

# 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

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

#### Upcoming Programs:

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)

#### May Menu—\$25

Tuscan Chicken  
 Fettuccine  
 Garlic Bread Stick  
 Vegetables  
 Chocolate Layer Cake  
 Coffee Soda

## President's Message

*Joann Jazak*

### **Welcome Spring to McHenry County**

Spring is finally making its way to McHenry County. The excitement at the VFW was unmistakable, with everyone happy to reconnect with old friends and greet a few new faces.

### **Community Engagement and Invitations**

As discussed during our meeting, it is up to each of us to reach out and bring more people into our monthly gatherings. Please consider inviting someone who hasn't attended in a while, or a newly retired individual who might enjoy joining us for a delicious meal and good company. Your efforts to bring more participants will help strengthen our community and make these events even more meaningful.

### **Encouraging New Participation**

To help increase attendance and foster growth in our organization, I am launching an initiative for the upcoming meetings in May and June. All current members are encouraged to invite a friend, whether new or old—who is not presently a member of our organization (either they have never joined or their dues need to be paid). to attend one of these meetings.

## May Program

*Beth Miller*

Our first presenter is **Ciro Cetrangolo, Richmond Police Chief**  
 "Frauds and Scams directed at Seniors"

Our 2nd presenter is **Donna Kurtz, McHenry County Treasurer**  
 "Property Taxes Savings"



# Membership

*Marlene Griffith*

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER ROBERT BONCOSKY of CRYSTAL LAKE.**

MCRTA currently has 841 members who are up to date with dues: 629 are LIFE members and 212 pay dues annually or every three years.

## **MAY MEANS RETIREMENT!**

If you know of any teacher or administrator retiring from a school in our county, please pass this information to Marlene at [marlenegriffith@icloud.com](mailto:marlenegriffith@icloud.com) or text her at 815-385-3533.

## **OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THESE DECEASED MEMBERS:**

- Gail Anderson, McHenry
- Ann Dahm, Crystal Lake
- Velma Dysart, Crystal Lake
- Anna Marie Jenne, Marengo
- Rosemary Kurtz, Crystal Lake

## **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 Noe
- 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: Carla Voss**

## **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 weeks notice.

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

## **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.



# President Report cont'd

Joann Jazak

## **Participation and Rewards**

Each member who brings a guest will have their name entered into a drawing, which will take place during the June meeting. If your name is selected, you will receive your lunch for the day paid by the president.

Not to leave anyone out but look around and see if there might be a member that no longer comes. Give them a phone call or a text and see if we can get them interested in coming for a bit of lunch and friendship. They might just need the nudge to come. Both you and your guest will have their name entered and someone will have a free lunch for the day .

In closing, what container is your name going to be put into? New prospective or an old friend! Possibly both!!!!!!

## **Upcoming Programs and Events**

The schedule distributed at the meeting details all our planned programs for the year. In particular, the June meeting promises to be a highlight, featuring presentations from scholarship recipients and updates from grant awardees about how they have utilized their funds. This event is consistently one of our most inspiring gatherings, making it an ideal opportunity to invite a fellow retiree to participate. The uplifting nature of the meeting is sure to leave a lasting impression.

## **Name Badges**

If you are interested in ordering a name badge, please note that Marti Swanson is coordinating this effort. You can sign up during the meeting or contact either Marti or myself to ensure your name is added to the list.

## **IRTA Member Benefits**

Rose Turk, who oversees member benefits, provided a brief overview of the resources available on the IRTA website. There is a wealth of information accessible to members, and you are encouraged to take some time to explore the site. A helpful guide is attached to assist you in navigating the various sections and finding relevant information.

# Area II News from Area II Rep Wendy Weigers

Don't miss the **Virtual Area I and II Conference: A Membership Summit for ALL IRTA Members**, April 28th at 9:30 that will focus on *IRTA Membership Benefits, Programs, and More*, including the Wheel of Fortune and a \$100 gift card! Afterwards, there will be a chat room for the Area II attendees for discussion and to answer any questions you might have!

## Member Benefits

Rose Turk

If you do not have a membership number, click on "Sign Up" and follow the instructions to get into Passport. Here you will find all kinds of AMBA Benefits. Once you are in Passport, go to the top and put in the city where you want to see a movie and click on "All". Then over on the left, scroll down "Select Categories" until you see "Movies". Click on this and you will see some movie theaters. Click on the button of the theater you want. Then you will see another button that tells you to "Continue to Website". Click this and it will get you to the theater's website. If you do not see the theater you want, click on "Movie Ticket Passes Online". Then click on "Continue to Website". Here you will see different theaters. Some movie theaters you will see are AMC (up to 40% off), Regal (up to 35% off), Cinemark (up to 25% off) and more. Click on the theater you want. Then click on the tickets you need. You can use an e-ticket and take this to the box office to purchase your ticket. These tickets are good for a long time! They do not expire!

Since you are on this site, take a look at some of the other AMBA discounts you can take advantage of. There are so many benefits that are offered to you as an IRTA member.

## Legislative News from IRTA Government Affairs Specialist Andrew Bodewes

HB 4673 is a re-introduction of SB 1937 that is seeking Tier 2 benefit enhancements. It addresses retirement age, maximum pensionable salary, and annual cost of living adjustments.

HB 2953 allows an individual to return to teaching as a retiree for up to 120 days or 600 paid hours. It is an extension through 2028.

SB 3413 would require CMS to establish and maintain a call center for Group Health Insurance participants including TRIP/TRAIL to get their healthcare benefits questions answered.

## IRTA News

Active teachers in your school district can now apply for the "**Excellence in Education**" grants! The grants can be up to \$750.00, but smaller grants are appreciated during the selection process! Grants cannot be combined with other grants, should be able to be used another time (no food, field trips, speakers), and should have an itemized budget as to where items are to be purchased, how much each item costs, etc. **Deadline is MAY 1st and not June 1st!**

**Note: This is in addition to the Grants that are given by MCRTA**

# 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**