

KENDALL RETIRED TEACHERS



NEWSLETTER



*SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS OF KENDALL COUNTY
FOR 40+ YEARS*

APRIL, 2019

April 11 Meeting

The April 11 luncheon of KRTA will begin at 12 NOON at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club, 7671 Clubhouse Drive (just off Rt. 126) in Yorkville, IL. Cost is \$19. Program: **Deadline is April 5, 2019.** If you don't get a call by then, you can RSVP to Sue Matile, 630-554-8743.



In celebration of Illinois's 200th Anniversary, our speaker, Roger Matile, will give us "A Conversation on Illinois in 1818". Roger is a retired newspaper editor, a current columnist on local history, and the volunteer director of the The Little White School Museum.

Be sure to bring your money, for the 50/50 fundraiser. This money will go to the IRTA Legal Defense Fund.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

MINUTES FOR THE KRTA FEBRUARY 14, 2019 MEETING

KRTA February 14, 2019 Membership Meeting Minutes

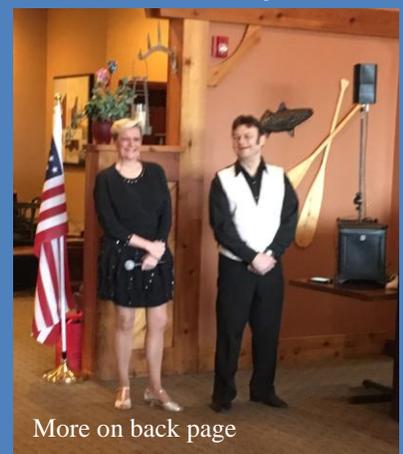
The KRTA membership meeting was called to order by President Jim Hissong at Lakeview Grille, Yorkville. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and George Hayner said Grace. George also asked that we take time to pray in memory of the Parkland, Florida students who were victims in the senseless killing one year ago today. Jim Hissong greeted members with some words of wisdom that will add years to our lives! He recited many: **keep** your insurance updated, **get** a dentist if you do not have one, **floss** regularly, **schedule** the necessary screenings such as colon, mammogram, skin, and prostate. You should **get** enough sleep, **exercise** regularly, **include** enough fiber in your diet, and **make** time for tea, yourself, and romance. And finally, we should regularly **hang** around with kids, **go** to the library, and **take** a walk in the woods – it relieves stress. Lunch was served.



After lunch Jim introduced our guest speaker Doug Strand. Doug is a candidate for a position on the TRS board of trustees. Doug has been endorsed by IRTA. His job as a TRS board member will be to protect retired teachers' pensions and benefits, and to support the fight against the possibility of a state tax on our pensions.

Jim then asked Tom Meade to introduce the entertainment for today, The Lucky Duo. Norm and Heidi performed a song and dance, rock and

Heidi and Norm Lucky Our Valentine Performers



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roll sing along. “You Made Me Do It” and “Let’s Fall In Love” were a few of the many songs enjoyed by the members. Retired Oswego teacher Sharon Pagoria “volunteered” to share a dance with Norm to a Lawrence Welk tune. She was graciously rewarded with a bottle of “champagne.”

After the program Jim announced the 50/50 winner. Charlie Butler and the IRTA Legal Defense Fund split the collection. Pat French won the drawing for a free lunch. The business meeting was opened with Kyle Price reporting a treasury balance of \$3,709.58.

Committee Reports

- ⇔ **Programs:** Jan Hisson reported there will be in March a Tuesday movie and a lunch in Yorkville. She will have an email announcement of such date and time.
- ⇔ **Membership:** Randy announced that there is a new member as guest today, Jodi Wilkens.

Jim then had several announcements:

- There are 4 Blackhawks tickets left.
- There is a concert on March 17 of the Texas Tenors at the Beluchi Center at College of Dupage. Jim has tickets available.
- Cub tickets are also available. The trip will be May 23, Thursday. \$58 is the cost. See Jim for tickets.
- The KRTA 2019 Directory is available today. Please take your copy.

Guest speaker Chris Mehochko, Superintendent of Kendall – Grundy ROE, again pleaded with members if they or any retired teacher they know would be willing to substitute in any of the county school districts. The county and the state are in severe substitute teacher shortage. Mr. Mehochko had mentioned at the December KRTA membership meeting that lawmakers were considering dropping snow days from the Illinois school district calendars. That may not occur, now. He also reported that large numbers of Illinois high school students are choosing to leave the state to attend out-of-state colleges and universities. There is support among lawmakers for “paying” Illinois students to attend Illinois schools if they qualify with ACT scores of 30+.

Jan Hisson concluded the meeting with a brief history (it is based on a pagan holiday) and interesting facts about Valentine’s Day—which coincided with the place cards at our tables.

The next KRTA membership meeting and luncheon will be April 11th at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club on Rt. 126, Yorkville.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Recording Secretary, Pat Johnson



PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President’s Message

President’s Message for April 2019

As spring is upon us, I would like to let you know what K.R.T.A. activities are coming up in the next few months:

- *Cubs vs. Phillies trip to Wrigley Field-May 23-1:20 P.M. is currently sold out-please call to be put on our waiting list
- *Area II Conference-Schaumburg Golf Club-Monday June 3-Updates on current retirement issues.
- *Kane County Cougar Outing-Monday July 22--game time is 12:00 Noon. Application is in this newsletter. Signup deadline is Monday April 15.
- *Righteous Brothers Concert--Arcada Theatre in St. Charles Tuesday July 23-7:30 P.M. We are still able to order tickets for this.

Some of our members enjoyed a wonderful concert with the Texas Tenors at the College of DuPage on March 17. We will try to schedule another concert with this group in the future.





With the weather warming up, supper clubs will be back, so check your e-mails coming soon.

Also, we have a new updated web-site you may wish to check out. It is:

www.kendallrta.weebly.com.

Thought of the day: Good decisions come from experience, and experience comes from bad decisions.



Jim Hissong, President K.R.T.A.

MEMBERSHIP



join

Kendall County Retired Teachers Unit 10 Membership: April, 2019

Welcome new member:

Jodi Wilkens

We have about 43 people who still owe for this year's membership dues. Please come to the April lunch. You can pay there, or you can send your \$15 dues money to Randy French or Sharon Pagoria. Make checks out to KRTA.

Please encourage other retirees to join our wonderful organization! With our pension's health insurance on the line, we all need to be involved in KRTA and IRTA. There is strength in numbers.

Thanks, Randy and Sharon—your Membership chairs



If you have changed or plan to change your address, phone number, or e-mail address, please contact Sharon Pagoria or Randy French, Janet Reardon, Theresa Weidman, Sue Matile, and Robert or Vicki Baughman. This helps all of us keep our records up to date. This likewise keeps your newsletters, directory, and e-blasts coming.

YOUR DIRECTORY: The directory has been distributed. It was picked up at the February meeting or it was sent in the mail. If you did not get a directory, you can pick one up at the April meeting.



IRTA members can use their membership card for discounts at museums, Michael's, Joanne Fabrics, etc. Membership cards are only sent out by request. Members need to contact IRTA and request a membership card in order to receive one. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Tucker, IRTA Receptionist, 1-800-728-4782.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We will be collecting for CASA, (an organization that provides advocates for children in the court system) at this meeting. This is a very worthy organization; and, the funds are needed and appreciated.

Thank you so much for your always generous response and support of these worthy organizations.

Alimae Persons, Community Participation Chair



LEGISLATION

State Contribution to TRS Update: The Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Board of Trustees has given final approval to a \$4.813 billion state contribution to the System for fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020), a 10.6% increase over the current fiscal year's contribution. The current FY 2019 state contribution to TRS is \$4.47 billion. This amount falls \$2.93 billion short of the estimated "full funding" contribution for the year of \$7.4 billion.

The FY 2020 contribution also falls short of the amount of money that actuaries calculate would "fully fund" the cost of TRS pensions in the new fiscal year. The FY 2020 statutory contribution is \$3.065 billion below the

full funding amount of \$7.878 billion. Since its founding in 1939, TRS has **never once received** an annual contribution from state government that equaled **full funding**.

The Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois is the 37th largest pension system in the United States and provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to teachers, administrators, and other public school personnel employed outside of Chicago. The System serves 417,292 members and had assets of \$51.8 billion as of September 30, 2018.

Sid Simmons, Legislative Chair

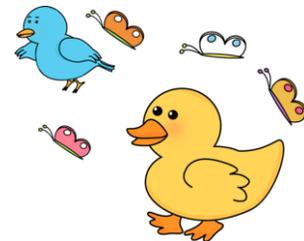
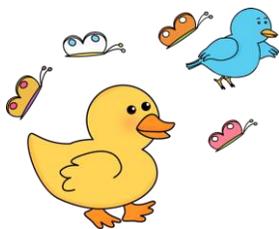


E-MAILS: I am happy to state that we currently have 144 e-mail members. If you would like to join us, please let me know. You may do so by e-mailing me, Janet Reardon, at janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net. After receiving your e-mail, I will gladly put you on our list. You will receive the newsletter in two formats: Word 97 – 2003 and PDF file—choose the one that works for you. I look forward to putting your name on this list. This is a good way for all travelers to receive your newsletter while away from home. This also is how you receive the KRTA e-blasts.



TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE – 1/15/19			<u>\$4,500.20</u>
RECEIPTS	Meal Payments	\$1,997.00	
	Dues	\$385.00	
	Replace Change for Luncheon	\$200.00	
	50/50 Legal Fund	\$123.00	
	Events	\$6245.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>\$8,950.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS			\$13,450.20
EXPENSES	Change for Luncheon	\$200.00	
	IRTA Legal Fund	\$123.00	
	LakeView Grille	\$1,997.00	
	Jim Hissong Sp. Events	\$5,035.94	
	Entertainment	\$235.00	
	Newsletter	\$111.50	
	Windstar Bus	\$250.00	
	Meghan Kerr – Website	\$100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES			<u>\$8,052.44</u>
RECONCILED BALANCE 3/19/19			<u>\$5,397.76</u>
Kyle Price, Treasurer			



Happy Birthday!!

The following members are celebrating their birthdays this June. **Happy Birthday** to all of you--and may you have many more!

June



Valerie Henrich 6/1
 Celie Riderer 6/3
 Linda Adkins 6/12
 Mary Ann Doetschman 6/13
 Karel Thompson 6/18
 Joyce Conklin 6/21
 Lynn Elko 6/26
 Elaine Miller 6/26
 Pat Clason 6/30



If you did not see your name in the birthday recognition list and wish to be honored, please let Janet Reardon have your birth month and day by e-mail (janetreardon44@sbcglobal.net) or by phone (630-801-8928). Also, if you notice any errors, please let me know.



Norm and Heidi Lucky showing off their dance moves and Kicking up their heels.



Sharlene Fosler enjoying the hand jive.



Sharon Pagoria showing Norm her hand-jive skills.



Kane County Cougars Vs. Dayton Dragons

When: Monday July 22, 2019

Where: Fifth Third Bank Park, Geneva, Il.

Game Time: 12:00 Noon

(No Bus Service Provided)

Cost: \$40.00 Per Person

Includes: Private air conditioned K.R.T.A. Sky Box,
Lunch buffet, snacks drinks, desserts and prizes.

Event limited to 20 tickets—**so act fast!**

Reserve yours now by returning this form with check (Made payable to K.R.T.A.) to:

Jim Hissong,

102 Strawberry Lane, Yorkville, Il. 60560

Questions? Call Jim @ 630-553-9153.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ # of Tickets: _____



Enjoying Social Hour before
the Valentine Luncheon and
Entertainment.



IT'S WHAT YOU SCATTER

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes... I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good'

'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma???'

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'??

'Good. Anything I can help you with??'

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'??

'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr. Miller.

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it', said Miller.

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked.

'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'. Mr. Miller told the boy.

'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.'

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one; each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket. 'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size....they came to pay their debt. 'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.'

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

The Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER THAT TELLS WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED!