



Bulletin Board

www.retiredteachers.org

Advocating for all Indiana Retired Educators

A Message From the President



The Indiana Retired Teachers Association has been the watchdog for Indiana's retired educators for the past 51 years! Its core purpose has been the to protect and enhance the retirement benefits for all Indiana educators. We derive our strength through our dedicated volunteers and grassroots activism.

Over the past years, IRTA has been responsible for COLA increases and/or stipends (13th Checks), service credit for military members, assistance in the establishment of the Pension Stabilization Fund, securing pension benefits for surviving spouses, as well as many other pension improvements.

In addition to the pension and legislative services that the Association provides, IRTA also provides four newsletters a year to keep its members informed of legislative and state activities, provides an interactive website to provide timely information, provides retirement assistance for active teachers, provides member benefits at attractive rates, provides discounted benefits for its membership, offers travel opportunities all over the world, and provides social activities at local affiliated chapters.

Through the work of the Association's affiliate organization, the Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation, each year ten \$2000 scholarships are given to college juniors and seniors preparing for a career in education, ten \$500 grants are given to active teachers for classroom programs throughout the state, and with the Foundation's "Hand Up" program, financial assistance is offered to retired teachers who are suffering from financial problems because of situations beyond their control.

IRTA has eighty-five local associations involving every county of the state. Each local provides a variety of social activities, community service, and scholarship/grants. These locals are a great way to remain in contact with former colleagues and to make new friendships from other school corporations in your area and around the state.

One could spend the annual \$35 dues on dinner out, an evening at a theater, or, better yet, you could enjoy the security of protecting your long-term pension interest and the pensions of future retirees. Also, you could take advantage of the Association's many discounted programs and benefits.

To provide these service, especially when communicating at the legislative level to protect our pensions, a strong membership is important! Yes, numbers matter and the greater the numbers, the more effective the organization. IRTA maintains a non-partisan

position at the state level, so that we can effectively work with all political parties. Every COLA, stipend (13th Check), or pension improvement must be presented to the state legislature in the form of a bill, approved and passed by the House and Senate, and finally approved and signed by the Governor. Nothing is provided automatically or out of the generosity of their hearts. IRTA works hard on your behalf.

So, the next time someone says to you "Why join IRTA?" remind them of what IRTA has done and is doing to better their pension and retirement benefits. Remind them that every retired teacher is important to maintaining our strength as an Association. What they do, or do NOT do with their membership affects not only them and their former colleagues, but it also affects those who follow.

We shouldn't just live for today; we should prepare for tomorrow."

– Kent Conrad

Executive Director's Message



It seems like yesterday we were at the IRA celebrating our 65th year. Our 66th year has been a very rewarding and fun year at IRTA. We have a new look with our logo, mission statement and website bringing a new synergy to IRTA. We are still completely dedicated and focused on advocating and supporting our retired and future retired teachers. The launching

of our new website in November was a culmination of many months of planning and implementing. Updated information, grant applications, new benefits, social media are all tied into our new website. Educational materials on insurance, investments and retirement planning are available on the site in the form of e-books, blogs, links and webinars all dealing with information for those nearing retirement or those who already are retired.

My visits to over 50 local RTA's since I started 18 months ago, have been fun and insightful for our association. My hope is to visit all locals by this time next year. Each local has their own culture and dynamics that serve their communities with a servant attitude in their hearts.

The legislature continues to be a learning experience and process. We truly need someone there daily keeping an eye and ear on all activities that are on-going. The need for advocacy is very real. If we did not have a presence there, I truly believe that our members would be forgotten and our future educators

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Meet Your New Board Members

AREA 2 DIRECTOR - ELECT



Judy Hostetler, from Steuben County RTA, is nominated for a first term, Area 2 Director of IRTA. She began her 30 year teaching career in Newton County, Indiana at Lake Village Elementary. She then taught at DeKalb Eastern for seven years at Riverdale and Butler Elementary Schools. After a five year leave to raise her children, Judy taught at Hendry Park Elementary until her retirement. At various times in Judy's career, she worked with Head Start at Fremont.

Steuben County RTA was reorganized in 2009. At that time, Judy became a member, and within two years she became a life member of IRTA. From 2012 until the present time, Judy has served as president of Steuben RTA. She has also served on the Public Relations State Committee. For the past few years, Judy has helped at the Representative Assembly.

Judy's husband, Richard, was an educator too. He died in 2009 from complications of Multiple Sclerosis. Her children are Robert and Katrina Hostetler of Vancouver, Washington and Audra and Dan Depue of Churubusco, Indiana. Judy also has two grandchildren, Aidan and Claire Depue. Judy's favorite activities are baking, reading, drawing, painting, sewing, and spending time with family and friends.

AREA 10 DIRECTOR - ELECT



Nathan Wolf, of New Albony, Indiana (Floyd County) is running for a first term, Area 10 Director position. Nathan holds a B.A. in French with a Minor in German, a M.A. in Foreign Language Education and plus 30 graduate hours, primarily in linguistics. He taught 35 years, ranging from teaching undergrad French courses at the University of Louisville to bilingual specialist with the Jefferson County Public Schools, KY (K-12) to more than 25 years full time adult education ESL and then half adult ESL, half either middle or high school ESL, and the final years all High School level ESL and some French. During Nathan's career he was always an active member of ISTA, served on many joint committees, the bargaining committee, was a member of both IN and KY TESOL, served as President for the KY TESOL, was local arrangements chair in 1982 for the Central States Conference on Language Teaching, presented very frequently at state, local and national conferences, and was a teacher trainer for KY Dept. of Education. Nathan was recognized by the IN Department of Education, Division of Adult Education, for his contribution to the field.

This is Nathan's fourth year as a retired teacher and a member of Southeast Division RTA. Upon retirement, Nathan Immediately joined his local RTA and joined the members' concerns committee. Nathan is now in his second year as the president of Southeast Division RTA. He attends the IRTA Legislative Brunch and attends the annual RA in June plus all the workshops. Nathan is also a member of Campbell County RTA in northern KY.

Even though Nathan does not have many years of experience as a retired member, he said he is dedicated to the cause and would do his absolute best to serve the membership to safeguard our purpose and mission.

Nathan constantly urges all to join the IRTA organization and to work to preserve Indiana Retired Teachers' well- earned pensions. He watches the legislation all the time and sounds the alarm to his colleagues, both retired and active, when action is needed (much of the time). The work never ends. Nathan is proud of both the local and the state organizations.



IRTA is excited to announce a new partnership with HotelStorm to bring exclusive hotel discounts to our members. HotelStorm negotiates hotel discounts only available to IRTA members, with discounts up to 55%. Simply search the website for your favorite destinations – whether personal or professional – and you'll find savings of 10-55% over other online travel agencies. The password will be mailed to IRTA members.

Please continue to check our website www.retiredteachers.org for new benefits for our members. AMBA will be announcing a few new benefits that they offer that we will update their lists as soon as they do.

AREA 6 DIRECTOR - ELECT



Paula M. Dyer, of Wabash, Indiana, isn't new to the Area Director 6 position. She has enjoyed serving as the Area 6 Director for the past year. She was appointed in August, 2015 to fulfill the second year of Barry Conrad's term as he has been elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of IRTA. Paula is now running for a first term Area 6 Director.

Paula was born in Muncie, Indiana and grew up in Selma, Indiana. A graduate of Wapahani High School, she attended Ball State University, earning her Bachelors in psychology and Master's degree in psychometrics. Paula and her husband moved to Wabash, Indiana in 1975 where she served her internship and was then hired as a School Psychologist. She served as the Lead Psychologist at the Wabash Miami Area Program for Exceptional Children for 39 years. During her career she worked in the Wabash City Schools district but also served at times in the MSD of Wabash County district and Peru Community Schools. Paula retired in June, 2014.

Paula is an active member of Zion Lutheran Church in Wabash. She has served as Secretary of the congregation, President and Vice President of Zion's chapter of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and currently serves on the church's Mission Board. She has also volunteered the last five years assisting with Christmas decorating at Wabash's Honeywell Center, the Wabash County Museum and Wabash County Welcome Center.

Paula and her husband, Steve, were married in 1975. They have one son who is a Certified Public Accountant. Their daughter-in-law has her Master's degree in Social Work and works for an agency assisting the homeless. Paula has two fabulous grandsons, just ask her for pictures or stories.

Paula has several hobbies. She enjoys reading, baking, gardening, doing counted cross stitch and other needlework. Paula and her husband both enjoy dancing. They started dancing in 2007 as Paula wanted them to be able to dance at their son's wedding. After taking lessons, they discovered a new passion. They are now members of the Wabash Cannonball Kickers who dance country couples dances. Paula and Steve also enjoy ballroom dancing and lead a small group at their church.

Thank You to Our Outgoing Board Members

We cannot express enough thanks to our three outgoing IRTA Board Members and our one IRTF board member. Carol Larson, Lois Luken, and Ray Jones all served as Area Directors and on our board. We appreciate all their travels and time to support IRTA at the state, local level, and numerous committees they served on. We will miss their input and leadership.

Gary Stoltz served as a founding board member for the Foundation and as secretary. Gary will continue to serve IRTA at the local level as a Foundation Representative and on the IRTA State Legislative Committee.



Foundation News

The Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation (IRTF) has a lot going on! We would like to share some highlights with you.



TRAVEL –While the IRTF is not promoting specific trips this year, it does work with several travel agencies who make contributions to the Foundation when IRTA members travel with them. Among those agencies are Collette, Mayflower, Africa Trips, and Travel by Rail. Please remember, you must tell the agency that you are a member of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association.

THE GIVING TREE –One way for an individual or local IRTA to support the Foundation is to make a donation to the Giving Tree. It is a large “wall art” that is on permanent display in the IRTA office. A brass apple will be engraved and placed on the tree for each donation of five hundred dollars or more. While this is a great way for individuals to support the Foundation, it is also a wonderful way to recognize your local RTA or honor outstanding members.

A HAND UP –If you know of a retired teachers who is having a temporary or emergency financial hardship, please remember that a grant of up to \$1,000 is available through this program. A fellow teacher having such need may be reluctant to seek help. Perhaps you can make a difference for that person.

SILENT AUCTION – Our first Silent Auction was a big success at last year’s Representative Assembly. With some operational improvements, we expect this year’s auction to be even better. Our thanks go out to everyone who participates and to the locals who contribute. For additional information, please contact the IRTA office.

ACTIVE TEACHER GRANTS – New this past year, the Active Teacher Grant program was tremendous success! The Foundation had over 120 applications throughout the state and awarded \$5,000 in each IRTA area. Thanks to our IRTA Area Directors for a job well done.

SCHOLARSHIPS –Following evaluation of applications, the Scholarship Committee will soon be making awards of \$2,000 to the winners in each IRTA area.

FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE –Thanks to each local that has named a contact person to serve as the Foundation Rep. If your local does not yet have a person identified, please assist the Foundation by doing so and then notifying the IRTA office. Thanks

For additional information and forms, please go the IRTA website and click on the Foundation tab.

Hoosier Heritage Educators

The Heritage Educators initiative that IAPSS is sponsoring as part of Indiana's bi-centennial celebration in partnership with George K. Baum and Associates. We have received dozens of stories thus far and it is fascinating to see the legacy of educators and the passion for education that exists within families of Hoosier Educators.

The purpose of the initiative is to recognize and honor Hoosier educators, especially those who have a family tradition of teaching and administration in Indiana schools. The website is up at www.heritageeducators.com and we have received a couple of stories that have been added to it. Check out the stories and the educator listing on the website.

We know that there are hundreds of stories waiting to be told.

2016 IRTA Fall Workshop Dates, Locations and Times

- Areas 1 & 2: September 26 St. Stanislaus Kostka Social Hall
9:30 AM EDT 55756 Tulip Road, New Carlisle, IN
(574) 654-3781
- Areas 3 & 6: September 27 Calvary Presbyterian Church
9:00 AM EDT 701 Spencer St
Logansport, IN
- Areas 4 & 5: October 4 The Palms
9:00 AM EDT 2353 East Perry Road
Plainfield, IN
- Areas 7 & 10: September 29 Decatur County SC Admin Building
9:00 AM EDT 2020 N Montgomery Rd.
Greensburg, IN
(812) 663-4595
- Areas 8 & 9: September 28 Gasthof Village Restaurant
9:30 AM EDT 6747 E. Gasthof Village Rd.
Montgomery, IN
(812) 486-4900

Membership Drive

A chance to reward yourself for getting colleagues and friends to join IRTA. For 5 new members that you sign up, IRTA will send you a \$25 gift card. To receive credit for your recruits: you can simply place your name on application in an open space; or if they sign-up online they can put your name in the information box at the bottom of application; or you can collect the sign-up forms and checks then mail them in to the IRTA office with your name in the envelope and get the credit. If you get the most new members signed up in the entire state, you will win a \$100 gift card that you will receive in May. Thank you for your help in making IRTA the best association for educators.

Meet Governor Mike Pence
Ben Davis High School

1200 N. Girls School Rd.
Indianapolis, IN

August 11, 2016
11:00 A.M.
Area 31 Harvest Room

Enter through main entrance from Girls School Road
to parking lot. Enter school at Door 17.

Have You Scheduled Your Benefits Checkup Yet?



Many members are glad they've taken the opportunity to meet with their local benefits representative to learn about their endorsed member benefits. IRTA has partnered with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to make benefits available to members. Benefit representatives are available as a courtesy to answer all of your questions.

Your Member Benefits Include:

- > Dental & Vision Coverage
- > Cancer Insurance
- > Medicare Supplement Plans
- > Long-Term Care
- > Life Insurance
- > Emergency Transportation Plan
- > Rental Car Discounts
- > Computer Discounts
- > Travel Discounts
- > Restaurant Discounts
- > MetLife Auto & Home® Discounts

This is one checkup you don't have to worry about. Call today to see what you might be missing out on!

1-800-258-7041

www.myAMBAbenefits.info/inrta

Benefits Made Available through



IRTA Members **WANTED!**



Due to the overwhelming requests for information about benefit programs, Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) is seeking IRTA members to work as benefit representatives. Benefit representatives conduct seminars on long term care and hold informational meetings with other members in their area. If you have an interest in this position, please call Jeanie Coffey, National Director of Association Relations, at: **1-800-258-7041, ext. 332**

would have a much tougher retirement future. The emails, calls, contacts and letters from members make the difference in the legislature. Legislators know educators vote, especially retired ones. Members of the House of Representatives continue to champion our stipend, or "13th check". This upcoming year we hope they will support and push through a Cost Of Living Adjustment into the budget. We will be going onto our ninth year without a COLA. Our pensions are not keeping up with inflation or the rise in prices for food, utilities, medicine, health care and other life necessities as all of you know. As we wait on the election in November, many of the same legislators will be in place making it a very tough battle to push through a COLA this next year. Your advocacy with your local legislators will be critical.

Our budget finished in the black for the third consecutive year and eight months into this year's budget we are trending in the black and expect this trend to continue. This year's upcoming budget that we hope you approve is about the level as the 2011-12 budget. We have streamlined cost on our insurance, auditing, printing services, while adding value and benefits to our members. This upcoming year we will be renegotiating two big items. One being our office lease and the other being our contract with AMBA.

Our members once again volunteered and served over a million volunteer hours in their communities. This makes it 11 years in a row of over a million hours of volunteer work and service given back to the state! Our volunteer hour's value is greater than the "13th check" by over a couple million dollars. Please feel free to let your local legislators know that fact. Those hours are only the recorded hours, I believe we could double that amount if everyone recorded and turned in their hours.

The IRTF's Active Teacher Grant program this past fall was a huge success. They had 128 grant applications and were able to award 29 grants across the state. The Future Educator Scholarship awarded 10 scholarships this past year to college juniors and seniors pursuing an education degree. The Hand UP grants are available to our members in need. The Foundation is aggressively seeking grants and has a grant writer searching and writing for grants that will enhance their mission. All IRTF programs have applications posted on our website under the Foundation tab. The applications can be downloaded or filled out online.

Our Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting regularly and are looking at many ideas to help drive our association forward into the future. They will be investigating potential changes to the Representative Assembly to make it more of a conference style. Some of our committee structure may change with new or added responsibilities. Our board has an ad-hoc committee that will be charged with reviewing our by-laws, policies, and guidelines. This committee will bring recommendations to the board so they can update each area making them more responsive to association needs. Next year you will be voting on the updated by-laws.

We are continually looking for ways to serve you and enhance the benefits that we have available. We will have a new membership incentive program for our members to reach out to potential new members. If you sign up 5 new members you will receive a \$25 gift card. The member who signs up the most by next April will receive a \$100 gift card. IRTA is the best kept secret in the state, let's change that this year and make this the year of the "Retired Teacher" as we celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial.

INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
VARIANCE REPORT
EIGHT MONTH--PERIOD ENDED 4/30/2016

	Year-to-date Amount	Budget-year-to-date Amount	Var-amt	Var-%
INCOME:				
REGULAR MEMBER DUES	605,331	700,000	(94,669)	-13.5%
ASSOCIATE MEMBER DUES	20,035	21,500	(1,465)	-6.8%
GAIN/(LOSS) ON SALE-SECURITIES	0	0	0	N/A
INVESTMENT INCOME	62,685	55,000	7,685	14.0%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	39,562	57,500	(17,938)	-31.2%
NET UNREALIZED GAIN/(LOSS)	(68,962)	0	(68,962)	N/A
TOTAL INCOME	658,651	834,000	(175,349)	-21.0%
OFFICE OPERATIONS:				
OCCUPANCY-RENT	38,955	57,500	(18,545)	-32.3%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & MAINT.	21,194	36,000	(14,806)	-41.1%
STAFF TRAVEL, PARKING & MEALS	3,135	5,000	(1,865)	-37.3%
SALARIES-OFFICE STAFF	160,522	250,000	(89,479)	-35.8%
PAYROLL TAXES & RETIREMENT EXPENSE	22,420	35,000	(12,580)	-35.9%
GROUP INSURANCE	44,956	67,000	(22,044)	-32.9%
OTHER INSURANCE	2,280	3,650	(1,370)	-37.5%
PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS	25	3,000	(2,975)	-99.2%
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	6,800	10,500	(3,700)	-35.2%
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	619	750	(131)	-17.4%
OFFICE, PAYROLL SERVICES, & OTHER EXP	2,470	4,000	(1,530)	-38.2%
UNFORSEEABLE EXPENSES	0	40,000	(40,000)	-100.0%
HUMAN RESOURCES EXPENSE	5,500	6,000	(500)	-8.3%
LEGAL & ACCOUNTING	15,462	21,000	(5,538)	-26.4%
POSTAGE EXPENSE	15,955	35,000	(19,045)	-54.4%
PRINTING & SUPPLIES	19,295	30,000	(10,705)	-35.7%
TOTAL OFFICE OPERATIONS EXPENSE	359,587	604,400	(244,813)	-40.5%
OTHER EXPENSES:				
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES	10,702	17,500	(6,798)	-38.8%
LEGISLATIVE EXPENSE	11,454	12,000	(546)	-4.6%
LOBBYING SERVICES	26,000	40,000	(14,000)	-35.0%
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY	(1,100)	14,500	(15,600)	-107.6%
FALL AREA WORKSHOPS	9,068	14,000	(4,932)	-35.2%
SPRING COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS	3,593	7,500	(3,907)	-52.1%
SUMMER LOC OFFICERS WS/OTHER COM.	1,259	12,500	(11,241)	-89.9%
FLORIDA MEETINGS	3,969	5,000	(1,031)	-20.6%
PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES	2,441	8,000	(5,559)	-69.5%
BOARD OFFICERS REIMBURSEMENTS	21,605	30,000	(8,395)	-28.0%
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS	22,236	32,000	(9,764)	-30.5%
LOCAL CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT	0	2,000	(2,000)	-100.0%
TOTAL OTHER	111,227	195,000	(83,773)	-43.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	470,814	799,400	(328,586)	-41.1%
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES	187,837	34,600	153,237	

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info@retiredteachers.org

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www.retiredteachers.org
or



Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/
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Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS)

TRF Pension Account Information.....1-317-232-3860
Toll-free (outside of Indianapolis area).....1-888-286-3544
E-mail.....questions@inprs.in.gov
Web site.....www.in.gov/inprs

Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)

Group Insurance Policies.....1-800-258-7041
Medicare Supplement, Dental, Vision, and More

I am enclosing a contribution to assist the Foundation with its work.
Please direct my contribution to the following program(s):

AMOUNT	PROGRAM
_____	Scholarship Fund
_____	A Hand Up Fund
_____	Active Teacher Grants
_____	Use Where Needed Most

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make check payable to: Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation,
2629 Waterfront Parkway, East Drive, Suite 105
Indianapolis, IN 46214

Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

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