

*Advocating for all Indiana Retired Educators*

# BULLETIN BOARD



WINTER 2021

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Jan 19, 2022

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**INDIANA** Virtually  
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**Guest Speakers** Steve Russo Executive Director, INPRS | Sharita Ware Indiana Teacher of the Year | Omarr Guerrero VP, AMBA | Steve Beebe IRTA Lobbyist

VELOCITY TruHearing Pile CPAs AARP AMBA



*Holiday Office Hours*

*Closed Dec 24, 27 & 31, 2021*

*\*Subject to change*

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## From the President's Desk



**Paula Dyer**

As we prepare for another holiday season, I am hopeful we will be able to return to being with family and friends.

Last year was a difficult time for many. I know as each week passed, I would think about what my family and I had done in past years. All the traditions of the holidays, so many memories of great times.

I know so many say, "Christmas is my favorite time of year" and I definitely agree. I love everything about the holiday. All my friends know I love to decorate for Christmas. Every room in my home is decorated, even the bathrooms. I have also worked designing and decorating the Wabash City Hall and portions of the Honeywell Center for Christmas. From mid-October through the holidays I am brushing glitter out of my hair.

Although I love the decorations, Christmas is more than the glitter and gifts. It is time with friends, the food, and Christmas caroling. What fun it is to go Christmas caroling. The various types of music connected with the holiday are all wonderful. Whether you sing traditional carols, hymns or more current, pop versions, I love what they convey: hope, love, and good wishes for others.

Although I do not have a great voice (just ask my husband), I enjoy singing. Through the years I have had the opportunity to join with friends from church or other groups of friends. So many great memories. We load up the cars, pile into a motor home, or one year we joined with friends, rented the local trolley and visited nursing homes, as well as friends and relatives. Even though our singing maybe a little out of tune, people smile and join in with the singing. Sometimes they even offer us cookies. What is better than homemade Christmas cookies!

The main thing with such activities is joining with friends, having fun and bringing joy to others.

I think the lyrics of "The Christmas Song" sums up my wish for you this holiday season.

"And so, I'm offering this simple phrase To kids from one to ninety-two Although it's been said, many times, many ways Merry Christmas to you."

## Executive Director's Message



**Laura Penman**

The holidays have always been a time to look back on memories of family, friends and colleagues who are no longer with us and to cherish those we still have in our lives. During my visits to local RTAs these past several months, I have had the privilege of witnessing many tributes to educators no longer with us. It is heartwarming to know that our colleagues take the time to remember all of the wonderful things we have accomplished during our careers!

The following was written by Linda Morris, Area 6 Director, as one example of how colleagues remember one another. It is only one example, and I encourage our members to share your tributes with our office.

*"Teaching is an honorable profession," began Judy Frischman of the Huntington County Retired Teachers Association (HCRTA). "It is a profession where we touch the future by the work we do in the present. We remember these teachers who have passed on from this present to a future in God's heavenly kingdom. It is in honor of their devotion and dedicated service that we remember their selfless work."*

*This year, the HCRTA honored forty retired teachers, who during their careers taught or lived in Huntington County, and passed away between June 2018 and May 2021. The ceremony began with the audience singing "Great*

*is Thy Faithfulness," accompanied by pianist Mary Sell. Judy then chronologically announced each deceased teacher, along with a short biography. All memorials were published in a booklet distributed to HCRTA members and family members of the deceased, who were also invited to the service. Ann Ambler sang "Amazing Grace" and the ceremony ended with group singing and the playing of "Taps" by Doug McElhanev.*

The holidays are also a good time to reflect on how much the responsibilities of an educator have changed. As I visit with members, I continue to hear concerns surrounding what teachers and administrators are currently facing in the classroom. I believe that we have all faced challenges during our careers. Those challenges varied in degree of seriousness, but they made an impact on our lives all the same. Much like what has happened currently, we know historically that the majority of U.S. schools closed during the 1918 influenza pandemic to curb the spread of the disease. The challenges educators have faced throughout history are a reflection of the times and what made the most sense then. Paulette Conrad recently shared with me a clipping she had taken from a 1973 issue of the Instructor Magazine. It lists the challenges faced by 1915 teachers, especially if they were female. Historically teachers were not to be married or smoke, but additional rules included not leaving town without permission of the school board, not dressing in bright colors, sweeping the floor at least once daily and scrubbing the floor at least once weekly, cleaning the blackboards once a day, and starting a good fire at 7 a.m. daily. These were very stringent rules, but I would like to think that at the end of the day, it was the good memories they had, just as it is not the challenges we all faced, but the memories we made with our students that we keep close to our hearts.

Now that 2022 is upon us, I am looking ahead to the challenges IRTA is facing. We need to continue to be heard by our legislators. We need to be there for one another. We need to grow membership at the state level. As we continue to work together, I pray for the health

and happiness of our members in 2022. Please remember that the IRTA Board and the IRTA Staff are here because of you and for you!



## Dennis Bourquein Inducted into Local Hall of Fame for Music

On Saturday, November 6, the South-eastern Indiana Musicians Association (SEIMA) held its annual Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony and Concert at the Gibson Theater in Batesville, IN. Among the seventeen inductees for both the class of 2020 and 2021, was Indiana Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) member Dennis Bourquein.

Founded in 2001, SEIMA is not-for profit organization established to honor the exemplary musicians who have resided and performed in south-eastern Indiana, for at least 15 years and have contributed to the cultural growth of music in the community.

Dennis is a longtime serving member of both Dearborn County RTA and Ripley County RTA, as well as, IRTA. Dennis served as Area Director, Secretary-Treasurer, President-elect, President, and Immediate Past President of IRTA during his twelve years on the Board.

It's an honor for IRTA to be associated with members like Dennis, as he is an exceptional community leader and exemplary educator. Congratulations to Dennis on this prestigious recognition.

For a full list of Inductees visit [seimusic.org](http://seimusic.org)

**IRTF'S ACTIVE TEACHER GRANTS AWARDED!**

Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation awarded a total of \$12,235 in grants for classrooms across Indiana. IRTF's Active Teacher Grant program received dozens of proposals from Indiana teachers. After careful considerations, 25 projects (26 teachers) have received funding. IRTF has asked recipients to send updates and photos of how these specially funded projects have made a difference in their classrooms. IRTF looks forward to sharing these updates with you in the future via their Facebook @IndianaRTF!

### 2021 Recipients

**Bethany Podell**, Eastern Pulaski Elementary School • \$500  
**Julie Perkins**, Winamac Community High School • \$500  
**Sarah Gillard**, Riverside Intermediate School • \$500  
**Jennifer Harness**, Argos Elementary • \$500  
**Amy J. Jagger**, Churubusco Elementary School • \$500  
**Judith Yoder**, Waterloo Elementary School • \$500  
**Linda Willard**, Churubusco Elementary School • \$500  
**Sheila Kos**, Butler Elementary • \$500  
**Anne Franke**, Rossville Middle Senior High School • \$500  
**Hope Contreras**, Franklin Elementary School • \$450  
**Jana Conn**, Carroll Elementary • \$500  
**Matthew Barnett**, Maconaquah Middle School • \$500

**Cassandra Bever**, North Montgomery HS • \$500  
**Desirae Bockelman**, Break O Day Elementary School • \$500  
**Jill Keesling**, Monroe Central Elementary • \$500  
**Adam Eaton**, Eastern Hancock MS/HS • \$500  
**Cathy Hamm**, Tri Elementary • \$500  
**Falisha Rosenberger**, Franklin County Middle School • \$500  
**Lori LaBelle and D'Lee Rush**, Mt Vernon MS • \$505  
**Valerie Clarke**, Washington HS • \$505  
**Christine Stafford**, Corydon Elementary • \$400  
**Laura Newton**, South Spencer Middle School • \$500  
**Nick Weyer**, Tell City Junior-Senior High School • \$425  
**Caroline Cumberworth**, South Ripley Elementary • \$500  
**Megan Volk**, Ohio County Elementary • \$450

## 'Tis the Season

Please consider making your end-of-the-year, tax deductible donation to Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation. You may use the Donation Form provided below, call Toll Free (888)454.9333, visit [retiredteachers.org/foundation](http://retiredteachers.org/foundation), or visit @IndianaRTF on Facebook to make a contribution.

The mission of the Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation is to promote the welfare of retired educators, support those currently teaching, encourage those entering the profession, and partner with the Indiana Retired Teachers Association in pursuing these aims. Through scholarships, grants, and financial assistance programs, IRTF is dedicated to paying it forward in education.



### SUPPORT OUR FUTURE EDUCATORS

**SCHOLARSHIPS** - Each year, IRTF awards 10 scholarships (one in each IRTA geographical area) to help promote our profession and assist college students who have a passion for the classroom. Scholarships are awarded to juniors or seniors in an Indiana college or university who are in a program leading to a degree in education.

### HELPING TEACHERS IN DIFFICULT TIMES

**A HAND UP ASSISTANCE** - This program provides financial assistance for an immediate need of an IRTA member who is undergoing a temporary or emergency hardship. The help is intended for a one-time, short-term need and not for extended support. Examples of needs include, but are not limited to: housing expenses, health care, transportation, legal assistance, nutrition, etc.

### HELPING TEACHERS AND THEIR CLASSROOMS

**ACTIVE TEACHER GRANTS** - We understand the importance of helping teachers fulfill their classroom missions. Public school educators (Pre-K through 12) may apply so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects. Applications are due in the fall, and a minimum of one grant in each of the ten IRTA geographic areas will be awarded annually.

IRTF is looking for local volunteers! If you'd like to be a Foundation Champion, please email [dirofcomm@retiredteachers.org](mailto:dirofcomm@retiredteachers.org) to find out more!

**Donation Form**

I am enclosing a \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
endowment contribution to assist the  
Foundation with its important work.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on apple if above \$250: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation  
2629 Waterfront Pkwy East Dr., Suite 105  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46214



To make a program specific donation, please visit [retiredteachers.org](http://retiredteachers.org). The Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## ANNOUNCING: New Opportunity for IRTA Members to Travel and SAVE!



**Reserve any 2022 Overseas Adventure Travel or Grand Circle Travel trip by 12/31/2021 and SAVE \$500 per person with our Risk-Free Booking Policy when you use code TABC 139. Plus, use IRTA Code 28803 to SAVE \$100 person.**

With more than 40 years of experience leading small group adventures around the world for curious, life-long learners, we can't wait for you to join us on the road less traveled.



Visit [www.oattravel.com](http://www.oattravel.com) or call **1-800-955-1925** to learn more

INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF 9/30/21

INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
VARIANCE REPORT  
SEVEN-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 9/30/21

ASSETS:		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
CASH	\$ 62,312	
INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVABLE	0	
PREPAID EXPENSES	7,450	
RETURNED CHECKS	0	
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE-LIFE ACCTS	4,588	
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE-OTHER	196	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 74,546	
INVESTMENTS:		
INVESTMENTS-MSSB-PR MED	\$ 198,760	
INVESTMENTS-MSSB-CD	540,565	
INVESTMENTS-MSSB-CORP	2,799,689	
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 3,539,015	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:		
FIX ASSETS	\$ 102,067	
LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	2,292	
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	(75,727)	
TOTAL PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	\$ 28,632	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,642,193</b>	
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 5,939	
ACCRUED RENT	11,134	
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDINGS	0	
ACCRUED PAYROLL	6,858	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 23,931	
DEFERRED REVENUE-MISC	0	
RETIREMENT INSURANCE LIABILITY	88,000	
RETIREMENT INSURANCE DISCOUNT	(22,638)	
UNEARNED MEMBER DUES	19,498	
UNEARNED LIFE MEMBER DUES	126,652	
LIFE MEMBER-INSTALLMENTS DUE	6,270	
TOTAL OTHER LIABILITIES	\$ 217,782	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 241,713	
FUND BALANCES:		
FUND BALANCE	\$ 2,841,098	
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS-BD DESIGNATED	\$ 225,236	
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 3,066,334</b>	
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 334,146	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 3,642,193</b>	
0.00	test!(must = 0)	

	Year-to-date Amount	Budget-year-to-date Amount	Var- Amt	Var-%
INCOME:				
REGULAR MEMBER DUES * Does not include Life Members	525,040	655,000	(129,960)	-19.8%
ASSOCIATE MEMBER DUES	28,480	34,000	(5,520)	-16.2%
GAIN/(LOSS) ON SALE-SECURITIES				
TCU INTEREST-ASSOCIATION	30			
INVESTMENT INCOME-TOTAL	(21,633)	55,000	(76,633)	-139.3%
FLORIDA MEETINGS INCOME		1,300		
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY INCOME	1,500	5,500		
FALL WORKSHOPS REVENUE				
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	38			
OTHER INCOME-CREDIT CARD				
SALE OF IRTA MERCHANDISE				
ROYALTY ENDORSEMENT FEE	17,770	75,000	(57,230)	-76.3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>551,224</b>	<b>825,800</b>	<b>(274,576)</b>	<b>-33.2%</b>
OFFICE OPERATIONS:				
OCCUPANCY-RENT	14,682	56,000	(41,318)	-73.8%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & MAINT.	8,844	30,000	(21,156)	-70.5%
STAFF TRAVEL, PARKING & MEALS	3,546	4,000	(454)	-11.3%
SALARIES-OFFICE STAFF	70,417	270,000	(199,583)	-73.9%
PAYROLL TAXES & RETIREMENT EXPENSE	8,245	31,500	(23,255)	-73.8%
GROUP INSURANCE	18,097	79,000	(60,903)	-77.1%
OTHER INSURANCE	1,895	9,000	(7,105)	-78.9%
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	629	1,000	(371)	-37.1%
OFFICE, PAYROLL SERVICES, & OTHER EXP	1,002	3,500	(2,498)	-71.4%
UNFORSEEABLE EXPENSES	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
POSTAGE EXPENSE	9,415	26,000	(16,585)	-63.8%
PRINTING & SUPPLIES	11,425	25,000	(13,575)	-54.3%
LEGAL & ACCOUNTING	8,041	13,500	(5,459)	-40.4%
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	3,544	15,000	(11,456)	-76.4%
DISCOUNT ON RETIREMENT LIABILITY	0			
<b>TOTAL OFFICE OPERATIONS EXPENSE</b>	<b>159,782</b>	<b>563,500</b>	<b>(403,718)</b>	<b>-71.6%</b>
PROGRAM EXPENSES:				
MARKETING EXPENSE	10,078	60,000	(49,922)	-83.2%
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES-TOTAL	7,662	25,000	(17,338)	-69.4%
UNDESIGNATED PROGRAM EXPENSES		15,000	(15,000)	-100.0%
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY	219	21,000	(20,781)	-99.0%
SUMMER LEADERSHIP/FALL WKSH	50	15,250	(15,200)	-99.7%
COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS	1,674	5,000	(3,326)	-66.5%
COMMITTEE MEETING/OTHER	0	1,500	(1,500)	-100.0%
FLORIDA MEETINGS	0	6,000	(6,000)	-100.0%
PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES	1,797	6,000	(4,203)	-70.1%
BOARD OFFICERS REIMBURSEMENTS	8,059	30,000	(21,941)	-73.1%
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS	17,729	34,000	(16,271)	-47.9%
LEGISLATIVE EXPENSE	277	4,050	(3,773)	-93.2%
LOBBYING SERVICES	9,750	39,000	(29,250)	-75.0%
MERCHANDISE FOR SALE	0	500	(500)	-100.0%
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUNDATION	0			
LOCAL CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT	0			
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>57,296</b>	<b>262,300</b>	<b>(205,004)</b>	<b>-78.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>217,078</b>	<b>825,800</b>	<b>(608,722)</b>	<b>-73.7%</b>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>334,146</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>334,146</b>	

My husband's family had a tradition that we took part in every year at Christmas for several years. One of my sister-in-laws found a very ugly cookie jar at a garage sale one year. At least most members of our family felt it was "ugly." Each year the cookie jar was wrapped and whom-ever had received it the Christmas before had to bring it back the next year wrapped a different way. Inside the cookie jar was some kind of treat but also there was a poem included that basically said: "You are so lucky to get this treat and also you get to plan the Christmas get together next year! You lucky dog!!" The person who received the cookie jar could also choose whom to present it to. It was always the last gift to be handed out. And I am sure by now you understand that no one wanted to get the gift of the cookie jar. The treats inside never quite made up for keeping that ugly thing all year long, planning the next Christmas get-together, and choosing who to give it too. No one wanted that responsibility. Well, as you probably know "all good things must come to an end sometime." Over the years, everyone was getting older and more forgetful and no one brought the ugly cookie jar to pass on one year. Everyone was trying to remember who had it last and what happened to it. Everyone had their thoughts that who had it last just got tired of the ugly cookie jar, but no one could prove it. We all thought it was the youngest sister who had it, but she was sure

she didn't get it the year before. To say we all felt sad about this event would be a lie. We were all just glad the tradition had come to an end. Or so we thought. It seems our niece (the youngest sister's daughter) found the cookie jar and it made it's way into another garage sale. That's not the end of the story of the ugly cookie jar. You remember I said most of our family felt it was "ugly". However, not everyone did. My mother-in-law thought it was so pretty. (There is no accounting for taste). It ended up that the ugly cookie jar was once again repurchased at a garage sale, but this time it was given to my mother-in-law as a gift! She was so happy and had a very Merry Christmas that year!

Submitted by Brenda Walls,  
Area 4 Director - Retired 2007  
from Vigo County School  
Corporation

When I was a child, on Christmas Eve evening my mother's parents would take my siblings and me for a drive to see the Christmas lights and the luminaries set out by the Edgewood community on the west side of Anderson. It was always so beautiful! We then returned home and opened gifts with Mamaw and Papaw. Sixty years later, that memory is still very precious to me – and I am thankful for it!

Submitted by David Lennen,  
President-Elect - Retired 2011  
from Washington Community  
Schools

Christmas gifts from my mom were a combination of items. My brother and I received the usual clothing and household presents. However, when we were adults, Mom began a Christmas tradition of one gift each year she made herself. "I got the idea from something you said last Christmas," she said. "I worked all year on it." Over the next 15 years there were handmade wooden gifts when Mom learned to use a band saw — bird-houses, picture frames and shelves. Then Mom concentrated on her sewing skills with quilts, decorative pillowcases and wall hangings. Her creative skills were expressed the next two years with a lamp made from a tree limb and embroidered framed portraits. We appreciated the gifts, for a little while. Unfortunately the gifts fell apart in less than six months. The wood split, stitches unraveled and lamps toppled. But one endearing gift Mom made lasted longer. She assembled for me a wooden and glass shadowbox, containing my baby clothes plus shoes and a photograph of a two-year-old me wearing the items. She also made a special one for my brother as well and another for herself with her own baby clothing, which her mother had saved for her. The shadowbox has endured through my teaching years, into retirement and long after Mom passed away. Much like our mom's love for us.

Submitted By Glenda Ferguson,  
Area 8 Retired 2019 from  
Mitchell Community Schools



# Recipes for Holiday Cheer

## Christmas Wreath Cookies

Contributed by Sally Durfee, Area 5 Director - Retired 2006 from MSD Wayne Township

- 32 Large Marshmallows
- 1/2 c butter
- 1 1/2 t vanilla
- 4 1/2 c cornflakes
- Green food coloring
- Red hots

Melt marshmallows and butter - blend in vanilla and green food coloring off heat. Stir-in cornflakes and mix well. Shape into wreaths on wax paper. Add red hots as berries.

## Pecan Delights

Contributed by Wilma Nicoson - Retired 1998 from Clay Community Schools

- 1/4 lb butter or margarine
- 3 oz Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- 1 cup flour

Mix together & press into small tins.

Filling

- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp melted butter
- Pinch of salt

Put a level teaspoon into each crust and bake for 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees.

## Soda Cracker Candy

Contributed by Barry & Paulette Conrad, Retired 2011 from MSD Wabash County Schools

Spread 35 saltine crackers on foil lined jelly roll pan...(shiny side down)

Bring to a boil: 1 stick of butter

1 c. Light brown sugar

Pour quickly over the crackers, bake at

325 degrees for 5-6 minutes. Remove from oven and spread with 1 1/2 oz. Pkg. Reese's Peanut Butter Chips. We drop chocolate chips by 2's here and there for color. Return to the oven a few seconds, remove and spread with Reese's, then go back and swirl in the chocolate.

## Oatmeal Drop Cookies

Contributed by Paula Dyer, IRTA President - Retired 2014 from MSD Wabash County Schools

The following recipe is my mother's. She only made these at Christmas, so they always seemed special and when I make them they bring back a lot of memories.

2 C flour

1 1/2 C white sugar

1 t baking powder

1 t salt

1/2 t baking soda

1 t cinnamon

2 1/2 C rolled oats

2 eggs

Grated peel from 1 orange

1/2 C milk

16 oz. chocolate chips

1 C salad oil

1/2 C chopped walnuts

Sift flour with sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon into large bowl.

Stir in rolled oats.

Beat eggs until blended and stir in milk

Stir in eggs and milk into flour mixture, add oil

Add chocolate chips and nuts.

Drop dough in teaspoon size balls onto greased cookie sheet.

Bake at 400 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned.

Yields 8 dozen cookies

## Hot Chicken Salad

Contributed by Laura Penman - Retired 2017 from Spencer-Owen Community Schools

2 c. chopped cooked chicken breast  
(Can Substitute Leftover Turkey)

1 c. diced celery

1 1/2 c. cooked rice

1 small onion, chopped fine

10 oz. can Cream of Chicken soup

1/2 tsp. Salt

1/4 tsp. Pepper

3/4 c. Miracle Whip

1 T. lemon juice

1/4 c. chicken broth

Optional Additions: Sliced Water Chestnuts or Sliced Fresh Mushrooms or 1/2 c. Cashews

Mix together and put into a greased baking dish. Top with 1 c. crushed potato chips (can also use slivered almonds or cheese). Bake 450 degrees for 20 minutes.

## Pumpkin Cupcakes

Contributed by Glenda Ferguson - Retired 2019 from Mitchell Community Schools (Adapted from Bath and Body Works Recipe)

Makes 2 dozen cupcakes (Or 1 dozen cupcakes and 2 dozen mini-muffins)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

1 box spice cake mix

1/2 cup water

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1 cup canned pumpkin

4 eggs

2 tsp cinnamon and 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice (Or 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/4 tsp cloves, 1/4 ginger, 1/2 tsp nutmeg)

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl. Mix on medium for 2 minutes.

Fill cupcake liners approximately 2/3 of the way full. (Or use cooking spray in

mini-muffin pan and fill 2/3 of the way full.)

Bake for 17-22 minutes. (Adjust time if baking mini-muffins.)

Remove and let cool, then top with the frosting of your choice. (I serve the muffins plain for breakfast or use cream cheese icing.)

## Fruit Cake Christmas Cookies

Original Recipe from Carrie Ayer, Chrisney, Indiana. Submitted by Jeff Zook, IRTF President - Retired 2005 from Greater Jasper Community Schools

Bake at 300 Degrees for 20-30 Minutes  
Makes about 80 Cookies

1 cup butter

1/2 cup sherry

1 cup light brown sugar

3/4 cup raisins

3 well beaten eggs

7 cups pecans

3 cups all purpose flour

1 lb. candied cherries (green & red color)

2 cups or 1 lb. dates

1 lb. candied pineapple slices (green & red color)

1 tsp. Cinnamon

1/2 tsp. Soda

Cut up all the fruit (candied fruits, raisins & dates) and dredge in sherry over night.

Cream butter and sugar then add eggs. Sift 4 times: the flour, soda and cinnamon

Add this to the sugar and butter mixture. Then add chopped pecans. Stir well

Grease cookie sheets. Drop by spoon onto cookie sheets.

For several years we have not been able to find candied pineapple slices or pieces in green and red. So we add food coloring prior to cutting them up for the overnight sherry dredge.

This recipe has been in the Ayer family for over 50 years and we continue to make a batch of cookies each December. They freeze well too. The name is fruit cake cookies but they taste better than any fruit cake.

## Yeast Rolls

Marty Mullin, Area 7 Director - Retired 2012 from Franklin County Community School Corporation

My mother made delicious yeast rolls that she called pocketbook rolls. She made them for holiday gatherings, for dinners with friends, and for pitch-ins dinners. My dad loved them. When people were eating with us, he would exclaim that they could be eaten like popcorn because these delightful rolls could easily be popped into one's mouth, one after another! When we four daughters left home, scattering to four different states, we of course took the recipe with us, making the rolls for holidays as well as other times. After my mother died, we sisters decided to add Mother's roll recipe on one side of a card we were making for the memorial service. My older sister, being the older one, was in charge of writing up a short summary of my mother's life for one side of the card and print the recipe on the other side, as planned. Imagine our surprise when we other 3 sisters read the recipe our sister had printed. It said to add the yeast to cold water! If you know about yeast breads, you know that warm water is needed to get yeast to rise. When we asked our sister about this, thinking she had just made a typo, she said, "Oh, that's why my rolls never came out right!" We had a good laugh but needed to decide what to do about this mistake. Since cards were already printed, we decided to just make copies of the correct recipe on another page labeling it "The correct way to make Mother's rolls" and tell people at the memorial service about this. Everyone enjoyed this humor.

If you are interested in trying to make these rolls the correct way, here is the recipe:

Soften 1 package of yeast in 1/2 cup lukewarm water with a little bit of sugar from the 4 T listed below.

Melt 5 1/3 T margarine, 4 T sugar (minus what is put with yeast and water) and 1 t salt in 1/2 cup boiling water and let this cool.

After yeast is bubbly, add 1 egg and mix. Add this yeast mixture to the margarine mixture after it has cooled.

Add 3 cups regular flour and mix. This does not need to be kneaded, just well mixed. Let dough rise to double in size.

Punch down and roll out on flat surface. Use the rim of a glass to cut (swivel it back and forth) circles from the dough. Brush melted butter or margarine on each circle and fold over and press one of the edges with two fingers. (This makes the roll look like a pocketbook.)

Move the rolls to a cookie sheet and brush tops with more melted butter or margarine. After circles have been made, press the extra dough together and roll out again and cut circles, etc. until no more dough is left. The rolls should be placed close together on the cookie sheet.

Let rolls rise until double in size and bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Enjoy!

# 2021-2022 SCHOOL BELL AWARD & MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

# \$500 GRAND PRIZE



## NEWEST WINNERS!

- Kathleen Whelan (Hamilton) - \$25 gift card
- Jo Weddle (Monroe/Owen) - \$25 gift card
- Nancy Durham (Ripley) - \$50 gift card
- Ilene Howard (Fulton) \$25 gift card

## PRIZES!

- \$500 GRAND PRIZE - to the School Bell Winner. This prize will be presented as a gift card courtesy of AMBA.
- Sign up 1-2 members for a chance to win a \$25 gift card.
- Sign up 3+ members for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.
- Drawings will be held at the end of August, September, October, December, and March! You can be eligible for each drawing!



## Win a Simplisafe Security System Courtesy of AMBA!

Reconnecting Virtually, an online Indiana Retired Teacher Association Workshop for everyone!

Join IRTA on January 19, 2022, for important information from leadership and guest speakers. This event will have multiple door prizes, including the top prize, a state-of-the-art Security System from Simplisafe, provided by our partners at AMBA.

The virtual event will be hosted via the platform Accelevents from 10 am - 3 pm EST, with breaks between select sessions. All registrants will receive a how-to video on using the simple platform before the event start date.

Take part in the FREE Early Bird Registration between December 1 - 15, 2021 to be entered to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card. Details at [retiredteachers.org](http://retiredteachers.org)

### Guest Speakers include:

**Steve Russo**, Executive Director, Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS)

**Steve Beebe**, IRTA Lobbyist

**Sharita Ware**, Indiana Teacher of the Year, East Tipp Middle School - Area 3

**Omarr Guerrero**, Vice President, Association Member Benefits Advisors

**Mary Beth Dixon**, Advisor Office of Community Engagement, AARP

**Sarah Waddle**, State Director, AARP Indiana

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Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

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Start shopping! Remember to checkout at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to generate donations for your chosen charity. Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

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Open the Amazon Shopping app

Navigate to the main menu, look for the three horizontal lines or "hamburger" menu

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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

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