



# School's Out Gazette

Publication of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association, an Affiliate of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association

December 2018..... Volume 23.3



**From Our 2018-2019 President, Walt Lewis**

## *Christmas in the barracks . . .*

All of you who have served in the active military, or have close friends or family who have served, likely have either experienced or heard tales of Christmases away from home and particularly of Christmases overseas. As time passes, many of those memories evoke a smile. My own memories go back to the late fifties and early sixties.

As Christmas approached, those with furloughs left for home, leaving a few of us behind for the mundane chores of guard duty, kitchen police (KP), messengers, drivers, etc. Even in a sparsely populated barracks, we somehow rounded up the semblance of a Christmas tree, often a "needle-less" Charlie Brown variety. All of us seemingly received a package from home and for several days dined on broken cookies and smashed fruit cake. We shared and traded socks for gloves or for after shave and were often amused by the inappropriateness of the clothes, either because of the climate or because of the sizes. Each of us repeated stories of how Christmas was at home, and we all wished that the denied leave request had gone through and that we had had enough money to get home and back. Even in a distant country, we found either a radio station with Perry Como singing "White Christmas" or an eight-track player and a Christmas tape.

The gifts that we sent home were PX items: generally boxed candy, cigars, and cologne. Servicemen's communications with home in this era were only through U.S. mail or occasional, expensive phone calls. On Christmas Eve, however, we all hoped for a chance to call home. Because no phones were available in our area for "home calls," we lined up for the twenty or so pay phones at the PX. Sometimes the very toughest of us became teary-eyed with the final "Merry Christmas!" and/or "Hug Mom for me."

The holidays left, and we and our fellow G.I.s began to return to duty. All those returning from Christmas at home had travel horror stories, but they and the rest of us all agreed about how wonderful it was to be home for the holidays. It still is!



The third ERTA luncheon for this school year will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at the American Baptist East Church at 6300 Washington Avenue. We will start at 11:30 a.m. for socializing, and lunch will follow at 12 noon. The cost is \$12. If you have not paid your dues of \$15 (\$10 for associate members), please do so. ERTA will pick up the cost of new retirees' first year's membership dues.

Christmas Program: We are fortunate to have our Christmas program provided by Thompkins Middle School.

Reservations Procedure: Please "Reply to All" to my e-mail invitation by Monday, December 3, only if you plan to attend, and include your name and number of reservations. Jane Staton will be recording the reservations and will report the count at the Board meeting on December 6.

Reminder: If you need to cancel your reservation, please call Jane at (812) 480-5289 or email her at [mymomjane@aol.com](mailto:mymomjane@aol.com). Monday, December 10, is the last day to cancel your reservation without being charged since ERTA will have to pay for any meals after that date. We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you!



The photos are by Walt Gleim. ERTA logo is by Jon Siau. Other graphics are from Google Images.

## Message from Our President-Elect, Steve Fritz

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

At a recent Youth First breakfast celebration I was asked to give closing remarks. Following my remarks I recited the following poem. Since then many people have requested a copy. I thought perhaps many of you might enjoy it as well. I often recite this to myself at a day's end. For the past several years it has become a part of my philosophy.

### IS ANYBODY HAPPIER?

*Is anybody happier because you passed this way?  
Does anyone remember that you spoke with them today?  
The day will soon be over, and toiling time is through.  
Is there anyone to offer a kindly word for you?  
Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping fast,  
That you've helped a single person of the many that you passed?  
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?  
Does the one whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?  
Did you waste the day or use it? Was it well or poorly spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?  
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,  
"You've earned one more tomorrow by what you did today"?*



"The author is unknown to me," Authors of a Leader's Legacy wrote. "By asking ourselves how we want to be remembered, we plant the seeds of living our lives as if we matter."



December Board Meeting.....	December 6
December Luncheon/Program .....	December 13
Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck.....	February 10
March Board Meeting .....	March 7
March Luncheon/Program .....	March 14
Legislative Brunch – Indianapolis.....	April 9
Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck.....	April 10
USI Scholarship Banquet .....	TBD
UE Scholarship Banquet .....	April 20
May Board Meeting .....	May 2
May Luncheon/Program .....	May 9
IRTA Representative Assembly, Indy.....	June 12

## Message from Legislative Liaison Diane Meier

When the 2019 Legislative Session begins in January, IRTA will again work be requesting a COLA. Even though we are grateful for the stipend (13<sup>th</sup> check), it does not help retirees keep up with the cost of living. Teacher retirees have not had a COLA since 2007 – the costs of medical care, utilities, groceries – have all increased since that time. Please look for emails which will update you as to what you can do to help.



**No. 13:** In 2013, under the presidency of Gene VanStone, Sandra Schmidt suggested ERTA provide a basket of candy to each EVSC School on the first day of school to welcome teachers back for the new year. This practice continues today. Darla Olberding, Historian



ERTA Members,

Please don't forget that volunteer hours need to be turned in by December 31, 2018. I will have extra forms for you to fill out at the December meeting. If you are unable to be at that meeting, you may email them to me at lclaybaugh@aol.com or call my home phone at 812-428-0586. If you use snail mail, please send them to the following address: Patricia Claybaugh, 5901 Hogue Rd., Evansville, IN 47712.

Thank you very much to the members who have already turned in hours to me. Patricia Claybaugh

**Community Service Volunteer Hours**

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

Your Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the form below and return it to Patricia Claybaugh.

Volunteer Youth Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours of Service for 201 : \_\_\_\_\_

Anything you do, except caring for a family member, counts. Travel time to and from an event counts as well as time spent on the computer or telephone committee.

You may put this information in the basket on the check-in table at the December meeting.  
 You may send information to me by...

**Email:** lclaybaugh@aol.com  
**Phone:** (812) 428 – 0586 (Please be sure to leave your name.)  
**Snail Mail:** 5901 Hogue Road, Evansville, IN 47712

I need your hours by December 31, 201. Thank you for participating in this important activity. Volunteer hours count when talking to legislators.

**Evansville Retired Teachers Association**

**Executive Board Meeting**

**October 4, 2018**

Call to Order: President Walt Lewis called the meeting to order at 12:58 p.m. at American Baptist East Church and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Doris Beard, Terry Becker, Brenda Beeler, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Pat Claybaugh, Steve Fritz, Judy Isaac, Janet Leistner, Diana Luck, Diane Meier, Don Mosbey, Fred Naab, Darla Olberding, David Pfettscher, Sandra Schmidt, and Jane Staton.

Introductions: Walt introduced Publicity Chair Doris Beard and Reservations Chair Jane Staton. Walt also introduced Janet Leistner, whom he will appoint with board approval, as a director to fill the vacancy left by Steve Fritz. Steve was sworn in as president-elect last May and cannot hold two positions.

August 2, 2018 Executive Board Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Director Don Mosbey distributed a financial report as of August 31, 2018, from Lino Wiseman. There were no questions. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Pat Claybaugh reminded us that forms for reporting volunteer hours will be distributed at next week's luncheon and collected at the December luncheon.

Fellowship/Necrology: Judy Isaac asked that anyone who submits a name for a card to be sent should also send the address.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede reported that dues are still being collected.

Nominations: President-Elect Steve Fritz asked that Janet Leistner fill the vacant director's position that he had held. Doris Beard made a motion for Janet Leistner to fill the director's position. Diane Meier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Programs: Steve spoke about next week's program. Jed Medler of the ETFCU will inform us about scams and frauds and suggest ways we can protect ourselves. Steve also announced that the Thompkins Middle School Choir will provide the December program.

Publicity: Doris Beard plans to set up a Facebook page so ERTA members have another way to contact new retirees. In addition, it will allow members to keep up-to-date on the association's activities.

Reservations: Jane Staton announced that there are 120 reservations for next week's luncheon.

Scholarships: Diane Meier reported that information about the Hensley Scholarships will be distributed to EVSC at the beginning of the year. The names of the recipients will be announced in March. Approximately \$10,000 is awarded each year to current teachers for professional development.

In addition, Diane explained that ERTA has endowments at the University of Evansville and the University of Southern Indiana that are fully funded and self-perpetuating.

IRTA Liaison/Legislative: Diane's advice to voters is to carefully read information about local candidates before voting.

#### Information Items:

IRTA Fall Conference: The date for next year's conference for Regions 8 and 9 will be changed, so it can be held at the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center. Diane said that the conference was to be held at the SICTC this year; however, it had to be moved because schools in the EVSC were not in session on Columbus Day.

Frog Follies: ERTA receives funds for special projects because many of our members volunteer their time at the event.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

Announcement: The next meeting of the ERTA Executive Board will be December 6, 2018.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

## Evansville Retired Teachers Association

### Luncheon Meeting

October 11, 2018

Call to Order: President Walt Lewis called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone.

Introduction of the Head Table: Walt introduced President-Elect Steve Fritz, Jed Medler of the Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union Fraud Division, and Chaplain Ed Wessel.



Pledge of Allegiance: Ed Marlin led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Blessing: Chaplain Ed Wessel asked us to pray silently about an issue that was on our minds before he prayed.

Lunch Service: Those seated at the head table went first. Steve Fritz dismissed members and guests by tables.

August 9, 2018 Luncheon Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.

Area 9 Director's Report: Andy Guarino said that IRTA is continuing to lobby for a COLA. He reported that a number of teachers receive less than \$800 a month, some only \$300 to \$500 a month. Andy also spoke about the passage of Senate Bill 373, which establishes reserve accounts to pay for benefit increases. He reported funds of \$30 million will come from the lottery.



Publications: Doris Beard announced that she will be setting up a Facebook page for ERTA within the next two weeks. She invited members to join. Her hope is that it will encourage new retirees to become involved in our association.

#### Announcements:

1. Walt introduced Director Janet Leistner, our newest board member.
2. The next luncheon will be held on December 13, 2018. Forms for recording the year's volunteer hours will be on the tables.

Program: After being introduced, Jed Medler began by speaking about elder abuse and how seniors who are being abused, exploited, or scammed can protect themselves. He said the type of abuse seen at the credit union ranges from the misuse of a senior's funds to embezzlement of those funds by family, friends, caregivers, or even spouses. One option is to put TOD (Transfer on Death) on accounts.



Mr. Medler then discussed various scams which included sweepstakes, romance, computer, Medicare, on-line loan, employment, and grandparent. His advice was to do some checking before you act. Information sheets were on each table with the above information and much more.

Door Prizes: Steve Fritz conducted the drawings for three gift cards from Target.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



## IN MEMORIAM

“Always in Our Hearts”

Bill Asbury.....October 3, 2018  
Herb LeGrand.....October 11, 2018

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

ERTA Website.....[www.erta.info](http://www.erta.info)  
EVSC Website... <http://evscicats.com/evscnewsletter/category/latest-news/evsc-news/>  
IRTA..... 1-888-454-9333  
IRTA E-mail ..... [irta@retiredteachers.org](mailto:irta@retiredteachers.org)  
ISTRF (Retirement Benefits) ..... 1-888-286-3544  
Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield..... 1-800-368-9354  
Group Insurance Policies..... 1-800-258-7041  
IRTA Website..... [www.retiredteachers.org](http://www.retiredteachers.org)  
ISTRF Website..... [www.in.gov/trf](http://www.in.gov/trf)

Please e-mail any contact changes (including cell number if you dropped your landline) to Darlene Brockriede, [brockriede@twc.com](mailto:brockriede@twc.com).





**EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**Treasurer's Report by Lino Wiseman**

**September 18, 2018**



<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>			
Beginning Balance September 1, 2018			<u>\$3,026.55</u>
Income		1835.88	
Interest		0.14	
Expenses			279.14
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2018</u>			<u>\$4,583.43</u>
<b>REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT</b>			
Beginning Balance September 1, 2018			240.30
Interest		0.02	
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2018</u>			<u>240.32</u>
<b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT</b>			
Beginning Balance September 1, 2018			\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2018</u>			<u>\$15.00</u>
<b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26</b>			
Beginning Balance September 1, 2018			1,859.22
Interest		0.17	
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2018</u>			<u>1,859.39</u>
<b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 2 CD's</b>			
Beginning Balance September 1, 2018			26,192.34
Interest		47.36	
<u>Ending Balance September 30, 2018</u>			<u>26,239.70</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>\$32,937.84</b>



**Happy Holidays!**



**Evansville Retired  
Teachers Association  
P.O. Box 15064  
Evansville, IN 47716-0064**