

AARTA Reader

Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association



Over 60 years of working for retired teachers in Kane County to . . .

- ★ use our influence for the passage of favorable legislation in Springfield, Illinois and Washington, D. C.
- ★ improve our communication channels for more effective member participation
- ★ keep our membership informed of current Teachers' Retirement System changes
- ★ present a positive image in the community through our outreach programs

President's Message

Greetings to One and All!

Optimism reigns!

As we had hoped, vaccinations seem to be plentiful at this time, and people are anxious to be back to “some sense of normalcy.”

That being said, we are planning our June 1st luncheon to be “in person” at the Gaslite Manor. (Please refer to the luncheon reservation form at the back of *The Reader*.) We will adhere to all of the State and IDPH guidelines, allowing only four to six people per table, and requiring masks when not eating. Mary Hauge will have her book exchange up and running, and Jo Fredell Higgins will have a table with her three children's books for sale. We will also be collecting and distributing lap blankets. I hope that you are willing and able to join us on June 1. If you have any concerns, please call me at 630-921-1307, and I'll be glad to answer any questions.

A quick summary of our four drive thru luncheons: In luncheon order, we served 115, 116, 117, and 108 meals; but more importantly, the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry and the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry each received a total of \$4,315! Of the total money earned, \$8,630 or 60% of it came directly from your personal donations given at each luncheon. I will say it once again, AARTA members, you are amazing and awesome! So proud of our unit's efforts to continue to

help our community in a time of greatest need. Thanks to all of you.

There are many new retirees this June, so please continue to recruit new members. Currently our membership stands at 364. You know the routine, if everyone recruits just 1 person...

Regarding our baseball trips: The Sox June 6th date is cancelled. Please see *The Reader* for details regarding the Sox July 25th and the Cubs September 19th dates in Milwaukee, WI. Also, Drury Lane is still a go for October 7.

Our Area II conference will be June 10. AARTA will pay for registration. Please let us know if you're interested in attending. The IRTA Convention is scheduled for October 17-18 in Springfield, IL. We can have 26 delegates. If you are interested in attending, AARTA will pay for your registration and lodging, plus gas mileage if you're driving.

AARTA election of officers will be in December, 2021. Our current officers are on their third terms (six years) Please be willing to get involved and keep our organization alive and prosperous. Not sure what else I can say — except HELP!!!

I hope to see you on June 1. Let's begin summer on a happy note.

Dick Schindel, AARTA President

Do your little bit of good where you are, it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

Desmond Tutu

aurorartdchrs@outlook.com

*AARTA Board of Directors
and Committee Chairs*

President: Dick Schindel
Secretary: Linda Weiss
Treasurer: Meg Safarik
Immediate Past President: Meg Safarik
ASK: Concetta Baltz, Kathy Navota
Health Information & Protective Services: Fay Wilson
Legislative: Linda Allison,
Jerry Lubshina
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Membership: Susan Schindel
Newsletter: Barb Zillgitt
Program: Arlene Hawks, Dick Schindel
Public Relations: Maureen Granger,
Ron Nickerson
New Retiree Outreach: Pam Colwell,
Yvonne Hollingsworth
Scholarship Liaison: Maureen Granger

Raffle: Jim Toynton
Reservations: Ann Luker, Cheri Sager
Sunshine: Jo Fredell Higgins
Warm Fuzzies: Eva Balek



Grants Available

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is making \$36,500 in grant money available statewide in Illinois. This special grant money will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects. Please download, complete, and submit the application online by visiting www.irtaonline.org and looking under the Foundation section. All proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2021.

Our **Area II meeting** will be held Thursday, June 10. Watch for more details.

The **IRTA Convention** will be held on October 18-19, 2021, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois. You are invited to attend. Please be sure to save these dates on your calendar. More information will be coming soon!

*TRS Investments End 2020 Strong
with a Record Balance*



Despite the economic upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Teachers' Retirement System investments closed out calendar year 2020 with a positive 7.9 percent return.

At the start of 2021, the value of the TRS portfolio stood at \$57.3 billion, which at the time was a record balance. At the end of February, the portfolio had increased to \$58.3 billion, another record for TRS investments.

from *TRS Topics and Report* Spring 2021

Warm Fuzzie All Call!

Hopefully, the Covid-19 quarantine is behind us, and our yearly donation of lap blankets is back on track. At the June 1, 2021, meeting the craft work by members will be collected, counted, and bundled for delivery. Please bring your warm and cozy fuzzies to the AARTA meeting/luncheon on Tuesday, June 1. If you cannot attend the meeting please call, 630-913-6318, and I will arrange to pick up your blankets. At the meeting/luncheon there will be tables set up to collect blankets. Please make sure to sign the list at the table so we can get an accurate count of the number of blankets donated.

We need additional "Blanketeers" to deliver our gifts after the meeting. Are you willing to deliver approximately 15 plus blankets to one of the 6 nursing homes? If so please contact ebalek@gmail.com or call 630-913-6318.

Thanks to everyone who makes this yearly event possible. Team work is the secret to its success.

Eva

Board meetings are held at 9:15 a.m. on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September, and November. Meetings are being held at Luigi's, 732 Prairie St., Aurora. Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

General luncheon meetings are at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, October, and December at Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora.

Newsletter items are due by the Monday before the Board meeting in January, March, May, September, and November. Send them to bzillgitt685@gmail.com.



Health Notes from Fay Wilson

Another Look at Exercise

Spring gets us outdoors, giving us the chance to move more, and take another look at exercise. Science seconds that with many studies evidencing that physical activity influences us, even how we think. Plenty of studies have shown that the brain changes in response to physical activity. During exercise blood, oxygen, and nutrients go to the brain, thus, tending to sharpen our reasoning, memory, and moods.

Studies in 2012 and 2014 found that movement and creativity were linked! In a new study, which was published in *Scientific Reports*, researchers at the University of Graz in Austria, tracked the normal activities of a number of average adults and measured their creativity for a possible link. The scientists were also curious about happiness and how it might connect activity and creativity. The researchers gathered 79 healthy adults for 5 days, gave them activity trackers and the use of the lab to let their imaginations fly! Also, the volunteers completed questionnaires about their moods. The data was collected, studied, and cross checked. Only a slight relationship was found between creativity and moods. The study suggested that it was not improved moods that influenced creativity, but MOVING. Christian Rominger, Professor of Psychology at the University of Graz and the study's lead author, says activity and creativity are linked, that active imaginations start with ACTIVE lives!

My fellow educators, as our world slowly opens back up, let's be ready. Get in some exercise outdoors when spring weather permits. We can renew and improve the creativity we always used when reaching out to our great young people. Truthfully, I believe we'll all gain from our collective activity and creativity each time we see each other. Look'n forward to those times!!

Source: *New York Times*, "Can Exercise Make You More Creative?" Feb. 3, 2021, Updated Feb. 5, 2021

In Remembrance

Patricia Carroll, January 14, 1947, - April 22, 2021, taught in East Aurora.

If you know of the death of an AARTA member, please let us know.

AARTA remembers each of these members with a \$15 donation to the IRTA Foundation and with contributions to our scholarship fund with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley.

OTHER AREA DEATHS

Marilyn Fortman, February 20, 2021, taught in East Aurora.

Lynida Tomlin, March 6, 2021, was a bookkeeper in West Aurora.

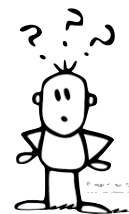
Miriam Richardson, April 4, 2021, taught at McCleery School in West Aurora.



Several AARTA board positions will be open at the end of 2021. Please don't wait to be asked. Let one of our current board members know that you are willing to volunteer for one of these board positions.

Remember AARTA is an all-volunteer organization. Without volunteers, we cease to be.

Random Thoughts . . .



Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

I dream of a better world where chickens can cross the road without having their motives questioned.

Anything invented after you're 35 is against the natural order of things.
Douglas Adams

Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do.

Golda Meir

I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.

Membership



Even though our next directory will not be published until 2022, it is **very** important that our records are kept up-to-date. If you have changed your address, phone number, email address, or want to change email/US mail preferences, notify us at aurorartdchrs@outlook.com.

We'd also like to know if you are already, or will soon be, 90. Honorary AARTA membership is in your future!

We currently have 364 active memberships. Thank you for your continued support of AARTA!

Directory Updates

Gibson, Darnell* 3138 Preakness Dr. Aurora, IL, 60502	U-46	630 842 2949 Admin.
Morcos, Janet 1 Normandie Dr. Sugar Grove, IL 60554		
Tosaw, Tom		630 892 9775 *New member

Author, Author!

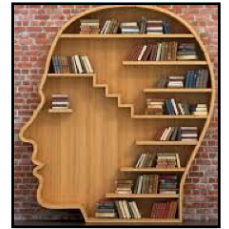


Jo Fredell Higgins will bring her three children's books: *Patsy the Panda*, *Therese the Tiger*, and *Esther the Eagle* to our June luncheon. Each book is \$10.

Jo retired from Waubonsee Community College as manager of the Adult Literacy Project and holds her M.S.Ed from NIU. She has been the AARTA Sunshine Lady for over five years.

Book Exchange

February 2020 seems like ancient history when the book exchange last took place at our luncheon. If you have accumulated books you've read and are now ready to pass along to another reader, please consider bringing **6 or fewer** books to the June meeting. This is just in time for beach reading, vacation travel reading, and just reading for pleasure. Here's your opportunity to acquire a gently used book from another reader to enjoy during the summer. Kids' books are welcome, too, for the adults who read to their grandkids and for those who tutor students.



Books that don't find new owners will be donated to Big Rock Library. Please note the limit of 6 books because the library isn't equipped to handle large donations during luncheon events. Big Rock Library does welcome materials donations and can make arrangements if you have a large donation. Phone Mary Hauge at 630-556-3371 for information.

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Thank you . . .

to everyone who has participated in our Office Depot/Office Max rewards program — or is going to. We have saved hundreds of dollars in printing costs every year by using our reward cards and coupons.

The number above may be used whenever you make purchases or recycle ink cartridges at Office Depot or Office Max anywhere in the country, in-store or online.



Each year, we provide a \$1500 scholarship to a community college or trade school. Our scholarship fund is administered by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. Students in our area may apply for this scholarship by contacting the Community Foundation: communityfoundationfrv.org

You may honor or remember a retired teacher by donating to our scholarship fund at any time.



We're hoping (fingers crossed) to be able to go to Drury Lane Oakbrook to see *Forever Plaid* October 7, 2021.

Watch for details which will be coming via email and will be posted on our Facebook page.



Aurora Noon Lions' Club Ribfest

1/2 slab or chicken

Drive-thru or dine-in at Luigi's on Prairie

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

4:30-7:00 p.m.

\$12

Benefiting the sight and hearing impaired.

Tickets are available from Aurora Lions and at the door.

Questions? Contact Dick Schindel, 630-921-1307.

Baseball Trips Update

After much thought and discussion, we have decided to move forward and offer the two baseball games in Milwaukee this summer. As of now, Milwaukee is allowing 25% capacity, and we are hoping that this will increase as summer progresses. At this time, we are not sure if tailgating will be allowed in the parking lot. If for some reason(s) we are not able to attend these games, your money will be refunded. As of now, the Brewers have not yet determined ticket prices because of so many variables yet to be decided. An estimate for the **total cost of the trip** would be between \$80-\$100 per person. When we know the cost, you will know the cost! A **deposit of \$30 per ticket** will secure your reservation.

As a precaution, we are asking that anyone attending the games be fully vaccinated and comply with wearing a mask when necessary.

If you are interested in a ball game, please return the form/s for the game/s you wish to attend along with your deposit and a working phone number to reach you. Any questions, please call Dick Schindel at 630-921-1307.

(Please note: Our trip to the Chicago Sox game on June 6 has been cancelled.)

Cubs vs. Milwaukee Brewers

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021 — 1:10 p.m. game

Bus leaves from East High, Door 15, at **8:30 a.m.**

WHERE: Milwaukee, WI

COST: \$? (will include coach bus & game ticket)

Deposit: \$30 per ticket due by August 2

ENTIRE PAYMENT DUE by August 23

Tailgate: ?

Sponsored by AARTA

Return to: Dick Schindel, 784 Morningside; Aurora, IL 60505.

Checks payable to AARTA.

Questions? Call Dick Schindel 630-921-1307.



Cubs vs. Milwaukee Brewers

Name _____

Cell Phone # _____

Number of Tickets _____ Deposit \$30 per ticket

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Return to D. Schindel, 784 Morningside Ave., Aurora, IL 60505

Entire payment due by Wednesday, August 23

Questions? Please call 630-921-1307.

Don't wait to order tickets.

Sox vs. Milwaukee Brewers

WHEN: Sunday, July 25, 2021 — 1:10 p.m. game

Bus leaves from East High, Door 15, at **8:30 a.m.**

WHERE: Milwaukee, WI

COST: TBA? (will include coach bus & game ticket)

Deposit: \$30 per ticket due by June 7

ENTIRE PAYMENT DUE by June 28

Tailgate: ?

Sponsored by AARTA

Return to: Dick Schindel, 784 Morningside; Aurora, IL 60505.

Checks payable to AARTA

Questions? Call Dick Schindel 630-921-1307.



Sox vs. Milwaukee Brewers

Name _____

Cell Phone # _____

Number of Tickets _____ Deposit \$30 per ticket

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Return to D. Schindel, 784 Morningside Ave., Aurora, IL 60505

Entire payment due by Friday, June 28, 2021

Questions? Please call 630-921-1307.

Don't wait to order tickets.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May

Howard Burns	2
Sandra Frazier	3
Pam Colwell	7
Marlin Mittag	9
Marilyn "Lynn" Newbill	9
Robin O'Connell-Hedrich	9
Debbi Ahlden	11
Cindy Caliendo	12
Janet Klemm	13
Wendi Goins	14
Barbara Johnson	16
Patrice Lence	17
Judy Smith	17
Sandra Smith	17
Carole Snell-Mallett	17
Ellen Voda	18
Patricia Daugherty	19
Robyn Wilson	19
Val Petkus	21
Peggy Bauer	23
Peggy Gosselin	23
Tom Hartman	23
Mary Gilkey	24
Barb Nothnagel	24
Dotti LaVoy	27

June

Shirley Eggers	1
Joanne Bales	5
Maribelle Neal Andersen	7
Marilyn Shoger	7
Liz Copeland	8
Sharon Waters	8
Donna Oleson	8
Virginia Albertino	10
Ted Clauser	12
Diane Jangelis	13
Shirley Best	15
Jane Erickson	15
Mary Ann Soszynski	16
Sherry Eagle	17
Pat Larkin	17
Olive Poliks	17
James Skelley	17
Georgiana Pasulka	19
Ellen Neupert	20
Caryl Norton	20
Sandra Rhea	21
Patsy Patterson	22
Linda Allison	23
Myrna Parks	23
Barb Zillgitt	24

Mary Ellen Herget	25
Arlene Hawks	27
Julie Rogers	27
Marlene Rodgers	29

July

Thomas Strong	1
Jane Sweeney	1
Lois Scott	4
Wilma Phillips	5
Anne Benavides	6
Karen Hart	6
Jim McGuire	6
Linda Cooper	7
Vince Popolizio	7
Pauline Easley	8
Marcy Biage	9
Bonnie Carey	10
Ruth Knorring	10
Jan Martin	10
Betty Luedtke	11
Sara Imthurn	13
Jean Shanley	15
Mary Hauge	16
Patsy Peterson	17
Lois Caldwell	20
Clare Toynton	20
Patricia Taneja	21
Anna Testone	21
Arvid Meyer	22
Judy Stone	23
Nancy Schatzman	24
Nadine Shoemaker	24
Mary Hinterlong	25
Shirley Roesch	25
Joyce Beghtol	26
Deanna Ahasic	27
Mary Biernacki	27
Carol Foster	29
Audrey Claesson	30

August

Clarice Rowe	1
Linda Weiss	4
Janice Head	6
Kevin Talkington	6
Christine Crouch	8
Jan Essex	8
Colette Lee	8
Lois Freiheit	11
Mary Ann Frantzen	15
Marilyn Rockstroh	15
Polly Elifson	19

Sonni Herget	19
Michael Lachowicz	20
Joanie Scheets-Britton	20
Sue Fitzsimons	22
Patty Turner	22
Susan Karas	24
Cathie Johannsen	25
LaVerne Taylor	25
Patricia Novak	26
Elizabeth Hudson	27
Sue Gilla	29
Mary Landers	30
Mary Speers	30
Willie Etta Wright	30
Geraldine Galli	31

September

Darnell Gibson	3
Joanne Hughes	3
Carol Dauwalder	5
Ernie Poochigan	5
Larry Solomon	5
Gayle Robinson	6
Margie Engberg	7
Mary Ann White	8
Dennis Erford	10
Lynne Monaco	11
Judy Malchin	12
Barb Vlasvich	15
Carolyn Kerkla	16
Barbara Belford	17
Judy Rhoads	17
Barbara Sadnavitch	19
Dotti Matson	20
Allene Champen	21
Jan Hem	21
Martha Womack	21
Sandra Wilson	22
Sandy Young	22
Gary Jewel	25
Ron Nickerson	25
Betty Wells	25
Lesley Beary	26
Arlene Flynn	27
Dot Sullivan	27
Sue Henry	28
Diane Stupec	30

If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact Barb Zillgitt at bzillgitt685@gmail.com or 630-896-2451.

New Retirees

Due to the COVID-19 crisis we have endured, we are going to make a change in our regular plans. We will invite all 2020 and 2021 retirees to our October luncheon and introduce and welcome them at that time. We look forward to a great turnout then.

If you know any new retirees, tell them about AARTA and encourage them to join us at the lunch on October 5, 2021.

Lunch Dates for 21-22

October 5
December 7
February 8
April 5
June 7



Many thanks to Clare Toynton for being our AARTA photographer!

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Where: **Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora**

When: **Tuesday, June 1, 2021 11:30 a.m.**

Price: **\$20.00**

Reservation due date: Friday, May 21, 2021



Last name that begins with the letter **A through L** —

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Cheri Sager, 512 Oak Crest Dr., North Aurora, IL 60542**

Last name that begins with **M through Z** —

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Ann Luker, 1089A Woodridge Drive, Sugar Grove, IL, 60554**

Number of reservations _____

Name _____ \$20.00

Name _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____



June Luncheon

Join us June 1, 2021, for a **picnic buffet** (served by Gaslite staff) — fried chicken, brats, salads, baked beans, corn on the cob, mac & cheese — plus dessert. Four to six people will be seated at each table. **Masks will be required.** Our entertainment will be provided by Hix Brothers' **ukuleles**. We need to have your reservations in by May 21.

We will be holding our annual **book exchange** and collecting all the lovely **lap blankets** you have made over the long winter. Jo Fredell Higgins will be sharing her three **children's books** with us!

Look inside for all the details.

What a great time to catch up with **people you haven't seen** in over a year!