



# MCRTA Newsletter

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November 12, 2021

## President's Comments

By Kathy Bredenkeotter



It is hard to believe that we are about to celebrate Christmas and shortly thereafter New Year's Day. Life has been a challenge, yet we have weathered the storm and are ready to see what 2022 has in store for us.

One of the changes that will take place is a changing of the guard, so to speak, relative to the leadership of the state and local IRTA. We have Larry Thompson waiting in the wings to begin his work as President of our local; however, we have not been able to meet with members to see who would be interested in the Vice-President or Secretary positions. It is only through the support, interest and active participation of the state and local members that keep our retirement funds safe, insurance guaranteed and the politicians on point as to the needs of teachers and retirees. Who has the responsibility to see that our retirement is protected? We do! Please consider serving as the Vice-President or secretary.

All members of the Executive Committee wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas filled with peace and contentment. We have better days ahead!. Let's not forget the lessons learned these past two years. The importance of connections with loved ones and friends, the feeling of giving and receiving a smile, the comfort of home and the ability to engage within a community that cares and supports its citizens have been re-awakened in me. My biggest lesson was not to take life for granted!! As Ebenezer once said, "A very Happy Christmas to all!"

## Calendar



**Dec 9** **Julia's at Eastgate**  
Christmas Luncheon = 10:30 a.m.

### Tentative 2022 Schedule

**Mar 10** **Liberty Bank**  
Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

**Apr 14** **Castelli's**  
Luncheon

**Aug 4** **Liberty Bank**  
Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

**Sep 9** **Best Western**  
Breakfast

**Oct 13** **Liberty Bank**  
Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

**Oct 17-18** **Crowne Plaza Springfield**  
IRTA Convention

**Dec 8** **Julia's at Eastgate**  
Christmas Luncheon - 10:30 a.m.

### Officers

President.....Kathy Bredenkeotter  
Vice President.....Larry Thompson  
Secretary.....Brenda Vernatti  
Treasurer .....Cheryl Champa

Unit 1 Madison County Retired Teachers

**The IRTA Christmas Luncheon**

Thursday, December 9, 2021

PLACE: Julia's at Eastgate

Registration: 10:30

Price: \$18.00 – includes tax and gratuity

**Menu**

Pot Roast with potatoes and carrots

Green Beans – Dinner Rolls

Iced Tea and Coffee

Dessert – Cake

Entertainment will be provided

Reservations needed by

Monday, December 6, 2021

Give reservation to your caller if you are on calling list.

If you are not on calling list, call Beverly Curlovic at 466-0668.

Hope to see you there!

Thank you.

Jan Dunbar

Beverly Curlovic

**\*\*MASKS REQUIRED\*\***

**Foundation Advisory Report**

October 20, 2021

We were happy to see so many members attend our September Breakfast meeting. After 18 months of isolation it was encouraging to be able to gather to “catch up” and share time with our colleagues. We are glad we can look forward to more socializing at our Christmas Luncheon. Hope you can be there!

*Thinking of you* card was sent to Duane Mossman.

*Congratulations* were sent to Barbara McCourtney on her birthday. (If you think you've already read this item, you're close. In the previous report, Barbara was congratulated on her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was TRUE – in 2020!) We were happy to congratulate her on her milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021!

*condolences* were sent to the families of:

*Judy Marshall* - Judy taught in Alton for about 20 years in the 1960s and still kept in touch with some of her Alton colleagues; *Dorothy Adams* (8-28-2021); *Elizabeth “Betty” Starkey* (9-12-2021), *CONNIE YORK* (9-26-2021), and *Rollin “Gene” Sands* (10-22-2021).

Please continue to call Susan Hansberry (466-1661) with member information. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Unit 1 Madison County Retired Teachers

### Executive Committee Meeting

October 20, 2021

### Minutes

Meeting was opened by President Kathy Bredenkoetter at 3:00 p.m.

In attendance were: Kathy Bredenkoetter, Bev Curlovic, Jan Dunbar, Gloria Lawrence, John Cunningham, Ron Mayhew, Donna Massey, Brenda Evans, Susan Hansberry, and Sherry Rexford.

Kathy said that Treasurer Cheryl Champa would not be in attendance; therefore, her place on the agenda would be taken by Susan Hansberry with the Foundation Advisory Report.

Minutes of the September general meeting were handed out. A change was suggested and made. Donna Massey moved to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Gloria Lawrence. Minutes were approved.

Bev Curlovic reported plans for the December IRTA Christmas Luncheon to be held on Thursday, December 9 at Julia's at Eastgate. Registration will begin at 10:30, cost is \$18.00 which includes tax and gratuity. Menu will be pot roast with potatoes and carrots, green beans, dinner rolls, coffee and tea and cake for dessert. Cake will be purchased by committee. Reservations are required by December 6 and may be made by confirming with caller or calling Bev at 466-0668. Ron will talk with Ed Gray about possibly having the Chamber Choir provide entertainment. He will also put the luncheon information on the website.

Susan Hansberry presented the Foundation Advisory Report.

The Convention on Zoom went well. John reported that the proposal to reduce the number of persons on the State Committee be reduced was rejected. We are fortunate that Bill Funkhouser is familiar with our group.

Sherry will assist with editing and proof reading reports but Ron will put together the newsletter.

Larry Thompson will take over as President in December. However, no one has volunteered to accept positions of Vice President or Secretary. Kathy will discuss this with Larry to see if he has anyone in mind to ask or to set up a search committee. This issue will be added to the December agenda. Cheryl will continue as Treasurer and Susan will continue in her position. However, the name will be changed from "Foundation Advisory Report" to "Membership Update". Susan will prepare In Memoriam for the December meeting. John will work with Kathy on the procedure to hand over the Presidency.

Nancee Heppner will send out the newsletter. Ron will ask her to print a few extra to have on the registration table in December. Newsletter should go out by November 12.

Ron has the names of new retirees, but no contact information. A request will be made to members at the December meeting to share any contact information they have on 2020/2021 retirees.

Ron asked that names of those who have paid no State or local dues for at least three years be removed from the data base. Members agreed with this proposal.

The December agenda was discussed. Larry Thompson will do the second reading of by-law revisions. Shirley Dodds will be asked to talk about the State IRTA Foundation Collection and a moment of silence will be added after the "In Memoriam presentation.

Ron made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Donna Massey. Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.