

# MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



[www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) | [www.mchenryrta.org](http://www.mchenryrta.org)

### 2026 Meetings

April 15–McHenry VFW  
 May 20–MCC  
 June 17–TBA  
 Sept 16–Galati's Hideaway  
 October 21–McHenry VFW  
 November 18–JB Moose  
 December 16–MCC

#### Upcoming Programs:

April 15–Carl Edstrom  
 Erin Freese  
 May 20–Ciro Cetrangolo  
 Donna Kurtz  
 June 17–Grant/Scholarship  
 Sept 16–Rainey Kaplan  
 October 21–Paul Strid  
 November 18–Bob Frenz  
 December 16–WHS Quartet

#### Suggestions for future venues or speakers are welcome.

Please contact Beth Miller  
[millerfam80@sbcglobal.net](mailto:millerfam80@sbcglobal.net)

#### April Menu—\$25

Garden Salad  
 Chicken Marsala  
 Mashed Potatoes  
 Beef Stroganoff  
 Cookies  
 Coffee, Iced Tea,  
 Soda

## President's Message

*Joann Jazak*

#### Welcome to Spring

It is a warm spring day in March, and it hardly seems possible that April is right around the corner. However, the whole board has been working diligently since our last meeting to secure venues, organize programs, and take care of other key details to ensure that you have a wonderful new year with us.

#### First Meeting of the New Year

Our first meeting of the New Year is scheduled for April 15 at the VFW in McHenry. We have planned two short programs for this day, and more information about our presenters can be located within this newsletter. We would like to extend a special thank you to Beth Miller

for her tireless efforts in coordinating venues and organizing programs for the year. If you have any questions or suggestions for future events, please reach out to Beth during the April meeting.

#### Monthly Event Information

We are excited to share that, starting in April, each member will receive a handout listing the dates, locations, and programs planned for each month. We encourage you to review the upcoming events and consider inviting a friend, someone who has not attended our meetings recently or a newly retired Acquaintance that we can continue to grow our group. The success of our organization depends on each of us working together and supporting one another

## April Program

*Beth Miller*

Our first presenter is **Carl Edstrom** on "Cycling without Age"  
 Our 2nd presenter is **Erin Freese** from CASA.



## BOARD MEMBERS

### Elected Members

President: Joann Jazak  
 Vice President: Linda Young  
 Board Secretary: April Shouse  
 Unit Secretary: Cathy Schiller  
 Treasurer: Dick Seaborn

### Appointed Members

Membership: Marlene Griffith  
 Programs/Venues: Beth Miller  
 Scholarship: Mary Noye  
 Member Benefits: Rose Turk  
 Information: Kathy Speaker  
 Legislative: TBA  
 Public Relations: Peggy Hart  
 Nominations: Olivia Santarelli  
 Constitution: Lois Shartiag  
 Finance: Olivia Santarelli  
 History: Robert Frenz  
 Budget: TBA

## Need to Cancel?

### Need to Cancel?

If you cannot show the day of the meeting, call Linda Young at 847-209-8047. We do need you to pay for your meal if you do not cancel with one week's notice.

**Reach us at:  
 PO Box 1776  
 Crystal Lake, IL 60039**

# Membership

## Marlene Griffith

Our current membership is 841. Of these, 635 are LIFE members and 206 are annual members.

The following people have not paid dues for 2026 and will be dropped from the roster until their dues are paid. To pay your dues (\$10/year or \$25/3 years), please send a check to the following address:

MCRTA  
 PO BOX 1776  
 CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60039

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Blietz Mary Hawthorn Woods      | Lamal Kathy McHenry               |
| Carbajal Luis Crystal Lake      | Lemanski, Caryl                   |
| Check Evelyn Cary               | Luke, Julie                       |
| Durik Diane Cary                | Martin Nina Lake in the Hills     |
| Fallahee Harriett Algonquin     | Mueller M. Kathleen CL            |
| Garis Kathie Lakewood           | McGuire Mary Crystal Lake         |
| Gehrig Wileen Spring Grove      | Miller Sheila Evanston            |
| Hivon Patti Crystal Lake        | Nichols Jody Wonder Lake          |
| Holliday Dolak Debra-Clearwater | Nix Cheryl Lakewood               |
| Houston Mary Susan Hebron       | Peters, Marla                     |
| Huemann Brenda Ringwood         | Poremba Ann Crystal Lake          |
| Johnson Cathy Marengo           | Quandt Carol Hampshire            |
| Johnson(Ginger) Marengo         | Rickard Janet Crystal Lake        |
| Kasuboske Janet Hobe            | Schnure Victoria (Vicki) Oak Park |
| King Camille Lakewood           | Simon Sue Wonder Lake             |
| Klopf Gloria Woodstock          | Stoffel Patti Highland Park       |
| Krepel Kathy Crystal Lake       | Svejcar Linda Naperville          |

### DEATH: Condolences to the family and friends of the following recently deceased members:

- Louette Ames of Johnsborg
- Ginny Bailey of Lakewood, CO
- William Dean of Clearwater, FL
- David Dreyer of Woodstock
- Dave Klebbe of Cary
- Stella Pietsch of Barrington
- Thomas Reed of Marengo
- Roger Wilson of Maryville, TN
- Ann Dahm of Crystal Lake
- Gail Anderson of McHenry



## President Report cont'd

*Joann Jazak*

### **Legislative Help**

The board is actively seeking an individual or individuals to fill Norb Wolters' spot on the board in the legislative capacity. This role involves keeping everyone informed about developments within IRTA and other matters relevant to retired individuals. The legislative committee is currently working to improve pensions for Tier 2 individuals. Much of the necessary information is available monthly from the IRTA. If you are interested in helping in this area, please speak with a board member.

### **Award**

In February we were notified by IRTA that MCRTA received the 2025 Platinum Unit of Distinction Award. (see attachment of the letter) This is given to organizations throughout the state who have accomplished several goals. It is given in recognition of outstanding leadership, engagement, and service to retired educators. This is the first year the Platinum Award was given to organizations. We received a \$400 check. We feel that this check will help offset our liability insurance which we purchased in January.

## More about our April Speakers

### **Carl Edstrom on "Cycling without Age"**

Have you ever wished you could go for a bike ride around the park? Having mobility issues? Come learn how you can! Cycling Without Age is an international organization that provides rides to older adults.

### **Erin Freese from CASA.**

What is CASA? A Court Appointed Special Advocate. It's the only volunteer organization that empowers everyday citizens as appointed members of the court. Volunteers are teachers and retirees like you. Become a trained volunteer advocate to help a child in the foster care system.

### **Field Trip Opportunity!**

**Do you like to bake? Do you like decorating cookies, but would like to improve your decorating skills? Blessed Little Kitchen Bakery in Huntley gives small group lessons. If enough of us have an interest, we can all meet there sometime this Spring. There will be a small fee.**

**Interested?? Send me your name, email and phone number to: [bmillerteach943@gmail.com](mailto:bmillerteach943@gmail.com) by April 15th. I will also have a sign-up at the VFW luncheon on April 15th.**

## Name Badges

Marti Swanson will be taking orders for MCRTA Name Badges with our MCRTA logo and your name at our next meeting. (See sample at the meeting.) The cost is \$7 cash or a check made out to McHenry Specialties. If enough people order them, there may be a price reduction. The name badges come with either a magnetic or pin backing. The magnetic backing makes it easy to adjust the badge's position. However, if you have a pacemaker, you must order the pin backing. Legislative Report

## From IRTA Government Affairs Specialist Andrew Bodewes

When Tier II passed, the IRTA, as well as labor organizations, were successful in passing a trailer bill to Tier II that recognized that no individual who had previous reciprocal service would be forced into the Tier II benefit; however, that was not extended to elected officials, such as judges.

The IRTA is filing a brief with the Appellate Court to protect the rights of our Tier II teachers so they can be able to reciprocate their service to IMRF and TRS.

For more information on this subject, please read Andrew Bodewes report. <https://members.irtaonline.org/news/kievlan-vs-judges-retirement-system-3-12-26>

## Member Benefits

*Rose Turk*

IRTA has many interesting things to offer its members. One of the topics IRTA has to offer are webinars during the year about information that you can use to help you manage your life as you get older. To see these webinars go to [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org) and click on Members Only. On the next page click on Login. Once here put in your email and then your password. At the top of the page in the blue click on Members Only. Go down the page until you see AMBA Resources on the right. Click on this. Here you will find all the AMBA Zoom Webinars that AMBA will be putting on for members this year.

Each month AMBA presents a webinar about different benefits it offers members throughout the year. Here are some of the topics that will be presented this year:

Summer Travel	Long Term Care	Scams and Frauds
Life insurance	Medicare Enrollment	Holiday Savings

Make sure that you go to look at these and register before the presentation comes out.

While you are on the IRTA website go back to Members Only at the top in the blue and take a look at the other things IRTA and AMBA have to offer.

## IRTA News

### IRTA AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

One \$2,000 scholarship is available in each of the six IRTA Areas across the state for college students enrolled in a certified teacher training program, as well as high school seniors who plan to pursue a degree in education.

**Deadline: May, 1 2026**



## Are you NOT getting emails

When we check with MailChimp, we see that those emails ARE being sent to you. There could be two reasons you are not seeing them.

First: They are going to SPAM/JUNK. You need to find them and mark them as SAFE so they begin coming into your email properly.

Second: Your server may be blocking Mailchimp due to firewall/security, incorrect setting, or IP restrictions. To fix this, first check your server's firewall and security setting to ensure they aren't blocking connections to

### Did you accidentally unsubscribe

In a few cases, we can see that you Unsubscribed. If you did this, go to our website and the Contact Us Page. You can re-subscribe there with the form. There is also a QR code to re-subscribe. We cannot resubscribe you.

### Signing up for Meetings

The meetings are always the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you are having trouble getting emails you can still easily sign up for meetings. Be sure to give us your first and last name when signing up.

Sign up on our Web Page: [www.mchenryrta.org](http://www.mchenryrta.org)

Email us directly: [mchenryrta@gmail.com](mailto:mchenryrta@gmail.com)

### Getting the Newsletter

The newsletter comes with the emails. If you are not getting the emails, you can still get the newsletter. Just go our Website and to the Unit News page. Download whatever newsletter you would like to see.

**McHenry County Retired Teachers Association Membership Form**

**You have three choices:**

- 1) Annual dues, \$10
- 2) 3-year dues, \$25
- 3) LIFE membership for \$150

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITE CHECK PAYABLE TO MCRTA. MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO**

***MCRTA PO Box 1776 Crystal Lake, IL 60039***