



*Honors
& Awards
2026*

AWARDS LUNCHEON AGENDA

2026

Introductions

Laura Penman

Sponsor Comments

Jill Jackson (Association Member Benefits Advisors Senior Relationship Manager)

Hoosier Lottery

Melissa Cunyningham, J.D. (CASA)

Coffman Wealth Management

Presentation of IRTA Awards

Dr. Sharon Barnes, Emcee

School Bell Awards

CASA Awards

CLOCK Awards

IRTA Legacy Awards



SCHOOL BELL AWARDS

2025



\$200

1st place – Johnson County

Congratulations to Johnson County, recipient of the 2025–26 School Bell Award for achieving the highest percentage increase in membership among eligible local associations.

Local associations that achieved a 5% or greater increase in membership through new regular members, new associate members, and dues deduction enrollments qualified for the contest. The remaining qualifying associations were entered into a random drawing for three \$100 awards, courtesy of Association Member Benefits Advisors.

Drawing winners will be announced during today's luncheon.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) AWARDS

2025

ANGELA O'MALLEY

Angela O'Malley embodies the heart of CASA through her compassion, humility, and unwavering dedication to children and families. Since completing her CASA training in 2023, she has contributed extensive volunteer hours and traveled hundreds of miles advocating for children in need, quickly becoming a trusted and deeply valued advocate. Angela's commitment extends far beyond her assigned cases. From joining the CASA fundraising committee to volunteering for additional responsibilities and accepting new cases to help reduce the waitlist, she consistently steps forward wherever support is needed. In every interaction, she balances empathy for families with steadfast advocacy for the best interests of children, demonstrating remarkable emotional intelligence and integrity. Angela's service is grounded not in recognition, but in a sincere desire to help others and strengthen her community. Her willingness to uplift fellow volunteers, support families through difficult circumstances, and tirelessly advocate for children



makes her an exceptional representative of CASA and a truly deserving honoree.



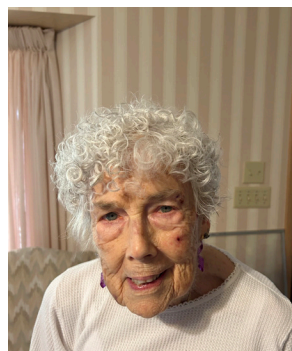
JIM BEVER

Jim has served on the Friends of CASA board since its founding in 2021 and has been instrumental in both the board's development and the growth of the CASA

program. Bringing valuable insight from both education and community perspectives, he has dedicated countless hours to strengthening Hancock County through service and advocacy. His impact through Greenfield Schools and the broader community continues to be deeply felt. Currently serving as interim President of the Friends of CASA board, Jim leads with compassion, steadiness, and a strong commitment to children and families. His passion for supporting youth is evident in every aspect of his work, and he plans to continue giving back by becoming a CASA volunteer himself. Jim's generosity, leadership, and unwavering dedication make him an extraordinary part of the CASA team and the Hancock County community.

CAROL PATTERSON

Carol Patterson is a dedicated volunteer, lifelong learner, and passionate advocate for children and her community. A long-time member of IRTA, she regularly participates in Representative Assembly meetings and Fall Workshops and currently serves as secretary of the Allen County Retired Educators Association, where she previously served as president. Carol has devoted more than 11 years to CASA, first fostering and supporting children who later found permanent homes through adoption, and later serving as a CASA/GAL advocate. Even during periods of limited mobility, her commitment to helping children and families has never wavered. Beyond CASA, Carol remains deeply involved in numerous church and community organizations, including literacy programs, tutoring, tax assistance programs, disaster committees, and volunteer leadership roles throughout Northeast Indiana. At age 80, she earned a paralegal certificate, demonstrating the same diligence, curiosity, and perseverance that define her service. Carol's compassion, energy, and lifelong commitment to others continue to leave a lasting impact on everyone around her.





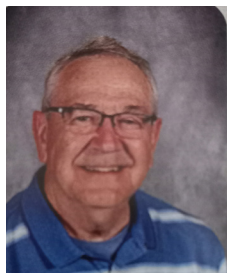
JAMIE CHAMPLIN

Since becoming a CASA volunteer in 2019, Jamie has dedicated hundreds of hours advocating for children and families within the Bartholomew County child welfare system. Traveling more than 6,000 miles to attend visits, meetings, and court hearings, she consistently demonstrates exceptional commitment, compassion, and reliability.

Jamie has served on six cases involving ten children, bringing the same qualities that define an outstanding educator: preparation, consistency, empathy, and deep respect for others. Children and families know they can depend on her, and that trust has created stability and support in difficult circumstances. Jamie goes above and beyond in every case, helping with schoolwork, locating resources, assisting families with practical needs, and celebrating each success along the way. Her patience, persistence, and caring presence continue even when engagement is difficult, always ensuring children feel supported and valued. Jamie's dedication and willingness to serve wherever needed make her an invaluable advocate and an extraordinary representative of CASA.

AMBA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER CLOCK AWARDS

2025



JOEL KRUEGER

AREA 1-MISHAWAKA-ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

Joel Krueger is our clock award winner from Area 1. After retiring Joel continues to teach Spanish to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students twice a week at Resurrection Lutheran Academy. This includes staff meetings, programs/events, and graduation. Joel is involved with his church, too. He participates in the Cookie Pantry, Cheeseball Fund Raiser, and holiday decoration of the church. Also, he waters the plants/flowers at his apartment complex four times a week. A graduate of I.U., Joel serves the Indiana Alumni Association South Bend region. He co-chairs the Spirit, Pride, and Tradition Committee. He organizes special events including game watches, Trivia Night Scholarship Fundraiser, and I.U. Day. His enthusiasm for all tasks is to be commended, and he is an integral part of his community.



Barbara Hrynewycz

Area 2-Goshen-Elkhart County

Barbara Hrynewycz is our clock award winner for Area 2. Barbara is an IRTA life member. She has stepped into multiple action roles as Vice President, and then four years as President of ECRTA. She communicates through emails, annual newsletters, informing members of state and local issues. She is directly involved in a project cutting, sewing and distributing totes to children in foster care or transition to carry their personal belongings. She has sewn 10 each taking at least four hours to

complete one. Barbara volunteers at the Goshen Historical Museum where she is a greeter and tour guide and a communicator of historical fiction she has researched. Also, Barbara is a 10 year 4-H'er. She assists her local club, helps with projects and judges the exhibits. She is active in her church. She is a Life Group Leader, has led a financial freedom group, helps with vacation bible school, subs for Sunday school, and sings and plays the flute in the choir. With all of this she mentors a high school girl as she tutors her in algebra.



Sally McAndrews

AREA 3-LOGANSPORT-CASS COUNTY

Sally McAndrews is our clock award winner for Area 3. She works non-stop volunteering. At church, she is a pre-school Bible School teacher, and a pianist for the church praise team. Another task is the editor for the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma's newsletters. A main focus for Sally is Operation Christmas Child, a project sponsored by Billy Graham Ministries. This is locally coordinated by her church New Life Alliance. She has multiple tasks, Member Community Outreach Team, shoe box workshop and assembly, packaging and filling shoe boxes from a four-county area. She crochets purses and headbands to be included in many shoe box gift packages. In addition to this, Sally volunteers at Operation Christmas Child Processing Center.



Robert Lang

AREA 4-PLAINFIELD-HENDRICKS COUNTY

Robert Lang is our clock award winner for Area 4. Bob is a retired music teacher. Importantly, he connected with the Clark Pleasant Middle School in Whiteland, Indiana. Bob goes to the school twice a week to help with the 6th grade beginning band and helps with the 7th and 8th grade percussion students. He assists and records their band concerts. He is actively involved with counting and depositing band money from fundraisers. Also, Bob is active in his church, St. Thomas Moore. He

is a member of Knights of Columbus, and helps with fund raisers church festivals, fish fries, and Sunday breakfasts. The Knights sponsor sectional and regional free throw and soccer challenges Bob assists with. Bob is a Eucharistic minister and a musician for his church. He contributes time to the Gabriel Project and the Women's Pregnancy Resource Center. He completes a weekly inventory of the Churches in Mission food pantry, the largest food pantry in Morgan County.



Deborah Carrell

AREA 5-NOBLESVILLE-HAMILTON COUNTY

Deborah Carrell is our clock award winner from Area 5. Deb has been described by her friends as the “Energizer Bunny.” She has taught English Learners in weekly classes, developed an English Learners app, and coordinated parties for EL students. She has helped with science fairs, judged, and provided transportation for parents and participants. Deb has been the secretary for the Hamilton County Retired Teachers for seven years scheduling meeting and at times preparing the agenda for a chapter meeting. She assists teachers and others in grant writing. Deb is active in the Delta Kappa Gamma chapter as an officer, and she serves on the Council. She has presented at several sessions of the DKG convention and serves on the International Committee. She has helped with the pillowcase mission for Give Kids the World/ Make a Wish. Deb remembers those who are sick, lonely, or shut in. She acts with cards, calls, and visits. Too, she helps friends and neighbors with food, transportation and childcare needs.



Donna Myer

AREA 6-MARION-GRANT COUNTY

Donna Myer is our clock award winner from Area 6. She is a volunteer to St. Martin's Food Program. Her specialty is salads. She is described as being “faithful for years.” Although she volunteers at her small church the food

program is where she spends hours. St. Martin's serves three meals a day, meals are sent home to the needy. Driving, one can sometimes see a child carrying one or more Styrofoam containers filled with food to their home. Donna has qualities of dependability and willingness to help in areas not assigned. She is unable to come to our Grant County Retired Teachers noon dinners. This is due to the fact St. Martin's depends on Donna at lunch time.



Sally Scrogam

AREA 7-COLUMBUS-BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

Sally Scrogam is our clock award winner from Area 7. Sally is quite knowledgeable about Daughters of the American Revolution. She is the top contributor of volunteer hours for Joseph Hart Chapter, NSDAR. Sally is our librarian. Her meeting table reads, "Sally and her Traveling Books." She brings packed bags of books and magazines for the members. She introduced us to Book Express, which distributes free books to the community. She collected 250 children's books and cash donations. She wears a range of hats at the Moravian Church. She is Secretary for the Board of Trustees, custodial liaison, wedding facilities coordinator, treasurer for the Moravian women, and committee member for the Clothing Pantry. Musically she shares her talents with the bell choir, singing choir, and the band. In Sally's words, "I retired from teaching in 2012. I was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome. I had a bone marrow transplant, had to fight donor rejection resulting in a required hip replacement due to harsh medicines. Since I am now healthier, I want to help others, give back to family, church, and community."



Kathleen Boggess

AREA 8-BLOOMINGTON-MONROE COUNTY

Kathleen Boggess is our clock award winner from Area 8. Twenty-four people from her church and community raise produce in 40

garden vegetable beds. Kathleen is in charge of the task force that oversees, issues, and helps volunteers. 25% of the produce sales are donated to low-income food programs such as the Community Kitchen and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Kathleen is a member of Indiana Solar for All. Chosen people from low-income housing receive 8-10 solar panels for their house roof. In return a person in that family donates 80 hours to help with the installation process. Kathleen helps with morning bedding clean-up for the Bloomington Emergency Winter Shelter. She belongs to the Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance and is an active member on a sub-committee for racial justice. She has given her time to youth in the CASA program. Kathleen is active with her church working with the Missions Endowment Fund, and the Outreach Committee. She stepped up keeping the local MCRTA from closing by sharing a co-presidency.



Glenda Ferguson

AREA 9-PAOLI-ORANGE COUNTY

Glenda Ferguson is our clock award winner from Area 9. Glenda is an experienced public speaker. She has given presentations for Delta Kappa Gamma and Indiana Pathways. She volunteers as a Tour Guide for the French Lick/

West Baden historic hotels. As a skilled writer, Glenda composes newsletters and writes minutes and reports for many organizations. They include National Scenic Byways Association, Orange County RTA, IRTA and an area religious institution. For youth, Glenda has presented Laura Ingalls Wilder at the Orleans Library and provided youth tours of the historic French Lick. She has corresponded with students of the Medina Village School in Africa. Glenda provides transportation to doctor appointments, grocery shopping as well as delivering meals and assisting with home chores. A leader, Glenda is President of a Delta Kappa Gamma chapter, board member of Indiana Historic Pathways and National Scenic Byways Association, and VP/secretary for the Orange County RTA.



Janet Hart

AREA 10-AURORA-DEARBORN COUNTY

Janet Hart is our clock award winner from Area 10. Janet has been Vice President of her local (DCRTA) for the last four years. In that time, she organized catering and programs for their annual four meetings. She organized community service hours, called members, and reported those hours. The DCRTA annual project sews pillowcase dresses for Samaritan Purse Boxes sent to needy children around the world, and she is actively involved sewing. For the last nineteen years Janet has served as a teacher for the local Good News Club, a Christian Evangelical Organization. They meet with the children in the public schools after school to teach morals, good decision making, and the Good News of the Bible. Also, Janet serves on the River View Cemetery Board. The board is responsible for the cemetery's operations including its maintenance, finances, and policy decisions. At her church, Janet is chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations, on the administrative Council, a Trustee, and actively involved in community outreach that serves warm meals to those in need.

Legacy Awards

2026



Linda Morris

Linda devoted 33 years to teaching mathematics and English at Union High School, inspiring generations of students through her dedication to learning and academic excellence. Even after retirement, her commitment to education continued as she returned to the classroom to teach AP Calculus for two additional years and has continued to provide free math tutoring to local junior high

and high school students.

Throughout her career and retirement, Linda was a passionate supporter of the Indiana Academic Super Bowl and Academic Competitions programs. She served as a team coach and later as a mathematics question writer from 2006 to 2023, helping to challenge and inspire students across Indiana.

Linda's dedication to educators extended through her extensive service to the Indiana Retired Teachers Association and Foundation. She served as Area 6 Director, an IRTA Board member, and Co-Chair of the IRTA Member Concerns/Necrology Committee. As Vice President of the Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation in 2014 and President from 2015 to 2020, Linda helped guide the Foundation's mission and growth. During her tenure, she served on the three-person committee that created the "A Hand UP" program, providing assistance to retired teachers facing short-term financial hardships, and helped establish the IRTF Endowment Fund to sup-

port those efforts for years to come.

Linda's spirit of service has also left a lasting mark on her local community. Alongside five friends, she helped create the Main Street Senior Center in Farmland, which has grown into a vibrant gathering place for local seniors. She also served as a board member for Historic Farmland and has been an active member of the LifeStream Advisory Council.

Whether in the classroom, through educational competitions, in service to retired teachers, or within her community, Linda Morris has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to helping others. Her legacy is one of leadership, generosity, and service, making her a truly deserving recipient of the IRTA Legacy Award.



Ray Jones

Today we honor Ray Jones, and the contributions, achievements, and lasting legacy he has built through decades of service in public education and the Indiana Retired Teachers Association.

Ray Jones devoted more than four decades to public education as a teacher, school administrator, and later as Technology Director for Franklin Community Schools.

Throughout his career, Ray was recognized for steady leadership and deep expertise in school operations, particularly in technology, budgeting, and financial management.

Ray's involvement with the Indiana Retired Teachers Association began after a call from Nancy Tolson and Bob Kraft, when he

stepped into the role of Area Five Director to complete a vacated term. He went on to be elected to two additional terms, continuing his service to Area Five and supporting IRTA's Executive Board with consistency and care.

Drawing on his professional background in education administration and finance, Ray became a trusted and highly valued voice within IRTA's leadership. His contributions were so significant that the organization created the position of Financial Oversight Board Member so he could continue providing guidance beyond his elected service. Ray remained in that role until his move to Wisconsin in 2016.

Ray Jones's legacy is defined by dependable leadership, practical wisdom, and a lasting commitment to educators through both his career in public education and his service to IRTA.

