

WCIRTA

August, 2021



To paraphrase a 1975 sitcom, "Welcome Back Kotter," --- The WCIRTA programs "are back! !" It has been a long and challenging 18 months as everyone has faced the obstacles of the covid health crisis

We would like to welcome two new members to the WCIRTA executive board. Mrs. Janice Marlo and Mr. Terry Ryker are incoming board members. We think they are excellent additions and appreciate their willingness to serve on the board. They are following Bob Campbell and the late Anna Morris who both loyally served on the board for long periods of time.

Mark you calendars for up-coming events:

We will be hosting our membership meeting at Johnston City on Monday, August 9th at the St.Paul's Church Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. This is our always popular meeting with home made pies. The featured speaker will be Mrs. Joy Travelstead explaining the important role of the C.A.S.A. program in southern Illinois. Mrs. Travelstead is also a retired teacher.

Our second membership meeting will be at Mary's Restaurant in Herrin on Thursday, October 14th at 12 noon. This meeting is always well attended and will be a luncheon featuring Mary's famous lasagna, salad, bread and beverage. The cost, including gratuity, will be \$22.00

A complimentary "new retiree dinner" for all teachers and administrators who retired in 2020 and 2021 will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 6:00 pm at Mackies Pizza in Marion. Betsy Murphy and Loren Taylor are coordinating the dinner. Letters of invitation were mailed to all retirees. This is a casual and enjoyable evening to refresh some stories with friends and co-workers while learning the membership benefits of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. This should be a large group with retirees from Marion (17), Herrin (7), Carterville (2), Johnston City (3), Crab Orchard (1) and Special Education (6). Each retiree will receive a one year complimentary membership in the WCIRTA

Some of the WCIRTA board members will be attending the biennial IRTA State Convention in Springfield in October. Tom Oates will be receiving recognition and awards for his service to retired educators and the WCIRTA local unit. Our congratulations to Tom!

John Harland is our Area 6 representative and has been very busy meeting with local association groups and tending to state IRTA business via zoom calls. Judi Harland likewise has continued working with the IRTA Foundation that generously provides yearly grants to classroom teachers, scholarships to college students pursuing a teaching career and financial assistance programs to retirees. We strongly urge all WCIRTA members to support the IRTA Foundation and their very worthwhile programs.

With "off year elections" looming next year in Illinois, it is still critical that the IRTA voice is heard with our legislators in Springfield. We would encourage all members to join the \$1 per month automatic deduction for IRTAPAC to support lobbying to maintain retirement benefits.

All WCIRTA members should be receiving our quarterly newsletter either by e-mail or traditional posting. Mrs. Tisa Koontz does an excellent job of coordinating and preparing the newsletter. Judi and John Harland oversee the mailings and Steve Maxwell handles the e-mail editions. Please contact us if you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter.

We hope to see each WCIRTA member at our membership events.

Bert Gordon-President

IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Bob Campbell submitted the IRTA member benefits column to the WCIRTA Newsletter with expertise and pertinent information. With his retirement from the board, we will do some “pinch-hitting” with this issue of the Newsletter.

One of the benefits of being an IRTA member is that IRTA has partnered with AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors) to provide access to exceptional programs designed with retirees in mind.

Some of the benefits are IRTA “endorsed benefits” while others are “informative benefits” and while not endorsed, they are made available to IRTA members.

IRTA periodically mails out information about AMBA programs and benefits to all member to review.

Since IRTA members are a “young but aging” population, many benefits deal with medical and health care programs. Since IRTA members are a specialized population group, premiums are usually lower and benefits higher than those found within most supplemental programs.

Some of the most popular programs include:

- 1) Medical Air Services Association (MAS): This underwrites the cost of emergency medical transportation either by ground transportation or by air;
- 2) Long Term Care Insurance: The policy features include no prior hospital stay and no waiting period for pre-existing conditions;
- 3) Dental and Vision Plans: Vision Service Plan (VSP) is the largest national eye care company. There is freedom to use any dentist and no network required
- 4) American Hearing Benefits (AHB): AHB offers members a complete hearing evaluation and digital technology aids in many styles;
- 5) Annuities: Tax-deferred accumulation of interest with guaranteed competitive interest rates with multiple payout options;

For more information: Phone: 688-619-6463 (or) E-Mail myAMBAbenefits.info/IRTA

WCIRTA TREASURER'S REPORT

Date: 7/9/2020 to 7/18/2021

<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	7/8/2020	\$3,420.15
<u>INCOME</u>		
Dues	\$280.00	
Total:	\$280.00	
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
990 Filing Fee	\$49.99	
	Total:	\$49.99
<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>	7/18/2021	\$3,650.16

DUES FOR 2021 ARE BEING WAIVED. IF YOU PAID FOR 2021 ALREADY YOU WILL BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR 2022. IF YOU HAVE PAID MULTIPLE YEARS IN ADVANCE YOU WILL BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR ONE MORE YEAR.

LOCAL DUES ARE NOW \$10.00 PER YEAR

Please make your LOCAL dues check to: **WCIRTA**

MAIL TO: KENT CARRELL, Treasurer, 311 South 4th Street, Marion, IL 62959

Send State Dues to IRTA in Springfield (Dues Deduct is recommended)

2020 Retirees received a free one year membership for 2021.

2021 Retirees will receive a free one year membership for 2022.