

# CLINTON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS

## DECEMBER MEETING AT BRETZ'S WINERY



FROM CCRTA PRESIDENT, DON OSTROM

Website: [www.weebly.ccrta.com](http://www.weebly.ccrta.com)

November 12, 2022

Volume 7, Issue 4

### CCRTA's next meeting: Thursday, December 1, 2022



Teachers' Retirement System  
of the State of Illinois  
2815 W. Washington Street  
Springfield, IL 62702  
[www.trsil.org](http://www.trsil.org)

### December Meeting Will Be in Person at Bretz's Winery in Carlyle, IL

The program committee asked that each attendee bring a Christmas Ornament that has an interesting story that goes with it. Many of us have an ornament given to us by a student that carries an interesting story. **If you are going to attend, please call Mary Ann Kauling at 618-973-4373 and let her know you will be attending the meeting. Please call by November 28th.** This allows the restaurant time to set the room up properly for our meeting.

### CCRTA Officers for 2022

**President:**

Donnie Ostrom

**Vice President:**

Pat Bringaze

**Secretary:**

Kay Ostrom

**Treasurer:**

Pehg Zeller

**Membership Chair:**

Mary Ann Kauling

**Legislative Chair:**

Kelley Kesterson

**Foundation Chair:**

TBD

**Members Benefit Chair:**

TBD

### TRAIL INSURANCE MEETINGS

Those CCRTA members who are over the age of 65 and qualify for Social Security and Medicare are required to be in the TRAIL Insurance Program through Central Management Services of Illinois.

You should have received notice of the changes in the insurance program for those that have TRAIL.

A notice of in-person meetings was sent by CMS to all members in the TRAIL program. The next in-person program will be held on November 14th, this Monday, at the Regency Conference Center, 400 Regency Park, O'Fallon, IL from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am. **YOU MUST REGISTER** to attend at <http://cms.illinois.gov/thetrail>. If you have questions, please call Don Ostrom.

### SAVE THE DATES

#### 2022 Meeting Dates

1. March 3 2022 at Trenton House
2. June 2, 2022 Bretz's Winery
3. Sept. 1, 2022 at Trenton House
4. Dec. 1, 2022 at Bretz's Winery, Carlyle

All Meetings Begin at  
11:30 am

### 2022 PROGRAMS

MARCH 3 2022  
IRTA—LEGAL ISSUES &  
PROGRAMS FOR RETIRED

JUNE 2 2022  
LES WINKELER AND NATIVE  
BIRDS OF ILLINOIS

SEPT. 1, 2022  
AMBA REPRESENTATIVE

DEC. 1, 2022  
SHOW AND TALK (A  
CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT  
THAT HAS A STORY)

## CCRTA AND IRTA DUES FOR 2022, Please send to the Treasurer

CCRTA is accepting 2022 dues. The cost for a one year membership to CCRTA is \$10.00. The cost of a lifetime membership to CCRTA is \$100.00. Dues are payable at a meeting or you can send a check to our Treasurer, Pehg Zeller. Pehg's address is as follows:

Pehg Zeller  
432 North Maple  
Trenton, IL 62293

Please make checks payable to the CCRTA.

**I recommend that you also join the Illinois Retired Teachers Association in Springfield.** You may go on-line for information at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org). The cost is

\$2.50 a month and is deducted from your pension check. You can become a lifetime 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. Since 2019, all new members are required to use **Dues Deduct** from their monthly pension 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.

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## News From The IRTA Office in Springfield



### UPDATING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION:

In order for members of IRTA and CCRTA to receive the IRTA ACTION newsletter, important notices and additional benefit information, the IRTA needs current addresses and e-mail addresses. If you have moved or changed your e-mail address, please call the IRTA Office or provide CCRTA President Donnie Ostrom with the new information.

### IRTA INFORMATION FROM SPRINGFIELD:

#### LAW SUIT AGAINST CMS:

The suit filed by IRTA is in the hands of the court in Springfield. The judge is receiving depositions from both parties involved in the suit. The IRTA has turned over its data from the actuary about what will happen to the THIS Fund if the changes are allowed to stand. This case will continue for another year or two.

#### NEW DATA BASE PROGRAM:

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association has more than 40,000 members. The present program would no longer support the amount of data required to keep the organization functioning at a high level. Therefore, the IRTA invested in a new data base program that will allow for more members to be added and to make communications easier. It is important that each member have their correct information stored in the new data base. If you change address, phone number or e-mail address, please let the Association know so they can be sure you receive the information they provide to members.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

You may or may not know that Jim Bachman will be retiring at the end of 2023. The Association's Board of Directors is in the process of beginning a search for someone to fill that role. This is a key position in our organization. The Executive Director's main role is to protect retired teachers pension and benefits. Simply put, they liason with legislators and the public to protect our pension and insurance. I will keep you informed as this process moves along.

## **2023 CCRTA MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **CLINTON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS 2023**

	<u><b>DATES</b></u>	<u><b>LOCATION</b></u>	<u><b>CITY</b></u>	<u><b>SPEAKER</b></u>
1.	March 2, 2023	Trenton House	Trenton, IL	TBA
2.	June 1, 2023	Bretz's Winery	Carlyle, IL	TBA
3.	Sept. 7, 2023	Trenton House	Trenton, IL	TBA
4.	Dec. 7, 2023	Bretz's Winery	Carlyle, IL	TBA

**These dates and locations are subject to change by the group.**

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### **Please Support The IRTA Foundation by Giving in 2022:**

In 1985, after identifying a large number of former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and rising inflation, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association established the **Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation, Inc.** The initial purpose of the Foundation was to build an endowment to provide assistance to retired educators. It now provides scholarships and grants to Teachers as well as assistance to retired teachers.

HELP THIS GROW	2022	2021	2020
Fund Raising Donations	\$217,385	\$231,612.00	\$261,124.00
Total Donation From All Sources	\$312,853	\$327,397.00	\$292,758.00

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE IRTA FOUNDATION—The latest request for donations was sent out to members of IRTA last month. Please be one of the members that makes a difference.**

### **HELP A MEMBER WHO MAY NEED A RIDE TO A CCRTA MEETING**

I have been asked if members were willing to pick-up another member who lives in their community that are no longer able to drive to a CCRTA meeting. If you are willing to provide a person with a ride, please let me know and I will make arrangements to put you in contact. For some members, this is the only contact they may have outside of their living arrangements.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

## Minutes of the Clinton County Retired Teachers Association

September 1, 2022 at Trenton House Restaurant, Trenton, IL

The meeting was called to order by President Don Ostrom at 11:00 am. After the Pledge of Allegiance, guests were introduced. There were 21 members in attendance.

Report from IRTA Treasurer Donnie Ostrom:

- TRIP/TRAIL Insurance is an important part of our retirement benefit. New retirees can enroll now.
- He encouraged members to read the IRTA Good Dog News Letter which is sent each week via email. Jim Bachmann, IRTA Executive Director is available for questions each month during the on-line session "Coffee with Jim". Members can log in and hear questions and answers. Next coffee with Jim is Sept 8.
- IRTA filed a lawsuit against the State of Illinois because the state budget reduced the amount the districts and employees pay into THIS for health insurance. The reduction starts in 2023 and will cause the fund to be in debt by 2027. IRTA employs a lobbyist who works for ITRA and TRS.
- Members can see list of candidates that are endorsed by IRTA in the next election in the Good Dog Newsletter. These candidates have pledged to protect our pensions and benefits.

Old Business: Minutes from the June 2, 2022 meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved. Treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter was accepted. Dues for the 2022 year are \$10.00 and members can pay at a meeting or mail a check to: Pehg Zeller, 432 North Maple, Trenton, Il 62293

Guest, Region 13 Superintendent John Consolino, provided updates as to the state of our schools during a question-and-answer session:

1. The regional office is providing professional development to new teachers and teachers without certification. Question: What is a teacher without certification? Teachers with Bachelor degree holding a "sub-certificate".
2. There is massive shortage of teachers so districts hire personnel and some pay per day as a substitute teacher or some districts pay personnel on the teacher's salary. Districts must prove that they cannot find a certified teacher. The ROE will help any retired teacher renew certification, even if they have let their certificate lapse.
3. The State added to the number of days you can teach and still collect full pension to 120 days. However, last year districts got wavers and were able to employ retired teachers for full year without reduction in pension.
4. Question: Do these teachers get evaluated? Yes, that is still a district responsibility. State still requires dedicated curriculum teaching credentials in Jr/Sr high positions. Districts must advertise for position for 90 days before they can hire non-certified teachers.
5. Districts are now required to have a "threat assessment plan." John reported that all districts in Clinton County have completed this requirement.
6. Because of high turn-over of teachers, the ROE provides training and a mentoring program for all new teachers.
7. Because of high truancy, the ROE has new programs to address this issue, especially at the lower elementary grades.
8. John explained the new culture of "quiet quitting" that circulates on social media. The idea that a teaching job is 8:00-4:00, and teachers do not do any extra work is not the culture we need for our schools. The ROE is providing training and support to instill the culture that teachers will "do whatever it takes" for our students.
9. Home Schooling is not regulated in our state.
10. Assessment: Illinois testing is for grades 3-8 and High school.
11. We have no charter schools in Region 13.
12. There is a critical shortage of bus drivers throughout Region 13. There are additional federal guidelines for certification as well as state requirements. However, the ROE will help anyone who wants to become certified to drive a bus.

AMBA Representative Mike Rice reviewed all the benefits that AMBA provides to IRTA members. He gave a complete handout to all attending. Mike had a drawing for a \$25 gift card. The card was won by Jan Humphrey. President Ostrom informed members of funeral arrangements for Paula Williams, CCRTA member and past Treasurer.

The Trenton Bank prefers two signatures on our checking and savings accounts. Pehg Zeller moved to add Margo Schaefer to both accounts. Motion seconded by Pat Bringaze. Motion carried.

There was a discussion of WEP and GPO and how it affects retirees. This legislation is pending in Congress.

With no other business, Meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm. Next meeting December 1, 2022 at 11:30pm at Bretz Wildlife Lodge and Winery, Carlyle, IL

Respectfully submitted, Kay Ostrom, Secretary

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# CCRTA Financial Report: 11/01/2022



CLINTON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
Treasurer's Report  
**Checking Account**

November 1, 2022 Current Balance \$721.44

CLINTON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
Treasurer's Report  
**Savings Account**

November 1, 2022 Balance \$3399.39

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## **CCRTA PROGRAMS:**

If you have an idea or would like to provide a program at CCRTA, please let one of the CCRTA Officers know or who to contact. Programs are an integral part of the CCRTA meeting and can provide the members with a wide variety of information and entertainment. Your suggestions and information makes our meetings worth attending.

It is imperative that the meetings have some substance and also provide individuals with the time to visit with friends. We are not a political organization. The foundations of IRTA and CCRTA are to provide protection and information about pensions and benefits. The CCRTA is here to provide information that will make decisions easier for its members.

I believe it is important to hear from our representatives in political office and those who control our pension and benefits. I have spoken with TRS and CMS and they do not send people to speak to individual Units. But, there are people who have the knowledge and capability to answer our questions. The IRTA Executive Director sits on the CMS insurance Board. So, if there are insurance questions, he can provide the answers to your questions.

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## **CCRTA DECEMBER CCRTA PROGRAM:**

**The sharing of ornament stories at the December meeting came from a member of CCRTA who has fond memories of students that gave them an ornament that has significant meaning to them.**



We will also take the time to discuss the changes in TRAIL insurance and what it means for you. I have explained to other members who are not yet 65 and qualify for Medicare and Social Security that this is only the beginning of the changes to be made by CMS. I expect to see changes made to the TRIP program insurance as well. We have always had several companies and programs to choose from.

I believe that the TRIP program will also see a single company to cover their insurance. Only time will tell.