

# Pope/Hardin IRTA *Bulletin Board*

## Spring 2019 Edition

**Meeting** The Pope/Hardin Retired Teachers Association will meet at the Golden Circle in Elizabethtown on March 6 at noon. The program will be “Death and Taxes”. Mark Aly of Aly Funeral Home in Eddyville will present options available for handling burial expenses and Jennifer Reckinger, owner of H & R Block in Rosiclare will give us some tax tips. Nadine York, Region 18 Director, will also be on hand to let us know about legislation being proposed that affect our benefits. Please try to attend the meeting and come early and have a great lunch at the center.

**Dec. 5, 2018 Minutes** – President Gary Threw called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM with the pledge to the flag. Six members were present along with the guest Speaker. Secretary Karen Turner read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved as read. Threw reported that the treasury had a balance of \$788.58.

Paul Strid, AMBA District Manager, gave a presentation on the many benefits available to IRTA members. He emphasized the provisions of the Medical Air Service Association and the benefits provided when traveling. Paul stated that any member could set an appointment to discuss MASA or any other program by calling him at 708-347-7081.

Gary distributed a petition for Doug Strand who the IRTA is endorsing as the retiree delegate to the TRS Board of Directors. A list of members was reviewed by those present to see if there were any updates. A discussion was held of where memorial donations could be made if needed. The possibility of placing an ad for foundation grant monies available for classrooms in the student newspaper was discussed. A motion was made by Martha Leach and seconded by Freda Siener to give \$50 to both the Hardin and Pope County Senior Centers for letting us use their facilities for our meetings. Approved unanimously. Since the price of stamps was increasing, Alice Thodoropoulos made the motion to purchase two rolls. Seconded by Melba Patton. Approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM with the next meeting to be held at the Hardin County Golden Circle on Mach 6, 2019.

<b>Treasurers Report</b>	Balance on Hand 12/5/2018 .....	\$ 788.58
	Dues.....	50.00
	Expenses.....	<u>200.00</u>
	Pope Co. Sr. Citizens	50
	Hardin Co. Sr. Citizens	50
	Stamps	100
	<b>Balance on Hand 3/6/2019.....</b>	<b>\$ 638.58</b>

**Dues** Local dues of \$10 are still being collected for 2018-2019. Those over age 85 are given *member emeritus* status and are dues exempt. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Local dues are used for paying the expenses for local meetings, Area 6 conference and the biennial State convention. We have 59 members of IRTA. Thirty-one of these have paid local dues. Six additional members are over age 85 and therefore dues exempt. We have decided to stop newsletter distribution to those who have not paid. You are always welcome at the meetings even if you decided not to pay local dues. We also have 30 retired teachers in our area who are not members of IRTA. If it were not for our organization, retired educators would not be getting their 3% annual increase. Please encourage non-members to join IRTA to help protect the benefits we have earned and make your voice heard by being active in Unit #85. Dues can be paid at the meeting or by making a \$10 check to Pope/Hardin RTA and send it to Gary Threw – 217 S Columbus Ave. – Golconda, IL 62938

**Governor JB Pritzker** recommended reducing contributions to TRS by \$576 million dollars in his budget address. He is basing this reduction on his anticipated legislation that would add 7 years to the ramp, making the date to reach 90% 2052 instead of 2045. Essentially, this reduces contributions annually by several hundred million dollars. He is also proposing, and anticipating savings from, an extension of a buyout program that was passed last year but never put into place. This proposed pension holiday of \$1 billion a year for every year of Pritzker's term will ultimately cost the State of Illinois taxpayers around \$150 billion. It is impossible to know the exact amounts until TRS performs an analysis.

The Governor did propose increasing assets through a combination of bonding and asset sales, but it is unlikely that they will be able to achieve enough increase in assets to overcome the proposed reduction. The contribution will likely be a reduction even with a proposed \$200 million a year increase that the Governor is proposing once his graduated income tax is passed. The Governor did not propose these reductions for the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund, but he did propose similar reductions for systems covering state employees and university employees. The Governor did propose the full funding amount for the Teachers' Health Insurance Fund which will allow TRIP to continue to offer benefits at a similar level to current levels.

The Governor also proposed increasing funding for education and providing for the funding of several new initiatives. The Governor discussed the terrible fiscal state that Illinois is currently in. He also discussed his desire for increased revenues from gambling and the need for a graduated Income tax.

**The Area 6 Conference** is scheduled for June 26 in Carbondale. We would like to have as many of our members as possible attend. Since registration is likely to be before our June 5 meeting, please let us know now if you are interested in attending. The sessions begin at 9 and the meeting concludes after lunch. This is a very worthwhile and informative event, so please consider attending and let us know ASAP.

**Contact us** – Complaints have been registered about long-term insurance policies by some of our members. If you have had problems with your policies, please let us know. Also, if you have an interest in a program you would like presented at a meeting or have any items you would like to include in the newsletter contact Gary Threw at 618-683-2019 or [gthrew@hotmail.com](mailto:gthrew@hotmail.com)

***Please try to make the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>.***

***We need an attendance over 6.***