



St. Clair County Retired Teachers Association Unit #77 Newsletter



PRESIDENT: DAVIE SUE RAKER

SEPTEMBER 2018

President's Message: Legislative Update

Officers

President

Davie Sue Raker

Vice President

Lora Jones

Secretary

Luereatha Griffin

Treasurer

Mabel Relford

Reservations

Linda Brown Jackson

Next Meeting:

Wed., Sept. 5

PSOP Building
201 N. Church St.
Belleville

10:30 Social Hour

11:00 Business

11:30 Meal—\$13.00

Correct change
appreciated!

12:00 Program

**Reservations
due to Linda by
Fri., Sept. 1,
9 p.m.**

618-277-7044
lbj7044@charter.net

Please note that you
are responsible for the
cost of the meal if you

Hello everyone,

I hope that you are keeping cool this summer. This heat has just been atrocious.

Lora Jones and I are attending a conference on August 15 which will focus on attracting new members. If you read the article we included in this newsletter, you will see why we need to increase our membership. Membership has power and Gov. Rauner has been a disaster for all, especially education and teachers. I know that I constantly ask for new members, but as you can see for Rauner's plans, our pensions and education is still in jeopardy.

State Senator Andy Manar, on behalf of the IRTA, has filed two pieces of legislation this session that will benefit our members across the state.

If it becomes law, Senate Bill 3045 will allow retirees to substitute teach up to 120 days or 600 hours in a school year without impacting their retirement status benefits. This legislation is more important than ever because Illinois is already facing a teacher shortage. By increasing the number of allowable days a retiree can substitute teach, we can help to ensure that a qualified teacher is available for those classrooms.

The second piece of legislation, Senate Bill 3046, is also sponsored by Senator Manar and will allow TRS annuitants who have opted out of the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) to opt back in during the benefits choice period. TRS annuitants are the only state annuitants who do not already have this ability.

As with the last several years, IRTA will also be paying close attention to the continued funding of TRIP during this legislative session. During the

budget address this year, the governor zeroed out any funding for TRIP. In addition, he is now proposing lowering the state's overall costs to TRS by shifting those costs to local school districts. His savings to the state would come from shifting \$490 million in pension costs onto local schools, as well as from his proposal to slash health insurance benefits for retired teachers. The cost shift would be phased in at 25 percent per year over the next four years.

In addition, the governor has proposed eliminating the following programs for K-12: After school Programs, Advance Placement, After School Matters, District Intervention Funding, Parent Mentoring, National Board Certified Teachers, School Support Services (Lowest Performing Schools), and Teach for America. IRTA will continue to keep you updated on the legislative actions at the capitol.

Davie Sue Raker, President

Program: Christopher Belt, Candidate for Illinois State Senate

Mr. Belt is past president of the Cahokia 187 School District Board of Education. He is the author of a character education book for children, and he is founder of the "Difference Makers Professional Organization" focused on strengthening the decision-making capabilities of males nine to eighteen years of age. He has also enjoyed an 18 year career as a law enforcement officer. Larry Newman of Mutual of Omaha will also present insurance information.

Minutes from June 6, 2018, Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Davie Sue Raker, at 11:30a.m.

The pledge to the flag was recited by all those in attendance. The 50/50 Raffle was announced by Mrs. Vivian Nichols.

The president thanked the last newsletter volunteers...Ellis Davis, Lora Jones, Nancy Clark and Davie Sue Raker. A new sheet was passed out for volunteers for newsletter mailing.

REMEMBER Linda B. Jackson is the RESERVATION CHAIRMAN, so call her for reservations ... 618-277-7044.

IN ORDER TO EAT OR DRINK THE DRINKS AT THE MEETING YOU MUST PAY.

The minutes were printed in the newsletter. It was moved by Ellis Davis and seconded by Juanita Brown for the minutes to be accepted. MOTION PASSED. It was moved by Linda Brown and seconded by Lola Key the Treasurer's Report be accepted and filed for audit. MOTION PASSED.

PLEASE JOIN VOTER VOICE IF YOU HAVE NOT AND KEEP UP TO DATE ON VOTER VOICE ALERTS!

ALSO...PLEASE PAY YOUR SHARE TO THE DEFENSE FUND SO WHEN THE MONEY IS NEEDED IT WILL BE AVAILABLE!

If any member is aware of a deceased member, please send the information to Fred and Carol Hotz.

WE NEED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LOCAL MEMBERS ... ASK ONE BRING ONE IS OUR LOCAL THEME.

LUEREATHA GRIFFIN GAVE THE PRAYER FOR THE LUNCHEON.

THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER WAS BARB HOERKER.

THE FREE LUNCH WINNER WAS AL STOHL.

THE SPEAKER WAS BILL FUNKHOUSER.

NEW MEMBERS

Marsha Ernest – High Mount

Henrietta Young - Brooklyn

Luereatha Griffin, Secretary

I hope to see you at the meeting on September 5 at PSOP. Be sure to make a reservation by September 1.

And bring a new retiree!

We need a strong membership.

Treasurer's Report Remembering Our Deceased Educators

April 30, 2018—June 30, 2018
 Beginning Balance \$2,544.69
 Deposit \$ 222.00
 Debits \$1,052.02
 Service \$ 28.00
 Ending Balance \$1,679.67
 Scholarship \$ 23.00

(from 50/50 Raffle)

Respectfully submitted,
 Mrs. Mabel Relford, Treasurer

Caroleen Yaeger	Greg Bridell
Clarence Goldsmith	Alice Taylor
Norbert Kassing	Norma Drayer
Sheila Taylor	Korean Hall
Elizabeth Reichert	Juanita Creek

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."
William Ward

Membership Information

Become a member of the St. Clair County Local Unit and the IRTA State to give us greater support for Retired Teachers' issues. Local & state membership cards will be sent at request of the active member.

Local dues for certified or non-certified members*: \$10/year—Life dues \$75

Check payable to St. Clair County IRTA

Mail to: Mabel Relford, 4 26 North 30th Street, East St. Louis, IL 62205

State dues for certified persons: \$40/year—\$30/year if deducted—\$175 for 5 years—\$400 for Life dues. State dues for associated/non-certified* persons: \$25/year—\$125 for Life membership. Make check payable to Illinois Retired Teachers Assoc. or have dues deducted from TRS check—Mail check to Mabel who will forward it to the state association. Separate checks requested.

***Associated Membership: Non-Certified**

These members do not have the right to vote or hold office, but all other benefits are available...

They may pay \$25.00 membership each year (available only to non-certified staff).

They may pay one time fee of \$125 (available only to non-certified staff).

If any member is aware of a deceased member, please forward the name to Carol Hotz or Membership Chairman Ellis Davis. I have to update both Local and State membership rosters.

Unit #77 Website: www.stclaircountyirta.weebly.com



**St. Clair County Retired
Teachers Association**

Davie Sue Raker
2005 Sugar Loaf Drive
Dupo, IL 62239

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Belleville, IL
Permit No. 320

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Contact Info to Keep on Hand

TRS (Teachers Retirement System):	1--877-927-5877
IRTA Office in Springfield:	1-217-523-8488 or www.irta@irtaonline.org
CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services):	www.cms.gov
Health Link Open Access HMO:	1-800-624-2356 or www.healthlink.com



Abigail Byrnside from O'Fallon H. S. accepts an IRTA, Unit 77, \$1,000 scholarship check from Chairperson Taree McGee at the June meeting.

IRTA Area 6 Rep Bill Funkhouser updates retirees on recent legislation and teacher pensions at the same meeting.

