

MADISON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Retired Teachers Association

Madison County III, Unit 75

Unit President's Message

Fellow Retirees:

It is my privilege and honor to welcome you to the first News Letter of Madison County III Retired Teachers Association, Unit 75. For me, it represents a concrete and significant step in trying to keep every one of our members informed about their organization. We have three General Meetings a year, March, June and October; but, I am aware that sometimes in retirement we get very busy with our families, friends, and church, travel, chores at home, and health issues that it is difficult to attend the General meeting. The main purpose of this Newsletter is not to take the place of attendance at the meetings, but rather to enhance and expand the information that is disseminated at those meetings and bring it all together in a document form for you to refer to at your leisure.

I want to take this opportunity to thank so many of you who for years have faithfully attended and participated in our General meetings. Your input is extremely valuable to us and we want you to always feel free to offer suggestions and opinions about how we can improve our services to you and provide the information and support that you need. It is for you, each and every retired teacher in Illinois, that we exist.

In addition to you, our members, I want to thank the many individuals of our organization who have served for years on the Executive Board in one capacity or another, and in particular the present members of the Executive Board. Each of you reading this Newsletter have so much talent and expertise and we need you to step forward to lead our organization into the future.

As you are aware, we ask every retired teacher to become a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association and their local Unit. Unfortunately, not every retired teacher has joined our Unit or the State Organization. You are also aware that over the past few years there have been people in Illinois who have tried to attack us and take away the pension and benefits that we have worked so hard for and which had been promised to us from the first day of our employment in teaching. Without the strength and dedication of our membership in both the IRTA and our Local Unit III, we may not now be enjoying the COLA with our Pension and the State's contribution for our insurance. We, therefore, have to be vigilant and willing to support the principles that we believe in and demand that the promises made to us be kept.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. Please stay informed of the issues that affect us and our Pensions and benefits. Become more involved in our organization by your participation and attendance at our General meetings and your comments and opinions about issues that are important to you. I, and every members of the Executive Board, promise to serve you to the best of our ability. I hope you continue to enjoy your retirement and I look forward to seeing you at our next General meeting on October 12.

Fred Bloss, President, MCRTA #3, Unit 75

Madison County Retired Teachers Association Unit #3 Upcoming Meeting

**October 12th, 2018 at 8:45 am,
at the Collinsville Senior Center,
420 E. Main Street, Collinsville, IL.**

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Executive Director,
James Bachman,

will be at our October general meeting

He will be there to give us the latest and most up-to-date information about legislation and health benefits and state funding and how they will impact retired teachers in Illinois.

This is your chance to ask any questions you may have concerning your future retirement pensions and benefits.

We will be welcoming new retirees and new members to our meeting. Current members of our unit are encouraged to bring a fellow retiree to the meeting to help our unit grow in membership.

Go to our Unit 3 website for additional information about IRTA and the Madison Co Unit 3 chapter

Info found there includes photos, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, IRTA bulletins, a list of our chapter Executive Board members, meeting dates with location information, member news, and much more.

www.mcirtaunit3.weebly.com

Illinois Legislative News

Good for Teachers

On June 29, 2018 the Governor signed into law HB5627. HB5627 was an IRTA initiative that increases the amount of employment as a teacher that a retired teacher may perform without impairing the retirement status; allows 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in a school year, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom. The law became effective July 1, 2018.

On May 30th, 2018, Senate Bill 3046 passed both the IL House and Senate and became law. Senate Bill 3046 allows a retired teacher or community college employee to re-enter the Teachers Retirement Insurance Plan (TRIP) or Community College Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) respectively if they have opted out in the past. The legislation is an initiative of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. The legislation, as amended, did not have any opposition.

Welcome to our New
Executive Board Members

Judy Kirkpatrick
Member Benefits Chairperson

Robert Sudhoff
Legislative Chairperson

Beverly Imming
Foundation Chairperson

Important: Mark your calendar to VOTE on November 6th

This November we have an election for Governor and several members of the Legislature. Vote informatively. Check to be sure that the person you are voting for supports retired teachers and promises to vote to protect our **Pension** and our **Benefits**.

What is IRTA VoterVOICE and why is it important for Illinois Retired Teachers?

IRTA utilizes proven Internet-based technology tools from VoterVOICE to launch and manage grassroots lobbying campaigns and other governmental affairs activities. In the future, IRTA may need your help in contacting elected officials on important issues that affect retired teachers.

At that time, IRTA can provide you with a link to the Grassroots Action Center. Once you click on that link, the system will guide you through the process of sending a message to the appropriate elected officials for that issue. This process will only take a few clicks of your mouse to complete, but it is an extremely effective method of mobilizing IRTA members across Illinois into action. It requires very little time from individual members but has an enormous impact combined with the amplified voices of many members. Using your business and/or home address, the system automatically matches you to your corresponding political districts.

It is imperative that you and all retired teachers register with VoterVOICE (IRTA's online advocacy tool). You can find out how to register by going to the IRTA's website: www.irtaonline.org or calling IRTA at 1-800-728-4782. If you don't already have a username and password for the IRTA site, you can easily create them.

IRTA Foundation

Fall Newsletter 2018

Do you know an Illinois Retired Teacher in need of financial assistance?

The IRTA Foundation is a not-for-profit arm of the IRTA created in 1985 to aid former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and rising inflation. Since that time, in addition to assisting retired educators with living expenses, the Foundation also provides scholarships to aspiring teachers and grants for special projects to current classroom teachers. These Foundation projects are funded entirely by donations. No “dues revenue” is used to finance the programs.

In Madison County Unit #3, our members run 50/50 raffles at our meetings and donate the proceeds to Foundation Fund memorials in honor of educators from our unit who have passed away. In addition, our Foundation Chairperson, Beverly Imming, is assembling a basket to be raffled off at the 2019 IRTA state convention in Springfield to increase our contributions to the Foundation. The theme for the basket is **Kitchen Items**. Donations for the basket are being collected at our general meetings.

Applications for assistance can be found on the IRTA website www.irtaonline.org

Click the Foundation link at the top of the page

