

*Advocating for all Indiana
Retired Educators*

BULLETIN BOARD

SPRING 2022

57TH

INDIANA
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Representative Assembly

June 8, 2022
Primo South
Indianapolis, Indiana

Be a part of the fun, find treasures at the IRTF Silent Auction, vote for officers, be entertained, and celebrate our award winning locals and members while enjoying a great lunch and fellowship.

See page 4 for details

From the President's Desk

by Paula Dyer



Spring is almost here. I am anxious to see signs of new growth –grass turning green, trees leafing out and flowers beginning to bloom. I also look forward to seeing IRTA grow –sharing the news of the great things IRTA has to offer and increasing our membership. I have shared my vision for the future of IRTA which includes the use of media to reach out to our members. When the resurgence of COVID variants necessitated the cancellation of the “in-person” RECONNECTING workshops that were planned for September 2021, we vowed to plan another way to share information with our members. We worked hard and began planning RECONNECTING Virtually immediately. Through the hard work of Laura Penman, IRTA Executive Director, and Josie Zavada, IRTA Director of Communications, we accomplished this on January 19th. I hope you were able to join us on January 19th for the RECONNECTING Virtually workshop that IRTA presented. Our speakers shared a lot of information. Steve Beebe, IRTA’s lobbyist, talked about legislation; Steve Russo, Executive Director of INPRS, explained our pensions, and Mary Beth Dixon and Sarah Waddle of AARP gave ideas to stimulate local membership and attendance.

Inside this Issue...

Representative Assembly
Save the Date, Fall Meetings
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Important Scholarship Application Info
Reconnecting *Virtually* Review

***Area 2 Director Needed! See Back for Details on
Becoming a Local Leader.***

From the President's Desk *continued*

We also talked about the future of IRTA. Laura Penman, IRTA Executive Director, and I shared that the IRTA Strategic Planning committee along with chairs of IRTA state committees are setting goals aimed at moving our organization into the future. We want to connect with members in Indiana and other states, connect with retirees that have not joined us, and share the benefits our organization offers with those considering retirement. IRTA offers many benefits but our primary purpose is to ADVOCATE for retired educators. You can be involved with the future direction of IRTA. I invite you to consider serving on one of our state committees. Go to the IRTA website at www.retiredteachers.org and click on the Membership tab, then

click on Committees and scroll down to Download Committee Descriptions. Read a brief description of each committee and see what interests you. The commitment is two meetings a year. This is a great way to get involved with our organization. Just contact me with questions. Finally, my hope is to meet with you "in person" as your group feels it's safe. Since I became IRTA President in July 2021, I have visited a few local groups and I would like the opportunity to visit many more. I want to hear your ideas of what you want and need from IRTA. I am here to serve you. Let me know when your group is meeting so I can join you.

Paula Dyer, IRTA President

Editor's Note

We are looking for Indiana Retired Educator owned Businesses!

We love to support our members and support our local community. If you or someone you know is an Indiana Retired Educator and business owner, please contact Director of Communications, Josie Zavada at dirofcomm@retiredteachers.org

SAVE THE DATE

INDIANA
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

FALL MEETINGS

September 20, 2022
Areas 7 & 10

September 21, 2022
Areas 8 & 9

September 22, 2022
Areas 4 & 5

September 27, 2022
Areas 1 & 2

September 28, 2022
Areas 3 & 6

**All times and locations provided at a later date*

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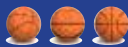
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From the Desk of the Executive Director

by Laura Penman



“Seek opportunities to show you care. The smallest gestures often make the biggest difference.” -John Wooden



During my career as a public school administrator, I would often reference the fundamental principles and rules of conduct demonstrated by Coach John Wooden (born October 14, 1910, in Hall, Indiana) with my staff and students. This was not just during March Madness, but throughout the school year. Although I love college basketball, my admiration for Coach Wooden was due to his incredible faith and the influence he had on others. I also enjoyed the fact that both Coach Wooden and I had spent time in Morgan County and at Indiana State University! When I joined the Indiana Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) as Executive Director on April 5th of 2021, I quickly discovered that IRTA and the IRTA Foundation have a long history of seeking opportunities to show we care. If you were able to join us for our Reconnecting Virtual Workshop a few months back, you had the opportunity to hear President Paula Dyer and me discuss the future of IRTA. I realize that many of you were unable to join us in January, so I wanted to share the goals that the Strategic Planning Committee and I have been working on as we focus

on the future of IRTA.

These goals -many in the form of a question -focus on challenges that IRTA faces -at the local and state level:

- **How Might IRTA Develop Future Leaders in our Association?** IRTA is only as strong as those willing to take on a leadership role. In the eleven months I have been in my position, I have seen other states close their doors on state retired teachers associations, not because of funding or loss of membership, but because of the lack of leadership... and I have to wonder who will be the voice of the retired educators in those states. We can't let this happen in Indiana. We have been one of the strongest associations in the country, thanks to the dedication of our members. I understand that taking the lead is not an option for everyone. Many of our members have found creative ways to share the responsibility of leading an activity, or a committee, and even a local chapter. The more we can share the work, the stronger our association will become.

- **How Might We Increase IRTA Membership?** IRTA has the potential of having over 60,000 members, and in addition to retired educators, anyone can join IRTA as an Associate Member. When I meet with legislators,

I remind them of how many retired educators we are representing, but I would love to tell them that everyone we represent is a member. We are the only association in Indiana whose sole focus is you, our retired educators!

- **Another ongoing goal is providing the best benefits for our members.** Never hesitate to contact me with resource ideas you would like to see IRTA investigate for you. I have heard comments that IRTA places too much focus on dental and vision plans. We offer more than dental and vision, but I would love your ideas on benefits you would like to see offered through IRTA membership.

- **In What Ways Might IRTA Continue Technology Development?** This was a goal long before COVID challenged us

to find other forms of communication in our daily lives, but now it has become even more important in keeping everyone connected now. Reaching out to others through social media keeps us connected when meeting in person may not be an option.

- **How can we strengthen our advocacy for Pension Enhancements?** Our Legislative Committee, IRTA Lobbyist Steve Beebe and myself never stop working -advocating for retired educators in Indiana. Steve Russo shared in January the stability of our Indiana pensions, but we continue to fight for pension enhancements that will help all members, those currently struggling because of inflation, and those looking ahead to what the cost of living will be in 20 years or more.

- **How Might We Develop and Implement Pre-Retirement Seminars?** In the past, many local chapters offered pre-retirement seminars, but we found that many have stopped for several reasons. The Strategic Planning Committee, along with the Retirement Planning and Nominations committees, are looking at developing resources to support future seminars for teachers and administrators. If you have ideas to help with this, please let me know.

- **Our final goal... In What Ways Can IRTA Develop an Accepting Organization?** This has been a discussion among our members and past officers. We are aware that we are NOT a diverse association. We need to be an association that everyone wants to join because of our welcoming attitude. This starts with you—our members—reaching out to all non-members and finding out what would encourage them to join us. As we look towards the future, we need to remember that the smallest gestures often DO make the biggest difference! Only a year ago, I was still spending time in classrooms. A smile or comment from a student could completely turn my stressful day around. Now, a note or call from an IRTA member does the same thing! Thank you!





Legislative Update

by Nancy Tolson

We hope that you saw the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) in your first two pension deposits of 2022. We want to thank the Legislature for taking this step, one we have asked for in the past. We are also thankful that the Legislature took the opportunity to put \$2.5 billion into the pension fund over the biennium. This assures that Indiana pension funds remain in good fiscal condition. If you attended the Virtual Reconnect Day, our lobbyist, Steve Beebe, reported in detail about the past and current Legislative sessions. If you weren't able to attend, we urge you to attend if there is another such session. It was informative, yet a safeguard for our members while still under the threat of COVID. Because 2022 is the short session for the Legislature, its members were reluctant to open the budget for any items. The session will probably end by the middle of March if not earlier. Nevertheless, Steve and our executive director, Laura Penman, are meeting with a number of key legislators in order to introduce Laura and set the stage for our future legislative efforts in the budget year, 2023. For now, the whole thrust of

our concern and work will need to start this summer, continue in the fall (especially after elections) and really go full force during the 2023 budget session. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't be working on our goals now and on a continuing basis. Each time you meet in your local RTA or speak to other members, you need to explain that we hope to lobby for pension enhancements in 2023. You also should remind them to thank their legislators for the COLA and the large amounts put into the pension funds to keep those funds in good fiscal condition. Something to remember, the lobbyist, the executive director, and/or the Legislative Committee can't accomplish anything alone. We need the help of our members who, when asked, will call, email, or visit in person to ask their legislators to consider our requests. Many thanks to those of you who have answered our requests over the years. Whatever was accomplished, it is because our members backed us up with contacts to their legislators. This will always be the case, in 2023 and beyond.

The IRTA Legislative Committee

57TH
INDIANA
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

NOW!
Live Streaming

Representative Assembly

June 8, 2022
Primo South
Indianapolis, Indiana

Over the past two years, the pandemic has denied our organization the opportunity to meet in person for the annual IRTA Representative Assembly (RA). A longstanding tradition we look forward to holding for you, our members. This longstanding event provides opportunities for communing with other members from all over the state, recognizing outstanding achievements in community service/membership development, and the forum for making decisions that impact IRTA as an organization. It is with great excitement we announce IRTA will return to host an in-person Representative Assembly on June 8, 2022, at Primo South, starting at 9:30am.

Like most organizations navigating a global pandemic, IRTA has adapted to each new challenge, growing and learning along the way. And while we are thrilled to get back to conducting business "per usual," there are a few new skills the pandemic has left us, that we feel offer additional benefits to our members. With that said, here are a few changes happening to this year's event.

Return to In-person Voting - While we were unable to gather for the past two RA, the Board voted to implement virtual ballots. We will NOT offer virtual ballots for 2022 voting. All Delegates must attend to vote.

Live Streaming Added - NEW for 2022, IRTA will offer the option for non-voting members, friends, and family to view the RA from the comfort of their home.

Masks Strongly Encouraged - We also encourage attendees to display active awareness of social distancing comfort levels of others while at the event.

It is our intent to ensure each member feels included, safe, and comfortable while providing them the opportunity to stay informed and celebrate the accomplishments of the organization and its outstanding members. We hope these changes include a level of comfort for each participant.

Please direct questions, comments, concerns to Executive Director, Laura Penman.

Reconnecting Virtually Review

By Laura Penman, Executive Director, and Paula Dyer, IRTA President.

IRTA's first virtual event this past January had a few glitches, but received very positive reviews. A post-event survey was sent to participants and the suggestions and comments will help us plan for future events. Thank you to everyone who took the time to "tune in."

Suggestions included improving the log-in process. Some members were confused about the ticket process because it was a free event that required a ticket. A few members were afraid that the event was a SCAM because of the prizes being given. Comments were made about planning a shorter day, but as one member commented, "I was able to do my laundry between sessions, eat my lunch and snacks. I LOVED IT." Another

member added, "I like the virtual format. I can sit in a chair of my choosing and move around when my joints demand it!!!" And although the technology did not always work, we appreciate one member saying, "I am not tech-savvy, so I appreciated the simplicity of the format to join a session."

For those who joined us for the day, it was apparent that we tried to include as many speakers and as much information as possible. Feedback included, "I enjoyed hearing from Steve Russo and all his statistics." "The Teacher of the Year was inspirational." "I learned a lot about AMBA and how they contact future members." "Each part was informational. I especially liked the talk with Steve Beebe."

Paula and I especially appreciate the following suggestions for future speakers:

- "Go over all of our perks/benefits/group buying clout items and discounts again."
- "Hold it a little bit later in the year when the legislature is in session at

the beginning of the term and get someone to go over the bills in the legislature."

- "Practical topics like using zoom."
- "Scams targeted at seniors/retired teachers."
- "How about teachers who have received active teaching grants? Or retired teachers who have had community service projects?"

One comment hit home with us, "At future in-person workshops you might want to consider a live-stream so those who cannot or do not feel comfortable in attending can participate." This is what we are doing! If you are not a delegate traveling to be in-person at the 2022 Representative Assembly, please join us as we live-stream for the first time our annual business meeting and an afternoon of awards. We want the family and friends of the Clock, CASA, and School Bell award winners to see these presentations. This is a great opportunity for everyone, no matter what state you live in, to see some of the wonderful things IRTA is doing!



LONG-TERM CARE

STAYING HEALTHY TODAY MEANS BEING PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE.

With Long-term Care coverage from **IRTA & AMBA**, you can live for today without worrying about tomorrow.

- You select the daily amount
- You select the benefit period
- You choose the waiting period
- You choose your inflation protection



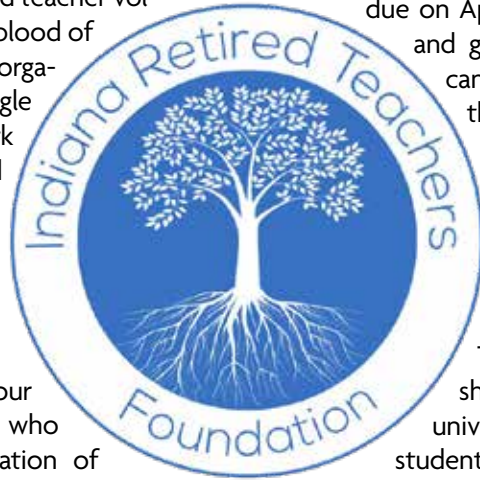
Learn More: **1-877-556-4582**

myambabenefits.info/inrta

IRTA - Indiana Retired Teachers Association

Your Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation Board keeps busy with the Active Teacher Grants, Scholarships and fundraising. IRTA members spend many hours of their time on IRTA/IRTF Committees. Our retired teacher volunteers are the lifeblood of IRTA and IRTF. Our organizations will struggle without your work on boards and committees for IRTA and IRTF. Our sincerest gratitude to all our volunteers.

We also applaud our member donors who make the continuation of our programs possible. Donations keep the organization moving to support and grow programs. Our endowment continues to grow more slowly since the matching funds from IRTA have ended. Donations to meet our



\$1,000,000 Endowment goal are always accepted.

Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation is accepting applications for university student scholarships which will be due on April 24. Applications and guidelines for applicants are available on the Indiana Retired Teachers Association website. Scholarship information is available under the Foundation heading. Ten \$2,000 Scholarships are awarded to university sophomore students majoring in Education. Please share this information to publicize our scholarship opportunities. Once again the IRTF Board thanks you.

retiredteachers.org/foundation



FUTURE EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation will award 10 Recipients with \$2,000. Indiana juniors & seniors enrolled in a program leading to a degree in education can find details and apply at

RETIREDTACHERS.ORG

APPLICATIONS
DUE 4.24
2022

2021 ACTIVE TEACHER GRANT RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

**Caroline Cumberworth
South Ripley Elementary
STEM Kits for four first
grade classrooms!**



Students at South Ripley Elementary with STEM items funded. Learn more about Active Teacher Grants at retiredteachers.org

INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS OF 12/31/21

INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

VARIANCE REPORT

SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 12/31/21

ASSETS:		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
CASH	\$ 19,786	
INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVABLE	0	
PREPAID EXPENSES	13,660	
RETURNED CHECKS	0	
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE-LIFE ACCTS	4,588	
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE-OTHER	882	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 38,816	
INVESTMENTS:		
INVESTMENTS-MSSB-PR MED	\$ 203,654	
INVESTMENTS-MSSB-CD	460,580	
INVESTMENTS-MSSB-CORP	2,881,631	
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 3,546,065	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:		
FIX ASSETS	\$ 102,935	
LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	2,292	
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	(79,312)	
TOTAL PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	\$ 25,915	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,610,796	
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 11,021	
ACCRUED RENT	11,134	
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDINGS	0	
ACCRUED PAYROLL	8,001	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 30,155	
DEFERRED REVENUE-MISC	0	
RETIREMENT INSURANCE LIABILITY	86,000	
RETIREMENT INSURANCE DISCOUNT	(22,638)	
UNEARNED MEMBER DUES	20,295	
UNEARNED LIFE MEMBER DUES	130,696	
LIFE MEMBER-INSTALLMENTS DUE	6,270	
TOTAL OTHER LIABILITIES	\$ 220,623	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 250,778	
FUND BALANCES:		
FUND BALANCE	\$ 2,841,098	
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS-BD DESIGNATED	\$ 225,236	
GENERAL FUND	\$ 3,066,334	
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 293,665	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$ 3,610,796	

	Year-to-date Amount	Budget-year-to-date Var-amt	Var-%
INCOME:			
REGULAR MEMBER DUES * Does not include Life Members	539,610	(115,390)	-17.6%
ASSOCIATE MEMBER DUES	30,305	(3,695)	-10.9%
GAIN/(LOSS) ON SALE-SECURITIES			
TCU INTEREST-ASSOCIATION	41		
INVESTMENT INCOME-TOTAL	73,065	18,065	32.8%
FLORIDA MEETINGS INCOME	1,300		
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY INCOME	5,500		
FALL WORKSHOPS REVENUE			
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	6,500		
OTHER INCOME-CREDIT CARD	43		
SALE OF IRTA MERCHANDISE			
ROYALTY ENDORSEMENT FEE	35,300	(39,700)	-62.9%
TOTAL INCOME	684,863	(140,937)	-17.1%
OFFICE OPERATIONS:			
OCCUPANCY-RENT	29,154	(26,846)	-47.9%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & MAINT.	14,743	(15,257)	-50.9%
STAFF TRAVEL, PARKING & MEALS	3,748	(252)	-6.3%
SALARIES-OFFICE STAFF	132,897	(137,103)	-50.8%
PAYROLL TAXES & RETIREMENT EXPENSE	15,311	(16,189)	-51.4%
GROUP INSURANCE	38,730	(40,270)	-51.0%
OTHER INSURANCE	4,065	(4,935)	-54.8%
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	847	(193)	-15.3%
OFFICE, PAYROLL SERVICES, & OTHER EXP	1,937	(1,563)	-44.7%
UNFORSEEABLE EXPENSES	0	0	#DIV/0!
POSTAGE EXPENSE	11,749	(14,251)	-54.8%
PRINTING & SUPPLIES	12,909	(12,091)	-48.4%
LEGAL & ACCOUNTING	12,082	(1,418)	-10.5%
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	7,129	(7,871)	-52.5%
DISCOUNT ON RETIREMENT LIABILITY	0		
TOTAL OFFICE OPERATIONS EXPENSE	285,300	(278,200)	-49.4%
PROGRAM EXPENSES:			
MARKETING EXPENSE	19,575	(40,425)	-67.4%
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES-TOTAL	15,330	(9,670)	-38.7%
UNDESIGNATED PROGRAM EXPENSES	15,000	(15,000)	-100.0%
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY	219	(20,781)	-99.0%
SUMMER LEADERSHIP/FALL WKSH	912	(14,338)	-94.0%
COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS	2,013	(2,987)	-59.7%
COMMITTEE MEETINGS/OTHER	0	(1,500)	-100.0%
FLORIDA MEETINGS	0	(6,000)	-100.0%
PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES	2,418	(3,582)	-59.7%
BOARD OFFICERS REIMBURSEMENTS	13,661	(16,339)	-54.5%
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS	28,044	(5,956)	-17.5%
LEGISLATIVE EXPENSE	955	(3,095)	-76.4%
LOBBYING SERVICES	22,750	(16,250)	-41.7%
MERCHANDISE FOR SALE			
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUNDATION	0		
LOCAL CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT	0	(500)	-100.0%
TOTAL OTHER	105,878	(156,422)	-59.6%
TOTAL EXPENSES	391,179	(434,621)	-52.6%
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES	293,685	0	293,685

The Bulletin Board
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Stay Connected, Stay Involved

Attention residents of the following counties:

DeKalb	Elkhart
Kosciusko	LaGrange
Steuben	Noble
Whitley	Allen

Do you like meeting new people?

Do you like going out to lunch?

Do you like sharing information?

An area director role could be right for you!

We are looking for an Area 2 Director. Enjoy meeting new people at your local luncheons, speaking with other area directors, and staying informed at state level board meetings.

Contact IRTA President Paula Dyer to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

dyerp@retiredteachers.org



Hosted by



Laura Penman
Executive Director

Join host, Laura Penman, as she speaks with expert guests on topics affecting our members in this new video series. Catch up with Steve Beebe, Chief Lobbyist, and hear legislative updates in episode one. Sarah Waddle, AARP State Director, stops by to talk the dangers of fraud in episode two.

Episodes 1 & 2

Available Now

retiredteachers.org



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