

WCRTA

Summer, 2013

Dear Members of the Williamson County Retired Teachers Association,

I welcome another opportunity for me to communicate with WCRTA's membership. My letter to you last spring addressed the need for all of us to step up and fill the shoes of our departed President, Dee Ozment. I have seen some evidence of that having been accomplished, especially by the board of the organization. The membership has responded well to the requests of VoterVoice. We have dug deep for the Legal Defense Fund. We have recruited new members to IRTAPAC. We have let Rep. John Bradley and Sen. Gary Forby know where we stand--and where we expect them to stand!

There is much more yet to be done. We need to keep the emails going to our legislators. We need to keep their phone lines buzzing. We need to visit their offices and go to their public appearances and continue to bend their ears. We need to make nuisances of ourselves! But even more importantly, we need to spread the word to our former co-workers who have not yet joined us in our cause. There are more than 700 retired teachers in Williamson County, yet only about half are members of the WCRTA. There are more than 100,000 retired teachers in Illinois, yet only about a third are members of IRTA. There are nearly 35,000 members of IRTA, yet only about a third have contributed to the Legal Defense Fund. Make no mistake about it. We need to do more! We need to do "better." We need to get in the game ALL THE WAY!

If you are not a member of IRTA, join us. If you are not informed, go to the IRTA website, www.irtaonline.org or the TRS website, www.trs.illinois.gov. (The latter has been recently upgraded and modernized.) Join VoterVoice. Join IRTAPAC. Contribute to the IRTA Legal Defense Fund. Don't sit back and complain that "they" aren't doing enough. Do it yourself. In the words of IRTA Executive Director Jim Bachman, "If you wait, it may be too late."

I hope to see you on August 14 at Western Sizzlin' in Marion. *(The meeting starts at 1:00 PM but if you plan to eat it might be better to come earlier.)*

Bob Campbell
WCRTA President

A Call for Help

Williamson County Retired Teachers Association has a challenge to face in the very near future. Several years ago I told Johnson County Retired Teachers Association that if they would take their turn at the Director of the southern eleven counties for IRTA that I would serve when Williamson County's turn rolled around. I thought that we had two more years since Hardin County was serving as Director the last two years. Usually a County serves for 4 years, but Hardin County has passed the responsibility to Williamson County starting in January of 2014. I had volunteered to serve as vice-president after Dee Ozment's death, thinking that I had plenty of time to find a replacement for vice-president position. Everything has moved more quickly than I thought.

I would ask that someone move into the vice-president position immediately so that I can work with he or she before the end of 2013. I think many of you are more than capable to fill the vice-president position. The main duties are to attend executive committee meetings (4 per year) and to find programs (4 per year) for regular WCRTA meetings. Finding programs is not difficult with the assistance of executive committee, IRTA, and TRS. Please consider my request and let Bob Campbell or myself know by the next WCRTA meeting in August.

Sincerely,
John Harland Vice-president WCRTA



Williamson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting June 26, 2013
Held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marion, IL

Roll Call Present: Bob Campbell, John Harland, Steve Maxwell, Mary Lou Gander, Tom Oates, and Marge Mangan. Absent: Don Kragness and Anna Morris. There being a quorum, President Bob Campbell called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report **Treasurer's Report** The Treasurer's Report shows a balance as of June 26, 2013, of \$3,379.09.

Review Plans for Next Regular Meeting The August 14, 2013, meeting will be held at Western Sizzlin in Marion at 1:00 P.M. Come earlier if eating; otherwise, drinks are available. Mary Lou Gander will double check with the restaurant. The representative from the Insurance House will speak about supplement insurance with and without Medicare.

Report of Standing Committee Chairs

A. Information Services Questions posed by Board: Is there currently a chair for this Committee? Should we consider another person to be on the Board to expand the Board?

B. Finance Committee Discussion on dues increase. Dues now are \$5.00 – possibly increase to \$10.00. Fiscal year ends June 30, 2013. This possible increase will be brought to Membership.

C. Member Benefits Mary Lou Gander will check on Sam's Club membership reduction.

D. Membership Steve Maxwell reported. There are 372 names on the list. 166 are paid local dues. 98 have not paid 2013 dues. E-mails tell of corrections of members.

E. Legislative Governor Quinn has set a deadline of July 9, 2013, for the committee of ten members to have a Pension Plan on his desk.

Other Business

Program Speaker Requests

TRS's Rich Frankenfeld would be pleased to speak to the group.

Bill Gluck from AMBA would be pleased to speak to the group about an option for a supplement without Medicare. Consider Bill Gluck as a speaker at least once a year. Consider both for the October 14 meeting. John Harland to follow up on this.

Newsletter Deadline Consider changes in Newsletter: keep it down to four pages (front and back). Form a Newsletter committee?

July 19 – deadline for submitting articles

July 29/30 – ready for printing

July 30/31 – John Harland to get Newsletters and prepare for mailing. It is important for members to receive Newsletters two weeks before August 14 meeting.

Convention Attendance Plans The IRTA state convention will be held in Springfield on October 21 and 22. WCRTA is allowed eight delegates. Registration is \$40 per delegate. WCRTA Treasury will cover this charge and will send it in one check. The deadline for registration is September 6.

D. Membership Booklet Information Steve Maxwell made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Gander that Williamson County Unit 86 participate in the IRTA program to produce flyers that are personalized for each unit. Motion carried. Bob Campbell agreed to prepare and submit the copy for the personalization. It has been sent to and acknowledged by Tricia Klim at IRTA.

Next regular meeting The next regular meeting will be held at Western Sizzlin on August 14, 2013, at 1:00 P.M.

Next Board Meeting The next Board Meeting will be on September 11 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 1:30 P.M.

Adjourn There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Marge Mangan,
Secretary

TRS has upgraded its website! <http://trs.illinois.gov/>

It's live. Everything is different so please take some time to look over the site. Additionally, the secure sign in page for members was simplified as part of this upgrade. As you will see, the new website design is a tremendous improvement over the old boring, boxy, impersonal layout, which the System was required to implement many years ago. The colors, greater use of graphics and the flexibility of the design are now up-to-date with what the public expects from a first-rate Internet presence.

Along with the design, the functionality of the website has been improved. Paths have been simplified where possible. Instructions and titles have been clarified. An overriding goal was to ensure that users land on the information they are seeking with no more than three clicks of a mouse. In most cases, we have succeeded. All of the features and tools of the old website have been transferred to the new format and improvements have been made:

- We have caught up with the rest of the world and are using "drop boxes."
- News items and information of relevance to TRS are more prominently displayed.
- In most cases, users do not have to scroll down on the homepage – or any page – to see all available options.
- Information that is accessible from more than one location on the website has been consolidated. On the old website, information was duplicated and as a result in some instances the data was inconsistent.
- Information made irrelevant by the passage of time has been removed.
- The website for the first time will be available as a mobile device application.

The new website is not a static production. It will never be completely "finished." It will continue to evolve and change as need be, as information changes, as new tools and features become available and, yes, as corrections need to be made. We will continually be changing the content and features to keep the presentation, information and functionality even with current standards and expectation.

From: Frankenfeld, Richard
 Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:47 AM
 To: Frankenfeld, Richard
 Subject: TRS Web site

WILLIAMSON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION			
TREASURER'S REPORT			
	DATE:	6/26/13	
BEGINNING BALANCE:	7/1/12	\$3,227.99
INCOME:			
DUES:		\$865.00	
MISC		\$0.00	
MEETING EXPENSE REIMB		\$482.00	
LEGAL DEF CONTRIBUTION		\$10.00	
OVERPAYMENT OF DUES		\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME:		\$1,357.00
EXPENSES:			
ANNUAL DUES:		\$105.00	
LIFE DUES		\$0.00	
DUES REIMBURSEMENT		\$0.00	
ANNUAL CONFERENCE		\$56.00	
DINNER FOR RETIREES		\$232.52	
IRTA CONVENTION		\$0.00	
MEMORIALS		\$194.38	
LEGAL DEF PAYMENT		\$10.00	
MEETING EXPENSE		\$608.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$1,205.90
ENDING BALANCE:	6/26/13	\$3,379.09
TOM OATES, TREASURER			

Note to Treasurer's Report: This report is the final one in Tom Oates' term as treasurer. Don Kragness was elected as our treasurer for the next two years at the last general membership meeting and took over the duties as of July 1, 2013. Tom is still on the board of directors, however, since he was elected as chair of the finance committee to also serve for the next two years. Both jobs are in good hands!

