

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IRTA AREA 2, REGION 2, UNIT 13



www.irtaonline.org | www.mcirta.org

2024 Meetings

Oct 16—McHenry VFW
Nov 20—31 North
Dec 18—MCC

Upcoming Programs:

Oct: Candidates Forum
Nov: Sarah Sullivan Christmas Traditions 1865 America
Dec: The Dickens Carolers

Suggestions for future venues or speakers are welcome.

Please contact Beth Miller
millerfam80@sbcglobal.net

Programs subject to change
Doors open at 11:15
Meeting begins at 11:45 am
Lunch begins at Noon

OCTOBER Menu—\$25

Garden Salad
Chicken Marsala
Beef Stroganoff
Broccoli
Cookies/Brownies
Ice Tea/Lemonade/Soda

President's Message

Joann Jazak

Our first field trip for our organization was held last Saturday September 7. Our knowledgeable guide Bob Frenz gave a great overview of the history and significance of the one room school houses. Forty eight of us were signed up for the adventure, and I would say no one was disappointed. The lunch at Niko's was sensational. Chris, Bob's wife, provided us with water, a treat bag of candy, and handouts. Thank you Bob and Chris for organizing and planning our day. It was sensational from the beginning until the end of the day.

If you check Facebook it has some of the pictures from our event on it. Take the time to look at them and click LIKE or make a COMMENT.

Anyone who has another idea for field trips please inform one of the board members.

The Districts we are honoring in October are: McHenry Elementary 15, McHenry High School 158, Johnsburg 12, and CUSD 300. Grab a fellow colleague and bring them to the meeting in October. We are looking forward to seeing you!!!!

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Beth Miller

Our board member Norb Wolter will host a **Candidate's Forum** to hear what candidate's running for State Representative have to say. Brief presentations by each candidate/legislator followed by a question and answer session, with questions posed by our members.

The issues will be pertinent to Retired Teacher's welfare.

Honored Districts: Districts 15, 156, 12, and 300



Membership

Marlene Griffith

This month I will be emailing to you a list of all members. This list will include the year that your dues expire. If your dues are expiring in 2024, you can then send a check to our mailbox in Crystal Lake or give them to me or to Linda Young at the next luncheon. I will get this list to you soon after the first of October.

HAVE A WONDERFUL OCTOBER! (My favorite season).

Many thanks! Marlene Griffith, Membership Chair

marlenegriffith@icloud.com
call/text 815.385.3533

Welcome to our new member!

Jean Sunderlage; Hampshire D258

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: Norb Wolter
Public Relations: Peggy Hart
Nominations: Olivia Santarelli
Constitution: Lois Shartiag
Finance: Olivia Santarelli
History: Robert Frenz
Budget: Judy Poynter

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**

Information Services

Kathy Speaker

You can get newsletters and meeting information on our website!

mchenryrta.org

We now have a Facebook Page!

Follow us at McHenry County Retired Teachers



LOOKING AHEAD

Beth Miller

Wednesday, November 20th we'll be at 31 North Banquets in McHenry for their delicious turkey dinner. It's always been a favorite in the past. We want to thank 31 North for giving us a "teacher discount" and making it affordable for our group once again! We were sad to leave them after a price increase.

We will hear Sarah Sullivan from MCC do a presentation on Christmas Traditions- 1865 America. Come and join us and get an interesting lesson in history as well as getting into the spirit of Christmas. Sarah was kind enough to donate her fee towards our Scholarship fund!

Recognized Districts: McHenry Elementary #15, McHenry HS #158, Johnsburg #12, CUSD #300

Wednesday, December 18th-MCC in Crystal Lake, The Dickens Caroler's is a group of a cappella singers originally founded in 1982 and located in the Woodstock, Illinois area. A real favorite last year!!

Come enjoy the great buffet and sit back and relax while they sing from a list of more than 80 carols, while dressed in their Victorian costumes.

Recognized Districts: Crystal Lake/Cary High School #155, Cary Elementary #26, Nippersink #2, Richmond/Burton #157

MCRTA DISTRICT HONOR PROGRAM

We are inviting district retirees to be honored at upcoming meetings. If you are a retiree from these districts, please come and let us honor you. We will reserve a table and will have a small gift of appreciation for you. You are also welcome to invite non MCRTA members to come with you. Call your fellow teachers and come out as a group!

October Meeting: McHenry Elementary #15, McHenry HS #156, Johnsburg #12, CUSD #300

November Meeting: Woodstock #200, Harvard #50, Marengo Elementary #165, Marengo HS #154, Alden Hebron #19, Riley #18, Harrison #36

December Meeting: Crystal Lake/Cary High School #155, Cary Elementary #26, Nippersink #2, Richmond/Burton #157

Historian

Bob Frenz

One Room School House Tour Saturday September 7. We had a wonderful time on the tour led by our own Bob Frenz. Nancy Fisk and a couple others from the Historical Society joined our group and added to the interesting history of these schools. We were able to get out and visit 5 school houses and passed by several others. Lunch at Niko's was excellent.

Check out our pictures on our FACEBOOK PAGE

MCHENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS

Legislative Report

Norb Wolter

Our IRTA Legislative team including Executive Director, Jessica Hoselton and Lobbyist, Andrew Bodewes report that meetings with stakeholders on Tier II modifications have been productive. Under consideration is raising the maximum pensionable salary which is currently capped at \$126,000 for those on Tier II. In addition, it is felt that there needs to be a modification of the Cost of Living adjustment for Tier II teachers which is currently 1/2 the CPI for a given year or 3% simple whichever is less. Currently there are no Tier II members of IRTA, but that number will increase dramatically once Tier II teachers reach retirement age.

WEP-GPO legislation is still in limbo. Our Executive Director is doubtful that it will come up for a vote during this legislative session despite getting more attention from legislators this year. The sponsors of the legislation on WEP-GPO, U.S. Representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07) and Garret Graves (R-LA-06) filed a "discharge petition" today. The discharge petition requires 218 signatures and is an effort by the bill sponsors to force the bill out of Committee and directly to the House floor for a vote.

CMS tentatively plans to include Dental and Vision coverage for TRAIL members in January 2025. A Dental and Vision package is tentatively scheduled to be added to the TRIP insurance package on JULY 1, 2025. We will be notified by TRS as soon as implementation plans are finalized.

The October meeting will feature a Candidate's Forum for those running for the Illinois House. Nine candidates have been invited. Two of those candidates have been endorsed by the IRTA PAC Committee: Tom Weber, District 64 and Maria Peterson District 52. No Senate seats in our area are up for election in November.

Excellence in Education

Peggy Hart

2024 Excellence in Education Grants

Do you know teachers who need a way to fund unique activities for their students? The McHenry County Retired Teachers Association is working toward the future by offering grant money to Pre K -12 public school educators in McHenry County.

How the Program Works

Excellence in Education grants will provide additional funds, enabling students to participate in special projects. These enduring projects should impact students year after year.

What Qualifies for an Excellence in Education Grant

Suggested materials include, but are not limited to:

- Trade Books to support specific projects or related curriculum
- High interest books to support student reading
- Manipulatives and interactive materials to support STEM
- Reference books
- Learning games
- Digital cameras
- Software

Interested teachers can download an application at www.mchenryrta.org and submit between September 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024

FUN EVENT

HOSTED BY THE MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

CIDER FEST 2004

Sunday, October 6, 2024

10-2 pm

6422 Main Street

Union, IL

Children's Educational & Play Activities

Food Trucks and Treats

Barn Raising Demo, Live Music, & Pie Baking Contest

Apple Cider & Donuts

Artisan & Community Partner Demonstrations

Antique Tractor Show

Member Benefits

Rose Turk

Here are some discounts that you are eligible for as an IRTA member. Go to Passportcorporate.com and sign in. Once you are in to the Passport website, at the top type in your location. Click on ALL OFFERS. Along the left side you can narrow down your search to search radius, offers you want, etc.. Then look at all the deals you are offered.

Here are just a few discounts you are able to get.

The Vine Bar in Grayslake offers daily discounts on drinks. The menu is available along with other offers.

Click on Stay America and if you sign up today, you will receive 10% off your stay.

Go to Skechers Direct and you can receive 30% off shoes all year round.

There is a 15% discount from Four Seasons for heating cooling, plumbing, and electric.

These are just some examples of the many discounts you can get as an IRTA member from AMBA. Go take a look at [Passportcorporate](http://Passportcorporate.com) to see what you can get as a member.

Passportcorporate

To get all the AMBA discounts that you are entitled to as a member of IRTA, go to **Illinois Retired Teachers Association** (irtaonline.org) website. Click on **Members Only** and Login. Go to **MEMBER BENEFITS**

You will see the list of Member Benefits. You can also download a 2-page document about benefits IRTA offers. The link is located in the first paragraph. At the bottom right of that document, you will see **myAMBAdiscounts**. Follow the 3 steps to activate your AMBA membership. Once you have finished the 3 steps for the AMBA discounts you are able to find all the discounts you want. Anytime you want to go back to AMBA discounts after you have signed up, just go to **Passportcorporate.com website**. You can also download an app for your phone.

McHenry County Retired Teachers Association Membership Form

You have three choices:

- 1) Annual dues, \$10 for 2025 & the remainder of 2024
- 2) 3-year dues, \$25 for 2025-2027 & the remainder of 2024
- 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