



School's Out Gazette



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

December 2025.....Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 31.3



Message from Janet Leistner, 2025-2026 President



The Holidays have arrived as well as the cold weather. I hope that each of you will enjoy a Holiday filled with family, friends, and fun. Our association continues to thrive with strong membership and attendance at our luncheons. We hope to see everyone in December for our Holiday luncheon. Jan Craig has arranged a delightful program that I know everyone will enjoy.

Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours at the luncheon or email to Jane Staton at mymomjane@aol.com so that we can submit our report in January.

Thank you for all of your support for each other and our association.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on December 18.

Reservations for December Luncheon and Program

The ERTA luncheon will be December 18, 2025, at the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center – Assembly Hall, at 1901 Lynch Road

The cost of the luncheon which is provided by Golden Corral is \$15.00. Payment will be collected at the luncheon. We will start at 11:30 for socializing and we will begin the luncheon at 12:00 noon followed by the program.

Please Click the link below to submit your reservation if you plan to attend and include your name(s) and number of reservations.

Click this link [ERTA Luncheon Reservation Form](#) to submit your reservation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 15. **If you submit a form for two people, please list both names on the form.**

If you have any issues trying to submit your reservation, please email Janet Leistner at j.leistner@twc.com or call 812-455-0384.

Reminder: If you need to make changes or cancel a reservation you made, please contact Janet Leistner at j.leistner@twc.com or call 812-455-0384. Monday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m. is the deadline to cancel your reservation without being charged since ERTA will have to pay for any meals after that date.

MENU	
	Turkey/Dressing
	Baked Ham
	Green Beans
	Mac and Cheese
	Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
	Salad/Dressings
	Desserts
	Beverages

Message from Jan Craig, President-Elect

"Oh, Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind."
Miracle on 34th Street/1947/One of *"my favorite things"*



The holiday season is the most wonderful time of year for many reasons—the food, music, holiday decorations, gatherings with friends and family, and special holiday programs all feel especially magical. To embrace the season fully, I draw inspiration from *"my favorite things,"* including attending a Church candlelight service on Christmas Eve, creating festive crafts, enjoying cozy movie nights, and indulging in treats like my Mom's Christmas Supreme pies.

What are *"your favorite things"* to celebrate during the holidays? We hope one of *"your favorite things"* is joining us at the ERTA holiday luncheon on December 18th to listen to the EVSC McCutchanville Elementary School choir directed by Amanda Bailey Batts. Wishing you and your loved ones a Blessed & Merry Christmas, filled with opportunities for fun, shopping, quality time together, and reflection on *"your favorite things."*



Biography of Amanda Batts, Director of Music at McCutchanville Elementary



Amanda Bailey Batts is the Vocal and General Music teacher at McCutchanville Elementary School. She received her music degree from Ball State University, majoring in voice and piano. Her Master's degree is in secondary education from the University of Southern Indiana. This is her 26th year teaching music in the EVSC. She has taught middle school music at Washington Middle School, high school choir at Reitz, and general music at Harper, and now at McCutchanville. She feels extremely blessed to be a part of the Mustang family!

In addition, she is Director of Contemporary Music at Methodist Temple UMC. She is very adventurous including being an avid hiker and an outstanding photographer. She set a goal to hike in 50 National Parks by her 50th birthday and completed this task by hiking in Isle Royale NP in Michigan this past July by her 50th birthday.

Be sure to join our [Evansville Retired Teachers Facebook page](#) and our website at www.erta.info for information throughout the year. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need assistance. We are looking forward to seeing you at our luncheons this year.

ERTA DATES 2025-2026

December Board Meeting	December 4
December Luncheon.....	December 18
March Newsletter to Diana Luck	February 13
March Board Meeting.....	February 26
March Luncheon	March 5
May Newsletter to Diana Luck	April 10
May Board Meeting.....	April 30
May Luncheon	May 7
IRTA Representative Workshops	June TBA

**Facebook by Doris
Beard:
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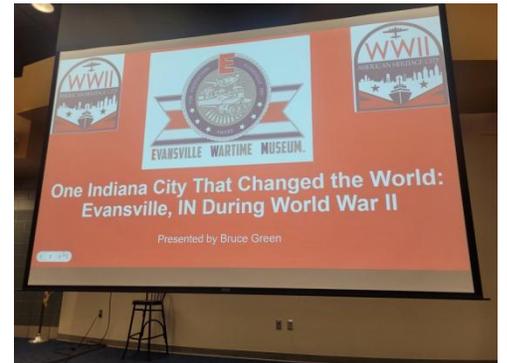
KEEPING IN TOUCH

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



Memories from the October 2025 Meeting

The Evansville Retired Teachers Association welcomed fall with an enjoyable luncheon. It is always great fun to be with friends and former colleagues. We honored our veterans – David Pfettscher, Larry Tindle, Marion Meier, and Gordon Jones for their service to our country. The program featured Bruce Green and Nancy Sanderson from the Evansville Wartime Museum. They shared the impact that many Evansville industries had during World War II years. (Photos by Walter Gleim and Janet Leistner)



Photos by Walt Gleim and Janet Leistner

Message from Mary Jo Beauchamp, IRTA Area 9 Director

Email from Mary Jo –

I plan on attending your December meeting. I read your newsletters, and I can tell you are a busy group. I'm looking forward to seeing you in December.

Message from Diane Meier, IRTA Liaison/Indiana Legislature

Note: Diane will send out more information via email after the first of the year after the legislature priorities are set.



ERTA FINANCE REPORT as of 11/1/2025	
Checking Account	\$4,146.20
Scholarship Account	\$4,463.66
General Fund	\$666.91
TOTAL	\$9,276.77
Reported by: Lynn Arteberry, Treasurer	



In Memoriam

“Always in Our Hearts”

No obituaries submitted at this time. Please let us know if we have missed someone.



ERTA Volunteer Hours due by the end of December – will be collected at luncheon or may be emailed to Jane Staton, Community Service Chairman

Month	Activity	Date
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
TOTAL HOURS		

ERTA Volunteer Hours

Please turn in your hours at the December meeting or email them to Jane Staton (mymomjane@aol.com). Volunteer hours give us clout with the legislature.

Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Executive Board Meeting

September 25, 2025

Members present: Brenda Beeler, Fred Bullinger, Janet Craig, Debra Forrest, Janet Leistner, Diane Meier, Darla Olberding, Dave Pfetscher, and Donna Schmidt.

Call to order at 1:00 pm.

Officer reports:

Secretary, Debra Forrest - Minutes for August meeting approved with corrections.

President elect, Jan Craig - Working with SICTC for storage space.

Past president, Janet Leistner reporting for Vic Doty. Janet spent time with Vic's wife Barbara. She will not be charged for the October lunch.

Treasurer report, Janet Leistner reporting in Lynn Arteberry's absence. Finance report submitted. Checking, saving, and scholarships amounts listed. Also noted it is the member's choice to donate to the general fund.

Committee reports

Auditing and budget: Treasurer report submitted.

Community service/ volunteer hours: Form for members to report volunteer hours will be at the December luncheon. A form will also be in the newsletter. Dave Pfetscher and his team passed out candy for teachers at all the schools.

Fellowship/necrology: Janet sends cards to all members who have lost loved ones. Please keep Janet informed of such information.

Membership: We have 232 members, including the 19 first year members. 157 members have paid; 24 members have committed but have not yet paid. 73 members did not renew. In December, Janet will provide spreadsheets for board members to call those who have not committed. Brenda Scheidler moved and Frankie Calloway have moved, but both may wish to stay members.

Programs/luncheon planning. The luncheon will have patriotic decorations. Jan will read the names of the members who are veterans. Bruce Green from the Evansville War Museum will be the speaker. Currently 71 people have signed up for the October lunch. McCutchanville Elementary students will present the December program.

Publications: Diane Luck is out of the hospital and recuperating. Janet did the newsletter; she has some people in mind to fill in for Diane.

Reservations: 71 people reserved for the October luncheon.

Registrations: Judy Isaac

Special projects (Frog Follies) \$2000 received from Frog Follies

IRTA Indiana liaison/Indiana Legislature: Diana Meier reported that IRTA will lobby against redistricting. Still working on a cost of living stipend. Reported that Vaneta Becker is retiring.

Historian report: Darla Olberding No report.

Information Items

Stipend check from Frog Follies received. Will decide later on who gets funds. Will speak with Vic's wife for ideas of his wishes.

USI President's Associates Dinner 6:45 Saturday, Oct 18 at Carter Hall.

Old business

By-laws and policies and procedures revision for review by board members. Board reviews and makes suggestions. By-laws classification of members will stay as written. Darla Olberding moved to give Darla Hoover honorary membership. Diane Meier seconded the motion. On By-laws (under duties of treasurer) should read "By October meeting the Treasurer will make available the annual fiscal report." Changes to by-laws need to be sent to members 60 days before voting. Will vote in March.

New business

We discussed giving \$100 to SICTC for our use of Assembly Hall. Money to be used for students or faculty as per discussion with SICTC principal Kevin Williams. Darla Olberding. motioned that we change that amount to \$200. Brenda B. seconded the motion. It was approved by 100% of members present.

It was discussed and approved that speakers at the luncheon receive a \$100 stipend.

Announcements

Next Executive Board Meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 4 at 1:00

Meeting adjourned by 2:05 p.m.

Minutes written by Debra Forrest, Secretary



**Evansville Retired Teachers Association
Luncheon Meeting
October 2, 2025**

Janet Leistner called the meeting to order and welcomed first-time attendees. Steve Fritz led the Pledge of Allegiance. The members at the head table were introduced.

Cindy Shoulders gave the blessing for the meal. Lunch served by Golden Corral.

The **business meeting** began at 12:40 P.M.

- Minutes for the August 21 minutes were accepted.
- Diane Meier gave a legislative update.
- By-laws updates will be emailed to members in October and we will vote on changes in December.
- Members were reminded to keep track of and record their volunteer hours. Copies of volunteer hours are on the tables and will be in the newsletter. Jane Staton will report the hours to IRTA in December.
- Thanks to Frog Follies and to members who worked. Check for \$2000 received.
- Thanks to all ERTA members who are veterans. Janet called veterans Dave Pfettscher, U.S. Air Force, Larry Tindle, U.S. Army, Marion Meier, U.S. Air Force, and Gordon Jones, Army National Guard up front to receive a small gift. Other veterans not present today were Walt Lewis, Larry Childers, and Bob Hammonds.

The program was given by Bruce Green, Head of the Evansville Wartime Museum. Mr. Green gave an interesting and informative speech about the many things residents of Evansville did during World War. As a result of Evansville's patriotism and service, it was named an American World War II Heritage City. As noted in the brochure Mr. Green passed out, Heritage sites "are recognized by the National Parks Service for their historic contributions to the war effort. . . Only one city per state can be designated and only 19 cities in the U.S. have received this honor."

Mr. Green explained several of the many things Evansville citizens did to receive this honor.

Mr. Green is also a retired educator and head of his local organization.

As the luncheon came to a close, Jan Craig handed out door prizes. Our next board meeting will be Dec. 4 and the luncheon will be December 18. Janet Leistner dismissed the group.

Minutes taken by Debra Forrest



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