



THE CLIPBOARD

Ripley County Retired Teachers Association

www.ripleyrta.org

The Indiana Retired Teachers Association

April 2026

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We've had a long winter--the snow was beautiful, but I am eager to move on to a green spring. I expect that you are ready to move on, too.

First, the big news! The legislation concerning the thirteenth check was approved by the legislature and will be arriving this fall. A thank you is due to all who contacted legislators Jean Leising and Alex Zimmerman and encouraged them to support this. This legislation was put forward by the Indiana Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) and was promoted by IRTA president Laura Penman and Lobbyist Steve Bebe.

Our local chapter, the Ripley County Retired Teachers Association (RCRTA), had two open positions this year. The Community Service chairperson for 2026 is Phyllis Hull. You will report your volunteer hours to her. Additionally, the Membership chairperson for 2026 is Jane Rogers. Jane will be working with other retired teachers to expand membership. A shout-out to both Phyllis and Jane for their participation in RCRTA. The Treasurer's position will be open in 2027. Marsha Bultman would like to spend time mentoring a replacement for Treasurer. Please see Marsha or me to discuss your interest in this position.

The Foundation of the IRTA will grant a \$2,000 scholarship in each area to an Indiana resident who is a current sophomore or junior student majoring in education at an Indiana college or university. Applications can be

found on the IRTA website

(retiredteachers.org) which is under the Foundation tab. The application is due on March 31, 2026. Please encourage any student you know who meets these criteria to apply.

The RCRTA is an affiliate of the IRTA. I strongly encourage you to join both groups. IRTA works tirelessly to assure that retired teachers continue to receive a pension, to advocate for a full thirteenth check, and to support teachers through benefits provided by AMBA. There are many ways to participate in IRTA, including participation on committees and volunteering at the Representative Assembly.

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, April 14, at the Osgood Baptist Church. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Ron Nicholson, former teacher at South Dearborn and Ivy Tech, has recently published a fun book, and will be speaking to us. Ron will have copies of this book available if you would like to purchase one. We will have lunch provided by the Rolling Pin. Future meetings are July 28 and October 27.

We hope to see you to celebrate the return of spring!

Yours in education,
Cheryl Corning

"April provides her green traffic light, and the world thinks: Go." --Christopher Morley



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

2026 Social Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, April 14

Tuesday, July 28

Tuesday, October 27

RCRTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President, Cheryl Corning

Vice-President, Sandy Bowlus

Secretary, Nancy Durham

Treasurer, Marsha Bultman

Committee Chairs:

Community Service, Phyllis Hull

Membership, Jane Rogers

Public Relations, Nancy Durham

Webmaster, Dennis Bourquein

Legislative, Cheryl Corning

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

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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. 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 Association
October 21, 2025
Osgood Baptist Church**

After registration concluded, Vice-President Sandy Bowlus led the group in singing “The Blessing.” A catered lunch by Rolling Pin was then enjoyed by the 54 attendees. We were grateful that the Osgood Baptist Church allowed us to meet in their fellowship center because of a conflict with the Town Hall schedule.

The business meeting was called to order at 12:24 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Shirley Bocock recognized the Vision Screening volunteers who screened 5,007 students in 19 days in Jefferson, Ohio, and Ripley counties. The group also thanked Shirley for her hard work scheduling the events.

President Cheryl Corning introduced Gretchen Burkhart, program chair for CASA. Ms. Burkhart shared her personal journey from foster parent to volunteer to her paid staff position. She explained the work of Court Appointed Special Advocates and also noted other ways retirees can be involved. She concluded that the only requirements to work with CASA are “time and heart.”

The secretary’s minutes, having been included in the newsletter, were approved as presented (motion by Ellen Mulford, second by Lois Luken). Secretary Nancy Durham did ask attendees to update their addresses with Dennis and Andrea Westerfeld, who send out the newsletters.

Marsha Bultman next presented the treasurer’s report. The current balance is \$4266.20. Marsha also shared a perspective on the treasury, noting that 25 members died in the past year. This year’s membership stands at 76, a decrease from 105 the previous year. She informed the group about the way our dues (and special collections) are spent: twice a year donations to the county’s elementary school nurses; donations to four food pantries; door prizes for each meeting; postage and miscellaneous expenses. The biggest expense each year is the community service project, this year the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The RCRTA works with a current budget of \$1300 a

year. Marsha also shared the \$265 donation from Novel Hearts bookstore for the community service project, and the readers who volunteered that day were recognized. The treasurer’s report was approved as presented (motion by Sandy Bowlus, second by Sally Raver).

Cheryl announced there are committee chair positions to be filled in the next year: volunteer hours/community service; membership; legislative. She asked for volunteers.

Andrea Westerfeld led a memorial service for Andy O’Grady and Mary Daily. O’Grady was remembered for his service to Jac-Cen-Del, especially the way he always made accommodations for students who struggled academically. Mary was remembered for her work with ROD and for her many creative sewing donations she made for RCRTA and IRTA. Andrea noted it was especially appropriate to honor Mary on this date because it would have been her 87th birthday.

Nancy Durham shared a report from the Foundation. The endowment has now topped \$700,000. Nancy also shared news from the fall workshops and reminded everyone that November 2 has been declared Indiana Retired Educators Day. Nancy asked members to contact businesses to help celebrate the day with marquee notifications. Ellen Mulford then asked members to consider buying a Golden Apple for \$250 to honor a special teacher. Ellen also shared her personal successful fundraising story and reminded members that for the endowment to reach one million dollars, everyone needs to be on the lookout for possible contributors.

Nancy reminded members to check the Facebook page for news and feature stories. She also shared a volunteer opportunity: helping make wreaths at Jac-Cen-Del and Milan.

Cheryl Parmer urged members to sign up for dues deduction and also to reach out to other retirees who have not been attending our meetings.

Ted Ahaus shared legislative news. He reminded us that the focus of IRTA is protection of our pension and that we should never believe our pensions are 100% secure. Ted reported that there continues to be some hope that the framework for a consistent 13th check built into House Bill 1004 will be implemented.

Everyone was reminded to turn in their volunteer service hours to Sue Bunselmeier. Marsha reported that donations for Dolly Parton Imagination Library totaled \$212 today; food pantry donations totaled \$120.

Sandy Bowlus then conducted a video game *How Smart Are You about the Constitution?* Carol Weberding and Barb Smith were the winners with the high scores.

Door Prizes were awarded to Peggy Mix, Cheryl Parmer, Anita Pitts, Andrea Westerfeld, and Sue Cottingham.

Cheryl asked about the possibility of changing our meeting place from the Osgood Town Hall to the Osgood Baptist Church as set-up for the meeting is so much easier. She was directed to ask about the availability of the church. Meeting dates for 2026 were announced: Tuesday, April 14; Tuesday, July 28; Tuesday, October 27.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Durham, secretary

*Here's a thought:
If you have the opportunity to do
amazing things in your life, I
strongly encourage you to invite
someone to join you.*

--Simon Sinek

***RCRTA is doing amazing things.
IRTA is doing amazing things.
We may be retired, but we still have
the power to make a difference.
Come and join us!!!***

April Social Meeting

- Tuesday, April 14, 11 a.m. registration
- Come early and visit with friends!
- Osgood Baptist Church
- \$20 hot lunch will include roast beef, pork loin medallions, signature salad, California blend, corn,

mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, a variety of desserts.

- The lunch will be served at 11:30.
- **Dues for the 2026-2027 year will be collected at the July meeting (\$10 regular member; \$5 associate member). Our new year begins July 1.**
- A presentation will be made by local author Ron Nicholson.
- A trivia game will also be played.
- Information will be given about our 2026 Group Community Service Project.

The RCRTA Always Needs YOUR Help!!!

We appreciate Phyllis Hull and Jane Rogers stepping up to head the Community Service and Membership committees. We are still looking for someone to mentor with Marsha Bultman and assume the treasurer position next year. Remember: if there is any area you would like to volunteer, speak up! We want you to be involved!

RCRTA Treasurer's Report March 2026

Ending Balance September 12, 2025
\$4,136.20

Receipts

Dues (4 @ \$10; 1 @ \$5)	45
Dues (12 @ \$10; 1 @ \$5)	125
Meals (46 @ \$20)	920
Extra Meals (8 @ \$5)	40
"Imagination Library" project (to date \$560)	245
Food Pantry donations (\$393 to date)	140
Ann Smith (meal \$20/pantry \$10/Library project \$10)	40

Total Receipts	\$1,555.00
Total Available	\$5,606.20

Expenses

Marsha Bultman (5 gift cards @\$5)	25.00
Rolling Pin (41 meals plus gratuity)	725.25
Dennis Westerfeld (supplies, postage)	16.60
RCCF Imagination Project	600.00
4 food pantry donations	400.00
Cheryl Corning (10 \$5 gift cards)	50.00

Total Expenses \$1,813.85

CURRENT BALANCE \$4,842.35

**Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Bultman, treasurer**

IRTA NEWS

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

President Cheryl Corning, also Area 10 Director, will be attending state meetings in March and will present information at the April 14 meeting. One thing we do know: the legislature passed funding for a 13th check! Make sure you write your state senator and representative and tell them thank you for their support. Hopefully, you are also receiving the monthly and quarterly IRTA mailings.

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

The endowment fund has moved steadily toward its \$1 million goal. Donations are always accepted! South Ripley Junior High School received an Active Teacher Grant of \$500 from the Foundation to supplement their STEM showcase in the spring.

RCRTA Group Community Service Project



RCRTA Treasurer Marsha Bultman presented a check of \$600 to RCCF Grants and Development Strategist Lexi Brown at the Ripley County Community Foundation's Day of Giving. The 2025 group project supported the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Ripley County.

Wise Words from Dolly Parton

“Reading inspires us to dream.”

“You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children.”



School Nurses Receive Spring Donations

Treasurer Marsha Bultman recently delivered the spring \$50 donations to all the county elementary school nurses.



Lexie Keyes at South Ripley has implemented “Hygiene and Puberty” talks with 4th and 5th graders and has purchased materials.



One way Laurie Krieg at Batesville uses her contribution is for a snack program which has been very rewarding to see its impact on the students.



We will be remembering RCRTA members Karen McKown and Ralph Hochstetler at our April meeting.



The Jac-Cen-Del school nurse, Kara Huff, has used her funds to purchase sanitary items and to celebrate students and their lost teeth.



Helen Hixson, the school nurse at Milan, has purchased health and wellness posters to educate the students in her school.



RCRTA members David Bradshaw, Jac-Cen-Del, and Ted Ahaus, Gary Holdsworth, and Bob Meyer, South Ripley, were inducted into their schools' Athletic Hall of Fames.

Retired Teachers in Action in the Community



Marsha Bultman joins Versailles American Legion Auxiliary members and RCCF Executive Director Amy Streater at Jac-Cen-Del Junior High School to teach students there about the mission of Wreaths Across America and its impact in Ripley County. Sherri Zornes joined the group at Milan Junior High. Other presentations were made around the county. Auxiliary members included retired teachers Susan Underwood and Carol Holzer.



Retired Teachers Nancy Durham, Carol Holzer, and Susan Underwood lay wreaths at Cliff Hill Cemetery after the dedication program on the Versailles Square. As leaders of the Versailles American Legion Auxiliary, these ladies coordinated the program.



Sharon Martin, Jerry Wilson, Janice Wilson, Susan Underwood, Nancy Durham, Sam Durham, Anne Poling, Kelly Sparks, and Donna Perry volunteered March 10 at **The Real World** at South Ripley Junior High School. This reality check project is the result of an Active Teacher Grant awarded to the 8th grade team a few years ago and is still being used.



Students engaged in a variety of real-life experiences.



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

Return Service Requested