



School's Out Gazette

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

March 2017 Volume 21.4

From Our 2016-2017 President, Tom Wiggers

As we struggle through another Southern Indiana winter of bone-chilling cold and record high temperatures, it is time to focus on the season to come and the things in life most valuable, like good friends. Our association does many, many important and caring things but, at its core, is the opportunity for retired professionals to meet regularly to renew and develop deep social ties with one another. Let's be grateful once again for this opportunity and have a large crowd at our upcoming luncheon, Thursday, March 9. Yes, your friends will be there.

Amid our pleasure of fellowship, we must also be aware and active in protecting our pensions and our love for public education. Make sure you do your part by contacting your legislators to push for a cost of living increase and a "13th" check, any decline in ISTRF benefits, and for increased funding for our public schools. This is the critical "long" session of the legislature in which the two-year state budget is set. Your input is vital.

See you Thursday, March 9, at 11:30 AM at American Baptist East! Tom



The fourth ERTA luncheon for this school year will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at the American Baptist East Church at 6300 Washington Avenue at 11:30 for socializing and lunch at 12 noon. The cost is \$12. The program will be a representative from the Public Education Foundation.

Please reply to my February 9 e-mail by Monday, February 27, 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 ASAP. Also, if school is cancelled, our luncheon is cancelled. If school is delayed, we will have our luncheon as planned.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in March!
Diana Luck

Our Menu

- * Fried Chicken
- * Ham
- * Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- * Green Beans
- * Salad
- * Rolls
- * Dessert



Graphics are from Google Images. ERTA logo by Jon Siau. Thanks, Walt Gleim, for the photos.

Message from Our President-Elect, Terry Becker



This is how good this team is. I came onto the board last spring, thanks to the urging of Tom Wiggers, who assured me that this was the easiest job I would ever have. And in many ways he was right. The Team of Retired Teachers who manage the committees, offices and projects for the Association are nothing less than phenomenal. Things just get done! When I went to my first meeting, I was amazed at the number of old friends around the table. Go to the Web site - check out the names under the Leadership tab. It goes so far beyond a luncheon five times a year.

But now the calendar is turning, and we need to give some of these people a well-deserved break. As I sit down with my list of potential replacements - a job I generally dread - I know there are a thousand reasons for you not to get tied down with some of the jobs that need to be done. I totally get that no one wants to go "back to work"! But from Scholarships to Legislative actions to keeping track of the membership, there are so many jobs that we take for granted will get done.

So, please - if you are called to serve in one of these positions, give it some careful thought. Most of the jobs don't take an incredible amount of time but are so important to keep this organization functioning. If you would like to serve, and I don't call you - call me! It is most likely because I don't know you well, or just missed the name as I looked through the list.

Did I say how good this team is? Did I mention we'd love to have you pitch in? Terry



March 2, 2017	Board Meeting at American Baptist East
March 9, 2017	Luncheon Meeting
March 2017	Legislative Lobby Day in Indianapolis (Dates TBD)
April 3, 2017	Newsletter article due to Diana Luck
April 2017	UE and USI Scholarship Banquets (Dates TBD)
May 4, 2017	Board Meeting at American Baptist East
May 11, 2017	Luncheon Meeting/Install new officers
June 2017	IRTA Representative Assembly, Indianapolis, IN (Dates TBD)



Work and fellowship at the December luncheon

ERTA Trivia No. 6

In 1983, Mardelle McCormick and Dr. Wilma Shafer were the first chairmen for a new committee, Informative and Protective Services. It was established to meet the needs of retired teachers. Note: This committee no longer exists.

In 1985-86, under the leadership of Wilford Jarboe, the husbands and wives of retired teachers could become Associate Members of the organization at a reduced membership fee.

Compiled by Patricia Eager
Submitted by Darla Olberding



Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Executive Board Meeting

December 1, 2016

Call to Order: President-Elect Terry Becker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at American Baptist East and welcomed everyone. In addition to the president-elect, the following were in attendance: Brenda Beeler, Darlene Brockriede, Fred Bullinger, Judy Isaac, Diana Luck, Diane Meier, Don Mosbey, Fred Naab, David Pfettscher, Ed Rusk, Brenda Scheidler, Sandra Schmidt, Brenda Weber, and Lino Wiseman.

Meditation: Chaplain Ed Rusk read "Living Would Be Easier If Men Showed As Much Patience at Home As They Do When They're Fishing." Then, he read 1 Peter 3:7 and prayed.

Acceptance of Agenda: Terry asked that today's agenda be accepted with flexibility. Diane Meier made a motion to accept today's agenda with flexibility. Brenda Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of October 6, 2016 Executive Board Minutes: The minutes were accepted as printed.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Lino Wiseman distributed the financial report for October 31, 2016. There was no discussion. It was noted that the savings and checking accounts earned 64 cents in interest.

President-Elect: Terry announced that Tom arranged for the Carousel to cater our meal at next week's luncheon. A discussion will take place after the luncheon to determine if we should stay with the Carousel or seek another caterer.



Immediate Past President: Brenda Weber reported that she has not yet selected the special project for the end of the year, but she does know that she wants it to be school based.

Brenda suggested that we do something for the custodian at the church because of all the extra work he has to do for our luncheons. She made a motion to give the church custodian \$100 at the Christmas meeting. David Pfettscher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Diane Meier spoke for Jan Kraft and reminded the board members that volunteer hours are due at the end of December.

Membership: Darlene Brockriede informed the board that ERTA currently has 315 members. Of that number, 223 retired teachers and 18 associate members have paid. Those who don't pay dues include first-year retired teachers, an honorary member, and 19 ERTA past presidents. Teacher retirees numbered 54 this year.

Nominations: Terry listed the positions on the board that will need to be filled for 2017/2018. The positions include president-elect, chaplain, reservations, and publicity.

Reservations: Diana Luck reported 179 reservations for next week's luncheon.

Publicity: Judy Isaac said that she sent information to the newspaper about our December luncheon. The paper did print the information.

Scholarships: Diane Meier announced that the deadline for applying for the Hensley will be in February. The scholarships will be awarded in March.

IRTA/Legislative: Diane Meier spoke about the importance of supporting the work of IRTA. As more retire, more will draw from the fund. At one point our pension will not keep up with inflation. Our pension fund is an unfunded liability. When Mitch Daniels was governor, he did pay back some of what was owed. Diane added that we would not have gotten the last stipend without Vaneta Becker.



Our pension check for January will arrive on the third of the month.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: The board was asked to consider the new ERTA logo created by Jon Siau. After some discussion, Brenda Weber made a motion to accept the new logo if there were no copyright concerns. David Pfettscher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Brenda asked the secretary to send a thank you note to Jon.

Announcement: The next board meeting will be March 2, 2017.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

Evansville Retired Teachers Association

Luncheon Meeting

December 8, 2016

Call to Order: President Tom Wiggers called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. at the American Baptist East Fellowship Hall and welcomed everyone.

Introductions: Tom introduced the following members and guests seated at the head table:

Ed and Ruby Rusk, Rachel Gumble and Kristie Byrns of the Albion Fellows Bacon Center, and ERTA President-Elect Terry Becker.

Pledge of Allegiance: Terry led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meditation: Chaplain Ed Rusk read "Christmas Is for Everyone." He then read Luke 3:8 and prayed.



Speakers from the Albion Fellows Bacon Center: Executive Director Kristie Byrns spoke about the services provided by the center. They include offering shelter for domestic violence victims, maintaining a 24-hour crisis line, going out into the community at times to help victims, and operating a prevention program where members of the staff go into school systems. The center was formed in 1981.

Community Engagement Director Rachel Gumble spoke about group volunteer opportunities at the center and announced that a monthly skills workshop will be starting soon. She concluded by saying that the response program operates 365 days a year.

Christmas Project: Tom asked members to make a contribution to the Albion Fellows Bacon Center. Contributions were to be placed in the Christmas gift bag that was on each table.

Volunteer Hours: Tom reminded members to e-mail their volunteer hours to Jan Kraft by the end of December.

Lunch: Those seated at the head table were dismissed for meal service, followed by members and guests.

Approval of October 13, 2016 Luncheon Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed.



Door Prizes: Poinsettias provided by the board were awarded as door prizes.

Program: The North High School Varsity Singers, under the direction of Nicholas Gray, provided the entertainment for today's luncheon meeting. The a cappella choir sang a variety of Christmas carols. The program was held in the sanctuary.



Announcements: Diane Meier reported that pensions are in trouble throughout the United States. ERTA members soon will be asked to write letters to their Indiana legislators. Diane announced that the January check will arrive on January 3, 2017, due to the holiday.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Note: The amount collected for the Albion Fellows Bacon Center was \$953.95.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary



Service/Volunteer Hours, Jan Kraft



Thanks to everyone who turned in volunteer hours for 2016. ERTA folks have really given back to the community with their services. These hours are used when we talk to the legislators lobbying for them to remember us when they are making budget decisions.

Please keep a record of your 2017 hours. Practically everything counts unless you are caring for your own family members. Your hours will be collected next December. Questions: Contact Jan

Kraft at 812-760-8561 or email at kraft@aftinc.net.

Legislative News, Diane Meier

There were three COLA bills submitted and none have surfaced in committee. Tom Mellish, IRTA Executive Director, has indicated that these bills won't be brought forward. Two "13th Check" Bills were filed, HB 1537, Rep. Gutwein's bill was brought forward last week and passed the House Employment, Labor and Pension Committee by an 11-0 vote. It will go on to the House Ways and Means Committee. Presently, House Bill 1537 has passed in the house; it provides for a 13th check, with no increase in the amount. However, House Bill 1246 which provides a 2% COLA has not been heard. Even though HB 1537 is a straight "13th Check" Bill, no increase, IRTA has testified in favor, but asked that an increase be included.

Please continue to write your legislators urging the passage of a COLA or at least an increase in the 13th check; talking points you can use:

- Teachers have not received a COLA since 2007.
- Prices, especially for medical needs and utilities, have continued to increase.
- If the gas tax is raised, it will put an additional hardship on seniors who have a fixed income.
- Use personal stories of how you/your family have been affected by the increase in prices.

April 4 is the Legislative Brunch in Indianapolis. It begins at 9:00 in the Statehouse; please plan to attend.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Beth Riggs-Wiggins	October 4, 2016
Charles Steiler	January 8, 2017
Irene Saucer	January 12, 2017
Bettye Lou Jerrel	January 24, 2017
Trilla Griffith	February 1, 2017

Gone But Not Forgotten

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

Darlene Brockriede maintains the ERTA database of members. If any of your personal information has changed, please email her at brockriede@twc.com.



EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Treasurer's Report by Lino Wiseman
December 31, 2016



CHECKING ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2016				<u>\$4,967.14</u>
Interest		0.22		
Income		2,381		
Disbursements			2,504.75	
<u>Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2016</u>				<u>\$4,843.61</u>
REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2016				239.88
Interest		0.02		
<u>Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2016</u>				<u>239.90</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT				
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2016				\$15.00
<u>Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2016</u>				<u>\$15.00</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26				
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2016				4,748.82
Donations		15		
Interest		0.44		
<u>Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2016</u>				<u>4,764.26</u>
HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 2 CD's				
Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2016				39,484.10
Interest		73.58		
<u>Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2016</u>				<u>39,557.68</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				\$49,420.45



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