

2 0 2 2 M A R C H E D I T I O N

# Adams County Retired Teachers

## ✧ March Speaker ✧ *Richard Keppner*



**B**orn and raised in Quincy, Rich spent most of his working years in Kingman, AZ with dual careers in elementary education and law enforcement. He retired in 2007 and returned to reside in his hometown.

Besides traveling, Rich enjoys portraying a variety of Civil War era persons from Quincy and Adams County at various events. For the past six years, he has chaired the education committee for the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.

### **NEXT MEETING**

March 17, 2022

Cedar Crest Country Club

3312 N. 36th St.

Quincy, IL

Directions: go out North 36th Street,  
(go over the railroad tracks and past  
the exit for Koch's Lane)

### **11:30 Social 12:00 Luncheon**

#### *Menu*

*In honor of St. Patrick's Day:*

*Choose Between*

*Corned Beef and Cabbage with potatoes,  
carrots, & roll \$17.00*

*OR*

*Reuben Sandwich, with french fries \$15.00*

*Prices includes drink (tea or coffee), tax and  
gratuity)*

### **CALL FOR RESERVATIONS**

Pat Hummelsheim 217-223-3492 or  
217-242-2809

Or

Sue Altheide 217-222-5689 or  
217-440-1869

Deadline: March 10th

(If you need to cancel, do so by  
March 14th to avoid paying for an  
unused meal!)

# A Letter from the President

**G**reetings Everyone, It's been a long winter. I know we are all looking forward to spring flowers and warm sunny days. They aren't far off.

Don Blattner and your Board have been working to update our yearbook. We have made an effort to update addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If information is inaccurate, let a board member know so we can correct it. We plan to distribute the new yearbooks at the March meeting. If you can pick one up for a member not present, it would be helpful.

We still have some openings on committees. We need someone to head our membership committee, someone to serve on the Legislative Committee, and one or two to serve on the Nominating Committee. We still have an opening for Vice President.

As I've said in the past, we are in a rebuilding stage of our organization and I hope there are younger members willing to carry the torch forward. As you will read in Mike's article, we are in another fight, this time for our health benefits. If it weren't for IRTA and the local groups who make up that organization, our pension and benefits would be at great risk.

With regards to the meeting planned for March 17th, it looks as if the worst of the Omicron surge is behind us but I want people to feel safe and comfortable. Feel free to wear masks and social distance. Besides our speaker, we will be having a Memorial Ceremony for those we have lost from 2018-2021. Since it is St. Patrick's Day, I hope you will enjoy the themed menu.

Hoping the best for everyone in 2022.

Mary Ebert



## Decimating Health Care Benefit

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association filed a lawsuit in Springfield over a move by the State to reduce contributions to the Teacher Health Insurance Security Fund. This move by the state places the health benefits of retired teachers in dire jeopardy.

This move will reduce funding in FY 2023 by \$45.6 million and will affect 100,000 retired educators. This action will cause the healthcare insurance fund to become rapidly insolvent. According to an independent actuarial review the negative cash flow to the fund will result in a total depletion of the fund during fiscal year 2023. Underfunding is exactly how Illinois got in the budget situation it is in today with teacher pensions being dangerously underfunded.

Because the Health Security Fund is so close to default, and the health benefits to retired teachers are in immediate danger of being decimated, the IRTA believes the court must act to reverse what legal opinion has deemed unconstitutional.

Right now, IRTA is NOT asking for money, but for membership in our local and state association since there is strength in numbers. If you know any retired educator, urge them to join ACRTA/IRTA (Adams County Retired Teachers Association/Illinois Retired Teachers Association) and fight with us!

Much of the above is a summary of communication received from the IRTA office on January 24, 2022. At this time, I have not received an update on the lawsuit. I will try to update our ACRTA membership when I receive new information.

Mike Blickhan

# August ACRTA Executive Board Meeting

Quincy Public Library. February 22, 2022, 10:00

**Present:** Mary Ebert, Mary Jane Bauer, Mike Blickhan, Pat Dillon, Sue Sorenson, Sara Husemann

**Call to Order:** President Mary Ebert called the meeting to order. Sara read the minutes. There were no additions or corrections.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Mary Jane Bauer reported \$6780.49 in the regular account and \$853.16 in the One Room Schoolhouse account. There are members still paying 2022 dues. Mary Jane also presented the 2022 budget. There will be a significant increase in the Memorial account due to the number of member deaths, as \$10 per deceased member will be given for the last 4 years.

**Membership:** We will be seeking members to serve on this committee. Pat Dillon and Sue Altheide have agreed to serve on the membership committee.

**One Room Schoolhouse:** Sara reported on the One Room Schoolhouse. Bob Bergman has shown an interest in taking over as the future coordinator of the One Room Schoolhouse in 123-4567our organization. Doug Willimann has also expressed an interest for this committee. The Olde Tymers have not met this year yet. Sara will follow up on this.

**Yearbook:** Don Blattner has updated the yearbook. He has included everyone's email address (if they had one) and telephone number. It will be printed and ready for our March 17, 2022 general membership meeting.

**Legislative:** We don't officially have a person on this committee. Mike Blickhan reported the state is trying to reduce the amount of contribution to our retirees medical insurance.

**History and Necrology:** The History and Necrology Committee was discussed. Jeanne Martin was asked if she would chair that committee. Members would be Carren Summy and Sue Sorensen. They will do the memorial service at the March meeting.

Articles for the Newsletter are due February 25 to Don.

The idea of an ACRTA brochure was discussed to explain the need for joining our organization.

Our March Membership meeting will be March 17, details to follow.

Our next executive meeting will be on April 25 at the Quincy Public Library.

Meeting Adjourned.

Sue Sorensen, Secretary

## Region 9 Legislative Representative Needed

IRTA is made up of 18 regions. Each region has one State Legislative Committee member. Region 9 is made up of the following counties: Adams, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough, Schuyler and Brown. Some of the duties would be to attend the meetings at the state level (which might only be two), be informed and communicate with local units about legislation favorable to IRTA members (particularly as it relates to TRS pensions and health insurance), establish and maintain favorable relationships with legislators and seek their support of IRTA, and lastly encourage the membership to use VoterVoice. If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing, please let us know. IRTA needs you. Region 9 needs you.

Mary Ebert

