



Shelby County Retired Teachers Assoc.  
September 2019  
Volume 6, Issue 3

# Shelby County Retired Teachers Newsletter



LaVonne Chaney, President  
Nancy Wilhelm, Vice-President  
Ione Elliott, Secretary  
Kim Sparks, Treasurer

## September Meeting

**Date: Wed., September 4**

**Place: Lake Shelbyville**

**Visitor Center**

**9:00 - Snacks / Visiting**

**9:15 - Program**

**Short Business Meeting will follow  
along with packaging school supplies**

## *School Supplies Needed*

### Please donate these supplies:

Pencils (mechanical & lead)	Erasers
Pencil Grips	Ink Pens
Highlighters	Waterproof Markers
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Loose Leaf Paper	Rulers
Folders with pockets	Sticky Notes
Notebooks (wide ruled)	Glue Sticks

Each year SCRTA provides school supplies for the elementary special education students in Shelby County. We give them to Windsor, Stew-Stras, Cowden-Herrick, Shelbyville, Central A&M in Moweaqua, and Okaw Valley Middle School in Findlay. Please bring supplies to the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> or if you are unable to attend the meeting, give them to LaVonne Chaney, Ginnie Hostetler, or Nancy Wilhelm.

## Changes for Fall Meetings

We are excited to hold our next two meetings at the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center at the east end of the dam. This is a beautiful facility and we will have a chance to tour it during our September meeting.

A more minor change is that we won't be having coffee, tea, and juice in September. We found that many of you had been up for hours by the time you got to the meeting and weren't interested in coffee at 9:00, where others brought along their own from home. So we will provide iced water and snacks. Feel free to bring along your mug of coffee or glass of tea (or whatever) if you like.



More Meeting News

### June Meeting

6/25/19

Eight SCRTA Members – LaVonne Chaney, Maude Hartman, Bud & Nancy Wilhelm, Jim & Kim Sparks, Wanda Gillett, and Ione Elliott - attended the IRTA Area V Conference at Effingham High School. They heard speakers who addressed issues of importance to our members -- legislation, insurance, TRS, and more.



*We always learn a lot when we get the chance to listen to speakers from Springfield at the Area V Conference; but we have to admit that there are two other things we love about the conference: Everyone goes home with a door prize and we get a delicious meal with pie.*



IRTA President Roger Hampton spoke about the past, present, and future of IRTA. As Chair of the IRTA Foundation, he covered scholarships to college students, grants to current teachers, and assistance to IRTA members.



Since 1939 the state has never fully funded their part of TRS – so TRS must invest wisely. Board of Trustees member Daniel Winter talked about having enough liquidity to pay benefits, enough diversity to guard against market downturns, but also enough risk to get the best investment returns.



Paul Strid, AMBA District Manager, spoke about the many benefits offered to IRTA members. In addition to the usual services and discounts, AMBA is offering new home health care insurance from Aetna and Kemper.



# 2019 IRTA Convention

Monday, Oct. 14 – Tuesday, Oct. 15  
Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

The 2019 IRTA Convention will have its share of business with committee reports, legislative updates, TRS reports, recognition of outstanding unit members, elections, and other items, but there will also be plenty of fun with silent auction bidding to benefit the IRTA PAC and exhibits from numerous firms and organizations.

The Welcome Address will be given by Governor Pritzker, and Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Lloyd Karmeier will give the Keynote Speech. In 2015 when Senate Bill 1 threatened to reduce pension and health benefits to educators, IRTA worked to oppose this all the way to the Supreme Court. Karmeier, the 120<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice, wrote the opinion which overturned this. Later, Breakout Session topics will include TRIP, TRAIL, and WEP/GPO.

After lunch on the second day the winning ticket will be drawn for the IRTA Foundation's \$10,000 raffle. Please let Lavonne know if you would be interested in attending.

*From irtaonline.org*

## What would you buy with an extra \$10,000?

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is raffling one incredible prize during the 2019 Biennial Convention in Springfield, Illinois on October 14-15, 2019: \$10,000!

Tickets may be purchased online or at the convention. The drawing will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on October 15, 2019. The winner does not need to be present to win.

Raffle tickets are \$20 for one, or three for \$50.

The IRTA Foundation, a 501c3 not-for-profit Illinois organization, assists retired educators with living expenses, provides scholarships to aspiring teachers, works to protect the rights of the elderly, and provides grants to current educators.

It's easy to buy tickets online at [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org). Payment can be made through PayPal or credit card.

*It's a great way to help the Foundation help others and a chance to win \$\$\$ !*

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

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

From the CMS website –

The TRAIL Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) Open Enrollment Period for the 2020 plan year will be held October 15 - November 15, 2019. Informational seminars will be held statewide to give eligible retirees and survivors an opportunity to learn about the Total Retiree Advantage Illinois (TRAIL) Program. A list of seminar dates and locations will be mailed to you if you are eligible this year for TRAIL. Topics included **eligibility criteria** and an explanation of the benefits provided through the Program.

TRAIL Webinar Recordings from this year's TRAIL seminars will be forthcoming.

Retirees and survivors who became eligible for the TRAIL MAPD Program over the past year will receive a *Decision Guide* in the mail, notifying them of their eligibility and the requirement to enroll, or opt-out of the coverage, during the TRAIL MAPD Open Enrollment Period. All currently-enrolled members will receive a mailer notifying you of any plan changes. **Note: If you are currently enrolled in TRAIL MAPD and wish to keep your coverage as is, you do not need to do anything.** However, if you wish to make any changes to your current TRAIL MAPD coverage for the 2020 plan year, you will be allowed to complete your changes online at [MyBenefits.illinois.gov](http://MyBenefits.illinois.gov) or contact MyBenefits (toll-free) 844-251-1777 between October 15-November 15, 2019. No elections will be allowed to be made prior to the October 15 Enrollment Period.



## *In Memoriam*

**Emily Marsland** taught high school English and Spanish in Windsor for many years, returning after retirement to teach there again. She also taught at St. John's Lutheran School in Mattoon. Emily, a past SCRTA President, passed away on August 21, 2019.

**Donna Mosher** passed away on June 1, 2019 in McLean County. After teaching in LaSalle-Peru and Champaign, she retired to Shelbyville where she substituted in several area schools.

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 6  
9:00 a.m. at the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center.**

***Our speakers, Rep. Brad Halbrook and Sen. Chapin Rose, will cover legislative issues that affect retired educators.***