



# School's Out Gazette

Publication of the Evansville Retired Teachers Association, an Affiliate of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association  
March 2021.....Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 25.4

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## From our 2020-2021 President, Janet Leistner

As I watch the snow fall, I am again reminded that world happenings and nature have much influence on how we live our lives day to day. We can be frustrated with the pandemic and the weather, or we can learn to find joy that our country is moving forward with the rollout of the vaccines and that nature provides a beautiful way to let us appreciate how the snow can be comforting as we stay in our warm homes.

Our thoughts are with the educators across the world who are working continuously to devise ways to reach students. There have been several documentaries about the rising concerns of the mental health of young people during the pandemic. I am sure we all have memories and stories about students that we taught and counseled through difficult times. We are in difficult times now, and I hope that all students can find comfort and guidance from their teachers. I would like to share the story below that was sent to me by ERTA member Earl Pfetscher. Please take care and I hope that we will meet again as the pandemic subsides.

### Please enjoy:

An old man meets a young man who asks, "Do you remember me?"

And the old man says, "No." Then the young man tells him he was his student, and the teacher asks, "What do you do, what do you do in life?" The young man answers, "Well, I became a teacher." "Ah, how good, like me?" asks the old man. "Well, yes. In fact, I became a teacher because you inspired me to be like you." The old man, curious, asks the young man at what time he decided to become a teacher.

The young man tells him the following story:

One day, a friend of mine, also a student, came in with a nice new watch, and I decided I wanted it. I stole it; I took it out of his pocket. Shortly after, my friend noticed that his watch was missing and immediately complained to our teacher, who was you. Then, you addressed the class saying, "This student's watch was stolen during classes today. Whoever stole it, please return it." I did not give it back because I didn't want to. You closed the door and told us all to stand up and form a circle.

You were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found. However, you told us to close our eyes, because you would only look for his watch if we all had our eyes closed.

We did as we were instructed. You went from pocket to pocket, and when you went through my pocket, you found the watch and took it. You kept searching everyone's pockets, and when you were done you said, "Open your eyes. We have the watch."

You did not tell on me, and you never mentioned the episode. You never said who stole the watch either. That day you saved my dignity forever. It was the most shameful day of my life.

But this is also the day I decided not to become a thief, a bad person, etc. You never said anything, nor did you even scold me or take me aside to give me a moral lesson. I received your message clearly. Thanks to you, I understood what a real educator needs to do.

"Do you remember this episode, professor?" I asked.

The old professor answered, "Yes, I remember the situation with the stolen watch, which I was looking for in everyone's pocket. I didn't remember you because I also closed my eyes while looking."



### **Volunteers Are Special!**

Remember to keep track of your volunteer hours for 2021. Questions? Contact Jane Staton at [mymomjane@aol.com](mailto:mymomjane@aol.com).



We are so proud of all the inductees into the EVSC Class of 2020 Hall of Fame!

<https://www.14news.com/2020/12/15/evsc-announces-class-hall-fame/>



### **Message from Our 2020-2021 President-Elect, Jan Craig**

Do you think snow is terrible?

Well, I am sure most EVSC students would say it's not so bad since they have been out of school for over a week due to this natural wonder. I have loved the Facebook snow pictures and videos of friends and family sledding and having fun playing in the snow. Even my 75-year-old first cousin David, who lives in Philpot, KY, was videotaped riding down his backyard hill on his granddaughter's sled. Good for him!

Yes, our recent bouts of snow and ice canceled lots of schools and events. Sadly, the ERTA Board has decided to cancel our March meeting, not due to snow but because of our on-going concern about the Covid virus. Our last meeting was on March 12, 2020, and we all so miss getting together. Our fingers are crossed that we will be able to meet again safely soon.

Warmly, Jan

## Message from Sandra Schmitt, ERTA Secretary

### Evansville Retired Teachers Association Executive Board Meeting October 1, 2020

**Call to Order:** President Janet Leistner called the Zoom meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance: Doris Beard, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Jan Craig, Steve Fritz, Judy Isaac, Diana Luck, Diane Meier, Don Mosbey, Jane Stanton, and Lino Wiseman plus guest, Jim Isaacs, IRTA, Area 9 Director who lives in Oakland City, IN.

**Opening Thoughts:** Janet welcomed Jim Isaac, IRTA, to our Zoom meeting and thanked him for agreeing to conduct the installation of officers today.

**Approval of August 6, 2020, Executive Board Minutes:** Doris Beard made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, and Don Mosbey seconded the motion. The motion passed. The minutes were approved as printed.

**Installation of Officers:** *Janet Craig, President-Elect, Sandy Schmidt, Secretary (not present), Fred Bullinger, Nomination Director, Don Mosbey, Nomination Director, and Fred Naab, Nomination Director (not present)*

Jim Isaacs, IRTA, Area 9 Director conducted the installation of officers.

#### **Officer Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Lino Wiseman stated the financial report was emailed to each board member and asked for any comments. He mentioned that the scholarship funds were not distributed due to the pandemic.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Community Service:** Jane Staton reminded members of the board to continue to keep track of all volunteer community service hours. She realizes that due to the pandemic our chapter's total hours will be down from last year. She stated that she appreciated the inclusion of the volunteer hour form in the recent newsletter.

**Fellowship/Necrology:** Donna Lutz was not able to attend. Judy Isaac stated that we need to get new retirees involved. Janet Leistner thanked members for letting Diana know when someone passes away.

**Membership:** Darlene Brockriede reported our current membership count is 241 members which included 61 recent retirees (who do not pay dues during their first year). In comparison, there were 258 members with 27 new retirees last year. We need to remind members to pay their 2020-2021 dues.

**Program/Luncheon:** Jan Craig reported that Dona Bone from the Evansville Wartime Museum was contacted, and she preferred an in-person presentation versus a Zoom one. Tentatively, she is scheduled for our 2021 March meeting. Golden Corral and the Embrace Church were contacted about the cancelation of our October 8 meeting. Janet and Jan will work on an in-person or virtual December meeting based on the COVID-19 status at the time.

**Publications:** Diana Luck suggested a newsletter be sent to the membership after the ERTA board decides in November about the December meeting. The newsletter is the best way to communicate to the membership during this pandemic. She suggested a free text alert be sent to the membership before meetings. There are text programs like Remind that

could be utilized and this will be discussed later. Diana thanked the leadership of Janet Leistner as President under these unusual circumstances this year. Steve Fitz suggested that the current leadership roll-over for another year due to the fact we have not met since March of 2019. Everyone present agreed to serve another year except Lino who had previously informed the board that this was his last year as Treasurer. Janet said a search for his replacement would be conducted before our next meeting.

**Publicity:** Doris Beard mentioned she would no longer have access to host Zoom meetings. It costs \$14.99 monthly to be able to host a Zoom meeting.

**Scholarships:** Diane Meier reported that the committee would wait out the virus until teachers feel safe to attend conferences, etc., before distributing any funds.

**IRTA Liaison/Legislative:** Diane Meier mentioned a website entitled [ballotpedia.org](http://ballotpedia.org) for help and information on the upcoming general election. It will show a sample ballot by entering the address where you are registered to vote. She reminded everyone to vote especially for the Indiana House of Representative race in District 64. There is no state senator position to vote for this year.

**Historian:** Darla Olberding was unable to attend today's meeting. Janet and Steve will attempt at a future date to have the ERTA 2525 file cabinet at ETFCU opened by a locksmith.

**Information Items:**

1. Janet Leistner received a thank you letter from Teacher Locker for our recent donation. Sandy and Mike Madriaga and Vic Doty continue to help with this classroom supply outreach to current EVSC teachers. Teacher Locker is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. by appointment only.
2. Janet informed the board that the teacher candy baskets would be put on hold until next year.
3. Options for the December 10 meeting were discussed from in-person to a Zoom format. A decision will be made in November and announced in the newsletter. Live entertainment will be included in the program.
4. Janet attended the USI Founder's Day program by Zoom. Dr. Rochon, USI President, mentioned ERTA during the program.
5. Jan Craig suggested having a drawing for gift cards for current members who have paid dues by a specific date. The drawing would also include recent retirees.
6. Next ERTA Executive Board Meeting will be on December 3, 2020. An informal board Zoom meeting will be held in November to decide on the viability and format of the Dec.10 meeting.

Adjournment: 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by Jan Craig, President-Elect, for Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

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)

Facebook by Doris Beard: Search Evansville Retired Teachers Association

IN MEMORIAM

“Always in Our Hearts”

**John Aramowicz** ..... February 15, 2021  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=john-aramowicz&pid=197788912&fhid=10665>

**Bob Wessel**..... February 1, 2021  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=robert-wessel&pid=197649885>

**Ed Wessel** ..... January 16, 2021  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=edward-m-wessel&pid=197540553&fhid=14467>

**Carolyn Barron**..... January 7, 2021  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=carolyn-barron&pid=197479552&fhid=41939>

**James Schneider** ..... January 7, 2021  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=james-a-schneider&pid=197468939&fhid=10664>

**Virginia Tate** ..... December 26, 2020  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=virginia-june-tate-brockett&pid=197443730&fhid=15841>

**Jim Schwengel**..... December 23, 2020  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=james-david-schwengel-jim&pid=197366367&fhid=10662>

**Don Hartig**..... December 19, 2020  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=donald-theodore-hartig-don&pid=197346272&fhid=14467>

**William Wittmer** ..... December 12, 2020  
<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=wilmer-william-wittmer&pid=197289767&fhid=10665>

**ERTA 2020-2021**

March Board Meeting ..... March 4 - Zoom	UE Scholarship Banquet ..... April - TBA
March Luncheon..... March 11 - Canceled	May Board Meeting ..... May 6 - Pending
May Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck..... April 5	May Luncheon/Program ..... May 13 - Pending
USI Scholarship Banquet..... April - TBA	IRTA Rep. Assembly, Primo Center, Indy.... June 17



**EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**Treasurer's Report by Lino Wiseman**



**December 31, 2020**

<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>				
Beginning Balance December 1, 2020				\$7,337.97
Income		120		
Expenses			121.34	
Interest		0.03		
<u>Ending Balance December 31, 2020</u>				<u>\$7,336.66</u>
<b>REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT</b>				
Beginning Balance December 1, 2020				240.68
Interest		0.01		
<u>Ending Balance December 31, 2020</u>				<u>240.69</u>
<b>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT</b>				
Beginning Balance December 1, 2020				3,090.31
Interest		0.52		
<u>Ending Balance December 31, 2020</u>				<u>3,090.83</u>
<b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT</b>				
Beginning Balance December 1, 2020				\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance December 31, 2020</u>				<u>\$15.00</u>
<b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26</b>				
Beginning Balance December 1, 2020				11,038.65
Interest		0.47		
<u>Ending Balance December 31, 2020</u>				<u>11,039.12</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				
				<b>\$21,722.30</b>

**Message from Diane Meier, IRTA Liaison/Legislative**



**Legislative News:**

The House has passed the stipend (13<sup>th</sup> check) 92 – 1. (HB 1227) The bill will now go to a Senate Committee; probably Pensions and Labor and then to Appropriations. We know the Republican caucus in the House will want to keep it, but there will be those in the Senate who oppose it. Please contact your Senator and ask him/her to support this bill.

**Hensley Scholarship News:**

Because of the cancellation of the majority of the conferences, most of the Hensley money remains in the account. I have contacted all the 2020 recipients and requested that they notify me if or when their conference will be held. Presently, the money will simply remain in the Hensley account.





**Evansville Retired  
Teachers Association  
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