

# 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

Happy New Year, Everyone!!!

Does it seem like Groundhog's Day to you? Every time I sit down to write my thoughts for *The Reader*, it's the same message over and over. Covid-19 variations are up yet again, and it's necessary to cancel our February luncheon for safety concerns. We are still looking for two people to step up and fill AARTA President and Vice President positions. The Drury Lane outing is again on hold, but baseball trips are tentative for the White Sox on Sunday, June 26, and the Cubs at Milwaukee on Sunday, August 28. Since they're outdoors, hopefully, they can be a go.

In the midst of my pessimism, I was reminded about all of the wonderful accomplishments that AARTA was able to perform during 2020-2021 that helped so many members of our communities. When everything was shutting down around us, and uncertainty prevailed, AARTA members decided to go to Plan B (as teachers had to do when things didn't go as planned in the classroom). What's that great saying? "When the going gets tough — the tough get going." And, boy, did we step on the gas to try to continue helping our community.

1. Friendship Blankets continued to be made, collected, and distributed in June.
2. AARTA helped supply books for the Big Rock Library with our book exchange coordinated by Mary Hauge.
3. Our AARTA Community Foundation Endowment scholarship was awarded during 2020 and 2021. They were each \$1,500 and helped two young ladies pursue their education.
4. Cities in School (formerly Communities in School) benefited from our A.S.C. (formerly

ASK) program. In December, 2020, CIS received a check from us for \$1,200, in addition to our donations of hats, gloves, and mittens. Thank you to Penny Bailey and Sharon Waters for delivering the hats, mittens, and scarves after our December, 2021 luncheon, along with a check for \$150 to support the winter clothing drive for students.

5. Having to cancel in-person luncheons gave us a creative opportunity to have drive-through luncheons. Profits and donations from four such luncheons netted \$8,630 which was divided evenly between Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. Our AARTA members supported these efforts with huge donations of time and monetary donations. The AARTA Board was so proud of the efforts of our membership.
6. We were able to meet in person for the June, October, and December luncheons because members were able to receive the vaccine in two doses, plus a booster shot beforehand.

As we experience another "speed bump" on our road to recovery, we again realize that AARTA will continue to find ways to assist our community and students wherever and whenever we can do so. AARTA=Always Available, Ready to Assist.

We hope to see you on Tuesday, April 5, for our next luncheon. Stay healthy and be safe.

Dick Schindel

*Yearning for the seemingly impossible  
is the path to human progress.*

*Bryant H. McGill*

**[aurorartdchrs@outlook.com](mailto:aurorartdchrs@outlook.com)**

*AARTA Board of Directors  
and Committee Chairs*

**President:** TBA

**Secretary:** Linda Weiss

**Treasurer:** Meg Safarik

**Immediate Past President:** Meg Safarik

**ASC:** Concetta Baltz, Penny Bailey

**Health Information & Protective  
Services:** Fay Wilson

**Legislative:** Linda Allison,  
Jerry Lubshina

**Member Benefits:** Mary Ann Soszynski

**Membership:** Susan Schindel

**Newsletter:** Barb Zillgitt

**Program:** Arlene Hawks, Dick Schindel

**Public Relations:** Maureen Granger,  
Ron Nickerson

**New Retiree Outreach:** Kim Becker, Kay  
Volkert

**Scholarship Liaison:** Maureen Granger

**Raffle:** Kim Becker, Itsuko Martinez,  
Sharon Waters

**Reservations:** Ann Luker, Cheri Sager

**Sunshine:** Jo Fredell Higgins, Mary Ann  
Soszynski

**Friendship Blankets:** Eva Balek

**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.

The AARTA Board members welcome Kim Becker and Kay Volkert who will be working on New Retiree Outreach.

Additionally, Kim Becker, Itsuko Martinez, and Sharon Waters have volunteered to work on the 50/50 raffle for 2022.

We thank you all for agreeing to help AARTA continue to be a wonderful organization.

## Region 5 Director



In addition to being the AARTA treasurer, website manager, emailer, Facebook poster . . . , **Meg Safarik** has agreed to become IRTA's Region 5 Director! She will act as a liaison between the Region 5 units (DeKalb, Kendall, and Kane County) and the IRTA which means that we will be well-represented on all major votes.

Thank you, Meg, for taking on this responsibility and for all you do to help make AARTA one of the very best IRTA units!



## Thank you, Dick!

How fortunate we have been to have Dick Schindel as the AARTA president for the last six years! One proof of his great leadership ability is that the Board and the organization as a whole have continued to function well during the very difficult last two years. Board members have described him as kind, inspiring, caring, creative, and willing to lend a hand. He is a great advocate for retired teachers, active teachers, and quality education.



Many more people and institutions know about AARTA through our many philanthropic efforts and from the newspaper and television publicity we have been enjoying recently. Our drive-up lunches during the pandemic not only kept us together as an organization but also benefited the local food pantries, our scholarship fund, and Cities in Schools. The costumes Dick wore certainly added to the fun.

Dick always seems to have AARTA's best interests in mind and has continually worked to keep the unit growing, giving, and having fun.

Through chairing Board meetings, emceeing our lunches, organizing trips to Cubs and Sox games, encouraging new ideas and programs, and much more, Dick has been a vital part of AARTA.

We appreciate all that he has done as our president and are happy to know that he will continue as our interim president while we continue to search for our next president.



# AARTA Outreach



## Friendship Blankets (AKA Warm Fuzzies)

These gifts of kindness could be your 'cabin fever cure' during these cold winter days. Make them from whatever washable fabric you prefer using. Then use your favorite method (knit, crochet, machine sew, hand sew, or tie) to let your talent shine. The only requirements are size (36" x 48" or a bit smaller) and short or no fringe. You will overcome your winter doldrums and pass forward a beautiful gift of friendship. We hope to collect and distribute the blankets to area senior care centers in June.

If you have questions, contact Eva Balek: 630-913-6318 or [ebalek@gmail.com](mailto:ebalek@gmail.com).

## February Challenge

Though we can't meet in February, we hope you will keep AARTA in mind during the month. Maybe you'll make lap blankets, contribute to our scholarship fund, make a donation to an area food bank, or purchase a new children's book for our next luncheon. What about volunteering at a local school — wearing your AARTA shirt, of course? Or inviting someone to become an AARTA member? Or sending a thank-you to one of our Board members or other volunteers?

Or, just maybe, you will agree to be our next president or vice president. So many opportunities!

*Save the Dates!*

**White Sox**  
**Sunday, June 26**



  
**Cubs at**  
**Milwaukee,**  
**Sunday, August 28**

## ASC – AARTA Serving Community

The Christmas spirit was evident by the overwhelming generosity shown by our members at the December luncheon. We were able to deliver four large bags of winter wear and \$150 to Cities in Schools. Thank you to all our members who were able to donate.

Looking ahead to when we may be together again, ASC will be collecting new children's books to distribute through the food pantries. Let's hope April will welcome us back with warm showers and renewed spirit.

## AARTA Scholarship Winner



At our December lunch, we were pleased to have Katelyn Schultz, our 2021 scholarship winner, and her mother join us. Katelyn is a student at Waubensee Community College where she is studying hospitality. Her long-term goals include completing her bachelor's degree at Southern Illinois University and applying to the Walt Disney Corp. internship program.

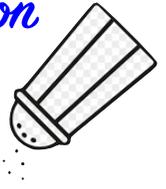
At WCC, Katelyn is in her second year as a member of the school's cheer team. Her Kaneland High achievements include being a student council member, teacher assistant, golf team member, and four-year cheerleader.

In the community, she has volunteered at Horse Power Therapeutic Riding, Fox Valley Hands of Hope, Salvation Army, Sugar Grove Corn Boil, Naperville Rib Fest, and Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago. Her hobbies include creative writing, horseback riding, and travel.

AARTA scholarship funds are managed by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. It is funded through our 50/50 luncheon raffles and individual donations.

Information taken from an article by Al Benson in *The Voice*

# Health Notes from Fay Wilson



## Let's Shake the Salt

### *In Remembrance*

**Nancy McCloud**, November 9, 1948  
- November 25, 2021, taught  
elementary and junior high in Batavia  
for 35 years.

*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

**William Harding**, October 22, 2021, was  
a school psychologist in West Aurora.

**Jeanne Peterson**, December 13, 2021,  
was a reading specialist in Batavia.

**Justine Jahp**, December 19, 2021, taught  
physical education in West Aurora.

**Mary Ellen Ellis Bushnell**, December 21,  
2021, taught in East Aurora and Yorkville.

Happy 2022 everyone 🎉🎊! While we've said our goodbyes to 2021, we do have some carryover from the last newsletter. I want to share additional information about salt (sodium chloride) in our diet.

Sodium is the essential nutrient of sodium chloride. America's favorite flavoring agent is sodium chloride, commonly known as salt. It is said that salt is magical! It reduces bitterness, enhances sweetness, boosts flavor, and preserves perishable foods. We would die without it. The body uses sodium to regulate the amount of bodily fluid and to help the nervous and muscular systems function as they should. The body does not manufacture sodium. We get it by eating it. We get it from manufactured foods and from our salt shakers at home. For Americans, we get about 80% of our sodium from foods like deli meats, baked goods, cheese, condiments, soda, frozen meals, and restaurant meals.

We have been told for 50+ years to lower our salt consumption. There have been conflicting studies and research about the impact of salt on our blood pressure, heart disease, and kidney disease. Therefore, we need to be cautious. We need to control our salt intake.

Institutions like the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and the American Heart Association all believe Americans should decrease the amount of salt we consume. In October 2021, the Food and Drug Administration revealed their "Sodium Reduction Plan." Companies are to reduce salt in their products.

Hopefully, we can improve our dietary habits and adjust our taste buds to keep our "Health" happy!! Stay warm and safe.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 10/25/21; *Everyday Health.com* 6/20/20



## Random Thoughts . . .



The problem with putting two and two together is that sometimes you get four, and sometimes you get 22. Dashiell Hammett

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing but together can decide that nothing can be done. Fred Allen

Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty. Anon

100 years ago, everyone owned a horse, and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses. Anon

What the world needs is more geniuses with humility; there are so few of us left. Oscar Levant

## Membership Information



Please continue to notify us of any address and phone number changes. Because of Covid restrictions, delivery of our new 2022 directories is being delayed. We plan to have the directory ready to distribute at our next in-person luncheon — we're hoping for April. 🙌

Let us know if you will be turning 90 or older in 2022. Your honorary lifetime membership is waiting for you!

## Directory Updates

**Crawshaw, Ted** 630 454 4034  
2450 W. Fabyan Pkwy #314  
Batavia, IL 60510

**Eggers, Shirley** 630 450 5559  
2707 Nickerson Ct.  
Yorkville, IL 60560

**Godfrey, Mary Kay** 630 569 9096

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

**On the next page you will find a copy of the proposed changes to our bylaws which have been approved by the AARTA Board. They will be voted on by the membership at our next lunch meeting. If you have any questions or comments on them, please contact AARTA at [aurorartdchrs@outlook.com](mailto:aurorartdchrs@outlook.com) or contact one of our board members before our next lunch.**



Courtney Hayes, the IRTA Legislative/Political Action Committee (IRTAPAC) Coordinator, in addition to her legislative activities, has been working to establish a team of volunteers who are willing to participate in election activities for candidates running for election in the General Assembly.

At the IRTAPAC Board of Directors meeting, held on November 2, 2021, they voted that anyone who volunteers automatically become a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Political Action Committee if they desire. This change in the committee structure will likely result in having more members actively involved in the IRTAPAC.

If you are interested in serving in this position, please contact Courtney Hayes at [chayes@irtaonline.org](mailto:chayes@irtaonline.org) for further information!

### Frosty Flapjacks

#### Aurora Noon Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, January 29, 7:30 -11:00 a.m.

Drive-thru or dine-in



**Take pictures with Frosty!**

#### Luigi's Fun Center

732 Prairie St., Aurora, IL

Tickets at the door

Adults \$6 Children, 3-12, \$4

Questions? Call 630 921 1307



## Websites to Check Out

[irta-newsletters.weebly.com](http://irta-newsletters.weebly.com) Check out what other units have been doing. If you see something you think would work for AARTA, let us know.

[irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org). Keep up-to-date on all things IRTA such as what's happening with your pension and insurance. You can also join IRTA if you haven't already done so.

[auroraarearta.org/home](http://auroraarearta.org/home) See pictures of AARTA happenings past and present. You'll also find a copy of the proposed new bylaws which will be voted on in 2022 and information on upcoming events. You can even leave a comment on the site. We'd love to hear from you.

## Proposed BYLAWS

### AURORA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Illinois Retired Teachers' Association

Area 2/Region 5

as Amended **2022**

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Text to be deleted will appear in "~~red strikethrough.~~"

#### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this association shall be the Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association (AARTA) hereinafter referred to as the Association **or AARTA.**

#### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

**Section 1.** The Association serves as a local unit of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, cooperates with the IRTA and with the NRTA by promoting membership, legislation, and national projects and programs.

**Section 2.** The Association advances the interests and welfare of the retired teachers in the state and local community.

**Section 3.** The Association, is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization of retired educators, that serves the needs and interests of its members through advocacy, education, cooperation, and socialization.

#### ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** Membership in the Association shall consist of three classifications: active membership, associate membership, and **honorary membership.**

**Active membership:** Any retired certified staff member of a public or private school, college, or university, **upon receipt of payment of dues or annuitant spouse of a deceased annuitant** shall be classified as an active member with full membership privileges. (IRTA)

**Associate membership:** Any ~~other~~ person, interested in education and approved for membership by any local unit of IRTA **upon receipt of payment of dues** shall **be classified** as an Associate member without the right to vote or hold office.

**An active annuitant member's spouse, who is not eligible to be an annuitant until the death of the active member,** may be enrolled as an associate member upon payment of dues **without the right to vote or hold office.**

#### **Section 2. Local Dues Structure:**

A. ~~The annual Association dues shall be established by the AARTA Board of Directors: Annual; 3-Year; Lifetime; Honorary.~~

B. ~~The annual State Illinois Retired Teachers Association dues and the State Life dues shall be established by the IRTA Delegate Assembly.~~

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 1.** **The executive board of directors** of the Association shall be a President, **a Vice-President**, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, **or no more than two consecutive two-year terms. The vice-president will succeed the out-going** president.

**Section 2.** A slate of officers shall be presented at the October meeting. Voting for and the installation of the officers will take place at the December meeting—the active membership present constituting a quorum.

**Section 3.** Duties: The duties of the officers shall be those outlined in these By-laws and further defined in the parliamentary authority RONR (Robert's Rules on Order Newly Revised).

a. The President shall preside at meetings of the AARTA and the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint committee chairs with the assistance of the Board of Directors and shall be member ex-officio of all committees.

b. **The Vice President shall serve as President in his/her absence. Shall also be familiar with committees and projects (Programs, Trips, Special Events). The vice president will succeed the president upon completion of their two-year term.**

c. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of AARTA and the Board of Directors. and assist the President **and the Board with correspondence of the Association** as needed.

d. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements and shall **maintain the licenses for all utility computer programs (Microsoft 365, Quicken, Adobe, and Malwarebytes).** The Treasurer will also oversee an annual audit of Association accounts.

#### **Section 4. Vacancies**

a. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled temporarily by the ~~immediate past president.~~ **Vice President.**

b. Should a vacancy occur in any office, the Board shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

c. Any elected officer or committee chair who cannot perform his/her duties may be subject to recall by the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

**Section 1.** The general meetings of the AARTA shall be held on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, October, and December.

**Section 2.** It shall be **the discretion** of the Board of Directors to set an alternate date provided previous notice is given to the members.

#### ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall be the **Executive Board** and ~~the officers and~~ the chairpersons of standing committees, and the immediate past president.

**Section 2.** The Board of Directors shall meet the first Tuesday of September, November, January, March, and May or as needed.

#### ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

**Section 1 Standing Committees** shall be those defined in the Bylaws of IRTA and the committees approved by the AARTA, namely: **Community Participation, (ASK) (ASC?), Foundation Services, Health Information, History/Archives, Insurance & Benefits, Legislative, Membership, Newsletter, Programs, Trips & Special Events, Public Relations, Reservations, Retirement Education, Sunshine.**

**Section 2. Special Committees** will be created as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors: ~~They are:~~ Budget (Treasurer, President, Member at Large) Audit (Appointed by the Board of Directors), Nominations (Appointed by the President), Directory (Appointed by the Membership Chair), Others as deemed necessary

**Section 3.** The President appoints the chairs of committees with the assistance of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** A majority of the committee shall be a quorum

**Section 5.** A Nominating Committee of three (3) shall be appointed by the President and announced at the March meeting. Nominations may be presented from the floor at the October meeting if the nominee has consented to serve if elected.

#### ARTICLE VIII. RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) shall be the parliamentary authority on all rules of procedure not otherwise specified in the Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended at a regular meeting of AARTA **membership** by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present, provided that the amendments have been introduced to the membership at the previous meeting, **mailed to the membership, and posted on the AARTA website. Additionally, notifications of their availability will be posted on our Facebook page and published in the newsletter before the vote is taken. A paper copy will be made available to anyone requesting it.**

#### ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Association, all liabilities of the organization shall be paid, satisfied, and discharged, or adequate provisions shall be made. Following payment of bills, any remaining surplus shall be contributed to the benevolent fund of the IRTA Foundation, Inc.

#### ARTICLE XI. STANDING RULES

1. Any affiliated unit of IRTA may choose one delegate for each forty (40) members or a majority fraction thereof for convention representation. All delegates must be IRTA members in good standing. (State rule)

2. The Treasurer will send a one-time memorial gift of fifteen (\$15) dollars to the IRTA Foundation for each deceased member. Memorial gifts will be sent to the IRTA Foundation at least twice yearly.

3. Eligible candidates for membership shall be invited as guests to a meeting of AARTA by the Retirement Education Committee, for the October meeting or December meeting.

4. Non-payment of dues will result in termination of membership at the end of the following year and the person's name removed from the next annual directory

5. The Bylaws of each unit shall conform to the purposes as set forth in the IRTA Bylaws. Bylaws shall be updated after each IRTA Convention, if needed, and a copy filed with the state IRTA.

# December Lunch



# happy birthday

## January

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Sandy Funky     | 2  |
| Margaret Hardy  | 2  |
| Pam Hansen      | 3  |
| Itsuko Martinez | 3  |
| Frank Babich    | 4  |
| Kim Becker      | 5  |
| Jay Pape        | 10 |
| Fay Wilson      | 11 |
| Marilyn Hagler  | 14 |
| Kathryn Hubbard | 15 |
| Marcia McBeath  | 21 |
| Barb Agnew      | 25 |
| Gloria Goodin   | 25 |
| Jan Reynolds    | 26 |
| Kay Volkert     | 26 |
| Earl Sidmore    | 27 |
| M. C. Byrd      | 28 |
| Laurel Haase    | 28 |
| Dick Paul       | 29 |

## February

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Nancy Theesfeld | 1  |
| Jean O'Brien    | 2  |
| Michael Crouch  | 3  |
| Tim Johnson     | 4  |
| Gloria Byrd     | 5  |
| Kay Martinson   | 5  |
| Paula Romanow   | 7  |
| Anne Beatty     | 8  |
| Archie Needam   | 8  |
| Nancy Griffin   | 10 |
| Junella Chase   | 11 |
| Kim Johnson     | 12 |
| Dan Schmidt     | 12 |
| Ted Crawshaw    | 14 |
| Carole Ruby     | 19 |
| Chris Howells   | 21 |
| Nora Gurnik     | 22 |
| Jan Morcos      | 22 |
| Joan D. Vilaro  | 22 |
| Angie McGehee   | 23 |
| Jerry Lubshina  | 24 |
| Debbie Lirot    | 25 |
| Linda Porter    | 27 |

## March

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Margaret Nickerson    | 1  |
| Susan Brennan-McGuire | 5  |
| Cynthia Newkirk       | 5  |
| Grayal Gilkey         | 8  |
| Mary St. Jules        | 8  |
| Wendell Jeffries      | 9  |
| Ann Johnson           | 9  |
| Velda Fisher          | 12 |
| Ann Luker             | 12 |
| Bobbi O'Meara         | 13 |
| Cynthia Latimer       | 14 |
| Edward Guetensberger  | 16 |
| Doris Turley          | 17 |
| Debbie Wojtak         | 17 |
| Cheri Sager           | 19 |
| Pauline Thomas-Brown  | 19 |
| Linda Rohr            | 21 |
| Judi Collette         | 22 |
| Shirley McKnight      | 22 |
| Sherilynn Oros        | 22 |
| Kathy DeTolve         | 24 |
| Page McCloud          | 24 |
| Mary Ann Harkness     | 27 |
| Cherie Esposito       | 28 |
| Jean McKee            | 28 |
| Anne Becker           | 29 |
| Marilee Casazza       | 31 |
| Mike Gaspari          | 31 |

If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact Barb Zillgitt at [bzillgitt685@gmail.com](mailto:bzillgitt685@gmail.com) or 331-276-9242.



**Our February  
luncheon has  
been canceled.**

**We hope to be able to  
meet again in April.**

Check out our website: [auroraarearta.org/home](http://auroraarearta.org/home)

