

CLINTON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS



FROM CCRTA VICE-PRESIDENT, DON OSTROM

Volume 4, Issue 4

Website: www.weebly.ccrta.com

November 4, 2019

CCRTA's December 5, 2019 Meeting at Bretz's Winery, Carlyle



Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

2815 W. Washington Street

Springfield, IL 62702

[Www.trsil.org](http://www.trsil.org)

CCRTA Officers for 2019

President:

Kelley Kesterson

Vice President:

Donnie Ostrom

Secretary:

Kay Ostrom

Treasurer:

Janice Kauling

Membership Chair:

Mary Ann Kauling

Legislative Chair:

Kelley Kesterson

Foundation Chair:

Cynthia O'Neill

Members Benefit Chair:

Leon Lubert

CCRTA Election of Officers

At the December 5th meeting of CCRTA an election of officers for 2020– 2021 will be held. No organization can exist without an active membership willing and able to participate in managing that organization. The offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer are open for individuals to take a leadership role. A committee was formed to seek individuals to fill these positions. Donnie Ostrom has agreed to run for president, Kay Ostrom will run for secretary and Paula Williams will run for Treasurer and that leaves the office of vice-president yet to have a candidate. Please consider this position. If you have an interest call Pehg Zeller or Janis Seiffert or Dr. Terry Bethel

Supporting IRTAPAC

We may not like it , but politics affects us personally by placing at risk our pension and benefits. As retired educators, we are solely and effectively represented by IRTA through IRTAPAC. IF IRTAPAC is to be effective, it needs resources. These resources allow the IRTA to support individual legislators who support our mission and goals. IRTA has been very effective in providing the Governor's Office and legislators with information on issues that affect our pension and benefits. Legislation pushed by IRTA has become law and protected retirees from loss of pension and benefits.

If you have not signed up to give a dollar a month to the IRTAPAC, please consider making that contribution from your check from TRS. You can go to the IRTA website and it will provide the process for making your \$1.00 monthly contribution to the IRTAPAC.

There is a quick reference on how to use the IRTA website on the last page of this newsletter

SAVE THE DATES

2019 Meeting Dates

1. March 7, 2019 at
Trenton House , Trenton
 2. June 6, 2019 at Route
50 Café, Carlyle
 3. Sept. 5, 2019 at
Trenton House, Trenton
 4. **Dec. 5, 2019 at
Bretz's Winery, Carlyle**
- All Meetings Begin at
11:30 am

2019 PROGRAMS

IRTA PRESIDENT ROGER
HAMPTON TO SPEAK
3/7/2019

PAUL STRID OF AMBA
BENEFITS PROGRAM
6/6/19

CCRTA LIFE TIME EDUCA-
TOR AWARD
9/5/19

CARLYLE HIGH SCHOOL
BAND
12/5/2019



New members enjoy seeing friends.

CCRTA AND IRTA DUES FOR 2020

go on-line for information at www.irtaonline.org. The cost is \$2.50 a month and is deducted from your pension check. You can become a life time member with a one-time payment of \$400.00. Members who joined IRTA prior to 2018 can write a \$40 check each year to maintain membership. Starting in 2019 new members will be required to use **Dues Deduct** from their monthly check. Your membership in IRTA has many benefits. It is the State Association that protects your pension and benefits. A member has access to group plans that sell dental and vision insurance, life insurance, and discounts on travel and hotels. These are only a few of the benefits offered by IRTA to its members.

CCRTA will accept 2020 dues at the December meeting. The cost for a one year membership to CCRTA is \$10.00. The cost of a life time membership to CCRTA is \$100.00. Dues are payable at the meeting or you may send a check to our Treasurer Janice Kauling. Jan's address is as follows:

Janice Kauling
1280 15th Street
Carlyle, IL 62231

Please make checks payable to the CCRTA.

I recommend that you also join the Illinois Retired Teachers Association in Springfield. You may

IRTA Biennial Convention

2019 IRTA BIENNIAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The IRTA Convention was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. Attending this year from CCRTA were Kelley Kesterson, Kay Ostrom and Donnie Ostrom. The keynote speaker was Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, Lloyd Karmeier from Nashville, IL. Judge Karmeier spoke about the pension and benefits received by retired teachers and how they are constitutionally protected. A video from Governor Pritzker was shown, thanking retirees for their service to the students of Illinois. This is the first governor to speak to the retired teachers at their convention.



IRTA:
OUR LIGHT, OUR HOUSE, OUR SHIELD
Biennial Convention
OCTOBER 14-15, 2019
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



CCRTA CONVENTION BASKET

President Kelley Kesterson is shown with our 2019 CCRTA Basket. A special thanks to all those that contributed for the CCRTA Basket. A special thanks to Leon Lubert's daughter Patty Kohlbrecher for arranging the basket. She did another outstanding arrangement with a Christmas Theme.: "It's Always Christmas with Products from Clinton County". Contributors to this year's basket are Pehg Zeller, Patti Ritzheimer, Jan Kauling, Mary Ann Kauling, Kay and Don Ostrom, Don Stalcup, and Paula Williams. The auction at this year's convention raised \$5,000 from 53 Baskets. Units that did not bring a basket contributed another \$6,000. The funds raised go to IRTA PAC.

IRTA CONVENTION

CCRTA Member Has Been Elected IRTA Treasurer

Member and Vice-President of CCRTA, Donnie Ostrom, has been elected Treasurer of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. He will serve a two year term as Treasurer.

Pictured are the 2020-2022 IRTA Officers: John Flaherty, President, Bill Funkhouser, Vice President, Doris Heaton, Secretary, and Donnie Ostrom, Treasurer.



IRTA FOUNDATION'S RAFFLE

At the IRTA Convention a \$10,000.00 raffle was held. I am sorry to say that no one from our region was the winner. The raffle raised an additional \$12,000 dollars for the IRTA Foundation.



CCRTA President, Kelley Kesterson waits to “pop the confetti” at the announcement of the winner.



IRTA NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE:

The new website has the same address: www.irtaonline.org

IF you have not looked at the IRTA website in the past few weeks, it is time to take a look at the newly developed website for IRTA. The IRTA, in connection with the company, AMBA, that provides the additional benefits to IRTA members, constructed the new website.

The newly constructed website is easier to use and contains more information. This website now has a search feature that allows the user to find information faster and easier. **A help sheet is on the last page.**

2019 IRTA CONVENTION NOTES

The IRTA constitution was left in tact with the only change coming to how the written minutes of meetings are handled. Rules on how the minutes are handled were removed from the constitution and placed in the standing rules.

IRTA Officers were elected at the Convention. Terms are for two years. The new President is John Flaherty, the Vice-President is William Funkhouser, the Secretary is Doris Heaton and the Treasurer is Donnie Ostrom.

The Silent Auction Baskets donated for the IRTA PAC raised 10,000 dollars. The Clinton County Basket brought \$175. The winner of the \$10,000 dollar raffle for IRTA Foundation was from Barrington, IL. The raffle raised \$12,000 dollars beyond the \$10,000 received by the winner.

The break-out sessions provided some interesting information. Representative Rodney Davis' office spoke about the bill he submitted to end WEP and GPO. It turns out that it would not include anyone who retired before 2022. There is very little chance of this bill ever passing Congress.

The session on insurance had some good news for those who are in the TRAIL MAPD plan. Starting January 1, 2020, the plan will pay up to \$2500 per hearing aid. Yes, a total of \$5000 for hearing aides will be a new benefit.

There were many vendors with interesting "shopping" opportunities as well as travel, investment, and health information vendors. The next Convention will be in 2021, please consider attending. It is a fun and informative 2 days.



Enjoyable conversation at the September meeting.



Minutes of the Clinton County Retired Teachers Association

September 5, 2019 at Trenton House, Trenton, IL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelley Kesterson at 11:35 am. The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer were led by Leon Lubber. Current CCRTA officers were introduced. CCRTA honoree, Marie Bair introduced family members in attendance: her husband, Oliver, and children: Tim, Daryl, and Lana. We welcomed new retiree, Pat Bringaze.

IRTA Region 16 Director, Donnie Ostrom, reported that the bi-annual IRTA Convention will be held October 14 & 15 in Springfield at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Any IRTA member can attend. CCRTA can send 4 voting delegates to the convention and currently only Kelley and Kay Ostrom are registered to attend. Bill Funkhouser is on the ballot for Vice-President of IRTA and Donnie is on the ballot for Treasurer of IRTA. He encouraged all members to consider going to the Convention. Tickets for the raffle to be held at the convention were available for sale and all proceeds go to the IRTA Foundation. The raffle winner will receive \$10,000 prize. The keynote speaker will be Chief Justice Karmeier. Donnie asked members to keep him informed of any teachers who are ill or in the hospital so that he can add that information to the newsletter. Bond County retired teachers have invited all members of CCRTA to attend their next meeting on September 30, 2019.

Old Business: Minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting published in the newsletter were approved. Motion to approve and was seconded by Pehg Zeller.

Jan Kauling, Treasurer, reported Checking account balance is \$325.73 and Savings account balance is \$3385.49. CCRTA dues are being collected for 2019 and 2020. If anyone pays the lifetime membership of \$100.00, the money is deposited into the savings account. Members can send dues payment to Jan Kauling at 1280 15th St, Carlyle, IL 62231. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Leon Lubber and seconded by Paula Williams.

No ROE representative was able to attend the meeting. President Kesterson said that he spoke with Ron Daniels and Mr. Daniels wanted members to know that the region is seriously short of substitute teachers and there are still positions that are not filled for the 2019-2020 school year. Anyone interested should contact the ROE office.

New Business: IRTA Convention – each unit is asked to donate a basket for silent auction at the convention. In the past, CCRTA members have donated items from Clinton County with the basket theme of "A taste of Clinton County". Members brought items for the basket and President Kesterson asked if members had more items to please get them to Donnie Ostrom or Leon Lubber by September 23. Leon's daughter will arrange items and complete the basket. Kelley reminded members to purchase raffle tickets today at the meeting or on-line at the IRTA website. The Foundation supports retired teachers, provides scholarships to students in education, and grants to teachers.

President Kesterson asked members who have not done so to please sign up for Voter Voice on the IRTA website. He passed out information about HB 2700 signed on August 23, 2019 which increased the time period that an individual may receive a refund of an overpayment to TRIP or TRAIL. The question came from Margo Schaefer about how overpayments occurred and it was explained that there were incidents of retirees who were overcharged for insurance premiums and the retirees would now receive refunds. This legislation does not address if a health care provider overcharges for services.

Election of officers for 2020-2021 will be held at the next meeting on December 5, 2019 at Bretz's Winery in Carlyle. Nominations are needed for the office of Vice-President. Kelley asked all those in attendance to consider serving as a CCRTA officer.

Membership report: Mary Ann Kauling reported that there were 30 people and 4 guests in attendance. She also brought "get well" cards for members to sign that will be sent to Virginia Schoene and Virgil Wesselmann.

The CCRTA Life Time Educators Award was presented to Marie Bair. Marie was honored not only for her years of dedication to teaching but her years of service to CCRTA as secretary. The members enjoyed hearing from Marie about how her education started in a one room school house with no in-door plumbing. Applause and thank you to Marie for her contribution to teaching and the education of hundreds of her students.

Motion by Patti Ritzheimer and second by Milton Luginbuhl to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Ostrom, Secretary

Marie Bair Received Life Time Educator Award at September 5 CCRTA Meeting.

Picture below: Marie with Treasurer Jan Kauling
Picture on right: Marie receives award from Vice President Don Ostrom and President Kelley Kesterson.



Picture above: Marie with her family, son, Daryl, daughter, Lana, Marie, husband, Oliver, and son, Tim.
Picture below: Marie with other Wesclin Teachers.



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Clinton, Marion, Washington and Jefferson Counties
Ron Daniels –Regional Supt.
Melanie Andrews—Assistant Supt.

Greetings Retired Teacher Friends:

I realize I say this each year at this time, but it's always hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us. It also means that the school year is almost halfway finished.

ROE 13 just hosted the 40th annual Mt. Vernon Teacher's Conference. This one day event provides quality professional development to teachers from across Southern Illinois. The day started with a keynote from Dr. Jesse Jackson, a nationally known expert in student behavior and teacher-student relationships. Breakout sessions followed in a variety of topics from all content areas, poverty, social-emotional health, school safety, and so many more. Plans will quickly be underway for the 41st annual event. As with all ROE 13 professional learning events, retired educators are always invited to attend at no cost.

ROE 13 will soon have a certified youth and adult mental health trainer to serve our schools. Kim Voss, the principal at the Centralia Alternative Learning Academy, will attend sessions to learn how to effectively deliver quarterly trainings in mental health to our educators. This topic is incredibly relevant at this time as schools try to assist students from a variety of backgrounds and situations.

I would like to share some statistics from the first question of FY 2020 that highlight what the ROE does for our schools and the larger community as a whole. I hope you will find these interesting. This period runs from July through September of 2019.

- 135 educators attended five different professional learning events.
- 554 people were provided with a background check.
- 405 bus drivers were either initially trained or re-certified.
- 40 individuals took the paraprofessional test.
- 672 individuals were provided with licensure assistance.
- 48 parent calls or concerns were addressed.
- 29 individuals completed short term sub training.
- Unfortunately, 31 students were already referred to ROE 13's truancy program.

These numbers increase throughout the school year. I always provide quarterly and year-end reports to the county boards that highlight the many responsibilities of the ROE and the staff. If you would like to see these reports at some time, please feel free to let me know.

If you have access to social media, be sure to "like" the ROE 13 Facebook page to learn about what's going on in our region. In addition, many of our schools have Facebook pages – it's a quick way to see the many wonderful things happening in our schools on a daily basis.

I hope the rest of 2019 brings you all happiness and quality time with your family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Sincerely,
Ron

How to Navigate the IRTA Website?

Quick Reference Guide www.irtaonline.org



- **Creating a Profile - Members Only > Create Your Online Profile**

Password must be 8-20 characters long, contain letters and numbers, and must not contain spaces, special characters, or emoji.

- **Change Login Information - Members Only > Username/Password**

- **Finding Information - What are you looking for? Use Search Feature**



- Click on the IRTA Logo - Brings you back to the IRTA Homepage
- IRTA Staff (Association > Leadership)
- IRTA Map (Association > Local Units)
- Latest IRTA News (Members Only > Blog)
- Finding IRTA Leaders Contact Information (Members Only > Leadership & Committees > Click on the leadership information button you want.)
- IRTA Standing Rules/Constitution (Members Only > Publications & Documents > Click on the document button you want.)
- Register for Voter Voice (Members Only > Voter Voice)
- IRTAPAC (Political Action)
- IRTA Foundation (Foundation)
- IRTA Events & Trips (Members Only > Trips & Activities)
- Local Unit Contacts & Meeting Information (Association > Local Units > Click on the County from the Drop Down Menu > Click Go!)
- Member Benefits Information & Codes (Members Only > Membership Benefits)