



Next Meeting

May 8

Mackie's
Pizza

12:00 pm

“I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”

— [Albert Einstein](#)

I mentioned last year that spring is my favorite time of year. Everything comes back to life and you see the beautiful flowers and blooming trees. I do not know about everyone else, but my daffodils were the most beautiful they have ever been in the 14 years we have lived at this house. They even withstood the two hard freezes we had.

I am going to list out all of the retirees so that if any of you know them well, you can personally invite them to join WCIRTA and IRTA. **Carterville** - Debbie Blythe, **Herrin** - Jana Fanning, Mike Mooneyham, Tracie Moore, Tammy Newbold, Teresa Schroeder, and Annette Zavalia, **Johnston City** - Kathy Rushing, **Marion** - Lisa Cavaness, Debby Dibble, Dempsey Elders, Cindy Gott, Patricia Herren, Kathleen Moseman, Donna Parks and Tamie Rix, **Special Ed.** - Janice Abell, Mary Beer, Bonnie Dugger, Gina Hill and Marilyn Kaufmann, **Crab Orchard** - (none). All of these people have been or will be invited to the New Retirees Dinner at Mackies Pizza on April 25 at 6 pm, but a personal invite to our organization may help them want to join our groups.

The governor's budget again did not have funding for TRIP but hopefully the legislature will again fund it without a problem. This does show how we have to be diligent to retain our current benefits and not allow the state to try and balance the budget on the backs of retired teachers. If you have not given to the Legal Defense Fund this year, you may want to consider doing so. The 3% raise you received in your February check is the result of our lawyers winning that court case dealing with SB1 and lawyers do not come without a cost!

Our next membership meeting is on May 8 at 12:00 pm at Mackies Pizza in Marion. Tiffany Sievers from SI Elder Law will be making a presentation. I am sure she will be sharing some relevant and useful information. I hope to see you all there!

Kent Carrell
President WCIRTA

\$36,500 in Grant Money Available To Active Teachers

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is making grant money available to all counties in Illinois. **Please** tell your friends that are active teachers about this opportunity. They can go to the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org to download, complete, and submit the application. All proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2018. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money over the summer. Grant awards will be presented in the Fall.

The IRTA Foundation is a charitable organization that assists retired teachers in need, provides scholarships to juniors and seniors in college, and gives grants to active teachers.

The Foundation's funds come from contributions from local units and from the yearly "Label" fundraiser. When you receive the personalized note pad, bookmarks, and mailing labels in the mail, please make a donation. The IRTA Foundation will greatly appreciate it. Thanks for helping retired teachers, future teachers, and active teachers.

Re: Legislative Update

Fr: Anna Morris

The general election in November is now set. Incumbent Governor Bruce Rauner will face Democrat J. B. Pritzker who handily won the nomination. Republicans narrowly re-nominated Rauner by a 2% margin. Rauner labels Pritzker a puppet of the corrupt Madigan political machine, whereas Pritzker says that Rauner has been a no accomplishment failed leader while the state continues to slip backwards.

In his budget message, the governor proposed to make school and college districts absorb the total public costs of their employees' pension programs, phased in over four years. However, he has been a strong proponent of freezing or reducing local property taxes.

Governor Rauner did not include any funding for TRIP in his budget proposal in February. Further, he proposed eliminating state employees' insurance programs from collective bargaining in the Master Contract and letting the executive branch shape it.

In a similar action, hundreds of thousands Medicaid eligible Illinois residents were moved to state contracted managed care programs on April 1, 2018. The state maintains it will save \$300 million over a four-year period.

Senate Bill 3045, sponsored by Senator Andy Manar, on behalf of the IRTA, will allow retirees to substitute teach up to 120 days or 600 hours in a school year without affecting their retirement benefits.

Senate Bill 3046, also sponsored by Manar, will allow annuitants who have opted out of TRIP to opt back in during the benefits choice period. This is something IRTA has been trying to get done for several years. **Please keep in mind that these bills have not yet become law.**

Governor Rauner has also proposed eliminating several programs for K-12: After School Matters, Advance Placement, District Intervention Funding, and Parent Mentoring, among them.

As noted in previous articles, the impact of one of our region's major economic "engines," Southern Illinois University, has been alarmingly diminished. Issues such as rapidly declining enrollment, sharp cuts in state funding, and local high school graduates choosing to attend out-of-state schools have seriously hurt SIU and the region. **Another blow is likely forthcoming, as the SIU Board of Trustees moves toward** some form of equalizing state funding between the Carbondale and Edwardsville campuses. Historically, Carbondale has received about 64% and Edwardsville 36%. However, fall enrollment figures showed SIUC @ 14,554 and SIUE @ 13,796. If funding had been based on fall enrollment, SIUE would have gained about \$18-19 million in appropriations going to SIUC. **A process will likely be put in place to determine a future funding ratio.**

An organization many times acts as a very unique and unusual living organism. Most members who serve their organization do so voluntarily with no compensation and with money being spent out of their own pockets.

We all need to be thankful for those who serve sacrificing time with families and time in meeting their own needs to provide for the betterment of others. This is quite an amazing act when one thinks about what all of this service might require.

One of the best ways for anyone to offer their service to an organization is to become a member. **The greater the number of members the stronger the organization.**

Our Illinois Retired Teachers Association is a vital organization for all Illinois teachers whether they are members or not. IRTA in the past sixty-two years has established a proud legacy of being a very effective association in maintaining and improving benefits for annuitants of TRS. For the past two quarters TRS has been in the top 25% among peers for returns on investments and in the lowest quartile for investment risk. Our pension system is the 27th largest public pension system in the United States. In the last three years, IRTA has saved our annual 3% cost-of-living adjustment and our state subsidized health insurance.

The ones serving on state and local boards work to improve the well being of our organization. Each of these are serving in order to bring about the most good for all. Become a member. Both our state association and our local unit needs you.

In this newsletter and in others to follow, I will write a brief description of each of our board members as a way of introducing them to you. I will begin with myself first and our local WCIRTA President, Kent Carrell:

Loren Taylor, grew up on a small farm in Creal Springs.
Education: 1-8 Creal Springs Elementary School Graduated 1962
9-12 Marion High School Graduated 1966
B.S. in Elementary Education, SIU-C 1970
M.S. in Elementary Education, SIU-C 1975
P.H.D. in Educational Administration, SIU-C 1981
Military Service 1970-1973

Education Career:
4th grade and half of 5th grade at Pittsburg Elementary School 1972-1974
coached 4th and 5th grade basketball at Pittsburg 1972-1974
4th grade and later 6th grade at Jefferson Elementary School 1974-1989
Principal of the old Lincoln School 1989-1993 K-5 building
Principal of the new Lincoln School 1993-2005 K-5 building
Retired June 2005 - entire 33 years teaching career in Marion Unit 2 School District

Kent Carrell grew up in the country in Sadorus, Illinois.
Education: K-6 Sadorus Grade School
7-8 Unity Jr. High
9-12 Unity High School (Tolono, IL) Graduated 1973
B.S. in Mathematics Education, SIU-C 1977
Emmaus Bible School, (Oak Park, IL) - 2 years 1978, 1979

Education Career:
High School Math Teacher - Marion High School - 33 years, 1979-2012
Assistant Volleyball Coach - 22 years, 1981-2002
Assistant Track Coach - 4 years, 2003-2006
Head Volleyball Coach - 6 years 2006-2011, 2015
Retired in 2012 - entire teaching career in Marion Unit 2 School District

Loren Taylor, Information Services

Treasurer's Report 3/26/2018

Beginning Balance	1/10/2018	\$1,798.23
Income		
Dues	\$500	\$500
Expense		
IRTA Foundation	\$30.00	\$30.00
Ending Balance	3/26/2018	\$2,268.23

It is time to pay your 2018 Local and State Dues. LOCAL DUES ARE NOW \$10 PER YEAR. Mail check to Don Kragness, 14802 Poor Farm Road, Johnston City, IL 62951