



THE CLIPBOARD

Ripley County Retired Teachers Association

www.ripleyrta.org

The Indiana Retired Teachers Association

October 2025

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Ellen Mulford, Nancy Durham, Sandy Bowlus, and I attended the Fall Leadership Workshop on September 17. There was much information presented.

The presentation by INPRS, the Indiana Public Employee Retirement System, showed how being more “user-friendly” is their goal. They want to be helpful to retirees and to those who are considering retirement. Information can be much more easily accessed, and the menu includes making beneficiary designations, obtaining a copy of the 1099, changing investment options, and identifying the amount of your retirement check. You do need to have a PIN to access your personal data; you must call INPRS at 1-844-464-6777. They also have a Facebook page.

The next presentation was by an AMBA representative who spoke about the importance of IRTA membership, benefits they provide, and ideas to increase membership in IRTA.

Executive Director Laura Penman explained her goal to provide a Day at the Statehouse in February. Not only will we have an opportunity to tour the Capitol building, but we will also have a chance to speak with our legislators or their assistants and address our concerns about our pensions.

The final presentation was by Foundation president Alan Zerkel, Ellen Mulford, and Nancy Durham. They updated the members about the growth of the endowment fund which will provide Active Teacher Grants, college scholarships, and aid to

needy retirees. Passing the basket brought in a collection of over \$300.

The next RCRTA meeting is October 21 with registration beginning at 11 a.m. Lunch will be catered by Rolling Pin, and CASA will make a presentation. There will also be a trivia game with prizes—a response to a request at the last meeting for some fun!

Indiana Retired Educator’s Day, proclaimed by the governor, will be Sunday, November 2, and is a day of recognition for us, meant to bring attention to the work we have done.

Enjoy the fall weather! I’m leaving you with a little chuckle—What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing. It just waved!

Yours in education,
Cheryl Corning, RCRTA President



***“Autumn,
the year’s last, loveliest smile.”
William Cullen Bryant***



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

2025 Social Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, October 21

Registration begins at 11

Hot lunch served at 11:30

Cost \$20

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, Nancy Durham

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.



State Contact Information

IRTA Officers:

Laura Penman, Executive Director

Sharon Barnes, President

David Lennen, Past President

Mark Guard, President-Elect

Brad Seward, Secretary-Treasurer

Cheryl Corning, Area 10 Director

AMBA Representative

Kenneth Ray

IRTA

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. Even though this is not a budget year, we need to remember that we have to keep fighting! 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
July 22, 2025**

Dennis Bourquein and Nancy Durham opened the luncheon with the playing and singing of the "Blessing." Approximately 50 members enjoyed a Rolling Pin catered lunch of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, California blend vegetables, signature salad, rolls, and assorted desserts.

At 12:15 President Cheryl Corning called the meeting to order and led the members in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. She then called upon Area 10 Active Teacher Grant recipient Darren Engelking, computer science teacher for Milan School Corporation. Mr. Engelking explained his project allowed the school to expand their esports program which targets the students who may not be athletically, socially, or academically capable. Esports team members have raised their academic records, have competed not just at the local level but also at the state level, and are even looking at future career choices in this field.

The secretary's report, having been printed in the June *Clipboard*, was presented, Dennis Westerfeld moved that the report be approved as presented; Cheryl Parmer seconded the motion; the motion passed. Sue Bunselmeier gave the treasurer's report in Marsha Bultman's absence. The current balance is \$3,229.45. Dennis Bourquein moved that the treasurer's report be approved as presented; Ellen Mulford seconded the motion; the motion passed.

President Corning then recognized the winners at the Representative Assembly: Sharon Martin, Outstanding Volunteer; Trace Tucker, Sherry Linville and Nancy Durham, Community Service honorable mention; Dennis Bourquein, Website honorable

mention; Nancy Durham, Outstanding Newsletter, Outstanding Press Release, and Outstanding Facebook page; and Sue Bunselmeier, Outstanding Community Service Group Project.

Committee Reports were presented as follows:

Necrology (Andrea Westerfeld)

Mary Daily is in hospice care; Pat Holland is facing cancer battles again; Gary Holdsworth is currently in Aspen Place in Greensburg. Andrea shared addresses and urged members to send cards.

Public Relations (Nancy Durham)

Nancy thanked her proofreaders, Marsha Bultman and Ellen Mulford.

Membership (Cheryl Parmer)

Cheryl noted there are 57,298 prospective IRTA members but only 16,131 actual members. She also noted that there were 19 pages of deceased members remembered at the RA. Ripley County's membership in IRTA is 52%. Dues have increased this year--\$42 for regular members; \$20 for associate members.

Legislative (Ted Ahaus)

Ted noted that just two days after our spring meeting, the legislature passed the bill awarding a 13th check with a 5% reduction across the board. Of course, the IRTA is still working on a permanent enhancement. Ted also referred to the move to dismantle the Department of Education at the federal level. He noted the impact this move will have on programs not funded by the state, such as special needs and breakfast and lunch programs.

Foundation (Ellen Mulford)

Ellen drew attention to the work of the Foundation, awarding 10 college scholarships and 20 Active Teacher Grants and aiding needy retired teachers with the Hand Up program. This is a \$40,000 a year cost to the Foundation; hence, there is a need for the endowment fund to reach its goal of one million dollars. Currently, the endowment fund stands at

\$690,000. For the 75th anniversary celebration of IRTA, Golden Apples remain available for \$250. Ellen has personally received over \$13,000 in contributions from local businesses and organizations.

Community Service (Sue Bunselmeier)

Ellen Mulford reported on an event that will benefit the RCRTA's group project this year, supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with the Ripley County Community Foundation. Novel Hearts, the local bookstore in Versailles, will donate 10% of their sales on Saturday, August 16 to the RCRTA project. There will also be story hours that day, and volunteers are needed to read to children who attend the event. The donations from this day, along with the donations collected at the RCRTA meetings for the year, will be given to the RCCF on the Day of Giving in November and receive a 50% match.

Vision Screening (Shirley Bocock))

Shirley announced vision screening will begin August 12 at South Dearborn and will continue through September. Last year 5,036 students were screened. They anticipate more will be screened this year.

President Corning then invited AMBA representative Kenneth Ray to the podium. Mr. Ray introduced himself and was available to members who have questions about insurance. He re-emphasized the point that the more numbers IRTA can show the legislature, the more powerful is their voice. In his presentation, Mr. Ray thanked the retirees for their role in shaping the future.

Cheryl thanked all the volunteers who had come Monday evening to set up the room and called on volunteers to help set up for the October meeting. She also announced the Fall Workshop settings at Spring Mill and Primo South in September. \$5 McDonald's gift cards were awarded to Lois Luken, Dennis Westerfeld, Barb Smith, Mike Parks, and Janet Sagester.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Durham, secretary



Recipients of awards presented at the Representative Assembly are honored at the July meeting: Sherry Linville, honorable mention community service; Sharon Martin, outstanding volunteer; Nancy Durham, honorable mention community service, and outstanding newsletter, press release, and Facebook page; Sue Bunselmeier, outstanding community service group project; Dennis Bourquein, honorable mention website.

Here's a thought:
"Life is not about accumulation; it is about contribution."
---Stephen Covey

“It takes a lot of people to make a winning team. Everybody’s contribution is important.”
Gary David Goldberg

Come be a part of the RCRTA team!

October Social Meeting

- Tuesday, October 21, 11 a.m. registration
- Come early and visit with friends!
- Osgood Town Hall
- \$20 hot lunch will include fried chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, noodles, green beans, baby carrots, signature salad, rolls, desserts, and drinks.
- The lunch will be served at 11:30.
- **Dues for the 2025-2026 year continue to be collected! (\$10 regular member; \$5 associate member).**
- A presentation will be made by Voices for Children.
- We will also play a trivia game!
- There will be a memorial service for Andy O’Grady.
- This will be your last chance to donate for our special 2025 community service project, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and for the food pantries.



Thank you to Novel Hearts bookstore, Cheryll Obendorf, and Laura Smart for hosting story time and your \$265 donation to our community service project.

The RCRTA Needs YOUR Help!!!

We are looking for a committee chair for community service and for membership. Please consider stepping up to serve in one of these capacities.

RCRTA Treasurer’s Report August 31, 2025

Ending Balance June 20, 2025	\$3,229.45
<u>Receipts</u>	
Dues (37 @ \$10; 5 @ \$5)	395
Meals (43 @ \$20)	860
Extra Meals (8 @ \$5)	40
“Imagination Library” project (to date \$315)	118
Food Pantry donations (\$253 to date)	134
Total Receipts	\$1,547.00
Total Available	\$4,776.45
<u>Expenses</u>	
Rolling Pin (42 meals plus gratuity)	676.20
Dennis Westerfeld (labels, cards, postage)	49.05
Total Expenses	\$725.25
CURRENT BALANCE	\$4,051.20

**Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Bultman, treasurer**

IRTA NEWS

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

Fall leadership workshops were held in three areas of the state: Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell, Primo South Facility in Indianapolis, and Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth. Four RCRTA members attended the session held in Indianapolis. The workshop included information about navigating INPRS

and the new Monthly Memo being sent out to all members. Executive Director Laura Penman also announced she is organizing a day at the state house for the first of the year.

If you have not yet 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 and Nancy Durham report that the endowment fund has reached \$705,000, but they are still pushing to reach \$1 million. Mulford remains passionate about challenging businesses, organizations, and individuals to contribute. It's not too late for **YOU** to honor your own "heroes in education" by purchasing a Golden Apple for \$250.



School Nurses Receive Fall Donations

RCRTA treasurer Marsha Bultman and her helper Shirley Bocock delivered \$50 checks to each of the school nurses in the county. This donation can be used for supplies or programs. All the nurses are always very appreciative of the gift, especially at the beginning of the year when they are trying to stock up on emergency items.



Ripley County School Nurses, pictured clockwise from top left, appreciate our support: Kara Huff, Jac-Cen-Del; Lexi Keyes, South Ripley; Laurie Krieg, Batesville; Helen Hixson, Milan.

Left, Ellen Mulford secured an REMC Operation Round-Up grant for the Indiana Retired Teachers Association Endowment. REMC director Kendall Hankins presented the \$2500 check.

**You can mail your RCRTA ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP DUES to Marsha
Bultman, P.O. Box 134, Osgood, IN
47037.**

**Retired Teacher Membership - \$10.00
Associate Membership - \$5.00**

**For those of you who would like to make a
donation to the Indiana Retired Teachers
Association Foundation and honor your
“heroes in education,” just complete the
form found below. For a \$250 contribution,
an inscribed “apple” will hang on the “giving
tree’ in the IRTA office.**

**I (we) enclose a \$_____ contribution to
assist the Foundation with its work.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

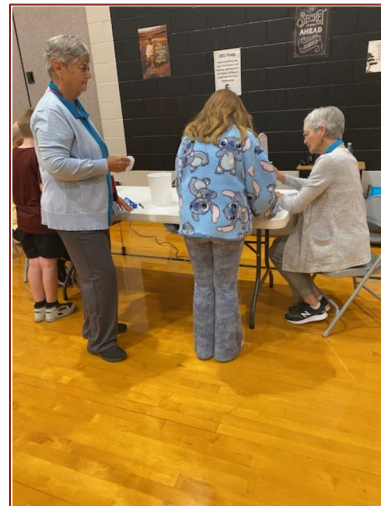
**Inscription on the apple if the contribution is
\$250 or above:**

**Make check payable to IRTAFoundation and
mail to
Indiana Retired Teachers Association
Foundation
P.O. Box 715
Plainfield, 46168**

Retired Teachers in Action in the Community



*Jedi Knights, Betty and Dennis Bourquein,
volunteer for A Summer of Stream.*



*Betty Bourquein and Marsha Bultman
volunteer for school vision screening events.*



*Janice Wilson reads to a child at Novel Hearts
story time.*

Dennis and Andrea Westerfeld
323 Charles Place
Batesville, IN 47006

Return Service Requested