



THE CLIPBOARD

Ripley County Retired Teachers Association

www.ripleyrta.org

The Indiana Retired Teachers Association

April 2025

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear RCRTA Members:

With spring around the corner, I hope that each of our members is ready to advocate for our group. I spent part of last week attending meetings and want to tell you what I learned.

House Bill 1221 (HB1221) passed unanimously in the House and has moved to the Senate for committee hearings. Our President, Laura Penman, testified at the Pensions and Labor committee last week and stated that all committee members were supportive of HB 1221 for a two-year enhancement. During that committee meeting, the Indiana Public Retirement System reported that Indiana had sufficient funds to support the HB 1221 enhancement for 2 years. Steve Bebe, IRTA lobbyist, stated that there is legislative fatigue with many legislators feeling the pension enhancement issue had finally been settled in 2024. Now they want it settled for good. He added that there are a significant number of new state senators who are firmly in support of the two-year enhancement.

Our president and lobbyist are confident that the bill will be heard in the Senate. However, it must be called up for a vote before a vote can be taken, and there are concerns about decreased federal funding to Indiana this year. This is why we each need to remain in communication with our legislators. When we contact them, stay positive, listen, write thank you notes, and stay informed. Remember that HB 1221 is not funded through the general fund for the state. Ask for HB 1221 to be heard in the Senate and ask each Senator to vote in favor of the bill. After the legislative session, write a thank you note for that legislator's support. Use

the website at retiredteachers.org for current information.

Other items to remember include seeking opportunities to reach out to future members. The IRTA Foundation Scholarship applications are due April 1st. Applicants must be current sophomores or juniors enrolled in a teacher preparation program.

Please join us for our social meeting on April 22, 2025 at the Osgood Town Hall. Registration is at 11:00 and lunch is at 11:30. A boxed lunch from the Rolling Pin will be served.

Jean Leising
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
800-382-9467 or 317-232-9400
S42@in.gov

Alex Zimmerman
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
800-382-9783 or 317-232-9841
H67@in.gov

Yours in education,
Cheryl Corning, RCRTA President





*Don't sit on the sidelines...
Get involved!*

2025 Social Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, April 22

11 a.m. registration

11:30 a.m. lunch served

Osgood Town Hall

\$12 light lunch

Tuesday, July 22

Tuesday, October 28

**2025 Executive Board Schedule
(all officers/committee chairs)**

Wednesday, June 18

Wednesday, September 17

RCRTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President, Cheryl Corning

Vice-President, Sandy Bowlus

Secretary, Nancy Durham

Treasurer, Marsha Bultman

Committee Chairs:

Community Service, Sue Bunselmeier

Membership, Cheryl Parmer

Public Relations, Nancy Durham

Webmaster, Dennis Bourquein

Legislative, Ted Ahaus

Past President, Gene Pitts

Member Concerns/Necrologist/Archivist

Andrea Westerfeld

Foundation, Ellen Mulford



State Contact Information

IRTA Officers:

Laura Penman, Executive Director

David Lennen, President

Paula Dyer, Past President

Sharon Barnes, President-Elect

Mark Guard, Secretary-Treasurer

Cheryl Corning, Area 10 Director

AMBA Representative

Jeff Wright

IRTA

New physical address:

1916 Crown Plaza Blvd., Suite 113

Plainfield, IN 46168

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 715, Plainfield, IN 46168

Phone: 317-637-7481

toll-free 888-454-9333

Fax: 317-637-9671

Contact Person: Linnie Harris

Website: www.retiredteachers.org

Take the time to check the IRTA website, click on **ADVOCACY**, and find out what's happening in the legislature! Don't forget to let your legislators know how much you appreciate the 13th check – and urge them to continue their support for retired public employees. This is especially important right now as the legislature is once again looking at the "enhancement." Email is probably their preference for communication with constituents. However, we hear Senator Leising likes to hear from us personally.



**Ripley County Retired Teachers
Social Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2024**

Following the Luncheon Blessing led by Nancy Durham with Ellen Mulford accompanying, the group of almost 60 enjoyed a hot luncheon catered by the Rolling Pin Bakery and Catering.

President Cheryl Corning called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. She invited members to sign a card for Sharon Grove. President Corning introduced Sandra Bowlus to the group; Sandy will serve as the RCRTA vice-president in charge of programs and asked members to share ideas they have for programs in the next year.

President Corning then welcomed the guest speaker, Dearborn County Prosecutor Lynn Deddens. Ms. Deddens serves both Dearborn and Ohio counties, which is the last joint circuit in the state. The prosecutor presented an informational and interesting program outlining the different components of law covered by the office. One of those divisions is the Adult Protective Services. Ms. Deddens shared the definition of an “endangered adult” and several cases, both past and present, involving a variety of guardianship, physical neglect, and abuse issues. As Ms. Deddens presented examples of scam calls and emails, the audience shared personal experiences.

She reminded all in attendance that they should never be afraid to report suspicious activity, ask questions, and just talk to someone about situations they have encountered. Ms. Deddens also informed the members about the difficulty of prosecuting many of these cases, even getting the cooperation of law enforcement.

Following the guest speaker’s presentation, President Corning asked for approval of the secretary’s minutes prepared by Nancy Durham. Marsha Bultman moved that the minutes be approved; Lois Luken seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented in the *Clipboard*. Marsha Bultman next presented the treasurer’s report: \$40 in dues has been collected since the September executive board meeting, and there has been \$25 in expenditures, leaving a balance of \$4,044.30 as of this meeting. Lois Luken moved that the treasurer’s report be approved as presented; Anita Pitts seconded the motion. The treasurer’s report was approved as presented.

Next on the agenda was the report from the Fall Workshop attended by Cheryl Corning, Gene and Anita Pitts, Ellen Mulford, and Sherri Zornes. All the attendees reminded the RCRTA members that we will still need to work for the protection of our pension. Members were also encouraged to write notes and emails to our legislators to thank them for their efforts in the past legislative session and to urge continued support for a 13th check or a pension enhancement. The attendees also reported that this enhancement is not just for current retired teachers but also for all future teachers. There is also a government website where we can follow the bills introduced in the legislature. Interestingly, the same day the retired teachers won their 13th check, the governor and other high ranking government officials received hefty raises. Legislator addresses were shared on the agenda.

Necrology Chair Andrea Westerfeld conducted a remembrance ceremony for retired teachers who have passed away in the last year: Jerry Stanbrough, Bev Buxton, Gene Westerman, Elsie Luke, Lou Wolter, Martha Plummer, Sara Hughes, Jerry Walker, and Gloria Riley. In addition to the

obituaries Westerfeld shared, several other members shared personal reminiscences. The ceremony concluded with the ringing of the bell and a prayer to commemorate the passing of these friends.

Committee reports were then presented:

Public Relations

Nancy Durham reminded members to check the articles in the local newspapers and to follow activities on the Facebook page (Ripley County Retired Teachers).

Community Service

Sue Bunselmeier asked members to fill out current information sheets and asked members to contribute to the group project supporting Turnover Hunger, which will benefit all elementary schools in the county. She also shared her new email address and reminded members to be counting their volunteer hours.

IRTA Foundation

Ellen Mulford passed out a handout urging members to make contributions to the IRTA Foundation and help make the Endowment Fund goal of one million dollars. Currently, the fund stands at approximately \$633,000. She also announced plans to celebrate the IRTA's 75th anniversary with golden apples on the Giving Tree and the introduction of Foundation apparel. Ellen's handout also included a "how to" choose dues deduction for the membership option.

Legislation

Area 10 Director Corning reminded members that lobbying efforts will continue this legislative session.

Vice-President Bowlus presented examples of the pillow case dresses that several in the area create to be included in the shoeboxes sent to underprivileged children through Samaritan's Purse. Along with Arlene Knudson, she also asked for volunteers to participate in the Quilts for Kids project. The quilts that are created through this project are delivered to hospitals for their young patients. Both Sandy and Arlene reminded members that even "non-sewers" can be helpful.

Shirley Bocock shared a report from the collaborative effort with the Lions Club to

conduct vision screening in the area schools. She asked all volunteers to stand and be recognized for a successful year screening 5,036 students. President Corning then asked Lois Luken to come to the podium. Lois presented a thank you gift to Past President Gene Pitts for his work first as her vice-president and then for his term as RCRTA president. In return, Gene acknowledged the hard work of all his board members.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Ellen Mulford invited everyone to attend the Tri Kappa Winter Bazaar to be held Saturday, November 9, at the South Ripley Elementary School. Door prizes of \$5 McDonald's gift cards were presented to Marian Roth, Gene Pitts, Carlos Luken, Sharon Martin, and Jane Rogers. Dennis Westerfeld moved that the meeting be adjourned; Sue Bunselmeier seconded the motion. President Corning noted the 2025 meeting dates and then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Durham

RCRTA Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Durham, secretary



Treasurer Marsha Bultman presents a check for \$500 to Ripley County Community Foundation Executive Director Amy Streator and Ben Peetz, president of the RCCF Board of Directors. This donation will benefit the Turnover Hunger Fund and receive a 25% match from the Day of Giving.



Dearborn County Prosecutor Lynn Deddens presents important information about various types of fraud that targets senior citizens at the October RCRTA meeting.



Past President Lois Luken surprises outgoing President Gene Pitts with a gift of appreciation for his leadership of the RCRTA.

Check out the RCRTA Facebook page for news about the organization, including meetings, celebrations, and projects.

Local Website

Don't forget to check out the website that Dennis Bourquein continues to update. It is filled with valuable information! We thank Dennis for continuing this important aspect of our organization.

*Here's a thought:
"Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."
 ---Maya Angelou*

April Social Meeting

- Tuesday, April 22, 11 a.m. registration begins
- Come early and visit with friends you haven't seen in awhile!
- Osgood Town Hall/Community Center
- \$12 light lunch will include chicken salad on croissant, salad, chips, cookies, and drinks.
- The lunch will be served at 11:30.
- **Dues for the 2025-2026 year will be collected beginning in JULY (\$10 regular member; \$5 associate member).**
- Our guest speaker will inform us about the prevalence of scams and hacks and how to protect our personal information and financial security.
- Donations will be collected for our special 2025 community service project of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and for the food pantries.



RCRTA NEWS

2025 Community Service News

Volunteer hours for 2024 totaled 25,228 hours. This number was significantly lower than the previous year. In fact, several members did not turn in any recorded hours. Remember: the state legislature pays attention to numbers like these. We want to show our legislators that we are vital parts of our community!

The RCRTA Needs YOUR Help!!!

We need members to volunteer to come at 9 a.m. to set up for the July and the October meetings. You will need to set up the tables and the chairs, cover the tables, and place decorations as provided. Please let Cheryl Corning know if you are willing to perform this necessary task!

RCRTA Treasurer's Report December 30, 2024

Ending Balance October 22, 2024	\$4,044.30
<u>Receipts</u>	
Dues (14 @ \$10; 2 @ \$5)	150
Meal (54 @ \$18)	972
Extra Meals (8)	40
"Turnover Hunger" project (\$392 to date)	160
Food Pantry donations (total to date \$319)	136
Meal reimbursement	18
 Total Receipts	 \$1,426.00
Total Available	\$5,520.30
<u>Expenses</u>	
Rolling Pin	819.84
Dennis Westerfeld (cards, postage)	115.75
Lois Luken (gift expense)	25.00
Food Pantry Donations (4 @ \$100)	400.00
***includes \$81 added from treasury	
RCCF Turnover Hunger (community project)	500.00
***includes \$108 added from treasury	
 Total Expenses	 \$1,860.59
 CURRENT BALANCE	 \$3,659.71

***With appreciation from the RCCF, our Turnover Hunger donation on the Day of Giving received a 50% match of \$250.

Treasurer's Report March 20, 2025

Ending Balance	\$3,659.71
Receipts	0
Total Available	3,659.71
 Expenses	
Lance Stallcop (Hoosier.net)	30
IRTA Foundation (13 memorials)	130
Marsha Bultman (tablecloths)	23.72
 Total Expenses	 \$183.72
 Current Balance	 \$3,475.99
 Respectfully submitted, Marsha Bultman, RCRTA treasurer	

IRTA NEWS

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

Members who would like to attend the Representative Assembly in June should contact Cheryl Corning. The RCRTA is allowed four delegates; lunch is covered by the RCRTA. Awards will be presented for community service, membership, CASA, and public relations.

If you haven't joined the Indiana State Retired Teachers Association, please go to retiredteachers.org/membership and join today! The legislature pays attention to numbers. Also, membership in the state organization means Retired Teachers have a VOICE. In addition, membership means you will receive the state newsletter, the *Bulletin Board*.

Also, please consider paying your IRTA dues with dues deduction. That saves the organization time and money. You will then receive a more substantial membership card.

Indiana Retired Teachers Association Foundation Report

Ellen Mulford reports that the endowment fund has reached \$650,000, but they are still pushing to reach \$1 million. School corporations are being encouraged to donate \$250 and receive Golden Apple recognition. Local associations and individuals may also make the same kind of contributions.



RCRTA Completes Vision Screening



After the RCRTA and Lions Club volunteers finished the Vision Screening at Milan School Corporation, they had a happy celebration at the Reservation Restaurant. Shirley Bocock heads up the program and is always grateful for the volunteers!

RCRTA Volunteers at Area Schools' Reality Checks



South Ripley retirees Vicki Ahaus, Sharon Martin, Susan Underwood, Donna Perry, Nancy Durham, Sam Durham, Norma Sheets, Roxanne Meyer, and Bob Meyer helped 8th grade students maneuver through mock life challenges at the South Ripley REAL WORLD, held March 4.

Jim Pierce coordinated volunteers for the Reality Checks sponsored by WRBI and held at other area schools.



**The RCRTA will remember the
following members
at the April 22 meeting:**

**Karen Salvitti
Lou Voegele
Darrell Hoyer
Margaret Anne Schmidt
Wanetta Eisert**

**Dennis and Andrea Westerfeld
323 Charles Place
Batesville, IN 47006**

Return Service Requested