

# IRTA

## **! Electronic Registration Drive !**

← For Distribution to All Members →

The IRTA has recently and is also currently engaged in three online advocacy campaigns, using our new political action tool called VoterVOICE. Thus far, VoterVOICE has been a resounding success. To date, nearly 8,000 emails have been sent to public policy makers by approximately 2,200 IRTA members. These emails were sent in an online campaign utilizing letters and emails to the Illinois legislature to make the many voices of the IRTA membership heard. This manner of political action has undoubtedly had a positive impact on the legislative issues important to retired educators statewide.

The power of the VoterVOICE system lay in its ability to concentrate the many voices of the IRTA membership into one single and powerful voice. In this respect, numbers are of great importance to our efforts. Greatly increasing the number of members who receive the *Call to Action* emails sent by IRTA staff would serve to enhance the impact of any grassroots level IRTA campaign. For example, in an emergency situation, the IRTA would like to possess the ability to send a *Call to Action* email alert from the moment an issue arises to an additional several more thousand retired educators than we currently have the ability to send to. Essentially, we are attempting to expand the broadcast of our messages and information.

The IRTA presently has a membership consisting of 32,000 members. However, because the majority of these members are not registered electronically through the IRTA website, IRTA staff has the ability to reach only a fraction of these members with the VoterVOICE system. We would like to greatly increase the numbers of IRTA members who receive these important email alerts.

To remedy this, the IRTA staff respectfully request that you visit the IRTA website at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) and create an online profile to access the member's only section of the website (*which is not available to the non-paying public*). This will serve a twofold purpose; the first being that it will allow more IRTA members to become more familiar and knowledgeable of IRTA activities

and issues, but more importantly, it will allow IRTA staff to increase our numbers in respect to VoterVOICE. This will be accomplished by uploading our membership files from those IRTA members who have created an IRTA online profile to that of the VoterVOICE system. In short, increased numbers of members creating an online profile at the IRTA web page is synonymous with increasing the size and scope of VoterVOICE. The greater the number of IRTA members receiving the *Call to Action* email alerts, then the more that are likely to respond, and this greatly increases the potency of our combined voices.

### ✓ How You Can Help ✓

The IRTA advises members to visit and register with the IRTA web page. The registration is simple, and takes less than a minute to complete. Just doing this task will have the effect of strengthening the potential of any current and future grassroots online political campaigns.

IRTA members may aid in this effort to register other IRTA members with the website by reprinting this and distributing it at local meetings. An effective approach would be to have a member supply a local IRTA meeting with a laptop or computer with internet access, and simply register those present. This method could have a tremendous favorable impact on these efforts, by registering large numbers of members simultaneously. Another way to aid in this effort is to simply distribute this information by word of mouth, email, or a phone call to let another member know to do this.

Oftentimes, members may discover that another IRTA member does not have email access when discussing this matter. This is an issue easily circumnavigated. Please instruct that member to merely set up an email account using one of the many free email host providers. Websites such as Hotmail.com, Gmail.com, or Yahoo.com offer great email services at zero cost. One merely needs to locate one of the aforementioned sites and create an email address. In some instances, a member may need to help another set this up. An important component in the success of any IRTA online grassroots campaign is that of having a large mobile membership. The very high-speed nature of email fulfills one half of this idea. As for the other, it is up to IRTA staff and membership to expand the scope of our message by increasing the number of members receiving it.

The IRTA would like to thank you for your assistance in helping to strengthen the power of our VoterVOICE potential. VoterVOICE will continue to play an integral role in the IRTA's future (*and current*) grassroots campaigns. The feedback provided by legislators has been overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. Please take a moment to register, and also encourage others to do so as well! Moreover, please feel free to copy and redistribute this information in any capacity available to you and send to other members.

# Instructions for Creating an IRTA Online Profile for IRTA Members

**Please Note:** These instructions are intended for use by IRTA members, and allow members to access web pages containing information and services not available to the general public. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Tricia Klim at the IRTA Springfield office at 1-800-728-4782 with questions.

## Step One:

Please visit the IRTA web page at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org)

## Step Two:

Locate the box on the left hand side of the web page. Within the box, listed last is the link titled “**Login Help / Create Profile**”. Left click on this once.

## Step Three:

The new page displayed will have a red banner across the top and read as “**Member Login Help**”. Scroll down using your mouse to the heading titled “**Create Your Online Profile**”.

Below is an image as it is seen on the web page:

## Create Your Online Profile

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Are you already an IRTA member, but have not yet set up your online profile? Please complete the information below to get started\*.

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

\* Please use the information that we would have on file. If you are not sure or have problems please [contact us](#) and we will help.

#### Step Four:

Please provide the information that is requested in the appropriate fields. Your first name, last name, and so forth each have their own box space to type directly into. Just place the cursor of the mouse over the box and left click it once. You may then type your information into that box. When you have completed the informational request, left click once on the box titled “**Verify Account**”.

#### Step Five:

A new page will be displayed as seen below. Please enter your email address first in the top box. You will then need to create a “**Username**”. I would suggest using your first initial and then last name. For example, someone named John Doe might make his username *jdoe*. Next, you will need to create a password. It is recommended to use an easily remembered password such as a middle name perhaps. You will now retype the password exactly a second time in the lower box to verify it. Lastly, left click on the box titled “**Create Profile**”. It is advisable to write down your username and password for safekeeping.

It appears that we have a valid record in our database. Please fill out the form below to complete your online profile.

Email Address:

Username:

Password:

Verify Password:

#### Step Six:

A new page will be displayed and read as follows:

**Congratulations!** You have successfully created your online profile and may now continue to the [members' section](#).

You have completed creating an online profile for the IRTA member web page. Left clicking on the words highlighted in blue lettering titled “**Members' section**” will direct you to members' only pages where you may access features such as VoterVOICE (The IRTA's free online grassroots advocacy tool).

*Thank you!*

