

McLEAN COUNTY

Retired Teachers Association

NEWSLETTER

A unit of IRTA

JUNE 3, 2022

REMINDER ---NEW LOCATION --- REMINDER

The June meeting of the McLean County Retired Teachers unit will be held on June 3 at 10:00 a.m. at **the Calvary United Methodist Church, 1700 N. Towanda Avenue, Normal, IL.**

Masks are optional.

A TIME TO GRIEVE: *How grievous to begin this note with the news of yet another school shooting, this one in Texas. Before we continue, let's join our hearts in a time of quiet reflection and remorse. Already two hundred thirteen (213) shootings have occurred in the USA. This averages out to about ten (10) a week of this senseless behavior.*

-Quiet-

CELEBRATE: Join our local unit celebration as we award Montana Null \$1500, the first half of her scholarship, from the **IRTA** Foundation. Area 4, of which we are a part, is fortunate that a private donor provided additional funds, making it possible for Montana to receive another \$1500 after completing her next term of study. We are hopeful that Montana is able to join us for the meeting June 3 and share her passion for teaching.

EXPLORE: Membership Chair, Dian Nealey has invited Stacey Petzloff from the Normal Public Library to be on hand to share **What's New** and other opportunities at the library. You will be surprised at what is available. The libraries as we knew them in the "olden days" are **Not Your Mama's Library** anymore.

EXPERIENCE: Time to spread your wings and become better acquainted with the work at the state level. On June 16, 2022, 9:30 am, central time, you can be part of the Area 4 **IRTA** conference from the comfort of your home. This virtual experience allows you to broaden experiences, engage with members of the association, participate in reports and panel discussions about legislation, philanthropic opportunities, member benefits and much more. Plus, you can ask **YOUR OWN** questions. **IRTA** intends to deliver as much information as possible economically and comfortably. And there's more! You'll be eligible to win up to \$200 in door prizes. There's nothing to lose! Just call **800-728-4782** to register and request the meeting link.

ENGAGE: Membership Chair, Sandy Dickson and I were pleased to represent our unit, **MCRTA**, as well as the **IRTA**, during a meeting of retiring teachers in April, 2022. We plan to send letters of invitation to these folks later this summer asking them to join our organization. It is critical that Illinois retirees know that our pensions and insurance benefits are the sole reason for our existence. There is strength in numbers, so we ask that you join in our efforts to increase our membership and work together. Have you signed up for **VOTER VOICE**? You will receive the latest legislative updates. Call a friend to join us on June 3.

ASSIST: The **YWCA** continues to need snacks for their various programs. Individually wrapped snack packets are best, but not imperative. You may bring healthy snacks to the June 3 meeting and I will deliver them after the meeting. Thanks for your help in this regard.

REMEMBER: Many local organizations benefitted from the generosity of the Paddock Family gift which our unit diligently disbursed over the past five (5) years. MCRTA used some of the Paddock Family gift to improve the lives of children in the West Bloomington Revitalization, namely providing funds for Bed Blitz! The leaders of the project remain active in that area and were featured in a recent news article describing the introduction of the Book Bike. The bike is actually a tricycle with a display box attached containing books. Books are offered freely to the community. Imagine the fun to have the bike roll down your street. More information about the program, including how to volunteer or donate books may be found on the WBRP website at westbloomington.org. You may call 300-829-1200 for more information or contact Karen Schmidt at karen61761@gmail.com. What a delightful way to promote literacy, strengthen a sense of neighborhood and refresh ties to one another.

ATTEND: We look forward to seeing you on June 3 at 10:00 am!

Save these dates:

June 16, 2022	IRTA Virtual Area 4 meeting
October 7, 2022	MCRTA meeting
December 2, 2022	MCRTA meeting
March 3, 2023	MCRTA meeting
June 1 2023	MCRTA meeting

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May 2022 newsletter	