



*Advocating for all Indiana
Retired Educators*

BULLETIN BOARD



WINTER 2020

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From the President's Desk

Happy Holidays! You will notice that this edition of the Bulletin Board has a little different emphasis. The Executive Committee wanted to do something that would help spread a little cheer to our members. You will notice that there are short little items that emphasize the joys of this time of year mixed in with the IRTA information.



The IRTA staff is still working from home. Do not worry though, everything that was normal activity for IRTA is still being accomplished. Being an educator, you know that imagination and ingenuity are a part of getting things accomplished. All Board and Executive Committee meetings are being held using ZOOM. We also had some state committee meetings that have been held via ZOOM or conference call. We are making things work, even in this trying and interesting environment.

We are gearing up for the upcoming Legislative session. The Legislative committee and our lobbyist have been very busy planning and communicating with the appropriate people. Many contacts have already been made with Legislators concerning items of interest to IRTA. We realize that this will be a very difficult session.

Holiday Office Hours

Closed December 24 to January 4

Continued on page 2

From the President's Desk *continued*

I want to thank each person that has been involved with the "Call and Learn" program. Without your involvement we would not have been able to help students that have called. The environment that we are in has placed a real strain on students, parents, and educators alike.

I encourage each of you to consider donating to the Foundation's Endowment program. This might be an excellent time to take advantage of using your Required Minimum Distribution as

a Qualified Charitable Distribution and possibly avoid taxes on the distribution. As you consider your year-end contributions, do not forget that the IRTA is matching any contribution of \$50 or more, made to the Endowment until December 31, 2020.

I hope that you have gotten some enjoyment from the Holiday cheer enclosed. Once again, HAPPY HOLIDAYS to you and yours. Be safe as you celebrate.



'Twas the night...

'Twas the night before Christmas & out on the ranch

The pond was froze over & so was the branch.

The snow was piled up belly-deep to a mule.

The kids were all home on vacation from school,

And happier young folks you never did see

Just all sprawled around a-watchin' TV.

Then suddenly, some time around 8 o'clock,

There came a surprise that gave them a shock!

The power went off, the TV went dead!

When Grandpa came in from out in the shed

With an armload of wood, the house was all dark.

"Just what I expected," they heard him remark

"Them power line wires must be down from the snow.

Seems sorter like times on the ranch

long ago."

"I'll hunt up some candles," said Mom. "With their light,

And the fireplace, I reckon we'll make out all right."

The teen-agers all seemed enveloped in gloom.

Then Grandpa came back from a trip to his room,

Uncased his old fiddle & started to play

That old Christmas song about bells on a sleigh.

Mom started to sing, & 1st thing they knew

Both Pop & the kids were all singing it, too.

They sang Christmas carols, they sang "Holy Night,"

Their eyes all a-shine in the ruddy firelight.

They played some charades Mom recalled from her youth,

And Pop read a passage from God's Book of Truth.

They stayed up till midnight-and, would you believe,

The youngsters agreed 'twas a fine Christmas Eve.

Grandpa rose early, some time before dawn;

And when the kids wakened, the power was on..

"The power company sure got the line repaired quick,"

Said Grandpa - & no one suspected his trick.

Last night, for the sake of some old-fashioned fun,

He had pulled the main switch - the old Son-of-a-Gun!

-Author Unknown

Submitted by Barry D. Conrad



Discovering the real "Santa Claus"

by Paula Dyer

Growing up in the late 1950's Christmas Eve and the arrival of Santa Claus was, of course the highlight in a child's life. In my family Christmas Eve was spent at church for the children's Christmas pageant and then to the home of a family friend for a late supper. My sisters and I were always anxious to return home as Santa would have arrived and we would unwrap our gifts.

When I was eight or nine years old I was questioning the existence of Santa Claus. I thought, how could one person get to everyone's home all over the world in one night. Also, we had no chimney in our house. I know eight or nine maybe kind of old to still believe in Santa but the other part of the story was when we left for church there were no presents under the tree but when we

came home four hours later, magically, the presents were all there. How could that be explained?

Well I clearly remember that fateful night all those years ago. My mother got my sisters and me ready and we all hurried to the car. We sat there for a few minutes then my mother got irritated, which was not unusual, that our father was taking so long. She then went in to hurry our father along so we would not be late. My two older sisters, who were tired of hearing my dilemma regarding Santa sent me back into the

house. There I saw my father throwing gifts from their bedroom to my mother who was arranging the boxes under the tree. I returned to the car a disappointed but much wiser girl.

Present day Christmas

Like so many others, I can sincerely say Christmas is my favorite time of year. The decorations, the food, and the stories that warm your heart. I have always loved decorating my home. My husband says my house “burps up” Christmas. I also love to bake cookies and make candy, caramels and fudge. When

I was working I took trays of goodies to the schools where I worked. After I retired I still wanted to make a variety of treats so now I make trays and boxes of my goodies for our neighbors and friends. The recipe for a family favorite follows. I have baked these cookies since college when I got the recipe from one of my roommates. The cookies are similar to a Mexican wedding cake but the lightly tinted pink icing and cherry on top make them a very festive item on any tray of goodies.

The Story of the Other Wise Man By Henry Van Dyke A Review by Nancy Tolson

I hope you will find this book and read for yourself the enduring story of the fourth Wise Man. It is the story of Artaban, a Magi who, along with three other students of Zoroaster, saw signs in the heavens that foretold the coming of a new King. Artaban plans to meet the others for their journey into Judea, for the prophecies say this is where the King will arrive. As he leaves on the journey, he carries three precious jewels as gifts for the child they hope to find.

Before Artaban can reach the other three, he comes across a dying man. Knowing that if he stops to help, he may miss the others, he nevertheless takes time to help the man and bring him back to health. When he arrives at the meeting place, the others have left a note, telling him to follow them across the desert. To follow, he must sell one jewel, a sapphire, for the means to help him make the lonely journey.

When Artaban arrives in Bethlehem, he searches the town and finally speaks to a woman who is singing to her baby. She tells him about the three travelers who came, but then hurried away. She also knows of a family with a newborn who left suddenly. Before he leaves her home, he hears the feet of soldiers coming

toward the house, and steps to the door as the captain starts to enter. Artaban knows that the soldiers will kill the child if they find it, and even though it pains him, he gives up his second jewel to bribe the captain not to enter.

Through the years, Artaban searches from city to city, country to country, looking for the King. After thirty-three years, he has grown old and worn out from his journeys and from his work among those he met who were poor or sick or broken. At last he has returned to Jerusalem at the time of Passover. He hears that a crucifixion is to take place, that of two thieves and a man who had angered the priests and elders because he gave himself out to be the Son of God. Artaban realizes that at long last he has found the King, and that his remaining jewel may be the key to save him. But as he moves toward the hill where the crucifixion is to take place, he sees soldiers dragging a young girl who is to be sold as a slave. Once more, he must make the hard decision, whether to help someone in need or keep the jewel for the King.



He gives the luminescent pearl, the most beautiful of his three jewels, to the girl to buy her freedom. Just then the skies darken and the earth trembles. A tile falls onto Artaban's head and as he lies breathless, with his head resting on the young girl, there comes a sound, like music. She thinks she hears something but cannot make out any words. Then Artaban whispers, “Not so, my Lord: for when saw I thee hungry and fed thee? Or thirsty and gave thee drink?” Faintly, she now hears these words in the sweet reply,

“Verily, I say unto thee, Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me.”

Artaban's journey is ended. He has found his King and his gifts have been accepted.

Holiday Greetings from Area 1

fitting to recognize several of the holiday traditions. A special thank you to the Area 1 presidents for furnishing information on these celebrations.

Submitted by Jo Ann Manes



Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a seven day festival that celebrates African and African American culture and history. Kwanzaa takes place from December 26 to January 1. Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili.

There is a candle-holder with seven candles with one candle lit each night. The seven principles of Kwanzaa are: *Unity, *Self Determination, *Collective work and responsibility, *Cooperative economics, *Purpose, *Creativity, *Faith.

Christmas is the most prominent holiday, but I read that there are more than 37 holiday dates celebrated in December and the beginning of January. Since Area 1 has such a diverse population it seemed only

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Anna

Anna who?

Anna partridge in a pear tree!



Holiday Greetings from Area 5

As we approach Christmas and the end of this year, let's take a moment to reflect on the blessings in our lives. That might not seem easy in a time when we miss the companionship and fellowship of family and friends. What is easy to see is how much we cherish those relationships and how quickly material concerns fade into the background.

We all share the good fortune to be united in IRTA, and to know that the organization gives us ways to stay connected to each other and our communities. Even if we're not meeting in person, we are there for each other in spirit.

This Christmas holiday we are changing our traditions to remain safe from virus, with the hope that next year we can all share the joy of the birth of Christ with family and friends. I wish you and yours the very best and that 2021 brings all kinds of good things your way.

Submitted by Don Metzger



Festival of Trees

Holiday trees, designed by Northwest Indiana civic organizations, are on display at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster. Though the 2020 Festival of Trees will feature a virtual tour, community members can still stop at the Center to view and to vote for their favorite tree. From the donations from this event, the Northwest Indiana Symphony will be able to fund their programs, including the children's program.

"Stroll the Avenue of Trees" is a traditional initiative of the Women's Association of the Northwest Symphony Orchestra. Hol-

Snowflakes



*Snowflakes dancing from heaven
to earth*

In frilly dresses of white

*They dance from the clouds,
through the air, down and down*

And land on earth in the night.





I have a laser engraver that I use in a small business, but I take advantage of

it to make new ornaments every year of our grandkids and any special events during the year. With 5 grandkids from 6 to 14 we have accumulated a lot over the years. My wife decided to have a small tree up all year with the ornaments instead of taking them down & putting them back up every year. She changes themes of the skirt & topper for the season.

The wooden toys I've made as a member of the Central Indiana Woodworkers (CIWW). The group has over 200 members & meets once a month. The CIWW supplies 30 to 40 Toy of the Month kits for members that includes enough small parts like axels or wheels for 13 toys with the member supplying the wood & labor. They can keep one or bring all 13 back to the next meeting. Several members get additional parts & make lots of toys (I'm over 600 so far). In early December the CIWW distributes toys to around 40 agencies for children in need. Last year the CIWW did over 15,000 toys.

Submitted by Mike Robards

Holiday Wishes from Area 4

I would like to include a holiday tradition that started several years ago when both my sons were teenagers. Being a mom, I always wanted to take good care of them and so for Christmas I would always gift them with a pair of wool socks (naturally to keep their feet warm in winter). I did this year after year. My youngest son (who has since passed away) would always lose his or wear them out, but my oldest son did not. I kept buying this gift every year for my oldest son. Finally, one year he was packing his things to move in with us and he opened a tub that was filled with pairs of wool socks. When I saw them I asked, "Where did you get all those wool socks?" He answered, "You keep buying them

for me! Please, Mom, don't buy me anymore!" Of course, I reluctantly agreed. However, it just didn't seem like Christmas without wool socks so without him knowing, I would take a pair of wool socks from his dresser and hide them in one of his other Christmas gifts. Each year I take a different pair from his dresser so he doesn't know what color is missing. I put them in a variety of places. One year I put them in his Christmas stocking. Another year I wrapped them in a huge box. One year, I separated them into two gifts. It has become a tradition for both of us. He tries to figure



out which pair is missing and I love the look on his face when he finds them in a gift! Evidently, I will be keeping this tradition for a long time because he just doesn't wear out or lose his wool socks like his brother did!

Submitted by Brenda K. Walls

Area 9 Holiday Wishes

Happy Holidays to all IRTA members, their families and loved ones! The traditions we hold dear, the parties, caroling, and celebrations, may be limited to video conferencing or phone calls this year. Staying connected and sharing the happiness of the season is more important than ever.

Jonna and I are fortunate that our children and grandchildren live near and we plan to see them without taking any chances with anyone's health. Our life in retirement is full of community engagement and we've found ways to contribute during the time of COVID. We are continuing to travel, although some of our trips have had to be postponed.

From our house to yours, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Submitted by James Isaacs



\$40,000

Amount needed annually to support current programs established by IRTF



\$1M

Amount needed for Endowment fund to cover these costs "forever"

+\$200,000

Contributions from IRTF as seed money for the IRTF Endowment Fund

+\$400,000

IRTA Representative Assembly graciously allocated to be used as matching funds

Be the Match Endowment Fundraiser Ending 12/31/2020

Each Holiday Season brings warm family gatherings with excited family, the smell of favorite food dishes and holiday decorations. At least this is true for most of us. Some of our retired colleagues have experienced life issues which leave them in need of assistance. Your Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation has "A Hand Up Program" to give financial assistance to IRTA members to help uplift their quality of life when a need or emergency impedes their life.

During the past 18 months IRTF has provided financial assistance to members who have reached out for assistance with medical/surgery bills, furnace repairs, car repairs, hearing aids, medications, or moving expenses. We are so fortunate to be able to offer this assistance in their time of need.

During the Holiday season remember to include IRTF Endowment in your charitable giving. The good works go on retiredteachers.org for online donations.

Donation Form

IRTF DONATION INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
WWW.RETIREDTEACHERS.ORG OR
ON FACEBOOK @INDIANARTF

**Donations of
\$50+
will be matched
by the IRTA**

Matching ends December 31, 2020.

**Donations of
\$250+
Qualify for an
inscribed apple
on the Giving Tree**



I am enclosing a \$ _____ contribution
to assist the Foundation with its work.

Please direct my contribution to the endowment:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Name on apple if above \$250: _____

Please make check payable to:
Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation,
2629 Waterfront Parkway, East Drive, Suite 105, Indianapo-
lis, IN 46214



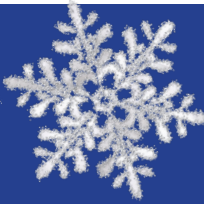
Amazonsmile Donations

Have Amazon donate to IRTF while you shop! Amazon Smile allows you to choose a cause to donate to and they will give a percentage of your shopping directly to that cause!

Visit the Amazon Smile tab on your Amazon account to set IRTF as your charitable cause and shop away! That is it, easy as pie!



Holiday Recipes!



Cranberry Orange Loaf

2 cups of flour (all-purpose)
1 egg
1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries
1 cup sugar
½ cup orange juice
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
Grated peel of 1 orange
1 cup chopped walnuts
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 tablespoons butter, melted
½ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoon hot water



In large mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In small bowl, beat the egg; add orange juice, peel, butter and water. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in the cranberries and



walnuts. Spoon into a greased 9 in. x 5 in. x 3 in. loaf pan or two 5 in. by 2 ½ in x 2 in mini loaf pans.

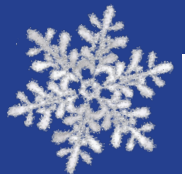
Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Coll in pan for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack. Yield: 1 loaf or 2 mini loaves.

Potato Latkes

6 large potatoes
1 large onion
¼ c. matzo meal
canola oil for frying

4 large carrots
1 t. salt

1 T. lemon juice
1 large egg
1 t. baking powder

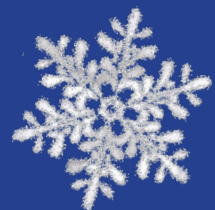


Peel potatoes and place in bowl of cold water. When all potatoes have been peeled, grate potatoes, onion and carrots by hand, using largest holes on box grater or food processor. Place in colander and press out as much liquid as you can. Then, place in large bowl and mix in lemon juice, egg, matzo meal, salt and baking powder.

Heat about 1/8-inch canola oil in large frying pan. Cast iron works well if you have one. Scoop heaping tablespoons of the potato mixture into the hot oil and flatten slightly. Fry until crispy, then turn and fry until crispy on the second side, about five minutes each side. Drain latkes on paper towel. Serve with applesauce and sour cream.

Peppered Pecans

3 tablespoons butter or margarine
3 cloves of garlic
1 ½ teaspoon of Tabasco pepper sauce
½ teaspoon salt
3 cups pecans



In small skillet melt butter. Add garlic, Tabasco sauce and salt; cook 1 minute.

Toss pecans with butter mixture; spread in single layer on baking sheet. Bake 1 hour at 250 degrees, or until pecans are crisp; stir occasionally. Store in airtight container.

White Chocolate Truffles

1/2 c. plus 9 tablespoons heavy cream, divided

1 (11-ounce) bag, plus 3 cups, white chocolate chips, divided

2 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature

32 Speculoos cookies (such as Biscoff), finely crushed (2 1/2 cups crumbs)

Holly sprinkles, for decorating

Heat 1/2 cup cream in a medium saucepan over low heat until bubbles form around edges, 1 to 2 minutes; remove from heat. Add 11-ounce bag of chips and let sit 2 minutes; whisk until smooth. Whisk in cream cheese. Fold in cookie crumbs until combined. Transfer to a bowl and chill until firm, 2 hours or up to overnight.

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll mixture into tablespoon-sized balls; transfer to baking sheet. Freeze until firm, 35 to 40 minutes.

Microwave remaining 9 tablespoons cream and 3 cups chips in a microwave-safe bowl on high 1 minute. Whisk until smooth. Dip truffles in melted chocolate, tapping off excess, and place on a prepared baking sheet. Immediately place a holly sprinkle on top; let set.

Cherry Wedding Cake Cookies

1 cup Crisco

1 cup powdered sugar

1 egg

1 t. vanilla

2 cups flour

1 t. salt

1 t. baking soda

1 t. Cream of Tartar

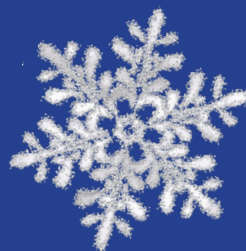
1 cup chopped pecans.

Cream together Crisco, powdered sugar, egg and vanilla. In separate bowl combine dry ingredients. Add dry ingredients and combine. Add pecans. Form into 1 inch balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 350 for 10-12 minutes until bottom of cookie is light brown.

Icing -After cookies have cooled make icing.

5 1/2 cups Powdered Sugar (about 2 lbs.); 8 oz. cream cheese (softened); large jar of maraschino cherries (drained, retain juice); 1 t. Almond Extract, red food coloring

Cream together cream cheese, Almond Extract and half of the juice from jar of cherries. Add powdered sugar a cup at a time till you reach spreadable texture. Add food coloring to desired tint. Top each cookie with cherries that have been cut in half and allowed to drain.



Around Christmas time, parents would take their children to have pictures taken with Santa Claus.

Can you name this Past State IRTA President?

The picture is Jane Boultinghouse, taken at Santa Claus Land. Santa Claus Land is now Holiday World.



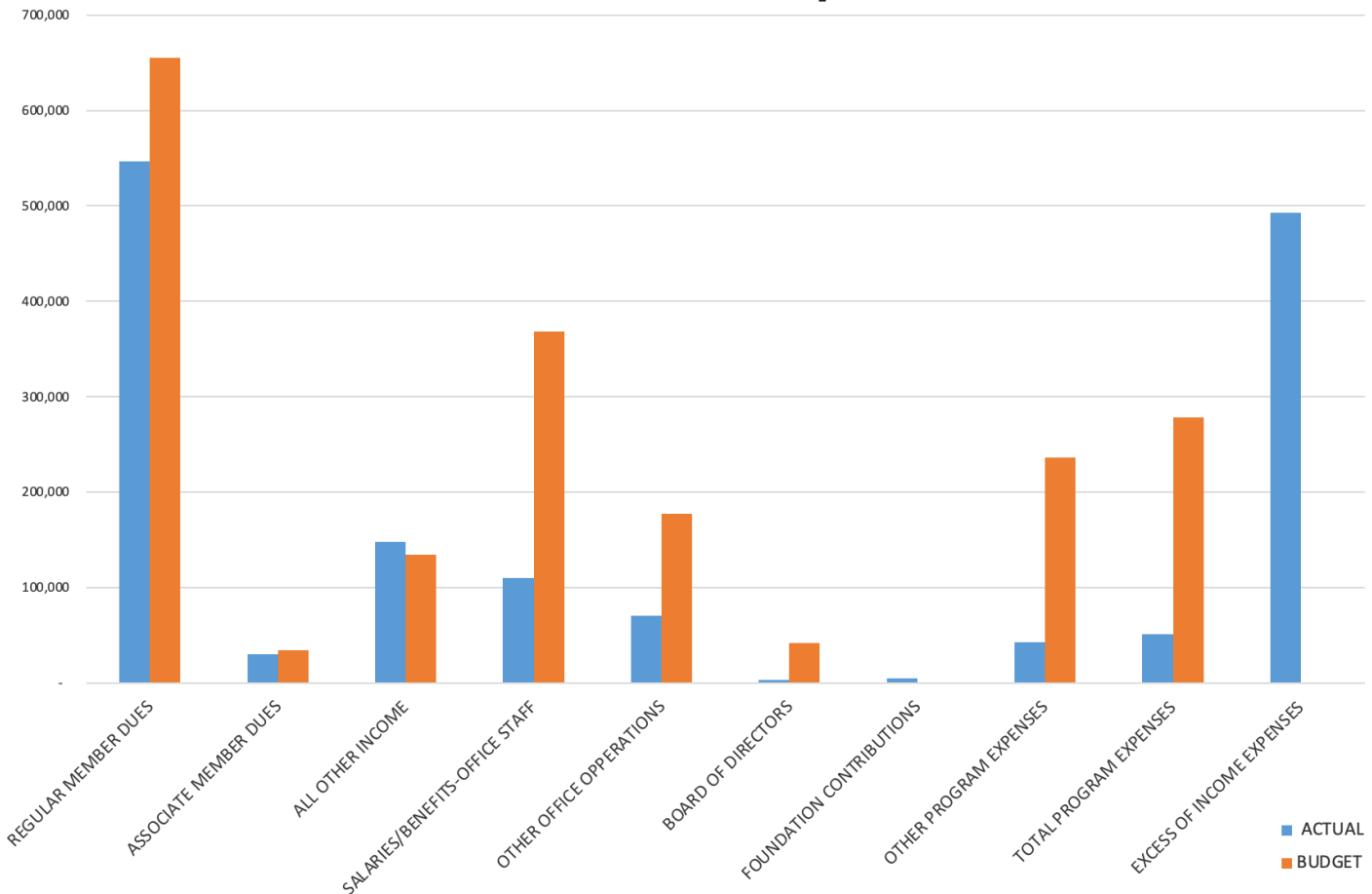
Indiana Retired Teachers Association

Balance Sheet

					As of 10/31/2020
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS					\$ 120,497
TOTAL INVESTMENTS					\$ 2,937,721
TOTAL PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT					\$ 36,600
					\$ 3,094,818
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES					\$ 19,433
TOTAL OTHER LIABILITIES					\$ 257,292
GENERAL FUND					\$ 2,325,289
NET INCOME (LOSS)					\$ 492,804
					\$ 3,094,818

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

Variance Report



TO REQUEST A MORE DETAILED VIEW OF THE FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN, CONTACT DAVID SCHERER, DSCHERER@RETIREDTEACHERS.ORG

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Indiana Retired Teachers Association



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Trish Whitcomb Resigns as Executive Director of IRTA

IRTA has announced that Trish Whitcomb has officially resigned from her position as Executive Director. Board President Barry Conrad and the Executive Committee will fill in to ensure that there is continuity in the daily routines of IRTA until a suitable replacement can be found.

On behalf of IRTA and IRTF, we thank Trish for her time with our organization and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Contact IRTA President Barry Conrad,
conradb@retiredteachers.org.

Florida Meetings

Every year we look forward to connecting with our Florida members and sharing our vision for the future that we're building together. But given the growing concerns around COVID-19, we've made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 IRTA Florida Meetings. This was a tough call to make -- the luncheon is an incredibly important event for IRTA and it's one of our favorite ways to connect with all of you in The Sunshine State -- but we need to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and members. We look forward to connecting with you in the near future.

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