



# School's Out Gazette

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

March 2019 ..... Volume 23.4



**From 2018-2019 President Walt Lewis**

*Spring is here already??*

Selma and I often marvel at the incredible speed of time. You too? I thought so. It seems to be a situation that all of us face sometime beyond our thirty-fifth birthdays. Before then, we could still remember when a world history or algebra class or a dental appointment seemed to last a half day and a weekend was as good as a month. In that time of our lives, we honestly used that foolish cliché "I have nothing but time to waste." Remember? I know you do.

Today, however, time has altered to the point where a day no longer has twenty-four hours; the day jumps from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Weekdays leap from Sunday to Wednesday to Friday, and then we return to Sunday. A three-day week! It routinely seems so.

The real "crusher" is the arrival and passage of special days: you know, birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. How long between birthdays, for instance? We have determined that we have about ninety days between most significant celebrations; that means that those special days occur three or four times a year. We are always reminded when suddenly it's time to send a greeting card or holiday cards again. It is crazy for sure.

*The passage of time! Is there a scientific explanation?*



The fourth ERTA luncheon for this school year will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at the American Baptist East Church at 6300 Washington Avenue. We will start at 11:30 a.m. for socializing, and lunch will follow at 12 noon. The cost is \$12 and will be catered by Golden Corral.

Exciting March Program: Sharon Sorenson: After retiring as chair of Central High School's English Department, Sharon turned her writing and education efforts to the conservation of birds and their habitats. With 171 bird species on her yard list, she will help us understand these amazing little creatures.

Procedure: Please "Reply to All" to my e-mail invitation by Monday, March 4, only if you plan to attend, and include your name and number of reservations. Jane will report the count at the Board meeting on March 7.

Reminder: If you need to cancel your reservation, please call Jane at (812) 480-5289 or email her at [mymomjane@aol.com](mailto:mymomjane@aol.com). Monday, March 11, is the last day to cancel your reservation without being charged since ERTA will have to pay for any meals after that date.

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

The photos are by Walt Gleim. ERTA logo is by Jon Siau. Other graphics are from Google Images.



## Message from President-Elect Steve Fritz

### *Sometimes Teachers Can Say the Darndest Things*

I am taking a break from my inspirational writings to share a rather amusing and humorous story from my days as a teacher at Stringtown Elementary School.



At that time Stringtown was a K-8 school. I will refer to the principle character in this story as Mr. J. Mr. J was teaching reading to a class of sixth graders. The students were reading aloud from their textbooks. The reader was a little rascal of a boy named Terry. Terry passed a considerable amount of gas and, of course being sixth graders, several boys sitting nearby began to snicker, wave their hands, and fan the air around them. Meanwhile, Mr. J was trying to ignore the disturbance and not have to comment to the entire class.

Terry had finished reading his last paragraph. Mr. J intended to ask who would like to read next and instead what he inadvertently said was, "Now who would like to fart next." The whole class responded with laughter. Needless to say, Mr. J was terribly embarrassed.

For a short time after Mr. J had shared his story with me, I would awake at night, recall the story, and laugh out loud. I am sure my wife was beginning to worry about me.

*Sometimes things just don't come out as we intend.*



|   |          |
|---|----------|
| March Board Meeting .....               | March 7  |
| March Luncheon/Program .....            | March 14 |
| Legislative Brunch – Indianapolis ..... | April 9  |
| Newsletter Articles to Diana Luck ..... | April 10 |
| USI Scholarship Banquet .....           | TBD      |
| UE Scholarship Banquet .....            | April 20 |
| May Board Meeting .....                 | May 2    |
| May Luncheon/Program .....              | May 9    |
| IRTA Representative Assembly, Indy..... | June 12  |

## Message from Legislative Liaison Diane Meier

We are in the middle of the second month of the Legislative session. The thirteenth check has passed the House committee unanimously and is headed toward the Senate. If the bill passes both houses, it will ensure the 13th check for two years. Although we are grateful for this check, a COLA is not even being discussed this year. The last COLA teachers received was in 2007, and honestly, unless the majority in the State House changes, I don't believe we will ever receive a COLA. While the 13th check is appreciated, it will not help 5, 10, 15 years from now. The emphasis now is trying to increase the 13th check; however, until revenue projections are known, the beginning of April, it is difficult to know whether that will be a possibility. The Legislative Brunch is April 9, from 9:30 to 11:30, at the State House. Since the brunch is early in April, we need to have teachers who are willing to go talk with Legislators about increasing the 13th check. Below is a link to the latest pod cast (#50) from Tom Mellish (tmellish@retiredteachers.org) and Steve Beebe. Take the time to listen.



**Ctrl Click on this graphic.**



Listen to EP. #51 — S. Anderson on Kindness in the Classroom  
(another interesting Pod Cast)



Please be sure to keep track of your volunteer hours for 2019. Pat Claybaugh will be collecting them again in December 2019.

## **Evansville Retired Teachers Association**

### **Executive Board Meeting**

**December 6, 2018**

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

Acceptance of Agenda: Lino Wiseman made a motion to accept the agenda with flexibility. Diane Meier seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of October 4, 2018, Executive Board Minutes: Since there were no corrections or additions to the minutes, they were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Lino Wiseman distributed a financial report as of October 31, 2018.

The report will be filed for audit. He also distributed a report on the funds remaining for Hensley Scholarships. Ten thousand can be awarded to active teachers for this year's Hensley Scholarships and ten thousand for next year's scholarships as well. The remaining funds, which currently total \$6,308.00, could go for student scholarships at UE and USI.

A thank you note from UE student Brooke Bittner was read. She is a future educator who received a \$2,002.00 scholarship from ERTA at UE.

#### Committee Reports:

Membership: Darlene Brockriede announced that there are currently 271 members. There were 360 at this time last year. Those who made lunch reservations but haven't paid this year's dues will be reminded when checking in at the luncheon.

Nominations: President-Elect Steve Fritz will speak with the Nominating Committee, which consists of Directors Fred Bullinger, Don Mosbey, and Fred Naab, and consult with Director Janet Leistner to determine who will replace her next year. Janet is slated to become president-elect in May of 2019.

Program: The Thompkins Middle School Choir will present the program at next week's luncheon.

Publicity: Doris Beard reported that the ERTA Facebook page has been ready since the October meeting. The name of the page is ERTA.

Reservations: Walt announced 135 reservations for next week's luncheon.

Christmas Project: Free-will donations for a non-profit will be accepted at the luncheon. Walt has chosen the Public Education Foundation to be the recipient.

Information Items:

1. Board members donated funds to help pay for the poinsettias that will decorate the luncheon tables next week.
2. The slate of officers for next year is as follows: President, Steven Fritz; President-Elect, Janet Leistner; Treasurer, Lino Wiseman; and Directors, Diane Meier and David Pfettscher. A director, who is yet to be determined, will serve a one-year term to fill the position vacated by Janet Leistner. Directors Fred Bullinger, Don Mosbey, and Fred Naab have another year to serve as well as Secretary Sandra Schmidt.
3. The next meeting of the ERTA Executive Board is on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

**Evansville Retired Teachers Association**

**Luncheon Meeting**

**December 13, 2018**

Call to Order: President Walt Lewis called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Introductions: Walt introduced President-Elect Steve Fritz and Chaplain Ed Wessel, who were seated at the head table. Walt also recognized EVSC Superintendent Dr. David Smith, who was seated with the membership.

President's Project: A gift bag was on each table to hold voluntary donations for the Public Education Foundation.

Poinsettia Table Decorations: The poinsettia on each table went to a member or guest at the table who had a birthday closest to February 8.

Approval of October 11, 2018 Luncheon Meeting Minutes: Since there were no corrections or additions to the minutes, they were accepted as printed.

Volunteer Hours: Walt reminded members to record their volunteer hours on the forms that had been distributed.

Pledge of Allegiance: John Wessel led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Blessing: Chaplain Ed Wessel noted that this is the season of hope, love, joy, and peace. He then prayed.



Lunch: President-Elect Steve Fritz dismissed members and guests for lunch by tables.

Program: The Thompkins Middle School Choir, under the direction of Carrie Blandford, performed songs of the season in the church sanctuary. The choir was accompanied by Patrick Ritsch, music teacher at Central High School. ERTA presented a check for \$100 to the choir and paid for the bus transportation, which was \$91.96.



Door Prizes: Drawings were held for three \$10 gift cards.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. with a reminder to turn in volunteer hours.

(Note: Those in attendance today donated \$319 to the Public Education Foundation.)

Submitted by Sandra Schmidt, Secretary

### IN MEMORIAM

“Always in Our Hearts”

Frank M. Schwitz .....January 24, 2019  
Mary Frances (Clouse) Robertson ..... December 30, 2018

### 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)

Please e-mail any contact changes (including cell number if you dropped your landline) to Darlene Brockriede, [brockriede@twc.com](mailto:brockriede@twc.com).



Christmas Fun!

**EVANSVILLE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**Treasurer's Report by Lino Wiseman**

**December 31, 2018**



|   |  |       |         |                    |
|---|--|-------|---------|--------------------|
| <b>CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>                 |  |       |         |                    |
| Beginning Balance December 1, 2018      |  |       |         | <u>\$6,032.32</u>  |
| Income                                  |  | 2276  |         |                    |
| Interest                                |  | 0.28  |         |                    |
| Expenses                                |  |       | 2535.41 |                    |
| <u>Ending Balance December 31, 2018</u> |  |       |         | <u>\$5,773.19</u>  |
| <b>REGULAR SHARE ACCOUNT</b>            |  |       |         |                    |
| Beginning Balance December 1, 2018      |  |       |         | 240.36             |
| Interest                                |  | 0.02  |         |                    |
| <u>Ending Balance December 31, 2018</u> |  |       |         | <u>240.38</u>      |
| <b>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT</b>             |  |       |         |                    |
| Beginning Balance December 1, 2018      |  |       |         | <u>10,001.23</u>   |
| Interest                                |  | 2.12  |         |                    |
| <u>Ending Balance December 31, 2018</u> |  |       |         | <u>10,003.35</u>   |
| <b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP REGULAR ACCT</b> |  |       |         |                    |
| Beginning Balance December 1, 2018      |  |       |         | \$15.00            |
| <u>Ending Balance December 31, 2018</u> |  |       |         | <u>\$15.00</u>     |
| <b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP ACCT 26</b>      |  |       |         |                    |
| Beginning Balance December 1, 2018      |  |       |         | 1,974.75           |
| Interest                                |  | 0.18  |         |                    |
| <u>Ending Balance December 31, 2018</u> |  |       |         | <u>1,974.93</u>    |
| <b>HENSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 2 CD's</b>       |  |       |         |                    |
| Beginning Balance December 1, 2018      |  |       |         | 16,318.27          |
| Interest                                |  | 32.87 |         |                    |
| <u>Ending Balance December 31, 2018</u> |  |       |         | <u>16,351.14</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                     |  |       |         | <b>\$34,357.99</b> |



**Evansville Retired  
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