

AARTA Reader

Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association



Over 60 years of working for retired teachers in Kane County to . . .

- ★ use our influence for the passage of favorable legislation in Springfield, Illinois and Washington, D. C.
- ★ improve our communication channels for more effective member participation
- ★ keep our membership informed of current Teachers' Retirement System changes
- ★ present a positive image in the community through our outreach programs

President's Message

As the summer days start to dwindle down and the days become shorter, AARTA would like to welcome all new retirees. May you enjoy each day of retirement — because you've earned it! We hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, doing activities that made you smile. As I write this message, the weather has been wonderful—warm sunny days and cool nights. Perfect!

The IRTA convention will be held in Springfield Monday, October 14 and Tuesday, October 15. AARTA is allotted 22 delegates, and AARTA will pay your expenses to attend. Everyone is encouraged to attend this year as we honor Linda Weiss as our unit honoree. Attending the convention will give you great insight into the various functions of IRTA. Please contact Meg Safarik for more information.

I have truly enjoyed the president's position of AARTA, but my tenure is now up, and a member is needed who would be willing to fill the office of president. A slate of officers will be presented at the October luncheon with voting to take place at the December meeting. Please do not let our unit try to exist without a president. Secretary Linda Weiss and Treasurer Meg Safarik will both continue in their elected positions. We have a great group of people in our unit who have made AARTA a strong, vital group of retirees. Please don't feel that it would be out of your expertise to become president. We can work anything out — and I would help in any way as a past-president. If you have any questions, please call me at 630 921-1307. Now is the time to step up. You can do this!! (I'm using my teacher voice. 😊)

We will continue to volunteer for the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and the Marie Wilkinson Pantry. Please join us whenever you are able. Sign up sheets will be available at the October 1st luncheon, or call Meg Safarik or me for more information. Check out our webpage for more information on our activities.

We have some entertaining and informative luncheon meetings planned for 2019 and 2020 luncheon dates. Representatives from IRTA and TRS will be attending our meeting on October 1. Please bring any questions that you might have for them. We will have paper and pens at your luncheon table for any last minute questions you may want to ask. Put October 1 on your calendar, and we will see you at the Gaslite Manor!

Dick Schindel

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether twenty or eighty.

Anyone who keeps learning is young.

The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

Henry Ford

Congratulations,

Linda Weiss!



The AARTA Board has chosen Linda Weiss to be our unit honoree for 2019.

This award is presented at each biennial IRTA Conference to honor members of local units who have gone above and beyond to help with the work of the local units.

Linda, a life-time member of AARTA, has been our secretary (Her minutes are always prompt, complete, and accurate!) and she helps provide table decorations for our lunches (What a creative and artistic person she is!)

We are very fortunate to have Linda on the AARTA Board. Please congratulate her and thank her for all the time and talent she has so willingly donated to AARTA and its members.



*AARTA Board of Directors
and Committee Chairs*

President: Dick Schindel
Secretary: Linda Weiss
Treasurer: Meg Safarik
Immediate Past President: Meg Safarik
ASK: Concetta Baltz, Kathy Navota
Health Information & Protective Services: Fay Wilson
Legislative: Linda Allison,
Jerry Lubshina
Member Benefits: Mary Ann Soszynski
Membership: Susan Schindel
Newsletter: Barb Zillgitt
Program: Arlene Hawks, Dick Schindel
Public Relations: Maureen Granger,
Ron Nickerson
Retirement Education: Pam Colwell,
Yvonne Hollingsworth
Scholarship Liaison: Maureen Granger
Raffle: Jim Toynton
Reservations: Ann Luker, Cheri Sager
Sunshine: Ed Young, Jo Fredell Higgins
Warm Fuzzies: Eva Balek

Board meetings are held at 9:15 a.m. on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September, and November* at the Aurora Public Library — Santori Library, 101 S. River St. Aurora, IL.

General luncheon meetings are at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, October, and December at Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora.

Newsletter items are due by the Monday before the Board meeting in January, March, May, September, and November. Send them to bzillgitt685@gmail.com.

* The next board meeting will be Tuesday, October 29. There will be no board meeting in November.

If you miss a printed version of *The Reader*, contact Barb Zillgitt,
630.896.2451 or
bzillgitt685@gmail.com

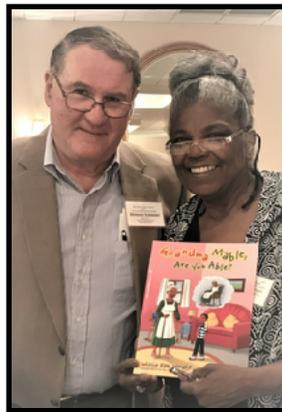
If you miss an email version of *The Reader*, contact Meg Safarik,
aurorartdchrs@outlook.com



With beautiful fall weather arriving, it's time to begin another year with AARTA. For our October meeting, we have invited the 41 new 2019 retirees from East Aurora, West Aurora, Batavia, and Kaneland school districts to be our guests and join us so that they can take advantage of membership and its benefits.

Be sure to welcome our new retirees, and if there are other retired teachers you may know, please encourage them to join us as well. All are welcome!

Congratulations to Willie Etta Wright!



Dick Schindel with author and AARTA member Willie Etta Wright

Willie is the author of *Grandma Mable, Are You Able?*, a story which revolves around Grandma Mable who has taken on the challenge of raising her grandson, Jacob.

Jacob has the opportunity to enter a contest at school, but because his family only consists of a grandmother whom he considers to be too old, he is reluctant to participate.

Willie will have books available at the October lunch. What a great Christmas present it could be! It may also be found on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), at Barnes and Noble, and the Anderson Bookstore in Naperville.

Thank you to Joanne Hughes for all the years she helped take our luncheon reservations.

Welcome to Cheri Sager who has joined Ann Luker in working with our reservations.

***Our volunteers make AARTA
the great organization that it is!***

Contact us at aurorartdchrs@outlook.com

AARTA Outreach



On June 28, 2019, Dick Schindel participated in a radiothon on 95.1 FM where he shared how AARTA is supporting the Interfaith Food Pantry and the Marie Wilkenson Food Pantry.

Join Our "Red Team"

Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry, Jericho Road, Aurora, usually the fourth Tuesday of each month from 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Let us know you'll be there by signing up at the next luncheon or by contacting Meg Safarik: aurorartdchrs@hotmail.com.

Marie Wilkenson Food Pantry, East Aurora High, third Thursday of the month from 2:15-4:15 p.m. We enter the school through Door 33 which is by the smokestack.

Upcoming dates to help are September 12 and 26, October 10, November 14, December 5 and 19.

Sign up at mariewilkensonfoodpantry.org/volunteer/.



A.S.K.

(AARTA Supporting Kids)



- This year **ASK** (AARTA Supporting Kids) will be collecting school supplies at all our luncheon meetings. These supplies will be distributed at the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and Marie Wilkenson Food Pantry. It is our intention to put supplies in the hands of students who need tools to do school work at home or to replenish supplies as they are depleted at school.
- December will still be devoted to winter wear for CIS; June will still be Warm Fuzzies.
- Please bring school supplies to the luncheon meeting on October 1, 2019. As always, if you would prefer to make a donation we will gladly find the bargains for you. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

Remember to save your books for our next book exchange in February.

Each year, we provide a \$1500 scholarship to a community college or trade school. This year, the recipient of our scholarship is Grace Weiss of St. Charles East High School.

Our scholarship fund is administered by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. Students in our area may apply for this scholarship by contacting the Community Foundation:

communityfoundationfrv.org

You may honor or remember a retired teacher by donating to our scholarship fund at any time. Money raised by our 50/50 raffles also is placed in this fund.

Warm Fuzzies (Lap blankets for senior care centers)

It's crafting time again. When the leaves turn colors and snowflakes start to fall, that "Warm Fuzzie" feeling begins to glow within us all. So, clip those coupons and gather those supplies. Soon it will be time to answer the "Warm Fuzzie" call.

Our members have answered the call for several years. Our number of handcrafted "Warm Fuzzies" has been over 100 for several years. Let's make this a habit. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Eva Balek (630)913-6318 or ebalek@gmail.com. We will, once again, collect our donations at the June 2019 luncheon.

Health Notes from Fay Wilson

In Remembrance

Herbert Birk, May 1, 1929-March 12, 2019, was a teacher, coach, and administrator in St. Charles.

Marguerite Knispel-Schmidt, 1936-May 31, 2019, taught elementary education in District 204 and was principal at St. Paul Lutheran School in Aurora.

Mary Lou Zolper, March 26, 1938-May 5, 2019, was an elementary teacher and media center director in West Aurora.

Mary Ellen Peffer, May 31, 1965 - July 19, 2019, taught elementary education and enrichment in West Aurora.

Patricia Galligar, April 9, 1937 - July 26, 2019, taught in East Aurora for twenty-five years.

Genevieve Sudges, March 9, 1937 - July 28, 2019, was a teacher's aid in East Aurora.

If you know of the death of an AARTA member, please let us know.

AARTA remembers each of these members with a \$15 donation to the IRTA Foundation and with contributions to our scholarship fund with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley.

OTHER AREA DEATHS

John Adams, June 18, 2019, elementary teacher, elementary principal, public school superintendent, university professor, and president of Aurora College

Eileen Randall, June 17, 2019, was a nurse in District 129.

Bev Anderson, August 14, was a band teacher in District 129.

Sip on It throughout the Day

Sipping on water during the day has powerful health benefits. It is of vital importance in maintaining nearly all major organ systems of our body. Water is the carrier of oxygen, nutrients, and hormones to the body parts. Across the globe, medical experts agree on the benefits of water. SOME of these health benefits include:

- improves energy and immunity
- boosts physical performance
- clears toxins
- helps prevent constipation
- promotes weight loss
- promotes skin care
- alleviates cramps and sprains
- improves kidney function
- regulates body temperature
- prevents osteoporosis
- promotes breathing
- reduces backaches
- prevents heart disease



Recent studies are not quite as adamant about the recommended daily amounts of water needed as in the past. The amount needed varies according to conditions, activities, and the individual. The important thing is to stay hydrated! Make water your choice of liquid, and keep it nearby so you can sip, sip, sip your way to the best health.

Source: "16 Impressive Benefits of Drinking Water" by Kiran Patil, organicfacts.net, updated 6/14/19

Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!

We have lots of pictures from AARTA luncheons and events. We'd like to let everyone see these pictures as well as a few announcements on a large screen at each of our five lunches. Of course, that means that we need a volunteer with the required knowledge and equipment to step forward. Please help us develop this additional way of communicating with our members. Contact us at aurorartdchrs@outlook.com or speak to one of our board members if you are willing to help us out.



Remember ...

Use our **Office Depot/Office Max** number whenever you make purchases or recycle ink cartridges this summer — **1201120183**.

Whenever you make a purchase at Amazon, you can help support the **IRTA Foundation** by placing your orders through smile.amazon.com.



Update Your Information!

It is important that our records are up-to-date. If you have changed your address, phone number, email address, or want to change email/snail mail preferences, notify us ASAP, especially, if you are a three-year or life member.

aurorartdchrs@outlook.com

Fall Membership Drive for 2020

AARTA yearly dues follow the IRTA calendar dues year of January through December. So, all current members' dues are paid through December 31, 2019.

Honorary dues memberships are given to members who turn 90 in 2019, or who are already 90 years of age or older. Your birthdate is needed for our record keeping, and once received, you will be granted honorary status. Please notify Susan Schindel, 630 898-1307, if this applies to you.

IF you are an annual dues member, or ***IF*** your three-year dues membership is up for renewal, you will receive an invoice this month in the regular mail. It will include a dues payment form for your convenience. You may pay your dues at the October 1 or December 3 luncheon or mail it back to Susan Schindel, 784 Morningside Ave. Aurora, IL 60505. Please pay your dues before December 31, 2019, in order to be included in our 2020 directory.

\$20 Annual Dues

\$50 3-year option (2020, 2021, 2022)

\$200 Life Option

**IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A MEMBERSHIP LETTER IN THE MAIL,
YOU ARE IN GOOD STANDING FOR 2020!**

Directory Updates

Arundale, Sande		630 406 8811
Bales, Joanne	88	630 404 0235
915 Kensington Place		Elem. Ed.
Aurora, IL 60506		
Cervantes, Elizabeth	131	630 251 6538
908 Merrill New Rd.		Soc. Wkr.
Sugar Grove, IL 60554		
Collette, Judi	129	630 301 9118
877 California Ct.		Elem. Ed.
Aurora, IL 60506		
Hubbard, Kathryn	101	630 880 3509
15715 Grove Hill Dr.		Elem Ed.
Batavia, IL 60510		
Martin, Jan		630 240 6981
206 Dorset Ave.		
Oswego, IL 60543		
Palasz, Mary		
113 S. Van Nortwick Ave.		
Batavia, IL. 60510		
Vilaro, Joan		
500 Canterbury Road		
Aurora, IL 60506		

Mary Welton

will become an honorary member of
AARTA on October 17 of this year!
Happy birthday, Mary, and welcome to this very special group!

IRTA

Governor Pritzker signed HB 2700 on August 23, 2019, increasing the time period that an individual may receive a refund of an overpayment to TRIP or TRAIL to seven years. Prior to this law, a retired teacher was only entitled to receive a refund of an overpayment to their TRIP or TRAIL program by a maximum of six months' worth of an overpayment. IRTA worked with Representative Katie Stuart, a Democrat from the Metro-East area near St. Louis, to introduce HB 2700 to correct this issue.

IRTA had several meetings with the Agency and Representative Stuart, and they removed their opposition to the legislation. The legislation passed the House unanimously. Senator Neil Anderson, a Republican from the Quad-Cities in the North West Corner of the State, sponsored the bill in the Senate which ultimately passed the legislation unanimously.

The Governor's signature represents final action, and the HB 2700 is now law. We will continue to work with CMS to make sure that the legislation is implemented correctly and eligible individuals are able to receive their full refunds.

Minutes from Our Last General Meeting

June 4, 2019

WELCOME – CALL TO ORDER: Dick called the meeting to order at 11:45. He thanked Joanne Hughes for all her time given as the reservation taker. Joanne will step down due to family obligations and traveling. Cheri Sager will take Joanne's place.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dick

PATRIOTIC SONG: Arlene, *America*

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Ed's message was in your haste to do a good job, don't forget all the important details.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: We had a moment of silence for Geraldine Nikula, Mary Council, Mary Lou Zolper, Marguerite Knispel-Schmidt, and Herbert Birk.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Meg made a motion to approve the secretary's report, and it was seconded. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Meg reported we have \$3938.00 in checking, \$1,444 in three-year account, and \$864 in the life-time account for a total of \$6,246. We also have a nine month CD worth \$10,000 at 2.37%.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Arlene presented June, July, August, and September birthdays with a Twizzler, pencil, and a SciTech pass.

LUNCH: A delicious lunch buffet was enjoyed by all. AARTA gave a big "Thank You" to George and Gaslight Manor.

INSURANCE AND BENEFITS: Nothing at this time.

LEGISLATION: Linda reported that H2700 passed. It allows retirees who have been paying in too much money to insurance to go back 7 years to be reimbursed for a refund. The pensions and TRIP are to be fully funded, but the Governor hasn't signed the bills yet. The flat tax is OK to vote for because it is not in the constitution. If the State taxes our pensions, Moody will place our credit at the bottom of the barrel."

MEMBERSHIP: We have 373 active members. Renewal letters for 2020 will go out in early September. Dick introduced Carole Ruby who will help with data entry. Susan will continue to receive dues.

RETIREMENT EDUCATION: Pam reported that 50 congratulatory letters will be sent out in September inviting retirees to the October luncheon.

SCHOLARSHIP: Nothing at this time.

BOOK EXCHANGE: The book exchange was very successful. Thank you to Mary Hauge and helpers.

WARM FUZZIES: The warm fuzzies were so beautiful! We collected 118 to be donated to 6 nursing home facilities in the Aurora/Batavia area. Kudos to all! Thank you to the delivery persons as well.

TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES: Dick announced the White Sox game will be June 10, 2019, and he has four tickets left. The tickets are \$45. The Cubs vs. Milwaukee game in Milwaukee will be September 8, 2019, and is sold out. We will be between home and first base. The Cubs home game will be August 7, 2019, and he has two tickets left. The tickets are \$70.

Arlene reported that *Matilda* is at Drury Lane this summer. *Mary Poppins* will be at Drury during the time in December we usually go. Also *Simon and Garfunkel* are at Water Tower place.

Meg handed out brochures for the SHEDD trip in July. Payment is due Friday, June 21.

Meg also had a food pantry sheet for July, August, and September. The new time is 11:15 a.m.

PROGRAM: Arlene introduced HFK Presents "P. T. Barnum's Weird & Wacky Big Top." We learned many facts about P. T. Barnum and the circus.

50/50 RAFFLE: Thanks to Jim Toynton and his crew, Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry will receive ½ of the raffle money. Money prizes and a free lunch were won by members also.

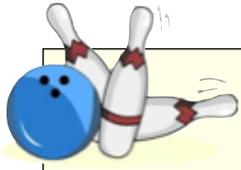
MOTION TO ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Weiss, Secretary

Protect your pension!
Join today!
irtaonline.org/Join.aspx

Pictures from our
past meetings can be
found at:
auroraarearta.org



Bowling with AARTA

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Where: Parkside Lanes, Aurora

Time: 11:00 a.m-2:00 p.m.

Cost \$15 per person, payable that day, includes: 3 games, shoe rental, plus pizza and soda

Reservations: Call Dick Schindel at 630 921-1307 to make reservations.

Bring your family and friends.

Questions? Call Dick Schindel — 630-921-1307

See what other IRTA units are doing by looking at their newsletters. Go to irta-newsletters.weebly.com to see the different activities and formats. If you see something good that AARTA might do, let us know.



SciTech's Birthday Bash

Sunday, September 29,

Noon until 6:00 p.m.

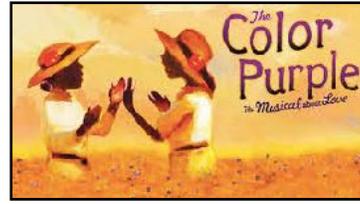
Free admission

Mr. Freeze and Cryogenics

2:00 p.m.

Jim Nesci's Cold-Blooded Creatures

3:00 p.m.



Our fall theater trip to Drury Lane, Oak Brook, comes earlier than in the past. **Reservations must be made by October 1** — they may be made at our luncheon on October 1. Therefore, we are providing you well-in-advance with the reservation form. Tickets are limited.

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2019, noon

Cost: \$64 includes meal, ticket, and gratuity

Reservations due by October 1

Lunch choices: Veggie kabob, herbed chicken, tilapia

Necessary information: name/s, phone number, and lunch choice/s

Send your information and check, payable to Arlene Hawks, to Arlene at 930 Garfield Ave., Aurora, IL 60506



Members and friends of AARTA are invited to join the Kendall Retired Teachers Association as they go to the Chicago Symphony & Chorus Holiday Concert. There are a limited number of reservations available so send your information and check in soon.

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$85 includes charter bus, main floor ticket, and refreshments on the bus

Reservations due by September 26

Departs from JC Penney, Montgomery, 1:00 p.m.

Necessary information: name/s, address/es, phone numbers

Send your information and check, payable to K.R.T.A., to Jim Hissong, 102 Strawberry Lane, Yorkville, IL 60560

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

September

Linda Flaherty	3
Joanne Hughes	3
Arlene Barrett	4
Carol Dauwalder	5
Ernie Poochigan	5
Larry Solomon	5
Gayle Robinson	6
Margie Engberg	7
Mary Stoner	8
Mary Ann White	8
Dorothy Ellis	9
Dennis Erford	10
Lynne Monaco	11
Judy Malchin	12
Barb Vlasvich	15
Carolyn Kerkla	16
Judy Rhoads	17
Barbara Belford	19
Dotti Matson	20
Jan Hem	21
Martha Womack	21

Sandy Young	22
Gary Jewel	25
Ron Nickerson	25
Betty Wells	25
Lesley Beary	26
Arlene Flynn	27
Dot Sullivan	27
Sue Henry	28
Jeff Scull	28
Diane Stupec	30

October

Mark Ruby	2
Mary Malone	3
Susan White	3
Faith Jones	6
Debbie Philipchuck	6
Richard Ebeling	7
Rebecca Stewart	7
Adele Buss	8
Jim Toynton	10

Diane Backes	11
Jim Reiland	11
Marilyn Ruby	14
Ken Fron	15
Elaine Dugan	16
Mary Welton	17
Edmund Carroll	19
Elizabeth Cervantes	21
Georgann Karantonis	21
Concetta Baltz	22
Betty Brancato	22
Pam Erschen	22
Katherine A. Jackson	22
Dona McLaughlin	24
Wendi Balog	28
Patricia Fennell	28
Dale Hultgren	28
Sande Arundale	29
Martha Egeland	29
Ann Lawrence	29
Chuck Gilmore	30
Dale Jones	30

November

Bobbi Laffin	1
Kendra Nohl	1
Sylvia Roberts	1
Susan Cooper	2
Jo Fredell Higgins	3
Nancy Dralle Smith	5
Maureen Granger	6
Joann Morr	6
Candy Rady	7
Sandy Bauer Lay	8
Mary Palasz	8
Nancy McCloud	9
Alison King	10
Kay Flodstrom	12
Helen Hatchett	14
Pauline Scharf	14
Gloria Jones	16
Cathy Bednar	17
Mariam Bailey	19
Carolyn Benson Dietz	21
Tom Tosaw	24
Rosa Marie Jackson	26
Carol Hogfelt	29
LaVerne Taylor	30

If you would like to have your birthday listed in The Reader, send your information to bzillgitt685@gmail.com or call Barb Zillgitt at 630-896-2451.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS



Where: **Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora**

When: **Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 11:30 a.m.**

Price: **\$19.00**

Reservation due date: Friday, September 20, 2019

Last name that begins with the letter A through L —

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Cheri Sager, 512 Oak Crest Dr., North Aurora, IL 60542**

Last name that begins with M through Z —

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Ann Luker, 1089A Woodridge Drive, Sugar Grove, IL, 60554**

Number of reservations _____

Name _____

\$19.00

Name _____

\$ _____

Total \$ _____



OCTOBER LUNCHEON

If you're interested in preserving your pension and insurance benefits, this is the meeting for you. Representatives from TRS and IRTA will be sharing information with us at our October meeting. This will be a great time to get your questions answered and to learn more about these two very important organizations that serve retired teachers in Illinois.

In addition, Willie Etta Wright will have copies of her book available for purchase* and new retirees will be recognized.* We will also be collecting items and cash donations for our ASK program.*

Make your reservations today, and bring a friend.

* See related article

Next meeting October 1, 2019
Reservations due September 20, 2019

Susan Schindel
784 Morningside Ave.
Aurora, IL 60505

Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association

The Reader

