

UNIT 1 MADISON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS NEWSLETTER



**Kathy Bredenkoetter
&
Sherry Rexford
Co-Editors**

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President's Message

Kathy Bredenkoetter

Dear Members,

It is with pleasure and a sense of responsibility that I assume the role of President of the IRTA Unit 1 membership. I want to thank John Cunningham for his leadership the past two years and his dedication to the mission of IRTA. After witnessing his implementation of meeting protocols, and his unflinching desire to keep the Unit 1 membership informed of all developments relating to our retirement, I have come to realize that protecting our retirement is not to be taken for granted and is up to us. We enjoy the luncheons and meeting up with life-long friends who shared our days in the classroom, but we must never take our eye off the objective of protecting our retirement funds and those who retire in the future. We worked under the contractual agreement that a percentage of our salary would be taken monthly and would ensure an income in our future. Money that would have been put to good use as we created a life. We must remain vigilant

Calendar of Events

◆	Thursday	March	12, 2020	10:30AM	Registration/Luncheon	Castelli's	Fosterburg
◆	Thursday	Sept	10, 2020	8:30AM	Registration/Breakfast	Best Western	Alton

to protect our well-earned retirement funds. There are those who see the state's contribution to retirement funding as excessive. The state's financial issues are not to be resolved by tapping into our retirement funds. The contract must be honored.

As I assume the role of president, I intend to keep our focus on keeping and growing an active membership. There is strength in numbers. It is only through the strength of the membership that we can hold the state to its contractual agreement to support our retirement. We need to create a formal plan to attract new members at the time of their retirement and to contact those who have not opted to join us in this mission. It is my hope that you will help with this goal.

It is also important that we make sure we enjoy our meetings. I am open to suggestions for entertainment at our meetings. A good laugh, a good lunch, and a good time with old friends is another mission of our Unit.

Respectfully,

Kathy

Foundation Advisory: Susan Hansberry

Our December meeting was full of sights, sounds, taste and action. We were treated to Christmas music from East Middle School's orchestra, we saw the remodel at Julia's, we tasted good food, we honored those we lost in the last year, we installed new officers, and we contributed \$1,451 to the IRTA Foundation, which supports present, past and future teachers in a variety of ways.

Since our last newsletter, we have congratulated Larry (our new VP) and Judy Thompson on their 50th wedding anniversary and sent KUDOS to Jeff Alderman on his election to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Way to go!

Our sympathies were sent to Peg Dubbelde on the loss of her mother, Margaret Rowden; Donna Massey on the passing of her brother-in-law, Dick Massey; Bill Eagleton's family with our loss of Bill (11/25/19); the Jo Crouch family on our loss of Jo (12/6/19); to Kathleen Kirksey's family on our loss of Kathleen (12/21/19); to Cheryl Champa on the loss of her father and to Bev Curlovic on the loss of her sister.

If you know of members who could benefit from a message of cheer, sympathy, get well or celebration, please call Susan Hansberry at 466-1661. Thanks in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hansberry

Minutes: Brenda Vernatti, Secretary

**Madison County 1 Unit #73
General Membership Meeting
December 12, 2019
Julia's Banquet Center**

1. Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. with opening remarks from John Cunningham
2. Secretary's Report reviewed: Motion to accept Kathy Bredenkoetter; seconded by Patricia King
3. Treasurer's Report reviewed: Motion to accept Marie Schickedanz; seconded by Marjorie Wheeler
4. Foundation Advisory Report reviewed: Motion to accept Dorothy Lloyd; seconded by Gloria Clark
5. Acknowledge past State President Phil Robbins
6. Acknowledge past Local Presidents Marie Schickedanz and Patricia King
7. Swearing in of new officers:

President: Kathy Bredenkoetter
Vice President: Larry Thompson
Secretary: Brenda Vernatti
Treasurer: Cheryl Champa

8. Remarks of Outgoing President, John Cunningham
9. Recognition of Shirley Dodds resigning as State Representative. A gift was given for her years of service. Ms. Dodds made remarks.
10. Our basket donation for the IRTA conference netted \$234. The \$10,000 raffle ticket netted a \$12,000 profit.
11. Bill Funkhouser was elected State Vice President and will serve for six years

LEGISLATION NEWS:

TRIP Insurance was funded for the year

Some smaller pensions were combined at the state level

Information provided that we don't want the 5 large pensions to be combined because TRS average more return on investments.

A Questionnaire will be sent to candidates for the 2020 election. Those who fill out the questionnaire will be considered for endorsement.

12. The Alton Middle School Schumann Chamber performed
13. Larry Thompson gave invocation before lunch was served.

A request for donations to the IRTA Foundation at this meeting netted \$1,451.00.

Next meeting March 12, 2020 at Castell's Moonlight Restaurant.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl Champa

November 1, 2019-January 31, 2020

Balance brought forward (checking):	\$4,015.31
Total Received:	\$3,172.64
Total Disbursed:	\$3,294.32
Balance on hand:	\$3,893.64

Menu: Bev Curlovic

IRTA Luncheon – March 12, 2020

Place: Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant-Fosterburg Road

Time: 10:30 Registration

Cost: \$15 – includes tax and gratuity

Menu: Sit-down Luncheon

Tossed Salad

3 Pieces Fried Chicken (breast, leg & thigh)

Baked Potatoes

Green Beans

Rolls, Iced Tea, Coffee

Dessert: Cake

Guests are welcome.

Reservations required by March 6

*If you are not on a calling list or want to be on a list call Bev Curlovic at 466-0668

Next meeting:

September 10, 2020 – Best Western (Breakfast)

NOTE: Jo Crouch Celebration of Life

Saturday, March 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Lunch provided. Please RSVP by March 14.

Bethalto Village Hall

213 N. Prairie St.

Bethalto, IL 62010

Entrance and parking in back.

No flowers, please. Donations may be sent to:

Santa Clara Animal Shelter

12370 Murphy Ave.

San Martin, CA 95046

Jo volunteered three times a week and loved kittens.