville Board; Indiana State Senator Jim Tomes and his wife Margie; Indiana State Representative Holli Sullivan; Indiana State Representative Gail Riecken; Area 9 Director Calvin Biddle and his wife Bobbie; President-Elect Brenda Weber, and Chaplain Ed Rusk and Ruby.

Survey: Andy asked each member to complete a copy of the survey concerning our meetings found on the tables.

Tally Sheet for Volunteer Hours: First, Jan thanked members for the cards Bob received while he was hospitalized. Then, she spoke about the importance of turning in our volunteer hours at the end of the year. Members could take one of the reporting sheets found on the tables.

Information Table: Jerry and Nancy Noland were at the table to encourage associate memberships. Lorinda Taylor had pamphlets explaining the AARP Experience Corps, Evansville. Earsie Kelly had information on Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Pledge of Allegiance: Since the membership would not be meeting on November 11, 2014, Andy asked that we honor our veterans today by having them come forward and lead members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meditation: Ed led us in prayer.

Lunch: Members and guests were dismissed for meal service. The veterans went first, followed by the head table.

Acknowledgements: As members and guest finished eating, Andy thanked Susan Mosbey, Ella Shelton, and Ruby Rusk for preparing the tables and serving the beverages; Jane Whitehouse for decorating the tables; and Lino Wiseman for collecting dues at today's luncheon. Newly retired teachers were asked to stand.

Program: Brenda introduced Deidra Conner who spoke about The Arc of Evansville, which is our Christmas project. Arc serves individuals with developmental disabilities and partners with EVSC to assist students with disabilities. The organization is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Bix Branson narrated a slide presentation informing us about the organization's history and program development. Many of the programs are community based. Deidra Conner was given a gift card.

Door Prizes: Brenda conducted a drawing for three gift cards.

Business Meeting

Approval of August 14, 2014 Minutes: The minutes were accepted as printed.

Committee to Review ERTA Bylaws: A committee will review the bylaws over the next two months.

Results of Survey: The results of today's survey will be announced at the December luncheon.

Announcements:

1. The next newsletter will have information on lobbying efforts for a COLA.
2. The next luncheon will be on December 11, 2014. The North High School Varsity Singers will be our entertainment. Money will be collected for The Arc of Evansville at the luncheon.



Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

September 30, 2014

CHECKING ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2014				\$2,913.18
Interest		0.11		
Income		95.00		
Disbursements		244.56		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2014</u>				<u>\$2,763.73</u>
SPECIAL PROJECTS ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2014				\$59.22
Interest		0.03		
Income		1702.31		
Disbursements		254.76		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2014</u>				<u>\$1,506.80</u>
REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2014				239.34
Interest		0.02		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2014</u>				<u>239.36</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2014				\$105.02
Transfer to Savings		100.02		
Donations		0		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2014</u>				<u>\$5.00</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2014				5,698.06
Interest		0.52		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2014</u>				<u>5,698.58</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 3 CD's				
Beginning Balance Sept 1, 2014				49,039.24
Interest		86.19		
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2014</u>				<u>49,125.43</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				\$59,338.90

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Essex	September 3, 2014
Jan Steinmark	September 8, 2014
Glenn York	September 17, 2014
Herbert Blanford	September 18, 2014
Barbara (Thompson) Land.....	September 18, 2014
Delmar Hamby	September 19, 2014
Darvin Besing	September 27, 2014
William Rice	October 6, 2014
Edmund "Ed" Higgs	October 31, 2014

Gone But Not Forgotten

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

REMINDERS:

- If you have made any changes to your contact information, please be sure to notify Darlene Brockriede at brockriede@twc.com.
- If EVSC closes schools for inclement weather, the luncheon is cancelled. If there is a school delay, the luncheon will still be held.
- Dues are \$10 (waived for newly retired teachers). Make check to Evansville Retired Teachers Assn., and bring to luncheon or mail to Lino Wiseman, 5950 Knight Drive, Evansville, IN 47715-3472.



ERTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

2014-2015

Position	Name	E-Mail Address
President	Andy Guarino	andrew.guarino9402@twc.com
President Elect	Brenda Weber	bpw@twc.com
Secretary	Sandra Schmidt	pineshore@wowway.com
Treasurer	Lino Wiseman	linowise@twc.com
Immediate Past President	Bob Suhrheinrich	rasuhrh@gmail.com
Directors	Linda Hape	lindadh08@sbcglobal.net
	LaVonne Miller	lkmile@wowway.com
	Richard Sprinkle	bds@twc.com
	Linda Staley	lkstaley3@gmail.com
	Fred Naab	N/A
	Tom Wiggers	twiggers@wowway.com
Auditing & Budget Committee	Lino Wiseman	linowise@twc.com
	Darla Olberding	olberdingdj@aol.com
Community Service Committee	Jan Kraft	kraft@aftinc.net
Fellowship/Necrology Committee	Linda Hape	lindadh08@sbcglobal.net
	Linda Staley	lkstaley3@gmail.com
Membership	Darlene Brockriede	brockriede@twc.com
Nominating	Brenda Weber	bpw@twc.com
Publications	Phyllis Fitzgerald	fitz61@wowway.com
Web Site Committee	Scott Riley	sdriley44@gmail.com
	Jerry Noland	jbnoland@yahoo.com
Reservations Committee	Diana Luck	dianaeluck@gmail.com
	Brenda Beeler	N/A
Special Project	Bob Suhrheinrich	rasuhrh@gmail.com
Scholarship Committee (Hensley-USI/UE)	Mike Madriaga	memadriaga@yahoo.com
	Diane Meier	demeier@aol.com
	Marion Reisinger	N/A
Chaplain	Ed Rusk	N/A
IRTA Liaison/Legislative	Diane Meier	demeier@aol.com
Historian	Darla Olberding	olberdingdj@aol.com
Frog Follies Coordinator	Jim Sharp	katsharp623@aol.com
Decorations	Jane Whitehouse	N/A
Lunch Collection Committee	David Pfettscher	dwpfetscher@att.net
	Caroline Pfettscher	
Publicity	Nancy Noland	jbnoland@yahoo.com

Merry Christmas and Happy 2015!

Evansville Retired
Teachers Association
P.O. Box 15064
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*Knowledge is knowing the words,
and wisdom is knowing when to use them.*