

School's Out !!!

SCRTA Officers >>>

President – LaVonne Chaney

Vice-President – Nancy Wilhelm

Secretary – Ione Elliott

Treasurer – Kim Sparks

IRTA News >>> 2019 IRTA Convention

The 2019 IRTA Convention will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield on October 14 & 15. The keynote speaker is Illinois Chief Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier. Justice Karmeier authored the unanimous 38 page opinion which struck down sweeping pension changes. The convention will also include a welcome by Governor Pritzker, the election of IRTA officers and area representatives, and other IRTA business. Breakout sessions concerning WEP/GPO, TRIP, and TRAIL will be conducted on Monday afternoon. IRTA Unit Honorees will be recognized at the Monday night Banquet. Tuesday morning will end with a luncheon where the \$10,000 IRTA Foundation Raffle winner will be announced. Tickets are available now online and will be for sale at the convention.

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Shelby County Retired Teachers *Newsletter*



June Meeting >>>

June 25, 2019

Effingham
High School

RSVP by June 17
to LaVonne Chaney

(Cell Phone)

217-246-5049

(Email)

lavonnec45@gmail.com

SCRTA June Meeting to be held in Effingham

Just as we have done the last two years, we decided at the April meeting to combine our June SCRTA meeting with the Area 5 Conference held each June in Effingham.

Each summer representatives from the IRTA office along with those from TRS, get out of Springfield for a few weeks to speak to IRTA members from all 102 counties. Our Area 5 Leadership Training Session June 25 in Effingham will involve retired teachers from twenty-three counties.

We don't have an agenda for this year's meeting yet, but in the past speakers have covered topics such as TRIP and TRAIL insurance, the IRTA Foundation and member benefits as well as general updates from the TRS. Each year speakers have given us insight into the legislative process, and this year there should be plenty to cover on that subject.

Check out the
SCRTA website
for any updates on
the Area 5 meeting
on June 25.

Shelbycountyretired
teachers.com

Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 8:30 and the program starts at 9:00. It will end after a meal at noon. In order to get a number for the meals, we need to let IRTA know how many will be coming from Shelby County. Please RSVP to LaVonne by phone at (217) 246-5049 or by emailing her at lavonnec45@gmail.com. When you RSVP, let LaVonne know if you would like to carpool to Effingham. We plan to meet at Cornerstone at 7:45 to share rides. Please plan to join us on June 25. You will learn about topics of interest to Illinois retirees, as well as winning a free raffle prize (everyone does!), and enjoying some good food!

TRS News >>>

For Retirees:

TRS Board of Trustees Election

There have been changes in the TRS Board of Trustees this spring. Dr. Carmen I. Ayala became the new Illinois State Superintendent of Education, and thus became president of the TRS Board of Trustees. Elections were held in April for two Active Members of the Board (voted on by active members of TRS) and one Annuitant Member (voted on by TRS annuitants). Marsha Byas of Harrisburg, and current Trustee Andrew Hirshman of Oak Park were elected by active members. Douglas Strand of East Moline was elected by annuitant members.

Under state law, 6 members of the 13-member board are elected by TRS members. Four of the 6 members are elected solely by the System's 161,000 active members and the other 2 members are elected by the 110,000 annuitants. Trustees are elected every two years to staggered four-year terms.

Six remaining members of the TRS Board are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Illinois Senate. The 13th member, by law, is always the state superintendent of public instruction, who is also the president of the Board.

One of the current trustees is Larry Pfeiffer, who attended Shelbyville High School.

For Current & Inactive Teachers

If you know a current or inactive teacher, you might pass along this news to them.

TRS has begun a pilot program this summer called Bring TRS to You. Counselors from TRS will travel to several parts of the state for individual meetings with Tier 2 members so that these members don't have to travel sometimes hours to Springfield for a half-hour appointment. The nearest location to Shelby County is Effingham on July 23, 24, and 25. Members must make appointments in advance.

Two other new programs are the "Accelerated Annual Increase" (AAI) program for retiring Tier 1 members and a buyout program for inactive members. Under the AAI, retiring Tier 1 members who choose this program give up their annual pension increase (currently 3%) and instead take a lump sum amount now with a future annual pension increase of 1.5%. Under the buyout program, TRS will offer all eligible inactive members in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 a chance for a one-time payment that equals 60 percent of the present value of the member's anticipated pension benefits. Members accepting the accelerated payment give up any future claim to a TRS benefit.

Details on these 3 programs can be found on the TRS website or by contacting TRS directly.

Legislative News >>>

When we met in April, Gov. Pritzker had proposed a budget that underfunded the Teachers' Retirement System by more than \$500 million and had extended the time it would take to pay off the unfunded liabilities by 7 years. However in May he withdrew this plan, citing unanticipated revenue growth. More good news: the budget includes full funding for TRIP and TRAIL insurance programs.

No legislation opposed by the IRTA passed this year. The Illinois Retired Teachers Association sought one bill for passage this year. HB 2700 was introduced by Representative Katie Stuart, a Democrat from the Metro-East area and sponsored in the Senate by Neil Anderson, a Republican from the Quad-Cities. The legislation extended the amount of time Central Management Services (CMS) must refund overpayments related to retired teachers' health insurance. Currently, CMS will refund overpayments for a period up to 6 months. HB 2700 requires CMS to pay refunds for a period up to 7 years. The legislation is intended to make the TRIP and TRAIL program more fair to participants who are improperly billed by the State. HB2700 passed the House 113-0-0 and the Senate 59-0-0.



Local News >>>



You are getting this newsletter because you are a member of IRTA. We would encourage you to also be a member of your local organization, Shelby County Retired Teachers Association. Dues are only \$5 a year. (Or you could pay \$100 for a lifetime membership.) Please take a moment today and send your \$5 to Ginny Hostetler, 1014 W. N. 4th Street, Shelbyville, IL.

*Keep up on SCRTA news on our website:
shelbycountyretiredteachers.com*

*Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday, September 4, 2019.*

Another Reminder >>>

Mailing the SCRTA newsletter each time costs the local chapter around \$30. That \$120 a year in postage comes from our local dues, not IRTA funds. **If you are receiving this newsletter through the US Postal Service and you could get it through email, please let us know** and we will switch you over. You can call or email Nancy (460-2712; njwilhelm@yahoo.com) or LaVonne (246-5049; lavonnec45@gmail.com). Thanks!

The IRTA State Convention will be held on October 14 and 15 this year. At the convention a member from each chapter is recognized for their contributions to their local chapter. If you would like to nominate a member of SCRTA for this honor, please contact LaVonne.

In Memorium

Pat Burns retired in 1998 from Shelbyville High School where he worked for 34 years as art teacher, guidance counselor, and tennis coach. He passed away on December 12, 2018.

Mildred Kilhoffer passed away on July 27, 2018 at the age of 94. Mildred taught in Springfield, at Sacred Heart School in Pana, and later worked in Shelby County. She wrote four books on genealogy and history.

Robert Marrs was a biology teacher who coached basketball, baseball, and track, and also announced at the football games for Moweaqua High School. He passed away on January 2, 2019 at the age of 92.

A donation honoring these retirees will be made to the IRTA Foundation.