

*LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER  
(Navana Ahrends, Editor)*

*Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 29*

*Location: St. Mary's Parish Hall*

*414 N. Main Pontiac*

*(Use Chicago Street Entrance)*

- 10:00 Registration*
- 10:30 Opening Remarks, Memorial Service*
- 10:45 Business Meeting includes*  
*Introduction of Scholarship Winners*  
*Convention Report*  
*Election of Officers*
- 11:15 Musical Entertainment presented by*  
*St. Mary's Children directed by Sandy Erickson*
- 11:30 Luncheon*
- 12:15 Legislative Update - Don Gibb*  
*Regional Superintendent - Mark Jontry*

*Another Guest: Richard Small (Region 7 Membership)*

***PLAN NOW TO ATTEND***

*For Reservations Contact: Sue Schnell 102 Western Cornell, IL 61319  
815-867-0750 (Cell)*

*Deadline for reservations is no later than noon on Friday, October 25.*

***PLEASE NOTE:***

**Reservation Sheet sent by separate email for those with email.**

**(Should have already been received.)**

**Newsletters that are mailed will include a copy of the reservation sheet.**

**ABOUT THE MEETING**

- **Memorial Service** conducted by Louise Masching, assisted by Jerry Keck, will recognize the following members who have passed away since our October 2018 meeting.

Roger Coventry (10/15/18) and Elaine Young (10/18/18) were recognized at our October 2018 meeting.

To be recognized this year:

Laura Bruer (10/21/18)

Dorothy Attig (12/1/18)

Joanne Mullen (12/19/18)

Eileen Weller (1/3/19)

William V. Harrison (5/7/19)

Donald Deters (8/21/19)

Russell Munch (11/15/18)

Patricia Johnson (12/15/18)

Larry Exton (12/24/18)

John Reis (2/15/19)

Major Bastien (6/26/19)

- **Election of Officers** The new officers will be elected and will serve during the 2020 and 2021 years, starting with January 1, 2020. However, the new president will begin planning and have things ready to go with the new board prior to that time.

- **Announcement of the Scholarship Winners** The committee co-chaired by Andy and Wanda Holmgren have worked hard to get the word out about the scholarships available and have successfully received more than 20 to choose from. This is not an easy task, but a very rewarding one to read about the creative spirit of the active teachers. Each scholarship application is quite unique. We look forward to seeing who the winners are, hearing about their projects, and meeting them in person.

- **IRTA Convention Report** Our unit was well represented by 7 delegates to the convention that was held October 14 & 15 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. At that time a new slate of officers was elected to serve their two-year term. The new president is John Flaherty. If you were at the April meeting, he was here to introduce the candidate for the TRS trustee. Representing our unit was Marjorie Ehrhardt, Bob Walter, Don Gibb, Joe Oprondek, Marlene Landstrom, Bert Kinate, and Navana Ahrends.

## LCRTA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019 P.3

### ■ Special Presenters

- Don Gibb, IRTA Legislative Chair for Region 7, will give the latest information as far as a legislative update.
- Mark Jontry , Regional Superintendent, will bring greetings from the Regional Office, as well as give updates on school related items.
- Richard Small, IRTA Membership Chair for Region 7, will discuss membership recommendations brought forth in State meetings.

- Musical Entertainment Students from St. Mary's School under the direction of Sandy Erickson will provide music just before the luncheon.

### OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### DONATIONS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Can participate in the 50/50 drawing at the meeting.
- Can make direct donations to treasury. Just make the check to LCRTA and note Scholarship in the Memo line.

With your continued support we are able to adjust the number of scholarships we give if there are more than two worthy applications.

#### TRAIL MAPD ENROLLMENT PERIOD                      October 15 – November 15, 2019

You should have received in the mail a brochure from the Department of Central Management Services giving you the latest information on our options and cost of insurance. There is a phone number given there if you need help. 844-251-1777. If you haven't received a copy let me know and I will make a copy for you.

One thing to note that is new is that under the HMO Plans and the PPO plans hearing instruments and related services are now available. "\$2500 for hearing instrument and related services every 24 months for individuals 65 and older, when a hearing care professional prescribes a hearing instrument. Contact plan for additional details."

Insurance costs are on page 7.

The TRAIL MAPD Seminars that are in our area are October 21, 2019 at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Peoria 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. OR Eastland Suites Hotel 1801 Eastland Dr. in Bloomington 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Others are also listed.

**REMEMBER: If you're not changing, you don't have to do anything.**

**READERS REQUESTED FOR LINCOLN SCHOOL IN PONTIAC**

In an effort to encourage reading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Lincoln School, Michael Weaver, the principal, has requested assistance from our unit as well as other community individuals.

There are times set aside on each Wednesday in 15-minute increments to read to a class. The teacher chooses the book(s) and has the children ready to listen during that time. This time frame starts at 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, and 1:45. You could choose to do only one or you could choose to do more than one.

We have had this request before and there were some who participated, but we could provide more help in this area. There is no monetary cost to us – just the use of our time and talent.

A sheet will be passed around at the meeting for you to sign up on when you would be available. When this is returned, I will put the information on a data base and then you can keep track that way.

If you have further questions you can contact the school office at 815-844-3924. Mr. Weaver would like to extend his thanks for volunteering to set positive examples for the students in Lincoln School.

**This would be a good place to wear our I Am A IRTA Volunteer button. If you don't have one, I still have some. This is a good way to get our name out to active teachers – a good recruitment tool.**

**IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION**

**Donald Gibb**

Fri, Sep  
27, 3:52  
PM

To: IRTA Region 7 Unit Presidents and Legislative Chairpersons

Fr: Don Gibb, Region 7 Legislation Committee Representative

Re: IRTA Legislative Committee Meeting

The IRTA Legislative Committee met September 10 in Springfield. You most likely received by email the unofficial minutes of the meeting. If you have not, please contact me or the IRTA office. The minutes are also posted on the IRTA website.

The minutes provide a thorough report of the agenda items considered. The signing of HB2700 by the governor was significant victory for affected retirees. Unfortunately, the response to the legislation is troublesome to say the least. As described in the minutes, the IRTA will be working with legislators to rectify this situation during the upcoming legislative veto session.

**(Legislative Information continued)**

The following significant comments were made by Jim Bachman and Andrew Bodewes during the meeting that were not included in the minutes:

1. It is possible that legislation may be introduced in the next session to consolidate downstate and Chicago pension funds.
2. There continued promotion by the Commercial Club of Chicago to amend the Illinois Constitution regarding state pensions.
3. The gap between TRIP revenues and disbursements has not been reduced significantly.
4. Even though there seems to be little discussion about taxing retirement income and modifying the annual pension increase, the IRTA will monitor these issues closely.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally,

I would be willing to attend any of your unit meetings between now and the end of 2019. I would also be willing to coordinate any meetings of local members with their legislators

I encourage you to communicate with your legislators concerning retiree issues.

**POINTING OUT ANOTHER LEGISLATIVE AREA OF CONCERN**

**From Don Gibb**

Illinois Firearm Legislation Since the year 2000, over 10,000 children have been exposed to gun violence at Illinois schools. The states of California, Illinois, and Florida have had the most school shootings since 2017. The Illinois Legislature passed and Governors Rauner and Pritzker have signed legislation that significantly deals with firearm ownership and gun violence. One new law requires that for a private firearm sale the seller must verify the buyer's FOID card with the Illinois State Police, and must keep a record of the sale for at least ten years. Sen. Barickman and Reps. Bennett and Brady opposed this legislation. A second new law is known as a "red flag" law. Family members or police can petition a judge to issue an order to confiscate a firearm of a person deemed an immediate and present danger to themselves or others. The person's firearms must be returned to them within six months unless the court finds grounds to renew the suspension. Additionally, under certain circumstances, the ISP can revoke a FOID card of a person who has been determined to be a clear and present danger to themselves or to others. Sen. Barickman and Rep. Bennett opposed this legislation while Rep. Brady supported it. Another new law requires a 72 hour waiting period after the purchase of firearm before the buyer can take possession. All three legislators opposed this legislation. Illinois does not require firearm registration but requires a license for concealed carry. Illinois legislators unanimously supported and Gov. Pritzker signed into law a bill that would create an online database with mental health resources related to school shootings and bullying that parents and school staff can use to help students.

**OUR UNIT NEEDS YOUR HELP**

**SOME POINTS TO PONDER**

Editorial Comment from Navana Ahrends

**Are you aware we still don't have a vice president?**

**Do you know you may be asked to serve as a committee chairman or to be on a committee?**

**Why don't you just "step up to the plate" and volunteer?**

When you first started teaching, you felt overwhelmed because you didn't know what to expect. When you are first asked to serve in an office for LCRTA or to be on a committee, your first thought is to say "no" because you haven't done it before. It's what we teachers called in our classrooms a learning experience. We often used the philosophy "try it, you might like it".

Our new president for IRTA in giving his report as vice president in the State Board meeting stated his report in this manner. "Being vice president didn't require me to do much, but it was a learning experience in preparation to being president. I attended the meetings and other events so I could learn. Now it will be my turn to practice what I learned. I also know I will have the support of others to help guide me through the process."

That's what any of the responsibilities in leadership is all about. Each of us has a talent that we can share. These talents may be different, but collectively they are very effective. Our strengths come through – many times in ways we didn't know we had. However, we must be willing to share those talents. There is no denying it takes time and effort, but it's worth it in the end.

Do you know how discouraging it is to receive one "no" after another for these offices and committees? We don't expect perfection, we just would like to have people to be willing to assist us in keeping our unit as strong as it is today and as strong as it has been in the past. Maybe you haven't been asked because we didn't know you were interested or would consider doing this job.

Our LCRTA unit needs your help if it is to remain a viable organization. Don't say "no", please say I'll try to do my best. Those of us who have served as officers hadn't done it before either, but we "stepped up to the plate".

It would be wonderful if someone would volunteer to be vice president or perhaps two of you would like to be co-vice presidents knowing that you would be preparing for the future position as president. We appreciated those who stepped up in the secretary and the treasurer's positions, and we would appreciate someone saying they would step up to be vice president. Volunteers for the committees would be great, too. Maybe there is really one you would like to be on, but we don't know that.

It would be a great weight lifted from our new president's shoulders if he knew he had a full slate of officers and committee personnel to work with from the beginning.

PLEASE "STEP UP TO THE PLATE"