



School's Out Gazette

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

March 2015 Volume 19.4



From Our President, Andy Guarino

My message this spring newsletter is to encourage all our members to write or email your state legislators during this current legislative session and to let you know how very important your involvement is needed during this vital budget year in regards to our "Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA)."

The following information will assist you through the process when you write your letter to our legislators regarding the "Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA)" or House Bill HB1464.

1. To find your legislators and Governor, go to the Web site "Indiana General Assembly Home," and at the bottom of the screen, click on the tab "Find Your Legislator," and put in your address. (This will show the address and/or email address.)
2. You can send a letter to any or all legislators by sending it to 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or email them at their email addresses.
3. Envelopes should be addressed as Honorable (first name, last name) and the greeting should be Dear Representative (last name) or Dear Senator (last name), or Dear Governor Pence.

Begin your email or letter by thanking the legislators for their past support for the "13th check." Then remind them that we have not had a "COLA" for six years and that our purchasing power, which would have been spent in local businesses, ultimately returning back to the state in the form of sales tax, has been diminished.

If possible, add in a personal scenario about yourself; such as, you have been retired since (year), and the amount of your pension does not even allow you to keep up with the cost of living. (Legislators take note of personal, heartfelt stories.)

Finally, mention the \$22 million (\$22 per hour) donated in volunteer hours over the last six years, equating to over a million hours of community service.

This could be our last opportunity for a "COLA" until the next budget cycle in two years; so, please, let's do everything we can now to make sure this session ends with a "COLA" in our hands.

Our legislative day at the State House is April 8, 2015, from 8-10 a.m. Evansville time. We need as many members as possible to attend.

The fourth ERTA luncheon of this school year will be held on **Thursday, March 12, 2015**, at the American Baptist East Church at 6300 Washington Avenue at 11:30 for socializing and lunch at 12 noon. The cost is \$10.

- Please reply to my e-mail by February 27 only if you plan to attend.
- Include your name and number of reservations.
- **Reminder:** If you do not have e-mail, you will be called by an ERTA volunteer. If you need to cancel a reservation you made, please call Brenda Beeler (812-422-1637) or e-mail me at dianaeluck@gmail.com ASAP.
- If school is cancelled, the luncheon is cancelled. If school is delayed, the luncheon will still be held.

Our Menu

- Ham/Pineapple Sauce
- Roasted Chicken/Gravy
- Roasted Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Corn
- Salad
- Dinner Rolls
- Desserts



Phyllis Fitzgerald was editor of the ERTA newsletter for several years. She gave many, many hours to ERTA and was very conscientious about publishing a first-class newsletter. She and I worked together the last two years to "Go Green" and save ERTA money by using e-mail. Phyllis passed away in December. We will certainly miss this gracious lady. Diana Luck

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT BRENDA WEBER:

Thursday, March 12, 2015, is our first luncheon for the 2015 year. Please join us as we welcome Evansville Police Chief, Billy Bolin. Billy will be sharing pertinent information regarding safety for senior citizens, as well as other information regarding our community.

After we learn from Chief Bolin, we will have a business meeting. We need to vote for officers, directors and committee chairs for the 2015-16 school year. In addition, ratifying the ERTA Bylaws will be on the agenda.

Before the meeting, please take a look at the proposal for the 2015-2016 ERTA Board, found in the newsletter, as well as the proposed ERTA By-Laws changes, sent as an attachment to the newsletter. There will be a few copies of the proposals available on the tables at the luncheon.



PROPOSED 2015-16 OFFICERS

President – Brenda Weber
President-Elect – Tom Wiggers
Secretary – Sandra Schmidt
Treasurer – Lino Wiseman
Immediate Past President – Andy Guarino

PROPOSED 2015-16 DIRECTORS

Diane Meier
Fred Naab
David Pfettscher
Brenda Scheidler
Richard Sprinkle
Ron Talley

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

Carol Koehlor
Darla Olberding
Scott Riley
Sandra Schmidt
Tom Wiggers
Andy Guarino

The conversations were stimulating, and your time, input, and hard work are greatly appreciated.

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 it to the luncheon or mail it to Lino Wiseman, 5950 Knight Drive, Evansville, IN 47715-3472.

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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)

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2015-2016

ERTA

Luncheon

Dates

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PLEASE MARK THESE LUNCHEON DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS:

March 12, 2015

Evansville Police Chief, Billy Bolin

May 14, 2015

Nancy Tolson and Tom Mellish from IRTA

August 13, 2015

October 8, 2015

December 10, 2015

March 10, 2016

May 12, 2016



Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Executive Board Meeting

December 4, 2014

Call to Order: President Andy Guarino called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. at the Phipps Center. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Brenda Beeler, Darlene Brockriede, Linda Hape, Diana Luck, Diane Meier, Fred Naab, Darla Olberding, Ed Rusk, Sandra Schmidt, Richard Sprinkle, Linda Staley, Bob Suhrheinrich, Brenda Weber, Tom Wiggers, and Lino Wiseman.

Meditation: Chaplain Ed Rusk spoke briefly about the sudden passing of Phyllis Fitzgerald, the editor of our newsletter, and asked for a moment of silence in her memory. He then read a short piece concerning the farewell words Moody reportedly had spoken to his sons when he was on his deathbed: "If God be your partner, make your plans big." Ed concluded with the words of Philippians 4:13 and a prayer.

Approval of October 2, 2014 Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lino Wiseman had nothing to report other than saying that he is continuing to collect dues. He had distributed the financial report earlier.

President-Elect: Brenda Weber said the nominating committee will meet after today's meeting to determine a slate of candidates.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Andy spoke about the importance of turning in all volunteer hours.

Fellowship/Necrology: Linda Staley reported sending one get well card and one sympathy card. Linda Hape added that she had sent two sympathy cards.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede said the membership roster was sent out on November 22, 2014. There are 434 members of which 105 do not have e-mail. Associate members number 28 and past presidents, 16. There is one honorary member. One hundred fourteen educators retired in 2014 and have free membership for one year. There will be some extra copies of the membership roster at the luncheon. Andy said that those who have e-mail will be encouraged to let ERTA know, so eventually we can go paperless.

Publications: Due to the passing of Phyllis Fitzgerald, Diana Luck volunteered to serve as editor of the newsletter for the remainder of the year.

Website: The website has been updated.

Reservations: Diana reported that reservations number 211 at this time.

Scholarship: Diane Meier announced that the application for the Hensley scholarship has gone out. The applications will be read in January.

Christmas Project: Money will be collected for Arc of Evansville. Cash or checks will be accepted. A basket to hold donations will be on each table.

IRTA/Legislative: Diane noted IRTA Executive Director Nancy Tolson's frustration with the election. The senate chair of ways and means has to allow the COLA bill to be read; that is unlikely to happen. Volunteer hours are very important as well as letters to our legislators that need to be written in the spring. When the fund was established, the expectation was that there would always be a COLA.

Information:

State Grant Committee: Immediate Past President Bob Suhrheinrich was asked to join a committee that would research grants currently awarded to active teachers. The plan is to start with the awarding of one grant of \$750 or \$1,000 per district; there are ten districts in Indiana. Bob said the process has yet to be determined.

Side Table Invitations:

Andy said the Tri-State Food Bank and the Red Cross of Evansville will possibly be in attendance at the luncheon; however, Ashley McReynolds of the Koch Family Children's Museum (cMoe) will attend.

Old Business:

Results of the ERTA Survey: The results were published in the December newsletter. Brenda Weber shared some of the comments from the survey. She added that the needs of our speakers will determine if we move to the sanctuary for the program.

Christmas Gift for Jason Miller: Ed will present a check to Jason Miller, the custodian at American Baptist East, who sets up everything needed for our luncheons. In October the board voted to give Jason a one-time gift of \$100.

New Business:

Bylaws Committee Update: The committee will meet again before presenting the updated document for membership approval in March or May.

Draft of Legislative Letter - COLA: Members may use the draft that will be printed in the next newsletter or write their own. Letters may be mailed or e-mailed.

Door Prizes for the Christmas Luncheon: Door prizes will be donated by ERTA Board members.

Gift to North Varsity Singers: A gift of \$100 will be given to the North High Varsity Singers for providing musical entertainment at our luncheon.

Announcements:

1. Andy attended the USI Donor Scholarship Luncheon.

2. Nancy Tolson and the new IRTA Executive Director will attend our May meeting.

Tom made a motion to give Nancy a parting gift. Brenda Beeler seconded. The motion passed.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Luncheon Meeting
December 11, 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 the newly retired educators to stand. Reservations were reported to be 230.

Pledge of Allegiance: Attendees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of the Head Table: Those seated at the head table were Chaplain Ed Rusk and Ruby, Arc of Evansville President Deidra Conner, and Indiana State Senator Vaneta Becker.

After being introduced, Senator Becker spoke briefly about how important it is for each of us to write a brief personal note to our state legislators and ask them to support a COLA. The state does have a surplus.

Christmas Project: Andy asked that all of us open our hearts and checkbooks for Arc of Evansville. A collection basket was on each table.

Side Table: Ashley McReynolds of the Koch Family Children's Museum (cMoe) had information about the museum.

ERTA Roster: Hard copies of the roster were on a back table for those without e-mail.

Volunteer Hours: Jan Kraft collected members' volunteer hours. They can still be sent to her by the end of December.

Meditation: Ed spoke about the commercialization of Christmas and prayed.

Lunch: The head table went first, followed by members and guests who were called by tables.

Acknowledgements: Andy thanked Susan Mosbey, Ella Shelton, and Ed and Ruby Rusk for setting the tables; Lino Wiseman for collecting dues; and Jan Wiggers and her crew for taking care of the decorations in the absence of Jane Whitehouse.

Immediate Past State President: Bob Kraft spoke about the notes members are being asked to write to state legislators. He asked us to be positive and to tell them that we are thankful for their help in the past. Bob then introduced Rance Ossenbeger who joins Andy as a member of the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation Board of School Trustees.

In concluding, Bob announced that Tom Mellish, a retired elementary school principal from Crawfordsville, will be the new ISTA Executive Director.

Christmas Program: Members and guests moved to the sanctuary for a program featuring the North High School Varsity Singers directed by Andrea Drury.

Business Meeting:

Approval of October 9, 2014 Minutes: The minutes were accepted as printed.

Survey Results: The results of the survey that members in attendance completed at the October luncheon were printed in the newsletter.

Update on ERTA Bylaws: The committee has met. A vote on the updated bylaws will take place at the March meeting.

Announcements:

1. The next luncheon meeting will be on March 12, 2015. Police Chief Billy Bolin will speak about fraud.
2. The total collected for Arc of Evansville was \$1,337.00.

Door Prizes: Drawings were held for the door prizes supplied by members of the board.

Presentation of Gift: Jason Miller, the custodian at American Baptist East, was given a \$100 check for his year's work. He has been responsible for setting up and taking down the tables as well as cleaning up afterwards.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary





EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2015

CHECKING ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2015				\$4,225.02
Interest		0.39		
Income		10,010.00		
Disbursements		0.00		
<u>Ending Balance Jan 31, 2015</u>				<u>\$14,235.41</u>
SPECIAL PROJECTS ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2015				\$1,507.22
Interest		0.14		
<u>Ending Balance Jan 31, 2015</u>				<u>\$1,507.36</u>
REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2015				239.42
Interest		0.02		
<u>Ending Balance Jan 31, 2015</u>				<u>239.44</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT				
Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2015				\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance Jan 31, 2015</u>				<u>\$15.00</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26				
Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2015				5,835.17
Interest		0.39		
Transfer to Checking		3334.98		
<u>Ending Balance Jan 31, 2015</u>				<u>2,500.58</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 3 CD's				
Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2015				49,390.67
Interest		84.84		
Transfer to Checking		6765.02		
<u>Ending Balance Jan 31, 2015</u>				<u>42,710.49</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				\$61,208.28

IN MEMORIAM

November 20, 2014.....Deborah Hartz (active teacher)
November 21, 2014.....Rebecca Ann Curl (active teacher)
December 3, 2014.....Phyllis Elaine (Erwin) Fitzgerald
December 19, 2014.....James Schreiber
December 22, 2014.....Edmund Sullivan
January 20, 2015.....Marilyn (Habig) Schultheis
January 21, 2015.....Eva (Kinnaird) Kattau
February 10, 2015.....Paul Hagan

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



The Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation Scholarship Program is now posted on line at www.retiredteachers.org. Any upcoming junior or senior enrolled in an education program at any of the Indiana universities or colleges is eligible. The scholarship is worth \$2,000 for the 2015-2016 school year. Each of the ten regions in the state will be eligible for one scholarship. For the complete guideline information and scholarship application form, visit the above Web site or call Tom Mellish, Executive Director, at (317) 637-7481 or 1-888-454-9333. The deadline for the application is May 31, 2015. It would be great to have a Vanderburgh County student win this prestigious scholarship.

Andy Guarino, ERTA President

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	Diana Luck	dianaeluck@gmail.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

Evansville Retired
Teachers Association
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