



*Advocating for all Indiana  
Retired Educators*

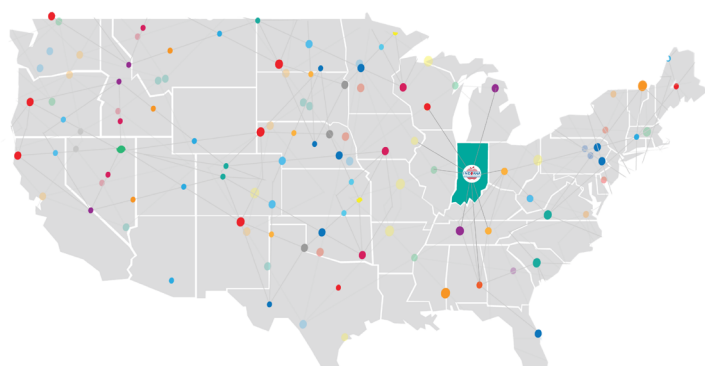
# BULLETIN BOARD

FALL 2022

Jan 25, 2023

Connecting  
Indiana  
Retired Teachers Association  
*Virtually*

Members Across the Map Workshop



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Details at [retiredteachers.org](http://retiredteachers.org)

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## Inside

Public Relations Update

Membership Corner

2022 IRTAF Scholarship Winners

Fall Workshop Challenge Results

IRTA Financials

Message from our Executive Director

Letter from IRTA President Paula Dyer

Photos from our 2022 Fall Workshops

**Have an Idea for the Bulletin Board?**  
IRTA loves to highlight wonderful  
things happening with our members.

Please submit content to

[dirofcomm@retiredteachers.org](mailto:dirofcomm@retiredteachers.org)

**The Bulletin Board  
Indiana Retired Teachers  
Association**

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# From the President's Desk

*by Paula Dyer*



Fall is here. This time of year evokes so many different memories. For some, the rustling of leaves reminds us of raking them into a pile and jumping in them when we were young. For many of you, it is the memories of preparing your classroom for a group of new students. I know one of my sisters, who is a retired kindergarten teacher, gets nostalgic when she sees all the boxes of new crayons and has to stop to smell them.

Whatever memories come to mind, I think for retired educators, fall is the time we want to see and gather with our colleagues. I hope many of you were able to join us for the Fall Workshops. For two weeks the officers of IRTA traveled around the state sharing news of our organization. We had wonderful groups and great meetings wherever we went.

The theme of the workshops was "Let's Grow Together" to emphasize the need for the state and local organizations to support one another in growing membership. IRTA's Strategic Planning Committee has been developing goals to grow membership and promote IRTA.

These include:

- Developing materials/videos for Retirement Planning workshops that can be hosted by locals. This is a great way to connect with prospective members as educators begin to think of retiring.
- Sending letters to new members joining the state to help them connect by giving them the name of the president of a local group of retired educators. Also, notifying the local presidents so they could also contact this new member and make them welcome at the local level.
- Use of social media to spread the word of IRTA.
- IRTA's Director of Communication has been posting information on Facebook and keeps our website up to date.
- We hosted our first virtual workshop in January, 2022 and will be hosting the second one on January 25, 2023. (More Details on Pg. 1)

As more local RTA groups start to meet this fall we hope you will join us in the effort to increase membership. It takes everyone working together.

- A personal invitation to a meeting means a lot.
  - Ask someone to join IRTA and get your name entered in a drawing for a gift card (See Information on School Bell Award in this Bulletin Board.)
- Need a program for your meeting? Feel free to call on myself or Laura Penman, our Executive Director, to visit with your group. We love to meet with you and share information about IRTA.



# From the Desk of the Executive Director

by Laura Penman



***The rules to the old Telephone Game were simple. Everyone then— one by one – attempted to whisper the sentence to the person next to them (exactly what they heard whispered to them mere seconds ago) until the sentence eventually arrived to the ears of the very last person in line. I used to play this with my students when I wanted to discuss communication vs. miscommunication. Among the giggles from the often outrageous results, there were some very important lessons.***

Often what is said is not always what is heard. It is important that the message of IRTA is clear and heard! I have found during meetings or through phone conversations that there is some confusion between IRTA and other associations. The Indiana Retired Teachers Association's message is clear. All of our time, energy, and resources is spent on helping retired educators! I have mentioned several times while attending local chapter meetings that I joined several organizations throughout my career. As a teacher in the classroom, I became active in ISTA and held an office at the local level.



I knew that ISTA supported active classroom teachers. When I became a building principal, I joined IASP and held an office at the district level. I understood that IASP's only focus is active school principals. There was even a brief time before I had my own building to lead, that I was a member of both ISTA and IASP because I was the Assistant to the Building Principal at the time and still teaching classes! When I was blessed with a position as Superintendent, I quickly joined IAPSS. IAPSS only supports current superintendents.

The group I chose to support me in my retirement is the Indiana Retired Teachers Association! Please help us spread the message! We need to be heard!

We have a legislative session starting in

January 2023. I want to encourage you to reach out to your local legislators before January. November elections are a perfect opportunity to congratulate new legislators and let them know a little about yourself or send well wishes to continuing legislators. Retired educators in Indiana have fostered a reputation among our legislators that we show appreciation for the times they have listened to us, added enhancements, and made decisions that strengthened our future pensions. As we look ahead to the coming legislative session, we hope you will continue to express your concerns but also to thank those who listen to our concerns and continue to plan for the future of our retired educators most in need of their attention.

The above message can be found, along with contact information for your local legislators, on our website at:

**RETIREDTACHERS.ORG**

**Under the “ADVOCACY” tab  
click “LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.”**

I will be updating this page with legislative information throughout the year.

# Public Relations Update

by Janella Knierim, Public Relations Committee Chair

Public Relations is how we make people aware of all our efforts! Sharing your local RTA's communication tools is how we learn about other RTAs and what they are doing within their communities! As a retired teacher, I know how we all think:

- Is there someone who needs help?
- Is there an organization that needs volunteers?

We're always looking for those projects that will benefit others, right?

Keep your local RTA members and everyone in your community informed.

- If newsletters are sent electronically to members, don't forget to mail a copy to those who don't have internet in order to keep them in the know and involved.
- When you work on a group project, make sure to publicize it in the local newspaper. Letting the public know about projects might lead to other projects OR it might lead to other organizations wanting to partner with you on various projects!

Start now to collect your newsletters, your press releases and don't forget to update your web page often! An out-of-date web page is disappointing to those who go there seeking information.

Many received an updated Public Relations flier at your Fall Workshop that included the guidelines for submitting your items prior to judging in the spring and presentation of certificates at the Representative Assembly in June. This flier is also be posted on the IRTA website [www.retiredteachers.org](http://www.retiredteachers.org).



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## Membership Corner

by Marty Mullin

If you are reading this article in our Fall 2022 IRTA Bulletin Board, I assume that means you are a member of IRTA. Currently there are 18,473 IRTA members. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had twice that many!

In the past few years, the School Bell Award has been used to encourage IRTA members to sign up new members, regular or associate. There have been winners of this award within some of the Areas, but not all of them. Over the past three years, Area 10 has had 7 winners, including a \$500 award winner this past year. Areas 7 and 8 have each had 3 winners, Area 3 has had 2 winners, and Areas 4, 5, and 9 have had 1 winner. My challenge is to see which Area can have the most winners this year...can Area 10 keep up with their achievement? Will a different Area out pace all other Areas?

If you sign up 1 or 2 new members, regular or associate, you can have your name placed in a drawing for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. If you sign up 3 or more new members, you have a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Drawings are held at the end of August, September, October, December, and March. Your name stays in the "hat" for the year. The person who signs up the greatest number of new members will earn the grand prize of a \$500 gift card, courtesy of AMBA. Remember to put your name on the "Recommended by" line along with your local RTA name on the IRTA Membership form when you give it to the new person who is signing up.

Reasons for a new member to sign up to be a member of IRTA: IRTA continually advocates for retired teachers at the state level, encourages solid education within the state with the Indiana Retired Teachers Association Foundation offering scholarships to students planning to be educators and Active Teacher Grants to current teachers to support innovative projects in their classrooms. IRTA also encourages its members to be involved in their communities, providing leadership and service. In addition, there are several Supplemental insurance choices available, Retirement planning information, Travel opportunities, AT&T and Verizon phone service savings, and other numerous kinds of discounts.

The cost is only \$35 per year for regular members and \$15 for associate members. So, get out and about and start asking. Take on the challenge!



# The History of Apples and the Giving Season. by Josie Zavada

As the leaves fall, the days get shorter, and the temperatures drop, we prepare for our warmth to come from within. The internal glow fills our hearts as the holidays fill our calendars and the giving season surrounds us. Here at Indiana Retired Teachers Association Foundation, the generosity of the giving season is evident in the fullness of the Giving Trees in the IRTA office.

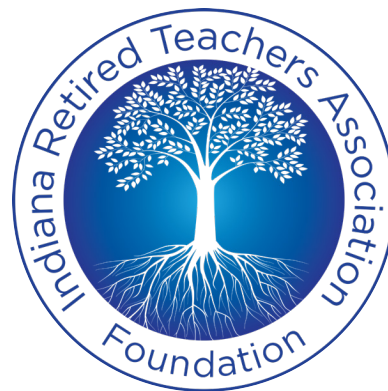
Apples represent more than just a gift to teachers. Their connection to the holidays spans many cultures, dating back to as early as Pagan traditions. Thought to be the original ornament, Pagans would decorate trees with candles, paper, and fruits. The most common fruit used was the apple because apples were one of the few local fruits that are still fresh during the season. Perhaps paving the way for round ornaments to be the norm today.

In Judaism, apples hold significance around Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. There is a lot of symbolism in the

food consumed during the holiday. Traditionally, people begin the meal by eating apple slices with honey, representing the hope for a sweet new year.

In China, the popularity of giving carefully wrapped & decorated apples on Peace Day, our Christmas Eve, is growing in popularity. It is thought to be because the Mandarin word for apple (Pingguo) is close to the word for peaceful (Pingjing de), and so the idea for Peace Apples was born.

This year as we are surrounded by the spirit of giving, consider honoring a loved one with the gift of an apple on the IRTAF Giving Tree. Donations of \$250 or more qualify for a personalized apple on our office tree. Contributions also receive a photo of the apple/tree as a keepsake. Donations can be made over a year, so long as they accumulate to \$250 or more. For more details or to make a donation visit [retiredteachers.org](http://retiredteachers.org) or contact the IRTA office.



**The proud helping hand of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association.**



## The IRTAF Scholarship Committee Announces 2022 Scholarship Recipients



**Brenna McKay**

Pulaski County  
IUPUI  
4.0



**Gabrielle Moran**

Allen County  
Purdue University  
3.17



**Hannah Smith**

Tipton County  
Ball State University  
3.85



**Grace Silcox**

Hancock County  
University of Indianapolis  
4.0



**Sara Weaver**

Gibson County  
Purdue University  
3.61



**Ainsley Epperson**

Dearborn County  
Indiana University  
4.0

**Not Pictured: Gabrielle Hardoin**, Howard County - University of Evansville, 3.59

**Brooke Crane**, Fountain County - Purdue University, 3.05



# Fall Workshop Challenge

by Paula Dyer

The IRTA Board and the Indiana Retired Teachers Association Foundation IRTAF want to thank all the donors who arose to the challenge we issued:

**Which of the five locations for the Fall Workshops could collect the most money for the Foundation Endowment!**

The monies collected will be used to fund the programs administered by the IRTAF (Scholarships, Active Teacher Grants and A HAND UP Assistance).

The results are in:

**Sept. 20, Greensburg  
Areas 7 & 10 - \$361**

**Sept. 21, Montgomery  
Areas 8 & 9 - \$416**

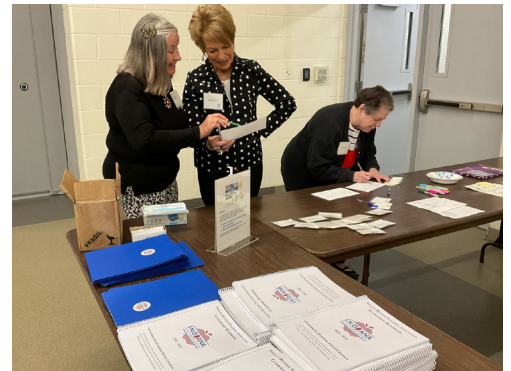
**Sept. 22, Danville  
Areas 4 & 5 - \$325**

**Sept. 27, South Bend  
Areas 1 & 2 - \$250**

**Sept. 28, Kokomo  
Areas 3 & 6 - \$260**

Thanks to a suggestion by Parliamentarian Phyllis Largey, an apple will be purchase for each of the five workshop attendee groups for the giving tree. The IRTA Board really appreciates all who attended the 2022 Fall Workshops. The presenters enjoyed all of the wonderful questions from our members!

Just a reminder, this is a wonderful time to be thinking about making a contribution to the Foundation Endowment through your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).



# INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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### SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 8/31/22

[illegible]



**The Bulletin Board  
(USPS 393-150)**

Postmaster:

Send address changes to:

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

2629 Waterfront Pkwy East Dr., Ste. 105

Indianapolis, IN 46214

Periodicals Postage Paid  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

1. Publication Title <b>THE BULLETIN BOARD</b>		2. Publication Number 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	3. Filing Date 09/01/2021
4. Issue Frequency <b>QUARTERLY</b>		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4	6. Annual Subscription Price \$2.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 2629 WATERFRONT PKWY E. DR., SUITE 105 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46214		Contact Person DAVID SCHERER Telephone (include area code) (317) 637-7481	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 2629 WATERFRONT PKWY E. DR., SUITE 105 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46214			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 2629 WATERFRONT PKWY E. DR., SUITE 105 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46214 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) LAURA PENMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2629 WATERFRONT PKWY E. DR., SUITE 105 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46214 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 2629 WATERFRONT PKWY E. DR., SUITE 105 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46214			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION Complete Mailing Address 2629 WATERFRONT PKWY E. DR., SUITE 105 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46214			
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Full Name Complete Mailing Address			
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			
PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (see instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9331 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com			
13. Publication Title <b>THE BULLETIN BOARD</b>		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/17/2020	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		13255	13361
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®			
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)			
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		13255	13361
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541			
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		13255	13361
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		695	139
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		13950	13500
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)		100	100
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.			
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies			
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		13255	0
c. Total Paid Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		13255	13361
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (15b divided by 16c times 100)			
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 9/10/20 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner DAVID SCHERER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/OFFICE MANAGER		Date 08/27/2021	

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# Ask a Friend to Join!

Did you know anyone can join Indiana Retired Teachers Association as an associate member?

Associate members receive the same great benefits and discounts! By joining, associate members help promote the welfare of Indiana's retired educators.



I - Insurance

R- Retirement Planning Information

T - Travel Options & Opportunities

A - Advocacy

The Bulletin Board (USPS 393-150) is the quarterly publication of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association. Subscription is available to members only and is included in membership dues at \$2 per subscription. Periodicals postage is paid at Indianapolis, Indiana.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Bulletin Board

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

2629 Waterfront Parkway East Drive, Suite 105

Indianapolis, IN 46214