

# WCIRTA

August, 2019



The summer meeting of the WCIRTA is scheduled for Monday, August 12th, 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Fellowship Hall in Johnston City. This is our annual homemade "pie meeting." The featured speaker will be Deputy Brian Murrah of the Williamson County Sheriff's Office. Some of his topics will include home safety, services of the Sheriff's Office and new laws in Illinois. This should be an interesting presentation. Please plan to attend, have some homemade pie and have an enjoyable afternoon with friends and colleagues.

Seven members of the WCIRTA Board attended the Area 6 IRTA Leadership Training Session in Carbondale in June. Featured speakers included IRTA President Roger Hampton, IRTA Legislative Lobbyist Jim Bachman and TRS Trustee Daniel Winter. Breakout sessions offered topics such as: "How to lobby your Legislator" and "Recruiting new Leadership." We hope some of the information obtained at the session will be helpful to our WCIRTA unit.

The IRTA successfully lobbied Governor Pritzker to restore his projected reduction of State contributions to the TRS. At the IRTA State Convention, we will hear from the team of lawyers that won the hard fought legal battle to keep TRS retirement benefits as provided within the framework of the Illinois Constitution. We encourage all TRS annuitants and WCIRTA members to join the IRTAPAC program with an automatic, \$1 per month deduction. You can find the IRTAPAC authorization form on the back of your ACTION newsletter or via e-mail to the IRTA office.

WCIRTA board members will be attending the IRTA State Convention in Springfield in October. John Harland, A WCIRTA board member, will be a candidate for Area 6 Representative. This very important position involves assisting and speaking with 22 local IRTA units spread over 19 southern Illinois counties. We wish John well in his election to this position and his continued service to WCIRTA.

Mark your calendars: The fall WCIRTA meeting will be at Mary's Restaurant in Herrin at 12 noon on Thursday, October 17th.

Bert Gordon  
WCIRTA President

Below is a brief educational bio of our board members Judi and John Harland:

**Judi Harland**: I was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois.

**Education:** I attended Lincoln Park Elementary School from first through part of sixth grade. We were the first class of Baby Boomers and this was a very overcrowded city school. I went to school only half days in both third and sixth grades. Towards the end of my sixth grade year, my parents decided to move to the country. This was a drastic move for me because I then attended one of the last two-room schools in Rockford. I was horrified at first, but it turned out fine. I got to play on the Bell School softball team because we only had nine boys in 7th and 8th grade. I was better than the ninth boy! My ninth grade year was spent back in a city school at Lincoln Jr. High. In high school all the "country kids" were bused twelve miles to a newly constructed high school on the west side of the city. I graduated from Rockford Auburn High School in 1963.

B.S. in Elementary Education, Illinois State University 1967

M.S. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, University of Illinois 1992

**Education Career:**

Second Grade Central Elementary School, Harvard, Illinois 1967-1970

Learning Center Director Washington Elementary School, Harvard, Illinois 1972-1975

First Grade and Gifted Coordinator Monroe Elementary School, Casey, Illinois 1978-1985

Fourth Grade Atwood-Hammond Grade School, Atwood, Illinois 1985-1986

First Grade and later Second Grade Sangamon Elementary School, Mahomet, Illinois 1986-1996

Third Grade Lincoln Elementary School, Marion, Illinois 1996-2002

Retired June 2002 My entire educational experience began and ended with a Lincoln School!

**John Harland** grew up in the Quad Cities area of Illinois and Iowa.

**Education:** Graduated from Rock Island High School 1963

Bachelor Degree Illinois State University 1967

Masters Degree Illinois State University 1974 (Sociology)

Administrative Degree Eastern Illinois University 1981

**Education Career:** Biology and Senior Science Research at Harvard High School 1967-1970

7th Grade Mathematic at Belvidere Junior High School 1970-1973

10th - 12th Grade Social Studies Belvidere High School 1973-1977

11th -12th Grade Social Studies Casey High School 1977-80

AD/Assistant Principal Casey High School 1980-1982

Principal Casey Jr./Sr. High School 1982-1984

Principal Edison Middle School Champaign, IL 1984-1988

Principal Mahomet-Seymour High School 1988-1995

Principal Marion High School 1995-2002

Interim Principal Marion High School 2014-15

Mentor to Principal Marion High School 2014-15 and 2016-17

Teacher Evaluation Marion High School 2014-15 and 2017-18

Coached football for 15 years, coached basketball 11years, and coached track 2 years.

IRTA in the past has helped to maintain our health benefits through TRIP and TRAIL and our retirement benefits through COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment 3% annual increase in retirement compounded), presently continue to build upon our successes, and in the future plan progressively and continue to promote our Legal Defense Fund. FYI 5800 members support PAC (Political Action Committee) at one dollar a month check off (only three cents a day to protect our pension). If you haven't supported PAC, please do so, this is certainly one of the best deals for the cost.

Two hundred and forty four IRTA members reenrolled in TRIP or TRAIL since it recently became an option.

State budget allocated \$4.8 billion to our Teacher Retirement System and \$130 million to TRIP. Currently TRS has \$51,083,900,000. Of this amount, allocations are as follows: Real Estate 50.8%, Real Assets 12.8%, Income 25.9%, and Diversifying Strategies (Hedge Fund) 10.5%. State provides 40% of TRS funding (Information received from our recent IRTA Area Leadership Training Conference for Area 6 at Carbondale Civic Center).

Okinawa is a great place if you want to live to be a centenarian. On the islands there are over 900 residents over the age of 100. The Japanese term "ikigai" may explain the reason. It translates to "a reason to get up in the morning." One might be able to say the word "service". Volunteers are always of service to others (GIVERS).

- G - Growth:** Personal and association growth - a reason to get up in the morning
- I - Invigorating:** Sense of purpose - a reason to get up in the morning
- V - Voice:** Have input, share - a reason to get up in the morning
- E - Exciting:** Anxious to be of service to others - a reason to get up in the morning
- R - Recognition:** Being appreciated and thankful - a reason to get up in the morning
- S - Socially:** Make new friends, opportunities to work with others - a reason to get up in the morning

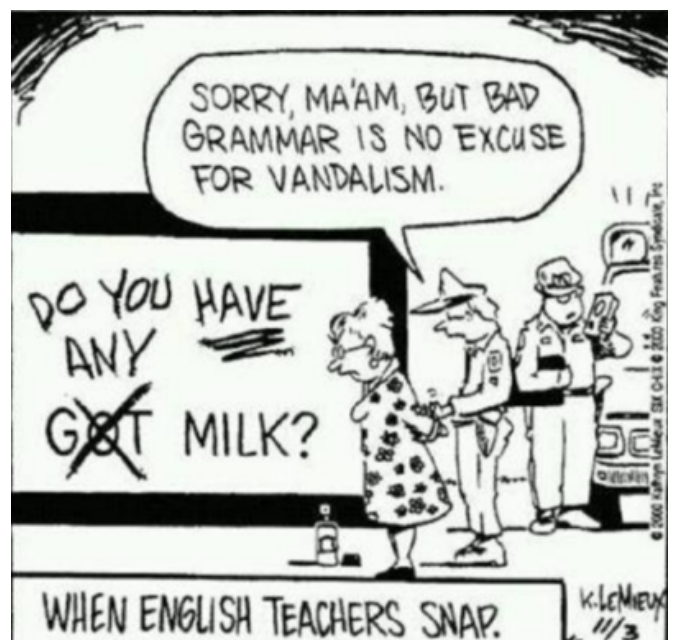
Become a volunteer and serve in your local Williamson County Illinois Retired Teachers Association. We need you.

Loren Taylor, Information Services

**A WELL-EDUCATED  
MIND WILL ALWAYS  
HAVE MORE  
QUESTIONS THAN  
ANSWERS.**

Helen Keller

**Unity Christian School has an opening for a second grade teacher for the upcoming school year. For more information, call 942-3802.**



## IRTA Member Benefits

Simply being a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association benefits a retired educator. All of us know how the IRTA works tirelessly to protect our pension and health benefits from the ever-present dangers lurking when the legislature is in session and even when they are not. But membership in IRTA brings with it other benefits you can access at any time, simply by virtue of your membership in the organization. Enabling this function is the long and satisfying affiliation IRTA has with AMBA, the Association Member Benefits Advisors, headquartered in Austin, Texas. The local office serving IRTA is in Schaumburg, Illinois and boasts 3 full time representatives to serve the 45000 IRTA members.

AMBA began in 1981 to provide Medicare Supplemental Insurance to retirees. It was the brainchild of David Morgan, who guided its development until his retirement in 2017, when the business began an affiliation with Genstar. Morgan oversaw the acquisition of a true insurance company in 1984 so they could sell and service their own policies. In 1999 they acquired Great American Life Insurance and entered the big time. In 2001 Morgan established AMBA and began to provide multiple types of benefits to other associations throughout the USA. Today it is a well-known and well-respected organization providing member benefits nationwide.

The benefits available to IRTA members include 13 endorsed benefits and 16 informative benefits ranging from health and medical insurance to discount programs. The benefits currently available are listed below. Over the next year we will explain more fully several of these benefits. If others are added we will feature them in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

### Endorsed Benefits

Long Term Care Insurance Policy  
Recovery Care Hospital Indemnity \*  
Home Care Plus \*  
Tax Deferred Annuity for Long Term Care  
Home Health Care Solutions  
Flexible Choice Cancer, Heart Attack & Stroke Policy  
Cancer Treatment Plan  
IRTA Group Vision Plan  
IRTA Group Dental Plan  
Final Expense Whole Life Policy  
Medical Air Services Association (MASA)  
Life Line Screening  
Liberty Mutual Auto & Home Insurance

- New Programs in 2019

### Informative Benefits

Term Life Express  
Hearing Plan Discount Benefit  
American Hearing Benefits  
Medipendant Pers. Emer. Response  
Rental Car Discounts  
Orlando Employee Discounts  
La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount  
Road Scholar  
Vacations By Rail  
Globus Vacations  
Dell Computer Discount  
Apple Discounts  
Flower Discounts  
myAMBAining.com  
Veterinary Pet Insurance  
myAMBAdiscounts

Can't wait for more information? Google [amba.info](http://amba.info) or [IRTAonline](http://IRTAonline) to learn more

## Legislative News

There is very little that is new in Springfield as far as legislation related to retired teachers this summer. The best news is that the governor has re-instated the \$857 million short fall to the State pensions that he had originally had in his budget. This change of heart has two possible reasons: 1) He had promised that he would not reduce pension payments when he sought the endorsement of IRTA when he ran for governor and IRTA reminded him of that promise. 2) The State received more revenue than they had projected shortly after the governor's budget address. What ever the reason is we are pleased to see that the TRS payment for this year is going to be fully funded.

Thank you.  
John Harland