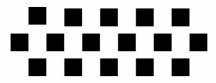


INDIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

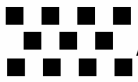


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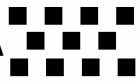


OF

1950.



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF
ADVOCATING FOR ALL INDIANA
RETIRED EDUCATORS



AWARDS LUNCHEON AGENDA

2025

Introductions

Laura Penman

Guest Speakers

Al Campos (NRTA) / Steve Russo (INPRS) / Omarr Guerrero
(AMBA)

Sponsor Comments

Jared Bond (Hoosier Lottery), Rae Feller (CASA), and Joseph
Coffman

Presentation of IRTA Awards

David Lennen, Emcee

School Bell Awards • Marty Mullin

CASA Awards • Dr. Sharon Barnes

CLOCK Awards • Ellen McKenzie

President's Award • David Lennen

IRTA Legacy Awards • David Lennen



SCHOOL BELL AWARDS

2024



1st place – Washington County

2nd place – Whitewater Valley

3rd place – Greene County

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) AWARDS

2024



MARY KAY POWELL

**Starke County RTA, 8 years as a CASA
Volunteer**

Mary Kay has been working on cases for CASA for at least eight years. She is very diligent in her research on each case, and always works for the child's best interest as needed. She does these things even with her recent mobility issues. She is a joy to work with.



ANNE FERGUSON

**Allen County REA, 14 years as a CASA
Volunteer**

Anne is an outstanding CASA volunteer. Anne has served in this capacity for 14 years. She is still involved with the very first case she was assigned. In addition to this ongoing CASA case, Anne has had the opportunity to advocate for eighteen other children through volunteering as a CASA representative. She has found each child to be challenging yet rewarding.



KIM NIXON

**Montgomery County RTA, 7 years as a
CASA Volunteer**

As a CASA I have worked with many families since I began 7 years ago, often having more than one case at a time. I am able to ensure that the children's needs are met whether those needs are material, such as clothing, school supplies,

or even Christmas gifts. Often their needs are emotional, attachment to family or caregivers and their confusion and reaction to what is happening to them. Being a CASA has allowed me to bond and work with children who need a voice, an adult they can trust, and the knowledge that they are loved.



JAN VAN KLEY

Hancock County RTA, 6 years as a CASA Volunteer

Jan is a member of HCRTA and IRTA. She started her career as a scientist and then went back to school to become a science teacher. Jan has been a CASA advocate for 6 years. Her motivation came from knowing that many children face huge challenges and need an adult/advocate who can be constant in their lives. Jan is one of about 50 CASAs in Hancock County with 130 children in need of services. Presently, she works with 6 children between the ages of 2-15.



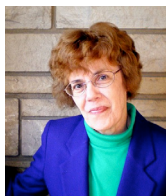
SHIRLEY SEGERT

Pike-Gibson RTA, 9 years as a CASA Volunteer

Shirley has been a faithful member of the local CASA program for 9 years. She became a member immediately after retirement in 2016. She received the CASA Award previously in 2019 and with her continued service to the CASA children of Pike County, she is deserving of the award again. Shirley is dedicated to the well-being of the children and serves as a role model to them as well as fellow retired colleagues.

AMBA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER CLOCK AWARDS

2024



MARCIA HASLETT

Area 1-St. Joseph

Marcia has a degree in deaf education from Ball State. After retirement she currently is a teacher at Forever Learning Institute. Marcia has taught multiple levels of sign language to those over 50 to 99 years old. Too, she has tutored youth 8-17 based on individual needs. Marcia works at a phone bank twice a year to collect pledges to WVPE, a public radio station. Also, she delivers books to patrons that may not be able to access the library. She is busy taking disabled seniors to doctor's appointments and runs errands such as grocery shopping. Marcia's volunteer efforts range from youth through seniors. Because her effort makes a significant difference to so many, she is considered a "hero" in the community.



DAVID YARDE II

AREA 2-DEKALB

David has a deep education background, teaching adult education, elementary teacher, elementary principal, Human Resource Manager, textbook representative, volunteer for National Auto and Truck Museum, board member, Executive Director, and Indiana State Representative. Most would settle in and review accomplishments. "Next Gen" is David's product. He has developed a curriculum for male and female students 13-17. Skills that are woven into the curriculum are interpersonal, functional life, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), communication, and money management. As students progress, they are given a project and at

completion are allowed to drive the vehicle they have been working on around a prescribed course at the museum. Next Gen students are involved in car and truck shows, downtown cruise-ins, and ultimately answer questions the public may have. This is a positive way to integrate young people into the community. David organizes fund raisers for scholarships available for anyone attending a 2-4 year college, vocational, or trade school. David's focus on the opportunity to nurture and encourage the minds of young people is a reflection of his value on the youth of tomorrow.



KARMIN REEVES
AREA 3- FULTON

Karmin has worked with Habitat for Humanity. This past year she saw the completion of a new home, and two more will be completed this spring. She works with families, helping them meet the financial parameters for a new home. Karmin helps with Meal on Wheels making sure food needs are met for others. Added to this, Karmin coached Track/Field and Diving for students in Rochester. In retirement she continues to teach and contribute tirelessly to the needs of her community.



KAREN WEBB
AREA 4-CLAY

Karen has been described as “phenomenal.” She is President of the Vigo County Retirement Teachers Association and an active member in the Clay County Retirement Teachers Association. She values volunteerism and gives equally to both organizations. She is known for implementing “I Vote,” in the local county elementary schools. She organizes the schedule, initiates the connections, and participates in the reading and voting segments of this new program. Karen reads to every K-2 class in Clay County and teaches mini-lessons on the voting process in preparation for Voting Day at the schools. The student ballots are counted and the results are reported to the schools. Too, Karen volunteers in multiple ways to Christ Community Church, holds many offices in the VCRTA, gives time to Kairos Prison Ministry, and serves on the Executive Board of

CCRTA. As a lifetime member of IRTA she generously shares her many talents with her community.



CAROL HERVEY
AREA 5-MARION-WAYNE

Carol's mission is to help those who have a need, especially underserved young people. "For youth and for fellow volunteers she provides humanitarian, recreational and leadership opportunities." The majority of her volunteer work is with young people through her church and through community at a mobile home park. Carol is the organizing volunteer who serves the Winterbrook community out of a purchased mobile home. During the course of a year Carol helps with a Valentines Day Party, plans spring break activities, helps identify teens to be trained for summer camp counselors, sets up camp and curriculum, tears down camp. With help from the Center Grove basketball team, she purchased and organized a Secret Santa for Winterbrook children. This abbreviated list reflects some of Carol's volunteer focus on the underserved. Recently, Carol was installed as an officer on the Board of Directors Riley Hospital Cheer Guild. Her volunteerism is above and beyond.



PATRICIA KEOGH
AREA 6-MADISON

Pat is active in her church administration and plays the piano at masses. She volunteers at the hospital and is an active member at the Guild and gift shop. At the Paramount Theatre she helps patrons during each production. Pat plays diverse roles in her volunteer hours within the community.



CHERYL MILES-VIETH
AREA 7-BARTHOLOMEW

Words that describe Cheryl are, "a beacon of enthusiasm and dedication," a "transformative force in our community." She is involved with student centered events like "Girl Up," aimed at empowering young

girls in STEM, or her support of VEX robotic competitions. She is a board member of the Columbus Area Arts Council promoting the arts as our communities' identity. Carol's dedication to a signature event Uncommon Cause has become one of the most successful fundraising efforts in Bartholomew County. Her contributions to the Mill Race Theatre Company have allowed the theatre to flourish and offer opportunities for students and adults. "Her innovative approach to volunteerism has led to increased support for Turning Point, our local food pantry reflecting her deep-seated belief "Those who have, have an obligation to help those who don't." The multifaceted volunteerism Carol displays provide many benefits to her community.



ARLENE OWENS
AREA 8-DAVIESS-MARTIN

Arlene retired from teaching in 2018. She taught in the Washington Community School Corporation at North Elementary School K-6 Physical Education. She enjoys playing pickleball and has given youth clinics for pickleball after retirement. Arlene and a co-member of DMRTA are responsible for getting the guest speaker for bi-monthly meetings. She volunteers many hours at St. Vincent DePaul in Washington, Indiana. She works in toys. Arlene has 825 hours showing her commitment to working at St. Vincent DePaul.



NANCY G. CLEM
AREA 9-PIKE-GIBSON

Nancy volunteers her time at her church and participates as treasurer and the Session as an Elder. She provided leadership and direction for the church as the church looked for a new pastor. She helps with church meal preparation. She visits church members who are in the hospital, or rehabilitation. Nancy helps shut-ins with chores, grocery shopping, cooking plus taking them to doctor appointments. Nancy has worked as a volunteer with the Vanderburgh County 4-H, and the Transportation Unit transporting patients. Nancy was President of the Daughters of the Nile, plus holding other offices within the

organization. Nancy is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Too, she served as Community Service Chair for PGRTA. Nancy has served many people in her community.



SHARON MODER
AREA 10-DEARBORN COUNTY

Sharon is remarkable in the varied ways she volunteers in her community. She developed the curriculum directed toward math concepts not covered in the classroom enforcing student understanding of number and mathematical concepts. She meets with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade high-ability math students for enrichment one day a week. “Think Smart, Stay Safe,” is a program she volunteers as a small group leader at two different schools. This program teaches student assertiveness, internet safety, stranger danger, and good/bad touch. Sharon maintains the Dearborn County Retired Teachers Association website and Facebook page. Too, she has helped two other associations with the development of their website. She creates the quarterly newsletter the Recess Bell. Also, Sharon belongs to the DCRTA Sewing group that meets nine months a year, and the group makes dresses and shorts for needy kids around the world. These are just some of the activities Sharon is engaged with. Her dedication to youth and the strong education focus plus her dedication to community volunteerism is outstanding.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

2025

“Every successful leader has guidance from others. I’ve been fortunate to be the recipient of this individual’s guidance, support and encouragement. The IRTA is better because of her leadership.”

- **David Lennen**

Legacy Awards

2025



Robert Kraft

Born on April 24, 1940, Robert “Bob” Kraft’s lifelong love of learning began as the eldest child of first-time parents on a working farm, where he developed a deep appreciation for growth—of crops, of people, and of community. That early curiosity led him into education, choosing a classroom over the forest path, and graduating

early to become a middle school history teacher.

Ten years later, Bob transitioned to school leadership, serving as a middle school principal before eventually leading at the elementary level. From painting theater props and dressing as Liberace in talent shows to kissing piglets to inspire young readers, Bob led with creativity, humor, and heart. As principal at Perry Heights Middle School for over 17 years, he helped introduce some of the district’s first classroom technology and was instrumental in moving the Evansville school system toward a digital future. He later finished his public school career at Scott Elementary, where he had once been a student himself.

In retirement, Bob continued his service through more than two decades of leadership with the Indiana Retired Teachers Association. A passionate advocate for educators, he was recognized with formal resolutions by the Indiana House and Senate and was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash in 2013, one of the state’s highest honors. In 2025, IRTA proudly honors him with the Legacy Award for his remarkable career and unwavering service to education.

At home, Bob is a teacher still—guiding 4-H programs, building model train empires with his son-in-law, and helping instill life



lessons in his grandchildren. He and his wife Jan, who celebrate 64 years of marriage this June, have spent a lifetime helping others learn and grow. His legacy is a joyful, tireless commitment to education, community, and lifelong learning.



Barry Conrad

Barry Conrad devoted 40 years to public education, teaching math from 7th grade through Calculus at Southwood Junior-Senior High School before becoming Director of Technology for MSD of Wabash County. A graduate of Wabash High School, he earned his undergraduate degree from Taylor University and a master's degree from Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne.

Barry has been a dedicated leader within the Indiana Retired Teachers Association, serving as IRTA President from 2019 to 2021. He has contributed his time and leadership to countless IRTA committees, including the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and as Area 6 Director. He is also a past-president of the Wabash County Retired Teachers Association. Beyond his involvement with IRTA, Barry served six years on the Board of Trustees for Friends Fellowship Community, a continuing care facility in Richmond, Indiana.

In retirement, Barry continues to serve his community. He volunteers as a SHIP Medicare counselor, teaches Sunday School, and serves as Superintendent at Wabash Friends Church. He and his wife Paulette, married since 1970, have two children and five grandchildren. He enjoys gardening, time with family, and lives by his favorite retirement motto: "Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow?"

Barry's legacy is one of steadfast leadership, humble service, and a lifelong commitment to education and community. The IRTA is proud to honor him with the 2025 Legacy Award.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our 2025 Sponsors

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We've Made It 75 Years Because of You

To Our Sponsors:

Thank you for your generous support! Your partnership empowers us to uplift and advocate for Indiana's retired educators.

To Our Members:

Your continued dedication and involvement sustain our mission and inspire everything we do.

To Our Award Recipients:

Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition. Your achievements highlight the extraordinary impact of Indiana's retired educators.

To Our Delegates and Local Officers:

Thank you for your service and leadership. You keep our organization strong and connected to every community across the state.

To Our Board of Directors:

Your vision and commitment guide us as we navigate challenges and embrace opportunities.

To Everyone:

Together, we build a community that honors the past, celebrates the present, and invests in the future of every retired teacher in Indiana.

A Special Thank You:

To Mary Ann Sullivan and the staff at Primo's—thank you for providing a welcoming venue and exceptional service that make today's gathering possible.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Indiana Retired Teachers Association



Indiana Retired Teachers Association Historical Timeline

1950 • IRTA Established

The Indiana Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) was founded as a non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the rights and needs of retired educators in Indiana. From the beginning, IRTA focused on fostering a sense of community, providing essential resources for retirement planning, and advocating for retirees' welfare in the Indiana General Assembly.

1965 • First Representative Assembly

IRTA held its first Representative Assembly, bringing together members from across the state to collaborate, share ideas, and collectively shape the future direction of the association. This annual gathering quickly became a cornerstone of IRTA's commitment to democratic governance and member engagement.

1969 • First Executive Director

Recognizing the growing needs of the association, IRTA appointed its first Executive Director, Earl Utterback, to provide dedicated leadership and day-to-day management. This milestone marked a new era of professional administration, ensuring that IRTA could effectively serve its members and carry out its mission.

1976 • Foundation Established

To further support the educational community, the Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation (IRTAF) was established. The Foundation's purpose was to provide scholarships and grants that empower both retired educators and the next generation of teachers, underscoring IRTA's commitment to giving back.

2010 • Move to Speedway

In response to continued growth, IRTA relocated its headquarters to Speedway, Indiana. This move enabled the organization to modernize its facilities and better serve its expanding membership with improved resources and accessibility.

2012 • IRTA Foundation Board Created

To strengthen the Foundation's impact, IRTA established a dedicated board of directors to oversee the work of IRTAF. This step ensured that the Foundation would continue to grow its scholarship and grant programs with transparency, accountability, and renewed energy.

2013 • Lobbyist Added

Under the direction of then-Executive Director Nancy Tolson, IRTA expanded its advocacy efforts by hiring lobbyist Steve Beebe to represent the interests of retired teachers at the state level. This addition allowed the association to build stronger relationships with policymakers and more effectively champion issues important to its members.

2024 • Move to Plainfield

Demonstrating its ongoing commitment to meeting members' needs, IRTA moved its headquarters to Plainfield, Indiana. The new location reflects IRTA's vision of staying responsive, accessible, and prepared for the future, ensuring that retired educators continue to receive the support they deserve.