



Welcome to the February 2019 edition of the WCIRTA Newsletter.

The next WCIRTA meeting is at Carterville Country Club on Friday, February 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. It is a breakfast meeting with local legislators Rep. David Severin and Senator Dale Fowler scheduled to attend. Cost of the breakfast meal is \$7.95 plus drink.

A reminder that the 2019 dues (\$10) for the WCIRTA can either be paid at the meeting or mailed to Kent Carrell at 311 S. 4th St. Marion, Ill. 62959

I would like to mention some WCIRTA board members who have loyally served and are now leaving their positions.

Kent Carrell has served as President of the WCIRTA for the past two years and has been an exceptional leader. He has spent a lot of time "behind the scenes" to keep the organization "on track" and has instituted some changes to make the WCIRTA a stronger group. He always had a stock of "jokes of the day" to keep things in a humorous light! Kent is staying aboard and lending his expertise as treasurer .

Don Kragness is another valuable board member who has been Treasurer and has kept the membership rolls organized. He has had the unenviable task of keeping member's payments to the local and state organizations listed correctly. He has incorporated the data via a computerized listing to help the WCIRTA keep the membership roles updated. Don's avocation is leading a disaster relief team to areas of the country struck by weather-related damage.

Anna Morris is leaving her position as Legislative Reporter. Anna is very adept at following and reporting the actions and resulting reactions of the Illinois General Assembly and our local legislators. Anna has great insight on how legislative bills impact retired teachers especially in areas of health coverage and benefit packages. Her recommendations and assessments have usually been "right on target".

The WCIRTA is very appreciative to the work done by Kent, Don and Anna. We are still looking for someone to fill the current office of Vice President.

The newest executive board member is Mr. Ed Tresnak. Ed was the long time Principal at Herrin High School and his leadership abilities will enhance the WCIRTA . We appreciate Ed's willingness to "come aboard."

The Illinois Comptroller's information bulletin states that 2018 IRS form 1099-R will be mailed by January 31, 2019 and the annual retirement incremental increase will be on the February 2019 check. To change federal tax deductions, form W4-P must be filed. The form can be downloaded on line or is available at IRS sites.

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association continues to achieve increases in membership and remains steadfast in its commitment to "maintain and improve benefits to annuitants of TRS" as reported by IRTA President Roger Hampton.

IRTA has added 1,837 new members in 2018 which made our current membership total 38,440 as of November 1, 2018.

The Illinois Retired Teacher Association Foundation supports and enriches the lives of past, present, and future educators. During the first ten months of 2018 the IRTAF posted \$156,780 in fundraiser profits and distributed \$53,124 in assistance to retirees, \$23,000 in scholarships to future teachers for the 2018-2019 school year and \$36,266 for grants to current teachers.

The Illinois Retired Teacher Association Political Action Committee has increased participation in the \$1.00 per month deduct program by 134 with currently 5,330 participants.

IRTA re-designed website, IRTAONLINE.ORG, was upgraded in 2018. Improvements include a "Live Chat" during business hours, "Leave a Message" during non-business hours, a website "Search" option, a "Members Only" section, and more.

IRTA is governed by an entirely volunteer board of directors and advisory committees. IRTA depends on its members to be involved. Our local unit, Williamson County Illinois Retired Teachers Association, also is governed by an entirely volunteer board of directors. We encourage each of our members to consider volunteering to serve on the board and in other areas to make our local organization stronger, more effective, and better in serving our members. YOU do and can make a difference. Please think about how you can assist/serve in this coming year and ask others to become members and to be a part of our local unit.

Below is a brief educational description of two of our board members as a way of getting to know each one a little better:

Tom Oates born in Pana, IL

Education: Attended Elementary Schools in Stonington and Mt. Carmel, IL
Attended High School in Nashville, IL
B.S. from SIU-C
M.S. from University of Illinois
P.H.D. from SIU-C

Education Career:

Taught Chemistry 4 years in Park Forest, IL
High School Principal 3 years in North Greene
Superintendent 13 years in Panhandle District
Superintendent 17 years in Marion Unit 2
Retired June 30, 2002

Steve Maxwell born in Princeton, IN and raised in Ft. Branch

Education: Attended Elementary School in Ft. Branch
7th-8th grades Washington School in Marion, IL
9th-12th grades Marion High School Graduated 1967
B.S. in Special Education SIU-C
M.S. in Educational Administration SIU-C

Education Career:

Taught at A.L. Bowen Center in Harrisburg, IL Spring of 1972-Fall of 1978
Taught Special Ed for 28 years in Williamson County Special Ed Co-op at
Marion Junior and Senior High School and in Johnston City
Retired 2005 - after retirement taught Real Estate classes at John A. Logan College
and Rend Lake College

Loren Taylor, Information Services

WCIRTA TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE 1/9/2019

BEGINNING BALANCE	12/2/2018		\$2,793.44
INCOME			
DUES		\$270.00	\$270.00
EXPENSES			
Postage, copies, envelopes		\$81.76	\$81.76
ENDING BALANCE	1/9/2019		\$2,981.68

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2019 LOCAL DUES

LOCAL DUES ARE NOW \$10.00 PER YEAR

IT'S IMPORTANT. DO IT TODAY!!

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)

TWO IRTA SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN OUR AREA

Do you know a college student that would like a \$1,500 or \$3,000 scholarship for next school year? These scholarships are for incoming JUNIORS OR SENIORS IN COLLEGE majoring in EDUCATION. The application and current guidelines are on the IRTA website. Please go to www.irtaonline.org and the information is located under the Foundation tab/programs. Applications can also be obtained by calling IRTA Administrative Assistant, Susan Goetz at the IRTA office. (1-800-728-4782) The deadline to postmark applications is March 7, 2019. If you have questions please call Judi Harland (618-995-1694)

Excellence in Education Grants for Active Teachers

The IRTA Foundation is making \$36,500 in grant money available statewide in Illinois. This special grant will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects. Please visit the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org for further instructions. Just go to Foundation tab/programs and check to see when the grant application will be available. If you have questions please contact Tricia Klim in the IRTA office (1-800-728-4782)