



THE CLIPBOARD

Ripley County Retired Teachers Association

www.ripleyrta.org

The Indiana Retired Teachers Association

October 2026

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear RCRTA Members:

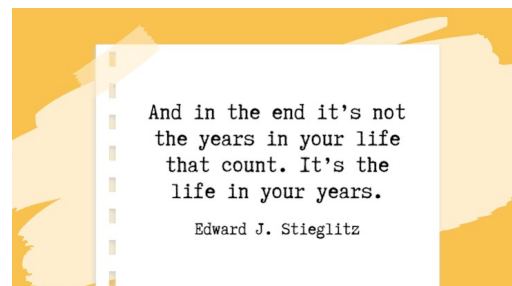
Since many of you may not know me, I am a retired teacher from East Central High School, teaching Family and Consumer Sciences. I also taught the GED program at Rising Sun Education Center. My family roots, however, are deeply grounded in Ripley County. Therefore, I believe that the following goals for the association this year are quite achievable:

1. Update the 300+ membership list and encourage each member to keep their local and state dues current;
2. Energize our members with fun-filled and informative activities. I need volunteers to form a committee to help organize two or three events over the course of the next year;
3. Create more visibility of our association within our communities and state with newspaper, Facebook, and newsletter publications;
4. Request volunteer hours of every member so the 13th check can be a "forever reality";
5. Complete the Quilts for Kids state community service project with a complete color portfolio of all quilts.

If there are any other goals that you would like the association to pursue, please feel free to write, email, or call at the following address and phone number:

Sandra F. Bowlus, 4565 N. Finks Road,
Osgood, IN 47037 (812-599-4751).

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT...OUR ASSOCIATION IS ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERS!





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

**2026 Social Meeting Schedule:
Tuesday, October 27**

RCRTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President, Sandy Bowlus

Vice-President, Cheryl Corning

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

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.

Someone once said, "Try being informed instead of just opinionated."



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. 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
July 28, 2026
Osgood Baptist Church

After President Cheryl Corning called the meeting to order and offered a blessing, the members in attendance enjoyed a buffet lunch catered by the Rolling Pin.

After lunch, Cheryl introduced South Ripley Junior High Teacher Laura Beck who spoke to the group about the STEM Showcase held in the spring at SRJHS. As a recipient of an Active Teacher Grant from the IRTA Foundation this year, Laura shared how the \$500 was spent to purchase dividers, banners, and presentation cloths. At the event, students presented their projects for the public. Laura said all those in attendance were excited about walking through the dividers to view the projects. She also invited all retirees in attendance at the meeting to the 2027 STEM Showcase which will be held in May.

President Corning led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. With Secretary Nancy Durham on vacation, members were asked to look at the minutes from the April meeting printed in the recent *Clipboard*. Phyllis Hull moved that the minutes be approved; Shirley Bocock seconded the motion; the motion passed. Marsha Bultman, treasurer, noted the treasurer's report was also in the *Clipboard*. She reported she had received dues and a meal reimbursement in the mail to bring the balance in the treasury to \$3,820.57. At this day's meeting \$58 was collected for the food pantries and \$41 for the quilt project.

Sandy Bowlus displayed samples of quilts that are being created for our community service group project. So far, 90 quilts have been completed. Sandy passed out a schedule of dates to work on the quilts and reported 85 quilt tops are finished; 22 quilts are finished; and 24 have been sent for binding. Sandy's goal is a total of 100 quilts to be delivered to area hospitals and fire stations. Hospitals receiving the quilts include Children's, Riley, Decatur County, and Margaret Mary. The sewing group meets from 10 to 12:15 at St. John

Lutheran Church with sewing machines available. The next sewing session will be Monday, Sept. 7.

The Representative Assembly was held Wednesday, June 10, in Indianapolis, with RCRTA receiving several awards. Award certificates were passed out at the meeting: Dennis Bourquein, Outstanding Website; Nancy Durham, Outstanding Newsletter, Press Release, and Facebook page; Sue Bunselmeier, Outstanding Group Community Service Project.

In the absence of Nancy Durham, IRTA Foundation board member, it was announced that the Active Teacher Grant application portal will be open from August 15 to September 30. Discussion was held about making a donation to the Foundation to help them reach their one million dollar goal. Sandy Bowlus moved that the RCRTA donate \$250 to the Foundation; Jim Pierce seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Cheryl announced that there are several Fall Workshops taking place around the state. Each workshop includes a morning session, lunch, and a field trip. The Corydon Fall Workshop, the closest one to us, includes a tour of the Zimmerman Glass Factory. Online registration is on retiredteachers.org and will close soon. Cheryl also announced that RCRTA communications and treasurer positions are available.

Shirley Bocock spoke about the upcoming Lions Club vision screening and passed out a copy of the schedule for screenings. At each screening Lions and RCRTA members can clean the machines, work with the charts, and organize the machines. Shirley reported the Ripley County Health Department awarded a mini grant to the group to purchase two new machines. She emphasized she welcomes anyone who would like to help; last year over 5,000 youth were screened. Sandy commented that all these hours spent not just screening but also traveling to and from the schools counts as volunteer hours. Last year RCRTA recorded 27,840 volunteer hours, second in the state with only Dearborn County having a higher number (35,220). Sandy, as our incoming president, has set a goal to beat Dearborn County this year!

Cheryl and Sandy then conducted a trivia contest with the top five winners receiving a prize. A card was circulated for Dennis Westerfeld in consideration of his health issues.

Cheryl thanked the members for their support during her presidency and noted it had been a pleasure for her to serve as president.

To close the meeting, McDonald's gift cards were passed out as door prizes to the following: Lois Luken, Sherri Zornes, Janet Mohr, Janet Sagester, and Wilma Flory.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Zornes,
Substitute RCRTA secretary



South Ripley Junior High Teacher Laura Beck informs the RCRTA about the STEM Showcase held in the spring at SRJHS. This event received an Active Teacher Grant from the IRTA Foundation to support its success.



Sue Bunselmeier was honored at the July meeting for her leadership of the 2025-2026 community service project supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at the Ripley County Community Foundation. Also honored were Dennis Bourquein, Outstanding Website; Nancy Durham, Outstanding Newsletter, Press Release, and Facebook page. Outstanding Volunteers will be honored at the October meeting.

October Social Meeting

- Tuesday, October 27, 11 a.m. registration
- Come early and visit with friends!
- Osgood Baptist Church
- \$20 hot lunch will include turkey, signature salad, carrots, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, and a variety of desserts.
- The lunch will be served at 11:30.
- **Dues for the 2026-2027 year will still be collected at the October meeting (\$10 regular member; \$5 associate member).**
- A presentation will be made by the Executive Director of Genesis: Pathways to Success, Clarice Gordon; the Education Program Coordinator, Jenna Kohrman; and the Entrepreneurial Program Coordinator, Lori Rennekamp.



**RCRTA Treasurer's Report
September 1, 2026**

Ending Balance July 27, 2026
\$3,820.57

Receipts

Dues (36@ \$10, 4 @ \$5)	380
Meals (35 @ \$20)	700
Extra Meals (7 @ \$5)	35
Food Pantry donations	58
"Quilts for Kids" project	41
 Total Receipts	 \$1214.00
Total Available	\$5,034.57

Expenses

Rolling Pin (38 meals, etc.)	583.10
Dennis Westerfeld (expenses/\$25 gift card)	67.80
4 elementary nurse donations (\$50 each)	200.00
Marsha Bultman (5 \$5 gift cards)	25.00
IRTA (Giving Tree gift)	250.00
 Total Expenses	 \$1,133.30

CURRENT BALANCE \$3,901.27

**Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Bultman, treasurer**

IRTA NEWS

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

Everyone should have seen an "enhancement" in their pension checks in September. Let's keep that momentum going and remember the effort our IRTA legislative team dedicates to advocate for the state's retirees.

IRTA Legislative Day will take place in late February or early March—let our state leaders know how you think it can be more meaningful.

Six Fall Workshops were held in September across the state at Corydon, Vincennes, Spencer, Fair Oaks, Albion, and Muncie. Each event was paired with a destination experience and were free to all IRTA members.

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**

At the end of August, the Foundation's endowment fund stands at \$783,033.14. Gifts are still being accepted to support the fund through the Giving Tree.

Active Teacher Grant applications are due September 30. There will be 20 \$500 grants awarded around the state.

The scholarship portal will open soon for Indiana education majors who will be juniors and seniors next year. If you know of anyone who might be eligible, please let Nancy Durham know.

If you know of any retiree who is in need, please consider helping them apply for A Hand Up—information is available on the IRTA website.



RCRTA Group Community Service Project 2026

Sandy Bowlus reports that 80 quilts are completed—we are well ahead of our goal of 100. Janet Sagester has been invaluable in the efforts of this group. Several RCRTA members have spent countless hours cutting, pinning, ironing, sewing, and quilting. Children at area hospitals will be gifted these special quilts.



Community Service Hours

Don't forget to email Chair Phyllis Hull your volunteer hours that you have accumulated by December. You can go ahead and email her the hours you have completed as of now—that will make her work easier when she has to

make her report to the state. Here is her information:
phyllishull1960@gmail.com or 812-621-8439.

RCRTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Retired Teacher Membership - \$10.00

Associate Membership - \$5.00

Please PRINT

Retired Teacher

(First) (Initial) (Last)

Spouse

(First) (Initial) (Last)

Street Address/ PO Box

City

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # ____ (____) _____

Email

**This application covers RCRTA Membership
Year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.**

Check should be made payable to Ripley County
Retired Teachers Association.

Send check to RCRTA Treasurer:

Marsha Bultman

P.O. Box 134

Osgood, IN 47037

RCRTA Still Makes a Difference in Our Schools and Community

*Marsha Bultman, treasurer, recently made presentations of \$50 checks to all the elementary school nurses in our area schools to help them buy supplies and support their programs for the year.



JCD Kara Huff



Milan Helen Hixson



SR Lexie Keyes



Batesville Laurie Krieg



*Norma Sheets and our RCRTA Volunteer of the Year Sharon Martin spend time distributing supplies with Backdoor Friends in Faith.

*Shirley Bocock coordinates the vision screening with the local Lions Clubs to screen the vision of over 2,000 children throughout southeastern Indiana. In addition to Shirley, those volunteers include Betty and Dennis Bourquein, Marsha Bultman, Cheryl Parmer, Jim Pierce, Carol Weberding, Sally Raver, Marcia Bishoff, Lois Vogel, Karen Trebley, and Sandy Bowlus.



*Our October guests from Genesis will inform the group about other opportunities to volunteer. Jane Rogers, Nancy Durham, and Sherri Zornes volunteered this summer with A Summer of STREAM. Nancy, Marsha Bultman, and Kelly Sparks recently helped at the Career Exploration Expo.

Congratulations to *Jim Powell*, the recipient of a Lifetime Theater Award from the Batesville Area Arts Council!



RCRTA will remember Connie Cottingham and Nancy Rieckers at our October meeting.

Dennis and Andrea Westerfeld
323 Charles Place
Batesville, IN 47006
Return Service Requested