

UNIT 1 MADISON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS NEWSLETTER



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&
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Co-Editors

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President's Message

John Cunningham

Dear Fellow RTA Member:

I'd like to thank everyone who made my tenure as president a memorable and enjoyable episode. I give special thanks to my former student, Ms. Patresa Parker, for filling the position of Secretary. Best wishes to our newly elected local officers.

During the State Convention in October, our delegates were able to witness the changing of the guard. John Flaherty was elected IRTA State President, William (Bill) Funkhouser took the Vice President seat, Ms. Shirley Dodds handed her books over to Donnie Ostrom, new Treasurer, and Doris Heaton retained the office of Secretary. John R. Harland is our new Area 6 Representative. Most constitution changes did not pass. Our unit sponsored a gift basket during the Silent Auction that garnered \$230.00 for the IRTAPAC.

Calendar of Events

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|---|----------|-------|----------|---------|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| ◆ | Thursday | Dec | 12, 2019 | 10:30AM | Registration/Luncheon | Julia's | Eastgate |
| ◆ | Thursday | March | 12, 2020 | 10:30AM | Registration/Luncheon | Castelli's | Fosterburg |
| ◆ | Thursday | Sept | 10, 2020 | 8:30AM | Registration/Breakfast | Best Western | Alton |

As we transition into the many events of retirement life, such as caring for parents, partners, and other love ones, let's not forget to stay vigilant concerning our pensions and voting rights. Our pension checks and insurance are not gifts—we worked for them and earned them. We would be wise to continue to meet quarterly for updates on these precious items. Furthermore, it would be in our best interest if each of us would continue to encourage other retirees to join our ranks. We must vote for those persons that support our interest and well-being.

I send special condolences to our members that have lost loved ones this year and wish good health and speedy recovery to any of you battling illness or injury.

The holiday season is upon us and one is never too mature to wish! I wish you find whatever you desire under or near the Christmas tree. Merry Christmas to each of you, and "God bless us all, everyone".

Sincerely,

John E. Cunningham, President

Madison County 1 – Unit 73

Foundation Advisory: Susan Hansberry

Thanks to all who attended the September 12th breakfast meeting. New retirees were welcomed with good food and good conversations!

From August-November, 2019, cards were sent to 13 members and/or their families. We were happy to congratulate Nancy and Tom Bivens on their 50th wedding anniversary! Get well thoughts went to Beverly Curlovic.

Receiving our condolences were Kathy Swift on the passing of her brother-in-law, Mark; Georgia Unthank on the loss of her sister, Bettie Bowermaster; Shirley Aszman on the loss of her sister, Jeanie Harner; the Betty Siemer family on our loss of IRTA LIFE local and state member Betty (9/8/19); June Nagy on the passing of her husband, Frank; Dennis Frazier on the passing of his sister, Sandra and brother-in-law Bill Kuehnel; Sandy Ohren for the loss of husband, Tom; the family of local and state member Violet Yaeger on our loss of Vi (10/7/19); to IRTA LIFE local and state member Dona Hillman's family on our loss of Dona (10/27/19); Edna Alexander's mother, Julia Reyne; and John Ulfers on the loss of his wife, Barbara.

We will be accepting donations at our December Lunch Meeting for the IRTA Foundation, which helps past, present and future teachers.

Thanks to all who keep me informed! Please continue to call Susann Hansberry (466-1661) with information about our members.

Legislation News: Bill Funkhouser

Illinois will need to contribute \$9.8 billion to its five state pension systems during the 2021 fiscal year, according to new actuarial estimates published last week, representing a \$538 million increase in pension costs from what the state is paying to the five systems in the 2020 fiscal year.

The total amount of pension costs included in the current fiscal year's budget is \$9.2 billion — which represents 22 percent of the total amount of state spending in the current \$40.7 billion budget. The Governor's Office of Management and Budget estimates the state budget for the 2021 fiscal year will grow to \$42.2 billion, and the estimated \$9.8 billion in pension contribution costs for the state's five pension systems would represent 23 percent of the state's operating budget.

When debt service payments for past pension bonds — including pension funding bonds from the 2003, 2011 and 2020 fiscal years — are included, along with the state's contribution to Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund normal costs, the total amount of pension costs the state expends represents over a quarter of the state's overall operating budget. Illinois is projected to spend \$708 million in debt service for its pension bonds in the 2020 fiscal year.

* The breakout...

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| General Assembly Retirement System: | \$27.3 million |
| Judges' Retirement System: | \$148.6 million |
| State Employees' Retirement System: | \$2.5 billion |
| State Universities Retirement System: | \$1.99 billion |
| Teachers' Retirement System: | |
| Based on Illinois statute: | \$5.1 billion |
| Based on TRS Board Actuarial Funding Policy: | \$8.3 billion |

GOMB's latest five-year forecast projected state pension fund spending would rise by \$498 million next fiscal year, about \$40 million below what will actually be required. GOMB has projected a General Funds deficit of \$1.768 billion next fiscal year.

Minutes: Patresa Parker, Secretary

Madison County 1 Unit #73
General Membership Meeting Fall Breakfast
September 12, 2019
Best Western Premiere Hotel

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome by Fred Bloss

Prayer by President John Cunningham

Special Guest Speakers

Monica Bristow & Guest

Katie Stewart & Guest

Robert Wirth, Regional Superintendent

Ms. Stewart stated there is a teacher shortage/teacher exodus:

-1400 unfilled positions

-starting a Grow Your Own Program: getting young people interested early, shadowing teachers and hopefully coming back and teaching

-paraprofessional changes in the works to provide some protections similar to teachers

Rep. Monica Bristow spoke about making independent living more affordable for seniors:

-\$70 million dollars has been added to Medicaid

-License plate discount for seniors on a fixed income

-I-Cash Program, where money is being held by State

-Coffee Shop Stops with Monica being held throughout the area

-October 19, Shred Day at Granite City HS, 9:00 a.m.-noon

-Monica Bristow's address:

102 W. 9th Street

Suite 104

Collinsville, IL

618/3365-6650

Supt. Wirth spoke about policy enforcement in the Regional School District:

-dangers of vaping

-Public Account 101-00: retired teachers can come back and teach without losing any retirement benefits

-Give 30 Program: Mentor a Student for 30 minutes

Secretary's Report Motion made by Gloria Parker, seconded by Shirley Dodds. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report Motion made by Gloria Lawrence, seconded by Marie Schickedanz. Motion passed.

Pat King, State Rep states September is Volunteer Month for IRTA

-wear your badge and take a picture to be submitted to the Illinois Convention to be displayed during the Convention, October 14 in Springfield, IL

Shirley Dodds, State IRTA Foundation

-Magnetic Calendar Fundraiser

-2018 Fundraiser is down without labels \$17,000, calendar was down an additional \$13,000

-December donations to IRTA are for scholarships and retired teachers

William Funkhouser, Legislative/IPAC: No report.

-candidate for VP in State elections

-new retirees

John Cunningham, President's Report:

- acknowledgement of past Presidents
- new retirees
- Shirley Dodds is retiring as the State Treasurer

Newly Elected Board Members
Kathy Bredenkoetter, President
Larry Thompson, Vice President
Brenda Vernatti, Secretary
Cheryl Champa, Treasurer

Motion to adjourn meeting by Marie Schickedanz, seconded by Dona Massey. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl Champa

August 1, 2019-October 31, 2019

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Balance brought forward (checking): | \$3,286.05 |
| Total Received: | \$3,983.11 |
| Total Disbursed: | \$3,253.96 |
| Balance on hand: | \$4,015.20 |

Patresa Parker

Menu: Bev Curlovic

Christmas Buffet – December 12, 2019

Place: Julia's at Eastgate
Time: 10:30 Registration
Cost: \$18
Program: Music from Alton School System

Menu:

- Tossed Salad
- Chicken on Rice
- Red Bliss Potatoes
- Baby Carrots
- Bread, Iced Tea, Coffee
- Dessert: Cake

Reservations required by December 8

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

Future dates:

- March 12, 2020 – Castelli's Moonlight (Lunch)
- September 10, 2020 – Best Western (Breakfast)



