

# Shelby County Retired Teachers' Newsletter



Shelby County Retired Teachers Assoc.  
November 2019  
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LaVonne Chaney, President  
Nancy Wilhelm, Vice-President  
Ione Elliott, Secretary  
Kim Sparks, Treasurer



## November Meeting

**Date: Wed., Nov. 6**

**Place: Lake Shelbyville  
Visitor Center**

**9:00 – Snacks / Visiting**

**9:15 – Program**

**Short Business Meeting**

## *Guest Speakers*

Representative Brad  
Halbrook – R, Shelbyville



Senator Chapin Rose – R, Mahomet



# 2019 IRTA Convention

Monday, Oct. 14 - Tuesday, Oct. 15

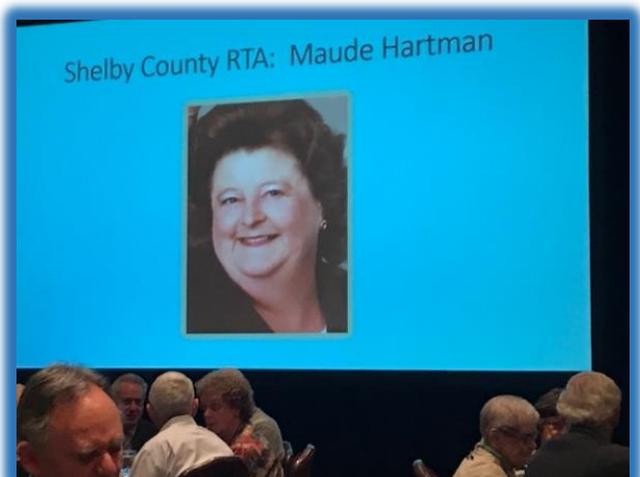
Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

Jim Sparks, Kim Sparks, and LaVonne Chaney attended the IRTA Convention. Kim and LaVonne acted as voting delegates representing Shelby County Retired Teachers Association.



John Flaherty was elected the new IRTA President. John has been the Vice President prior to that but served as the Legislative Committee Chair for many years. John is from the Quad Cities area having been a teacher, administrator and Regional Superintendent. He is very well respected by educators and IRTA members.

This is a photo of the screen shot of Maude Hartman who was SCRTA Honoree at the Convention. Though Maude was unable to attend the Convention we will honor her at our April meeting.





# Convention News

A Welcome Address will be given by Governor Pritzker and Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Lloyd Karmeier was the Keynote Speaker. Justice Karmeier wrote the decision of the Court's actions when Senate Bill 1 threatened to reduce pension and health benefits to educators. He was very well received by convention attendees.

Please let Representative John Shimkus know that you support HR 141. HR 141 would repeal GPO/WEP. These are the offsets that prevent you from getting your full share of social security. 290 signatures are needed on the bill to bring it to a vote then 218 votes are needed to pass the legislation. It would not be retroactive but beginning on the appointed date, you would begin to receive the full Social Security benefit. This bill is about a year away from a vote and Shimkus will probably not be there when the vote time comes, but we have to stay on top of it. There are a lot of candidates seeking Shimkus' seat so we need to ask the question whether the candidate will support this legislation. Let your voices be heard.

## Legislative Update:

Senator Andy Manar spoke at the Christian County Retired Teachers and here are some things he had to say about the state.

1. Governor Pritzger presented a balanced budget and on time for the first time in six years.
2. Pensions were fully funded.
3. There was record funding for education moving Illinois from 45<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation.
4. Reversed previous budgets and gave more money to universities which help to keep young people in the state.
5. Health care programs were cut by Governor Rauner which cost the state more because more people had to go to nursing homes. The budget restored the programs that allowed seniors to stay in their homes.
6. Local pharmacies are more able to survive.
7. Legislation is now out there to limit insulin costs to be capped at \$100.
8. There is a \$40,000 minimum wage for teachers.

**Don't forget – 2020 dues are due to Ginny Hostetler at 1014 W N Fourth St., Shelbyville, IL 62565 (\$5.00 Annual or \$100 Life)**

Keep up with upcoming events and news that affects you at the local and state websites:

[www.shelbycountyretiredteachers.com](http://www.shelbycountyretiredteachers.com) and [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org)



SCRTA President has been named IRTA Region 13 Director for 2020-2021. The Regional Director represents the 8 Counties of the Region 13 on the IRTA Board of Directors. The counties are Bond, Christian, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby. As part of her responsibilities she will visit the unit meetings in each county and attend IRTA Executive Board Meetings to assist units in helping them to be well informed and to understand the benefits of IRTA membership.

Dear Members, I send my apologies for getting this to you so late. Those who have email received this newsletter, but I was late getting it to the ROE for printing and mailing.

I am happy to announce our new officers for 2020-2021.

Jim Sparks – President

Secretary – Ione Elliott

Nancy Wilhem – Vice President

Treasurer – Kim Sparks

Senator Chapin Rose and Representative Brad Halbrook pretty much covered everything mentioned above from Senator Andy Manar. Rep. Halbrook did tell us that 128 North of town is in the construction bill but it is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and third phase, so we have to wait.

Here is hoping all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year!

Sincerely, LaVonne Chaney, SCRTA President

