



School's Out Gazette



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

May 2024.....Diana Luck, Editor..... Volume 29.5



Message from Doris Beard, 2023-2024 President

Spring has sprung! Flowers are beginning to bloom and the days are getting warmer. With the onset of spring comes the end of our ERTA year. I would like to thank all of you for your help in making this year so successful and pleasant. A big shout out goes to Embrace Church for allowing us to meet in their nice facility and to Golden Corral for the wonderful food. We have had a fun and productive year. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you better this year as I have served as ERTA president. Thank you for this honor. I look forward to seeing all of you back at ERTA next year.

Our last meeting will be Thursday, May 9, at noon at Embrace Church. The Frog Follies will be our topic. I hope all of you have an enjoyable and healthy summer. I look forward to seeing you in September at our first meeting of the 2024-2025 year.

Reservations for May 9 Luncheon/Program:

We are preparing for our final luncheon for this year. We look forward to seeing everyone again. Check your schedules and make your reservation for our next luncheon.

The ERTA luncheon will be May 9, 2024, at the Embrace Church at 6300 Washington Avenue. Our program will feature Jodi Monarch and ERTA's Jim Sharp who will present a program about Frog Follies held in August of each year. Jim will share the role that ERTA serves for this important community project.

The cost of the luncheon, which is provided by Golden Corral, is \$15. 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.

Click this link [ERTA Luncheon Reservation Form](#) to submit your reservation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 6. **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, May 6, 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.
Janet A. Leistner

MENU

- Sliced Roast Beef in Au Jus
- Chicken and Dumplings
- Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Broccoli Salad
- Salad/Dressings
- Rolls/Butter
- Desserts
- Beverages

Message from Vic Doty, 2024-2025 President-Elect

I look forward to seeing you at the next ERTA Luncheon May 9. The speakers will be Jodie Monarch, who will speak about Frog Follies. This year's event is August 23-25. Jim Sharp will be sharing about our role as registration volunteers for the event.

We look forward to your continued support for education and current teachers and students of our community. There are many opportunities for you to get directly involved by volunteering with The Teacher Locker, Hangers, Frog Follies and many more. We welcome your help.

We look forward to seeing you!

Message from Diane Meier, IRTA Liaison/Indiana Legislature

The Legislative Committee met on March 19 to receive information on the 2024 Legislative session. Lobbyist Steve Beebe characterized the session as "A Tale of Two Cities," with the House unanimously supporting the 13th check and the Senate being more reluctant to support it. Thanks to the work of Steve, Executive Director Laura Penman, and the communication from our members to the Legislators, there will be a "13th check" paid to retirees prior to October 1, 2024. The amounts will be the same as in the past, depending on the years of service: \$150, \$275, \$375, or \$450.

The Senate offered SB275, a hybrid future plan of 13th check for current retirees and a 1% COLA for retirees after 2025 for future retirees [and the future COLAs could be less than 1%.] SB275 was eventually incorporated into HB1004 which passed both houses. There is not a date for the implementation of this bill.

There is no guarantee for either a 13th check or a COLA in 2025.

The Legislative Committee meets again in August; I will have more information on what members can do after this meeting.

Message from Gene VanStone, IRTA Area 9 Representative (and proud member of ERTA)

Two big events are coming up: The IRTA Representative Assembly in June and the Fall Workshop in September.

It is at the Representative Assembly that all local representatives vote on legislative matters for the State IRTA. Evansville's voice needs to be heard. All members are invited to attend! The delegates selected by the ERTA will do the actual voting.

The Fall Workshop will be held in Montgomery, IN, at the Gustaph Conference Center on September 26 (Thursday). The theme of the conference will be "Advocacy." Stee Bebe, our lobbyist for the IRTA, will be speaking; it is a 'good time' for fellowship and the gaining of information as to how our pension, COLA, and 13th Check are secured.

Hope that you will join me at these events!

Memories from the March 2024 Luncheon/Program—Janet Leistner

ERTA enjoyed another great luncheon and program in March. We presented a donation to Cyndi Donley for the Vanderburgh Humane Society from donations at our December luncheon. Diane Meier provided important legislative updates, and we had a program presented by EPD Detective Nathan VanCleave on internet safety and avoiding scams. Nathan is a 2000 graduate of Harrison HS. We are so proud of his work in our community.



Internet Safety and Scams

At our March luncheon, we had an excellent presentation by Sgt. Nathan VanCleave of the Evansville Police Department. Sgt. VanCleave began by saying that he attended Hebron, Plaza, and Harrison High School in Evansville and had attended Indiana University. He said that he returned to Evansville in 2017 and has been on the Evansville Police Department for seven years. He currently heads the Financial Crime Unit.

Sgt. VanCleave used a slide presentation to show how people, especially seniors, can be victims of fraud.

Common Methods for Scams:

1. Cell phone and land lines: If you don't recognize the number, don't answer.
2. Don't give out personal information if you do answer.

Common Internet Scams:

1. Lottery Investment
2. Romance - one of the biggest
3. Police Warrant
4. On-Line Sales

Red Flags:

1. Asked for date of birth, Social Security Number, bank account number, credit card number
2. Told to send cash or gift cards through the mail
3. Told to not talk to anyone about the call; in fact, told to stay on the phone
4. Could have changed their caller ID number, so it might resemble a number you know
5. Asked for Bitcoin or Crypto-currency

Sgt. VanCleave suggested sticking with cash or checks.

Steps to Take if You Were Scammed:

1. Contact your bank or credit union, your credit card company, and the police.
2. Freeze your credit.
3. Report the information to the Better Business Bureau.

Following his presentation, he answered questions from the audience. We also reminded members to be aware of any emails that are supposedly from an ERTA member that might include messages such as "I am sending the following pictures found on my phone..." or "Please purchase gift certificates..." Those are not emails we would send. Be sure to check the sending address to make sure you know the sender is from ERTA. Don't hesitate to forward an email you have concerns about or contact Janet Leistner at j.leistner@twc.com or 812-455-0384 if you have any questions or concerns about an email you receive. Luncheon and membership information will be sent from leistnerjanet@gmail.com

Thanks to Lynn Arteberry for scheduling the program, and special thanks to Sandra Schmidt for her excellent notes from the presentation included in this article.

EVSC Retirement Reception and Membership Reminders

The EVSC School Board will approve the 2023-2024 new retirees on May 13. We plan to have a table and information for membership for our ERTA group at the EVSC Retirement Reception on May 15 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 in the Admin Board Room. We will greet the new retirees and share information with them about ERTA and Teacher Locker. We will encourage them to join ERTA.

We welcome any members who would like to help that day. Please let Janet Leistner know if you can attend at 812-455-0384 or j.leistner@twc.com.

Also a reminder that if you know of anyone who is retiring or already retired and would like to join, please send me their contact information, and we will be glad to welcome them to our chapter. We continue to have a large membership, and we enjoy seeing and communicating with our members. Also remember to visit our [ERTA webpage](#) and [Facebook page](#).

In Memoriam
Always in Our Hearts”

Barbara J. (Dailey) SchmittMarch 31, 2024
<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/psbn0774073>

Jerry Ilbern Jones March 3, 2024
<https://www.courierpress.com/obituaries/psbn0743782>

ERTA FINANCE REPORT as of 4/30/2024	
Checking Account	\$4,439.72
Scholarship Account	\$2,232.09
Savings Account	\$240.90
TOTAL	\$6,912.71



This is a collage of pictures taken by a family professional videographer from SC at the Evansville Museum:
Awesome experience!



Message from Jan Craig, Past ERTA President

As Past President, I was allowed to select, with Board approval, a non-profit organization to receive a portion of our Frog Follies funds this year. Many of you volunteer each year for this fundraising event, and we so appreciate our members who show up and help in so many ways. A special thanks to Jim Sharp for his leadership and hard work in coordinating ERTA's participation each year at Frog Follies.



I chose **Youth Resources** because some dear friends of mine have a scholarship in their son's name, and I have seen firsthand the real impact on the lives of many area youth. YR students are encouraged to live a life dedicated to leadership, service, & civic engagement.

Our donation to Youth Resources will make a difference in building future community leaders. **Laura Ferguson, Executive Director of Youth Resources**, will attend our luncheon on May 9 to receive our \$1,000 donation.

Hope to see many of you at our last meeting.



ERTA 2023-2024

- May Newsletter to Diana Luck.....April 18**
- May Board Meeting.....May 2**
- May Luncheon..... May 9**
- IRTA Representative Workshops.....June (TBA)**

KEEPING IN TOUCH

- ERTA Websitewww.erta.info**
- EVSC Website.....<http://evscicats.com/evscnewsletter/category/latest-news/evsc-news/>**
- IRTA 1-888-454-9333**
- IRTA E-mailirta@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 Websitewww.retiredteachers.org**
- ISTRF Website www.in.gov/trf**

**Facebook by Doris
Beard:
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Retired Teachers
Association**

Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Executive Board Meeting

March 7, 2024

Call to Order: President Doris Beard called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at Embrace Church and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president, the following were in attendance:

Lynn Arteberry, Brenda Beeler, Karen Bippus, Fred Bullinger, Frankye Calloway, Jan Craig, Victor Doty, Judy Isaac, Janet Leistner, Diana Luck, Darla Olberding, David Pfetscher, and Sandra Schmidt.

Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2023: The minutes were approved as written.

Officer Reports:

President-elect: Victor Doty read the names of those who will be installed at next week’s luncheon.

Directors: Fred Bullinger, Darrin Carnahan, and Donna Schmidt

Secretary: Sandra Schmidt

Past President: Jan Craig announced that there are 79 reservations for the luncheon so far.

Lynn Arteberry added that Sgt. Nathan VanCleve will speak on Internet Safety after the meal.

Treasurer: Lynn Arteberry gave the following financial report as of March 6, 2024:

	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
Checking:	\$4,914.85	\$4,947.45	\$4,962.47
Scholarship:	\$2,207.43	\$2, 232.05	\$2,232.07
Savings:	<u>\$240.90</u>	<u>\$240.90</u>	<u>\$240.90</u>
Totals:	\$7,382.78	\$7,420.40	\$7,435.44

Money collected at the luncheon in December totaled \$343.00.

Lynn also said that our December luncheon expenses were \$363 more than our income.

Committee Reports:

Community Service/Volunteer Hours: Jane Staton submitted our volunteer hours to IRTA.

Membership: Janet Leistner reported there are 222 paid memberships at this time. Five new retirees are members. Janet distributed a list of retirees who are not members. Dues are \$15.00

Reservations: At this time there are 79 reservations for next week’s luncheon. Janet said that she will call Golden Corral on Monday to report the number of reservations.

Scholarships: Doris reported that our scholarship recipient at USI was not present at the university's luncheon. Doris later learned that our recipient was not at the luncheon because she was doing her student teaching.

Our scholarship recipient at UE sent a Thank You note to ERTA.

Information Item:

A reception for those retiring from EVSC will be held May 15, 2024, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the EVSC Board Room. ERTA will be in attendance again this year to inform the new retirees about ERTA.

Old Business:

Offers Outing Baseball Game: Doris asked if the membership would be interested in attending this year. It was decided that a decision will be made later.

New Business: There was none.

Announcement: The next ERTA Executive Board Meeting will be Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Luncheon Meeting

March 14, 2024

Call to Order: President Doris Beard called the meeting to order at noon at Embrace Church and welcomed everyone. She asked those who are attending for the first time to stand. Then she asked those who celebrate a January, February, or March birthday to stand.

Introduction of the Head Table: The president introduced ERTA President-elect Victor Doty and Vanderburgh Humane Society's Humane Education Coordinator Cyndi Donley. Evansville Police Department Sergeant Nathan VanCleave will arrive later and will speak on Internet Safety.

Pledge of Allegiance: Steve Fritz led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Blessing: Steve Fritz spoke about this being the Season of Lent. Then he read Scripture before he sang a prayer.

Presentation: Each year the president of ERTA selects a worthy non-profit to receive donations collected at the luncheon in December. This year members and guests donated \$343 for the Vanderburgh Humane Society. The check was presented to Cyndi Donley, the VHS Humane Education Coordinator. She spoke briefly and thanked ERTA for the donation.

Business: Acceptance of Luncheon Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2023: The minutes were accepted as written.

News from IRTA: Diane Meier spoke about the passage of the 13th Check and the hard work of IRTA Executive Director Laura Penman and IRTA President David Lennen. Diane encouraged anyone who is not a member of IRTA to take a look at the association and become a member.

Nominations: President-elect Victor Doty listed the following who will be sworn in at the luncheon in May:

Directors: Fred Bullinger, Darrin Carnahan, and Donna Schmidt

Secretary: Sandra Schmidt

The vote was unanimous to accept the above slate.

Lunch: The president-elect prayed before dismissing the head table. Then the membership was dismissed by tables. Each table was labeled with a famous saying.

Recognition: Doris acknowledged Gene VanStone, our Area 9 Representative.

Teacher Locker Donations: Doris reported that Teacher Locker needs Post-it Notes and 12 count packs of colored pencils. A collection box will be at the luncheon in May.

Facebook Page: Doris asked members to join our Facebook page to keep up to date on events.

Members and their guests moved to the Sanctuary for the program.

Program: Lynn Arteberry introduced today's guest speaker, Sgt. Nathan VanCleave of the Evansville Police Department. Sgt. VanCleave began by telling that he attended Hebron, Plaza, and Harrison High School in Evansville and had attended Indiana University. He said that he returned to Evansville in 2017 and has been on the Evansville Police Department for seven years. He currently heads the Financial Crime Unit.

Sgt. VanCleave used a slide presentation to show how people, especially seniors, can be victims of fraud.

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Sgt. VanCleave suggested sticking with cash or checks.

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1. Contact your bank or credit union, your credit card company, and the police.
2. Freeze your credit.
3. Report the information to the Better Business Bureau.

Sgt. VanCleave answered a number of questions asked by those in attendance.

Then he was given a certificate and a gift card.

Door Prizes: Sgt. VanCleave drew the numbers for the gift cards. Three were awarded.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Next ERTA Board Meeting: May 7, 2024

Next Luncheon Meeting: May 14, 2024

Minutes by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



**Evansville Retired
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