



School's Out Gazette

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

March 2018..... Volume 22.4



From Our 2017-2018 President, Terry Becker

Well, I got the electric bill today - just a reminder that winter isn't over, and the pain goes beyond the colds, flu, slick roads and miserable shivers that accompany my daily trek to the mailbox. For those of us who aren't clever enough to become "snowbirds" and head for the sunny south, this winter has been a time of near hibernation. But while I truly envy the folks who are soaking up the sun on the Florida beaches this month, I must also report that there is a lot of life left here in Evansville.

Many of Evansville's best events happen from January through April. Since I'm retired and don't HAVE to get out every morning, there is a real urge to stay right by the fireplace or in the direct sunlight of that south-facing window. After all, the weather broadcasts are warning of all sorts of dire road conditions and the news says the flu virus is in wait just outside your door. So why not stay at home and wait for spring. I don't deny there's a lot to be said for that, and if you are fighting health or mobility issues, I know that's the best thing for you. For those of us who can, though, I think winter is a great time to be involved in Evansville. There are music and theatre at the Victory and Old National Events Plaza - basketball and hockey at the Ford Center - and my personal favorite, Under the Beams in New Harmony - and that doesn't even touch a myriad of events at the local high schools. And for those of us who want to stay involved in the community - something I can't do while parked in front of that south-facing window - there are lots of opportunities to volunteer and actually participate in Evansville's winter life.

I recently played piano for "The Really Big Show," which is a huge fund-raiser for ARC of Evansville. It was a service I could do for them with reasonable effort and preparation - I could do as much or as little as I had time for - I was a part of a valuable Evansville project - and the people involved were so very appreciative of my time and efforts. I got to see lots of friends and acquaintances AND I had a fun time doing it!

So, whether you are one of the ushers I see at the various venues in town, or volunteer in your church or synagogue, or work at the Arts Council, or LST, or museum, or simply making phone calls for ERTA, I'm telling you - GET INVOLVED as much as you can. (And then report your hours to Patricia Claybaugh so that ERTA can let the legislature know how involved we are!) It sure makes the winter in Evansville a lot more bearable, and you will lend a bit of class (because after all, everyone knows that teachers are classy people) to a lot of really great events!



The fourth ERTA luncheon for this school year will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at the American Baptist East Church at 6300 Washington Avenue. We will start at 11:30 for socializing, and lunch will follow at 12 noon. The cost is \$12.

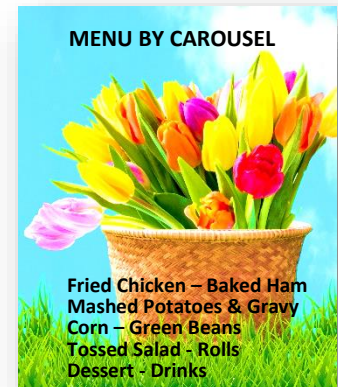
Walt Lewis has arranged for our speaker for this luncheon to be Dr. James MacLeod, professor of history, University of

Evansville. You are in for a treat!

Please reply to my e-mail invitation by Monday, February 26, only if you plan to attend, and include your name and number of reservations.

Reminder: If you need to cancel a reservation you made, please call Brenda Beeler (812-422-1637) or e-mail me at dianaeluck@gmail.com ASAP. Monday, March 5, is the last day to cancel your reservation without being charged since ERTA will have to pay for any meals after that date. If school is cancelled, the luncheon will be cancelled. If school is delayed, the luncheon will still be held.

Let's get together for a convivial luncheon with good food and an amazing speaker.



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

Message from Our President-Elect, Walt Lewis



Have you noticed how often it seems that we need to halt a conversation, TV program, lecture, or sermon and yell, "Hey, stop it! We are all Americans first!"? The ridiculous chasm that seems to divide us politically, religiously, racially, ethnically--or whatever--is very nonproductive. It is also very unbecoming to us as Americans since we are allegedly seen as the world's best example of tolerance, freedom, and decency.

Just exactly how we got to this level of distrust, disrespect, and even hatred is hard to determine. Concepts, ideas, and proposed legislation are often ridiculed or accepted simply because of who proposed or supported them rather than their merit. I can recall a time when members of opposing groups quickly supported an idea or a candidate because it made sense and seemed to fit into the overall picture of who we were and what we needed as a nation.

One of my favorite examples of "country first" was given to us by President Harry Truman. When he felt that our country needed a leader like Dwight Eisenhower, President Truman offered to help General Eisenhower seek the office of President, regardless of the party under which Eisenhower chose to run. President Truman even agreed to serve as Eisenhower's vice-president although he himself was presently serving as President and had always planned to run for re-election. He put country ahead of personal or political party values.

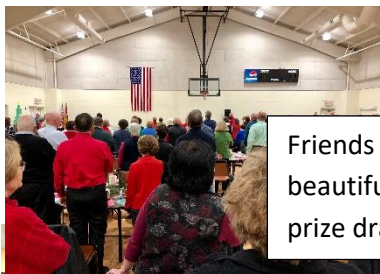
Regardless of how this situation evolved, I cannot possibly see how it can be positive for our country.

ERTA Speaker for March 8, 2018

Our speaker for the March 8 luncheon is Dr. James MacLeod, professor of history, University of Evansville. Dr. MacLeod, a native of Scotland, is a well-known tri-state personality. He is a recognized professor; an award-winning cartoonist; the author of several books (which will be available for purchase), including *Evansville in WWII*; and an entertaining and informative speaker. We are fortunate to have Dr. MacLeod share with us some of the significant contributions that Evansville made during WWII. This is one you don't want to miss!



- March 1, 2018 Board Meeting at American Baptist East 1:00 p.m.
- March 8, 2018 Luncheon Meeting American Baptist East 11:30 a.m.
- April 13, 2018 Newsletter articles to Diana Luck
- May 3, 2018 Board Meeting at American Baptist East 1:00 p.m.
- May 10, 2018 Luncheon Meeting American Baptist East 11:30 a.m.
- TBD Legislative Lobby Day
- TBD UE and USI Scholarship Banquets
- TBD IRTA Representative Assembly, Indianapolis, IN



Friends and former colleagues enjoying conversation, beautiful decorations, Christmas music, delicious food, prize drawings, etc.



Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Executive Board Meeting

December 7, 2017

Call to Order: President Terry Becker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at American Baptist East Church and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Brenda Beeler, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Pat Claybaugh, Steve Fritz, Judy Isaac, Walt Lewis, Diana Luck, Fred Naab, David Pfettscher, Sandra Schmidt, Tom Wiggers, and Lino Wiseman.

Acceptance of Agenda: Terry asked that today's agenda be accepted with flexibility. Tom Wiggers made a motion to accept today's agenda with flexibility. David Pfettscher seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Approval of October 5, 2017 Executive Board Minutes: The minutes were accepted as printed.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lino Wiseman distributed a financial report as of October 31, 2017. The report was accepted and will be filed for audit.

President-Elect: Walt Lewis reported that Girl Scout Executive Director Amy Stachura will be at the Information Table at next week's luncheon. She is seeking volunteers to help package cookie orders.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship/Necrology: Judy Isaac informed the board that Donna Lutz will continue to send cards for ERTA.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede gave the following report on membership: As of December 7, 2017, 229 have paid, of which 213 are retirees and 16 are associates. Eighteen past presidents and one honorary member don't pay dues. Newly retired teachers, numbering 41 this year, don't pay dues their first year.

Nominations: Terry announced that Andy Guarino will not be able to continue as one of the ERTA Directors. Tom Wiggers made a motion for Steve Fritz to fill that position. Judy Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reservations: Diana Luck reported 153 reservations for next week's luncheon. David Pfettscher said that there were two members who made reservations for the last luncheon but didn't attend or cancel.

Information Item: Poinsettias will be decorating the tables next week. Board members at today's meeting each donated \$5.00 toward the purchase of the plants.

New Business:

1. Tom Wiggers made a motion to give \$100 to the custodian at American Baptist East Church since the custodian has additional responsibilities when ERTA has luncheons. Walt Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Brenda Beeler and Diana Luck spoke about the possibility of having the Country Cupboard in Madisonville, Kentucky, cater our luncheons. After some discussion, no definite decision was made.

Christmas Project: Donations for a non-profit will be accepted at next week's luncheon. Several members made suggestions. As president, Terry will make the final decision.

Announcement: The next ERTA Executive Board Meeting will be March 1, 2018.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Luncheon Meeting
December 14, 2017

Call to Order: President Terry Becker called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone.



Pledge of Allegiance: President-Elect Walt Lewis led members and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of the Head Table: The following officers and guests seated at the head table were introduced by the president: Walt Lewis, Ed and Barbara Wessel, and Joanna Flemming.

Christmas Project: Terry announced that he had selected The Salvation Army as this year's Christmas project. Free-will donations will be accepted today. A gift bag has been placed on each table to hold the donations.

Volunteer Hours: Forms for members to record their 2017 volunteer hours were also on each table. Completed forms may be left on the tables or sent to Pat Claybaugh.

Musical Entertainment: Terry asked those who had sung in a choir and had sung "Carol of the Bells" to come forward. The newly-formed choir sang the well-known carol accompanied by Terry on piano. Then, guest singer Joanna Flemming sang "White Christmas." She was also accompanied by Terry.



Devotions: Chaplain Ed Wessel recalled Sandy Hook and asked for a moment of silence. Then, he prayed.



Acknowledgements: Walt thanked Jan Wiggers for today's table decorations. He also thanked Kathy Parker of Tools for Teachers for donating several door prizes.

Information Table: A representative from the Girl Scouts was at the table seeking volunteers to help package cookies for distribution.

Lunch Service: Members and guests were dismissed by tables.

After the meal, everyone was asked to move to the sanctuary for today's program.

Program: The Washington Middle School Advanced Choir entertained us with songs of the season. Patrick Rich directed the choir.

October 12, 2017, Luncheon Minutes: The minutes were accepted as printed.



Door Prizes: Tickets were drawn for door prizes, which included a number of poinsettia plants.

Collection for The Salvation Army: The total collected today was \$805.00.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



IN MEMORIAM

Lucille Ashlock
 Richard Gonterman, SrJanuary 26, 2018

KEEPING IN TOUCH

ERTA Website.....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
 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
 ISTRF Website.....www.in.gov/trf

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



EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report by Lino Wiseman

December 31, 2017



CHECKING ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2017			<u>\$4,868.98</u>
Income		2049	
Interest		0.2	
Expenses		2605.23	
<u>Ending Balance Dec 31, 2017</u>			<u>\$4,312.95</u>
REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2017			240.12
Interest		0.02	
<u>Ending Balance Dec 31, 2017</u>			<u>240.14</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT			
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2017			\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance Dec 31, 2017</u>			<u>\$15.00</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26			
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2017			1,316.06
Interest		0.12	
<u>Ending Balance Dec 31, 2017</u>			<u>1,316.18</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 2 CD's			
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2017			37,290.38
Interest		69.67	
<u>Ending Balance Dec 31, 2017</u>			<u>37,360.05</u>
TOTAL ASSETS			\$43,244.32



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