



School's Out Gazette

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

May 2020..... Diana Luck, Editor Volume 24.5



From 2019-2020 President Steve Fritz

Dear Friends,

My presidency has been quite exciting. It seems to have begun early with predicted tornadoes and/or severe storms on Thursday luncheon meeting dates, and it is now ending with a worldwide pandemic. I would like to go on record as denying any responsibility for those two particular events. I blame all these unfortunate happenings on fate; however, I do feel a great deal of responsibility for the hole in one at McDonald's Golf Course while playing with Walt Lewis. Unfortunately, the outstanding feat was not recognized because I did not have a credible witness.

None of us are responsible for all that happens, but we are responsible for the way we react when things do happen.

The corona pandemic is unfortunate, but the response from our board and membership is certainly in keeping with what responsible people do.

Recently I had a chance occasion to encounter a former student who shared that his wife was in quarantine with COVID-19. He said to me that those of us who are strong and healthy have a responsibility to follow protocols and to take care of ourselves so that we don't catch and spread the virus or disease; or, as he put it, "the strong must take care so the weakened can live." I thought it was a good reminder to all to take responsibility.

It has been an incredible honor for me to have served as your president for this brief but immensely rewarding time in ERTA's history.

It is impossible to take full measure of the respect and humility I feel when I consider how enriched I have been as a result of the relationships forged and friendships made with board members, officers, and membership.

I fully understand that I am a very average guy who has had more than his share of opportunities to serve in positions where I have been surrounded by truly exceptional people like yourselves. Next year you will truly have a gifted leader in Janet Leistner. I know you will give her the same support that I was blessed to receive.

As the poet has written: Remember this your lifetime through: Tomorrow there will be more to do; and failure waits for those who stay with some success made yesterday. Tomorrow we must try once more and even harder than before.

Thanks so much for your friendship and assistance in making this such a rewarding experience. I hope yours has been a positive experience as well.

God Bless You, God Bless ERTA, and God Bless America

Steve

Thank you, Steve, for your splendid leadership, and thank you to all who made this newsletter interesting with local pictures! ERTA and Diana Luck

Message from President-Elect Janet Leistner

What a Spring it has been! I hope that everyone is safe and healthy during these difficult times. As much as we did not want to cancel our May meeting, we knew it was the best option in order to ensure the safety of our members. We will hopefully meet in August to begin our 2020-2021 year.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Steve Fritz and all our board members for great leadership this year, and special thanks to all our members for supporting our organization. These last few weeks confirm how important our organization is to help all of us remain connected with friends and former colleagues. Hopefully this virus will eventually not be the problem it is today.

Please enjoy the pictures included in this newsletter that share some of the happenings of our members during these days. Fortunately, the spring flowers and trees were beautiful this year to add some happiness to the days.

Take care and stay safe and healthy. We hope to see ALL of you at our August luncheon! Let's make it the best event ever!



Scott and Susan Riley's inspiring Easter walk



The reality of global isolation – from son, Graham, and wife who live in Berlin, Germany



Easter rainbow from Janet Leistner's home – Howard making an at-home special Easter dinner

Messages from Diane Meier:

Legislative News

The Legislative Committee met by phone on March 24, 2020.

Steve Beebe, IRTA lobbyist, gave a short summary of the 2020 legislative session. Since the “13th check” had been approved in the 2019 session, there was little of interest to teachers in the 2020 session. There were no bills of controversy.

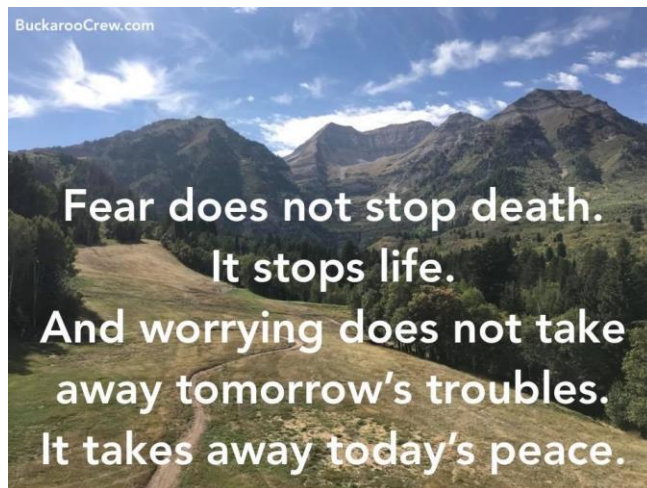
Steve indicated that because the Covid-19 virus has closed so many businesses, the plans for next year’s session will have to be defensive, to keep the “13th check” and protect the PSF (Pension Stabilization Fund). Steve stressed that the state income will be down, and legislators will be looking for ways to cover the budget.

Plans for targeting key legislators with contact by a team of retired teachers is being worked on for the fall. I will let you know if there are legislators from our area who need to be contacted.

A thank you letter was sent to Governor Holcomb saying that IRTA appreciated his strong response to the Covid-19 crisis.

Hensley News

Since there were a record number of Hensley applicants this year, the ERTA Board voted to use the remaining money from the Hensley account. There was a total of \$20,788 awarded to 27 individuals. However, because of the Covid-19 virus, many who were going to attend workshops have had to put their plans on hold because the workshops have been canceled for this summer. The money will be deferred until next year when, hopefully, the individuals will then be able to attend their scheduled conferences.



Spring flowers observed from Diane’s morning walks and a pertinent thought for this time

**Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Executive Board Meeting
March 5, 2020**

Call to Order: President Steve Fritz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at American Baptist East Church. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Doris Beard, Brenda Beeler, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Janet Craig, Judy Isaac, Janet Leistner, Walt Lewis, Donna Lutz, Diane Meier, Don Mosbey, Fred Naab, Darla Olberding, David Pfetscher, Donna Schmidt, Sandra Schmidt, Jane Staton, and Lino Wiseman.

Opening Thoughts: Steve read an article about common sense dying.

Approval of December 5, 2019 Executive Board Minutes: The minutes were accepted as printed.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lino Wiseman distributed the 2019-2020 Budget and the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget. He noted that the income from meals is down; it is half of what was projected to be in the 2019-2020 Budget. He said since the cost of the the meal has not changed, he wondered if attendance had declined. He was told that it has been about the same. The report was accepted and will be filed for audit.

Lino then went over some items of the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget and spoke about what would happen if the Hensley Teacher Scholarship Account is closed. He said that any money given to the Scholarship Fund would be divided equally between the University of Evansville Student Scholarship Account and the University of Southern Indiana Student Scholarship Account. He added that \$1.00 of each member's dues and a \$10.00 memorial for each deceased member would also be equally divided between the universities. David Pfetscher made a motion to accept the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget. Diane Meier seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Elect: Janet Leistner, who will be installed as president for 2020-2021 at the luncheon in May, reported on the slate of officer nominations.

Directors: Fred Bullinger, Don Mosbey, and Fred Naab (two-year terms)

Secretary: Sandra Schmidt (two-year term)

President Elect: Janet Craig (one-year term)

Janet Leistner added that there will be a change in a committee assignment. Doris Beard will replace Janet Craig on the Reservations Committee.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Jane Staton wanted to thank members for turning in their volunteer hours in December. Janet Leistner reported that the hours totaled 23,370.

Fellowship/Necrology: The names of educators who passed away July 1, 2019, and later will be read at ERTA's meeting in May of 2020 and at IRTA's in June of 2020.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede announced that membership now totals 268, which is down from last year.

Program/Luncheon: Janet Leistner reported 103 lunch reservations for next week. Janet said that she will handle the luncheon decorations since members of the Decoration Committee will not be able to do so.

Publications: Brenda Beeler asked that members who learn of a teacher's passing notify the committee.

Publicity: Representatives of ERTA, possibly Steve and Janet, will appear on Midday with Mike in April and ABC 25 Local Lifestyles with Ange Humphrey in May.

Scholarships: Diane Meier reported that 27 educators have applied for the Hensley. The amount available is about \$20,000. Diane and her committee, which includes Donna Schmidt, Judy Isaac, Donna Lutz, and Sylvia Blice, would like to award all of the money.

Diane distributed a list of the teacher applicants, their projects, the funding requested, and the amounts the committee suggested be awarded. The board voted to approve the dispensing of the scholarship amounts suggested by the committee. Diane plans to send each applicant a letter to make sure each one is still going to attend the event for which the funds were requested.

IRTA Liaison/Legislative: Diane reported the Legislative Committee will meet on March 24, 2020. She added that IRTA will not have a brunch this year.

Historian: Darla Olberding asked if any members present at today's meeting knew of the whereabouts of a filing cabinet that was at the Phipps Center (part of the ETFCU) where the board formerly met.

Information Items:

1. Jeffrey Berger plans to attend the luncheon to thank members for the \$571 donation to the Teacher Locker. Donations were collected at the luncheon in December.
2. Steve read correspondence from Jeff Justice thanking ERTA members for donating to the Teacher Locker. He also read a note from the EVSC Foundation thanking members for their support of Hangars and the Teacher Locker.
3. Donna Schmidt notified Carol Grieser, who chairs the IRTA Member Concerns/ Necrology Committee, that we were nominating Linda Gilbert, a CASA volunteer. A nominee from each of the ten areas is to be recognized at the IRTA Representative Assembly, which is to be held on June 10, 2020. The registration deadline is May 21, 2020.

Next ERTA Executive Board Meeting: May 7, 2020

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

**Evansville Retired Teacher Association
Luncheon Meeting
March 14, 2020**

Call to Order: President Steve Fritz called the meeting to order at noon.

Welcome: Steve welcomed everyone and asked first-time attendees to stand.

Introduction of the Head Table: Steve recognized President-Elect Janet Leistner, John Wessel, and Monte Skelton. John Wessel was standing in for his brother, ERTA Chaplain Ed Wessel. Musician Monte Skelton was presenting the program after lunch. Jeffrey Berger was coming to thank the membership for their \$571 donation to the Teacher Locker but was unable to attend.



Teacher Locker Donation: Those who attended the December meeting voluntarily donated a total of \$571 that was given to the Teacher Locker.

Total of ERTA Volunteer Hours for 2019: Steve recognized Jane Staton who submitted ERTA's nearly 24,000 volunteer hours to IRTA. He thanked members for turning in their hours.

Acceptance of December 12, 2019 Luncheon Meeting Minutes: There were no corrections or additions; therefore, the minutes were approved as printed.

Acceptance of the 2020-2021 and the 2020-2022 ERTA Board Nominations: Steve introduced the nominees and asked each to stand.

Directors: Fred Bullinger, Don Mosbey, and Fred Naab (2020-2022)

Secretary: Sandra Schmidt (2020-2022)

President Elect: Janet Craig (2020-2021)

President: Janet Leistner (2020-2021)

Doris Beard will replace Janet Craig on the Reservations Committee.

Bob Suhrheinrich made a motion to accept the nominations. Jane Staton seconded the motion. The slate of candidates was accepted.

Blessing: John Wessel read an article written by the late Hal Wolford entitled "Fond Memories of School Prayer" before he prayed.

Luncheon: Janet Leistner dismissed the head table, then members and their guests.

Program: Members and guests moved to the sanctuary for today's music program. Janet Leistner introduced Monte Skelton as a music educator, a multi-instrumentalist, a recording artist, and a composer who attended schools in the EVSC and graduated from UE. He entertained us with music he played on a variety of instruments. Janet presented a certificate to Mr. Skelton and gave him a gift card.



Door Prizes: Drawings were held for three gift cards.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



Calendar – Events Pending Cancellation

IRTA Rep. Assembly, Primo Center, Indy June 17

IN MEMORIAM

“Always in Our Hearts”

Bruce Clevenger February 22, 2020
Alfred Grabhorn March 6, 2020
Sandra Lee Butcher March 8, 2020
Jim Haygood March 30, 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH

ERTA Website..... www.erta.info
EVSC Website... <http://evsciacs.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



Kids doing the neighborhood **Bear Hunt** were excited to see so many bears at Pat & John Buckingham's home. **Love Drive-By** by grandchildren



Glenn Ballard's horse, Angel, is enjoying spring, and his bunny and chicken are celebrating Easter.

Jack Humphrey is social distancing on his mower.



EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer’s Report by Lino Wiseman

February 29, 2020



CHECKING ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance February 29, 2020			\$5,764.47
Income		15	
Interest		0.02	
<u>Ending Balance February 29, 2020</u>			<u>\$5,779.49</u>
REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance February 29, 2020			240.58
Interest		0.01	
<u>Ending Balance February 29, 2020</u>			<u>240.59</u>
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance February 29, 2020			1,009.77
Interest		0.16	
<u>Ending Balance February 29, 2020</u>			<u>1,009.93</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT			
Beginning Balance February 29, 2020			\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance February 29, 2020</u>			<u>\$15.00</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26			
Beginning Balance February 29, 2020			19,774.69
Interest		0.78	
<u>Ending Balance February 29, 2020</u>			<u>19,775.47</u>
TOTAL ASSETS			\$26,820.48



Spring Flowers:

You will be staring unblinkingly at Mother Nature at her best!

From Jim Pierce and Gene Van Stone

{Click – or Ctrl Click - the blue words and enjoy.}

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/27920977?title=0&%3bbyline=0&%3bportrait=0href=>

EACH FLOWER IS FILMED FOR TWO DAYS AND PHOTOS ARE COLLATED WITHIN SEVEN MINUTES TO GET THIS EFFECT.

Teacher Locker Gives Out Free School Supplies



With the closing of schools for the duration of the school year, Teacher Locker was no longer open to teacher shoppers. As the EVSC transitioned to on-line or virtual learning, Teacher Locker found a way to support teachers and to get school supplies into the hands of students.



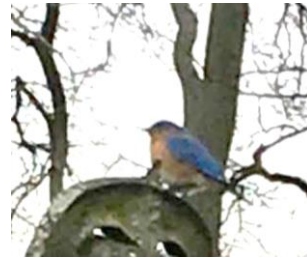
On Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 until noon, parents were able to drive through the Teacher Locker parking lot located on Wedeking Avenue to get free supplies through a “Grab and Go” procedure. Each student received four pencils, a pencil sharpener, a pencil pouch, and spiral notebooks. Younger students also received a box of crayons. Over 1,065 students were served in two hours. Parents were so appreciative for the supplies and students mentioned how much they missed their teachers and school. This was a very rewarding morning for both parents and Teacher Locker volunteers!



Sandra Madriaga and sisters visiting their dad at the nursing home



Painting the deck is hard work for Mike.



Signs of spring on Diane Meier's morning walk



Glenn Ballard is thankful for Zoom during the pandemic!



Ken & Janet Wempe are celebrating being outside!

ERTA Teachers Mary Bryan, Karen Bippus, and Judy Hamsley have been making masks for hospitals, nursing homes, friends, etc. Mary and Judy stopped counting at 200.



Janet Leistner is enjoying her "Virtual Dinner Party" with her family. She also has been making masks for various people and organizations including the UPS driver.



Ranger and Fennel are enjoying the extra attention from Janet and Howard.

