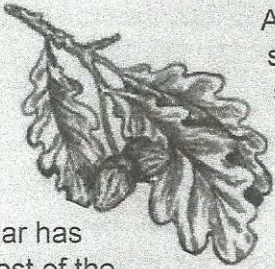


# MCRT2 - TIDINGS

Volume 28 Number 1  
September, 2018

Madison County Retired Teachers #2  
Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 74 Area 6 Region 15

## Message From Our President



year has most of the always a signal to me that fall is just around the corner. Why is it called fall? In the early 1600's as more people started moving into cities the word harvest fell out of use. Instead city dwellers began to use the phrase "fall of the leaf" to refer to the third season of the year.

Mary May and I attended the IRTA region 15 annual meeting on August 15th with Fred Bloss, our region 15 district director. He had asked Mary to give a presentation on our newsletter and yearbook. Much to our surprise we were the only one in our region that has a yearbook. When he checked with IRTA, he noted that there were very few units in the state that had yearbooks or directories. Kudos to MCRTA 2!

Since we will be voting in November for Governor and several members of the Legislature, we need to be informed as to which candidate supports retired teachers and promises to vote to protect our PENSION and our BENEFITS. That seems a long way off, but we are already being bombarded by advertisements on TV and direct mail. Early voting period is less than two months away.

I want to thank Donnie Calvin for 26 years on the executive board as part of a team who planned the programs. Through team efforts we've had informative or entertaining programs for many years. It is not an easy task to find a variety of programs of interest to all members. Donnie asked me to send a message of thanks to all who have supported her in any way (cards, phone calls, prayers and visits) during her recovery.

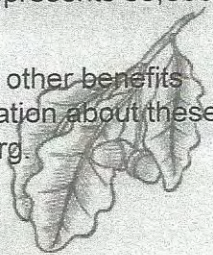
As the leaves begin to fall, 'let's turn over a new leaf' and make our organization even better. Here are a few ideas:

- Let's help our unit grow in membership. I would encourage everyone to bring or invite a fellow retiree who is not a member, and especially a new retiree, to our October meeting.

- Let's spread the word that IRTA is the sole watchdog for retired teachers in the Illinois legislature, and that numbers do count. Currently IRTA represents 38,300 retirees and their families.

- Let's not forget that there are many other benefits available to our members; for information about these benefits go to <http://www.irtaonline.org>.

*Joyce Tappy*, President



## Our Next Meeting

We as teachers have worked many years to help students learn, grow, and achieve to the best of their abilities.

Stage Play Learning Studio in Edwardsville teaches varied aspects of drama to students of different ages. They help students learn to express themselves and their feelings and develop compassion and empathy. Kids can learn theater and life skills, risk taking, and dreaming big.

## Program

Tuesday, October 9, 2018  
(second Tuesday)

LeClaire Room  
N.O. Nelson  
Edwardsville

Tress Kurzym

founder and teaching artist of

## Stage Play Learning Studio

will present a skit and a demonstration using theater skills to teach students.

Registration 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Meeting - 11:00 a.m.

Lunch - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$16.00

Please call or e-mail reservations by  
Tuesday, October 2, 2018  
Call or e-mail Carol Beste at 593-8272  
[thebestes@hotmail.com](mailto:thebestes@hotmail.com)

or

Call Charlotte Heeren at 377-8931



**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

MCRTA2 met at Castelli's Restaurant at 255 in Alton, IL on June 5, 2018.

Approximately 34 members and guests attended the meeting. President Joyce

Tappy called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The minutes of the March 13, 2018, meeting were approved as printed in the TIDINGS. Treasurer Carol Beste gave the treasurer's report. It will be filed for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

FINANCE – The president needs a member to become the finance chairperson. Dale Dickerson has resigned because of health reasons.

HEALTH INFORMATION & PROTECTIVE SERVICES – Lori Uhe – nothing new— Please let TRS or IRTA know if your doctor wants you to pay up front for your procedures. The state has not been paying insurance claims to the hospital or doctors. Every member needs to watch out for all the scams that are going around at this time. **IF YOU DID NOT START THE CALL, DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY INFORMATION.**

INFORMATION SERVICES & FOUNDATION & MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS – Dee Hordesky – Grants for teacher projects were due by June 1, 2018. Members can go to the IRTA website to see who received the scholarships given to students this year.

LEGISLATION – Jim Herndon -- Recent legislation that has been passed:

- 1) A budget has been passed.
- 2) Retired teachers can now teach 120 days or 600 hours without being docked in pension pay.
- 3) If you had opted out of TRIP, you now can get back in.

MEMBERSHIP – Mary May stated that a new membership directory was being sent to every member. If you owe money for membership, it is indicated on the newsletter label. Please send your dues to the Treasurer, Carol Beste. New members will be asked to use dues deduct or pay for a life membership in IRTA.

PROGRAMS – Nancy Bennett – The committee is working on the program for the October 9th meeting. It will be held at N. O. Nelson in the LeClaire room in Edwardsville, IL. Program and cost will be in the next TIDINGS.

RETIREMENT EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES – Janet Little circulated a list of travel opportunities and entertainment activities by other organizations that our members could attend on their own. IRTA day at Illinois State Fair will be on August 13, 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – Mary May, membership chair, clarified that only new members will be asked to pay dues under the new guidelines and that current members who pay yearly dues to IRTA now can still do so.

Invocation was given by Ron Malone. The luncheon served by Castelli's was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Drawings: 50/50 of \$23.00 was won by Jim Herndon. He donated it back to MCRTA 2. Free meal was won by Dorothy Franklin.

The program for the meeting was given by Paul Ferrero, a representative of the Illinois State Attorney General's office, entitled "Consumer Fraud, Identity Theft and Scams."



The next executive board meeting will be held at Eden United Church of Christ in Edwardsville, IL on September 11, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Joan L. Gusewelle, Secretary*

<b>Treasurer's Report - August</b>	
Checking Balance	\$2,524.12
Savings Account	\$2,497.03
Money Market CD	\$6,062.58
<i>Carol Beste, Treasurer</i>	



<b>Memorials were sent to the IRTA Foundation for:</b>	
	Paul Lancaster
	Corinne Podesva
	Dr. Dale Dickerson
	Richard Sanders
	



## MEMBERSHIP

Local Dues are \$10/year

State Dues are \$400 for life  
OR \$40/yr. or \$30/yr. deduct  
(\$2.50 a month deduct)  
OR \$175 for 5 years

For information,  
call Mary at 656-8655

Dues are now payable by check  
Mail to:

Carol Beste  
41 Woodcrest Drive  
Bethalto, IL 62010

### Local Unit Membership Form IRTA Local Unit Name - MCRT2 #74

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Retirement Year \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ School District Retired From \_\_\_\_\_

#### IRTA STATE DUES

- DEDUCT     ANNUAL     ANNUAL ASSOC.  
 5 YEARS     LIFE     ASSOC. LIFE

#### UNIT DUES

- ANNUAL \$10.00  
 LIFE \$150.00

### Legislative Report: May

Governor Rauner is ready to begin the budget negotiation process and pension reform is again at the top of the list. He also is continuing his crusade against our health insurance through TRIP or TRAIL. We must remain diligent on this front and be prepared to lobby our legislators to continue to reject Governor Rauner's attempts to balance the budget on our backs as well as the backs of current educators.

SB 3045 increasing the opportunity to sub 120 days without impact to your pension is still on the table and working its way through Springfield. Other bills related to opting out of health insurance benefits continues to work its way through Springfield for those who might be interested in this opportunity.

The best choice for all of us is to stay alert, speak to legislators, and use Voter Voice whenever you are concerned about a piece of legislation. Too often people sit back and remain silent thinking someone else will work it out and when "bad" legislation is passed and we pin down our legislator they often say, "I didn't hear any opposition to the legislation." Let's be what we have always been a vocal advocate for ourselves, our retired colleagues, and our friends still in the business of educating young people.

*Jim Herndon*, MCRT # 2 Legislative Committee Chair

### Membership

Now is a great time to contact your non-member teacher friends and encourage them to join IRTA and MCRTA2. The fall elections are fast approaching and the more members we have, the greater our voice in Springfield. Letters have been mailed to eight new IRTA members and forty-seven newly retired educators in our area. Hopefully, we will have some new members by our October meeting.

As you talk with prospective members, be sure to mention that dues are free for the first year of retirement. It is also important to remind them that IRTA is the only organization that works exclusively to protect, preserve, and improve the benefits for TRS annuitants.

Please feel free to contact me at [mmayteach@hotmail.com](mailto:mmayteach@hotmail.com) or 618-656-8655 with any of your questions.

*Mary May*, Membership Chair

### Our Last Meeting

At our last meeting, we welcomed Mr. Paul Ferrero, a representative from the Attorney General's office. This informative program warned us of ways to protect our identity, gave us important information that we should each carry with us, and how we can use our credit report to protect ourselves and our finances. He also shared with tips on how to protect ourselves from identity theft and scammers.

**Remember that the IRTA is the only organization which  
represents only retired teachers.**

TIDINGS - September, 2018

Vickie Klopmeier

6209 N. State Route 159

Edwardsville, IL 62025

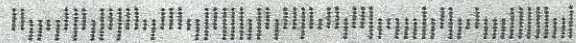
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Fred Bloss  
5 Brase Ct.  
Marine IL 62061

62061-103405



**Madison County Retired Teachers #2**

**MCRT2 Calendar  
2018**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Past President

Officers

Joyce Tappy  
Jim Herndon  
Joan L. Gusewelle  
Carol Beste  
Mary May

Committee Chairs

Finance  
Health Ins. Information  
and Protective Services  
Membership  
Public Relations / "Tidings"  
Programs

Lori Uhe  
Mary May  
Vickie Klopmeier  
Donnie Calvin, Nancy Bennett,  
Charlotte Heeren

Retirement Ed./Activities  
Information Services &  
Foundation, Member Benefits  
Legislative

Janet Little  
Dee Hordesky  
Jim Herndon

Information Sources

IL Teacher Ret. System 1-877-927-5877  
(877-9-ASK-TRS)  
IRTA 1-800-728-4782  
State and Local Info. - Lori 1-618-656-1752

September 11 Exec. Bd Meeting 9:30 a.m.  
Eden U.C.C. (Edw)

October 9 MCRT #2 Meeting  
(2nd Tuesday) LeClaire Rm.  
N. O. Nelson  
Edwardsville

November 13 Exec. Bd Meeting 9:30 a.  
Eden U.C.C. (Edw)

December 4 MCRT #2 Meeting  
(1st Tuesday) LeClaire Rm.  
N. O. Nelson  
Edwardsville

