

IRTA Vice President Roger Hampton poses for a picture with IRTA Foundation Grant winner Desiree Masters from Dunlap High School, along with Assistant Principal Amelia Roberts.

2022 General Election Wrap Up

- Incumbent Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker has been elected to a second term, defeating downstate Republican challenger Sen. Darren Bailey (R-Louisville).
- House Republican Leader Jim Durkin (R-Burr Ridge) announced that he will not seek another term as minority leader in the upcoming General Assembly.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as Leader of the House Republican caucus, but it’s time for the Illinois Republican Party to rebuild with new leaders who can bring independents back to the party that are needed to bring change to the state. With that, I will not be seeking re-election as minority leader. I am proud of the work the House Republican caucus has accomplished under my tenure and thank everyone who played a part along the way. I began this journey as a voice of moderation and conclude this journey the same way I started, a voice of moderation. To the

Continued on P6

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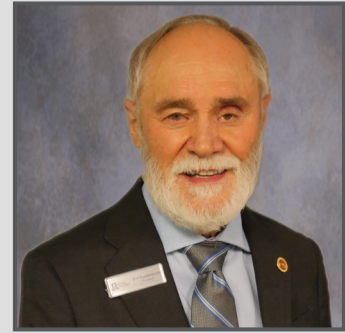
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Defending Your Pension and Health Insurance Benefits

President's Message

Bill Funkhouser



On July 28th, I received a phone call from Larry Pfeiffer telling me that, for personal reasons, he was resigning from the position of IRTA Vice-President. Section 3. C. of the constitution says: "Should a vacancy occur in any office other than that of President, the President, with Executive Committee approval, shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term." So, I began thinking about members I thought would be a good choice for the position. I discussed several possibilities with Executive Director Jim Bachman. I then began calling people to see if they would be interested in the position. I went through 6 names from 3 different Areas of the state, and all turned down the position. Since the Constitution says the Vice-President shall be the Chair of the Constitution Committee and I was also appointing the Vice-President to Chair the Executive Director search committee, I felt it was very important to get the position filled quickly with a competent person. I contacted former President Roger Hampton, and he agreed to accept the position to move forward with these vital committees. Roger is very passionate about IRTA and concerned about keeping IRTA relevant in the future. I know he will do a great job. Thank you, Roger, for being willing to accept this responsibility.

What happened here emphasizes one of my greatest concerns about our association. That is the lack of new people stepping up to accept positions of leadership. Every 2 years we elect new officers and half of the Area Representatives. When I first became a member of IRTA and began attending conventions, the elections were a major part of the conventions with almost every office being contested at each convention. For the last several years, with few exceptions, there has only been one candidate for each position. One of the exceptions was in 2017 when John Flaherty and I were candidates for Vice-President. Beforehand we agreed that no matter who won, we felt the association would be in good hands and that the winner would be an old guy with a gray beard. As I told John then and many times since, I think competition is good for the association as it increases interest in the elections.

Next year at the convention, we will be electing the four officers and representatives for Areas 2, 4, and 6. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for any of these positions. All you must do is have someone turn in a nomination form for you. I think it would be great for our association if we have 2 or more candidates for each position. If you know someone you think would be good in one of

the positions, talk to them and encourage them to get involved.

Again, thank you all for being members of the only organization whose sole purpose is protecting the benefits of retired educators.

Thoughts to ponder:

"The Titanic did not hit the iceberg because they did not see it coming but because they could not change direction."

– Dean Devlin

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

– Abraham Lincoln

IRTA Member Benefits

You can find information on all of IRTA's member benefits by visiting www.irtaonline.org, logging into the Members-Only section, and clicking on the Member Benefits tab. **Some of IRTA's other benefits include Liberty Mutual, Lifeline Screening, and Hear in America.** You can also contact the IRTA Office at 1.800.728.4782 for additional information.

** IRTA benefit codes must be mentioned to receive discounts.*

IRTA Email Communication

News You Need

Keeping you aware of relevant news and critical trends that impact our association, and our mission is one of our ongoing - and most important - goals.

To help you stay current with the fast-paced news cycle, we implemented a new service to our members which leverages Artificial Intelligence to deliver a personalized, bi-monthly e-newsletter to your inboxes.

Here is how it works:

1. The curated IRTA e-newsletter, 'Good Dog News' arrives every two weeks in your inbox.
2. This newsletter software, along with our team, will mine industry-based news from a list of sources.
3. As you select articles to read, your reading preferences will be learned by the Artificial Intelligence and content will be tailored to match your interests over time. We'll always leave some room to serve you new and different articles though!
4. We're only collecting topical data from the articles you've chosen to click on within our newsletter; we are not accessing or using your data from other apps to inform these recommendations.

If you are having trouble finding your newsletter, try the following:

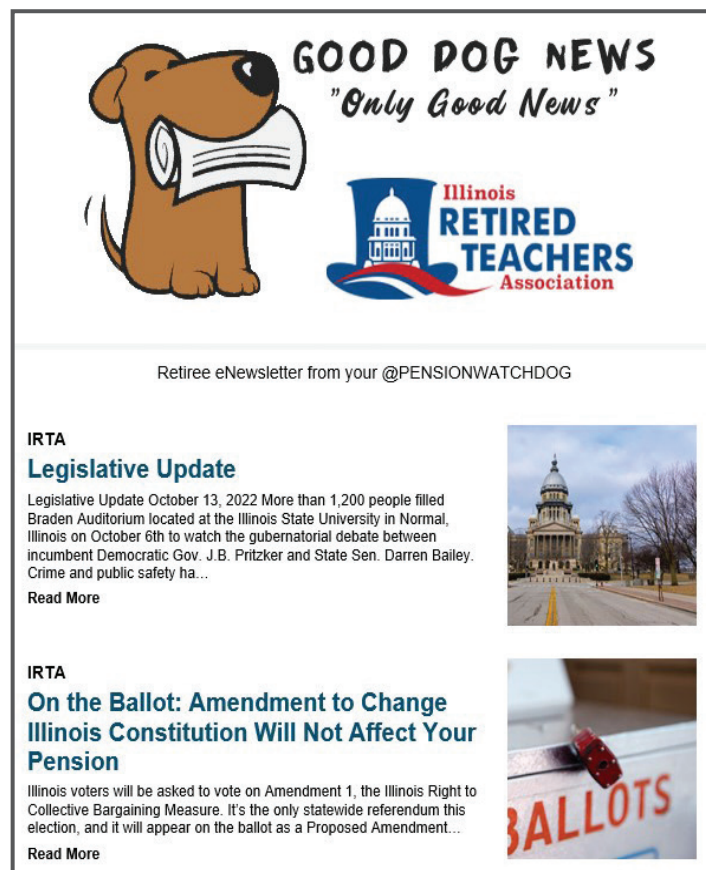
- **Check your SPAM/JUNK, Promotions or Social Folders!** Emails from unfamiliar or new domains can easily be filtered here. Be sure to report or mark it as a trustworthy email to avoid this happening in the future.
- Add the Send From addresses to your email contacts list. The Send From addresses for IRTA's e-newsletter is 'info@irtaonline.org'. Also, you can add:

@sentwithrasa.io and irta@sentwithrasa.io

- Move us to your primary inbox if you use Gmail
- Add us to your VIP list if you use Apple Mail
- Add us to your favorites if you use Outlook

If that does not work, call the state office at 217-523-8488. IRTA staff can troubleshoot with you over-the-phone and send you a test email. After receiving the test email, you can add it to your primary email folder and add the address to your contact list.

We are excited to include you in this brand-new service!



GOOD DOG NEWS
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Illinois RETIRED TEACHERS Association

Retiree eNewsletter from your @PENSIONWATCHDOG

IRTA
Legislative Update

Legislative Update October 13, 2022 More than 1,200 people filled Braden Auditorium located at the Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois on October 6th to watch the gubernatorial debate between incumbent Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker and State Sen. Darren Bailey. Crime and public safety ha...

[Read More](#)

IRTA
On the Ballot: Amendment to Change Illinois Constitution Will Not Affect Your Pension

Illinois voters will be asked to vote on Amendment 1, the Illinois Right to Collective Bargaining Measure. It's the only statewide referendum this election, and it will appear on the ballot as a Proposed Amendment...

[Read More](#)

IRTA Foundation Grant Program 2022

This Fall, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation (IRTAF) awarded nearly \$36,500 in grant money to several public school educators from across the state. This grant money allows these educators to enrich their instruction with materials not otherwise available to them. Their students are the real winners! A special thank you to the Illinois Principals Association for their assistance with the promotion of this program. Below, you will find the name of each winner listed, along with his/her school and the IRTA Area. On the IRTA website (irtaonline.org), you can read a paragraph summary about each project in the winner's own words.

Justine Davis, Oregon Elementary School, Oregon (1)

Jenna Dempsey, Dillon Primary School and Merrill Elementary School in Rock Falls District 13, Rock Falls (1)
Nancy Elson, Kings Consolidated District #144, Kings (1)
Jennifer Freeman, Madison Elementary, Dixon (1)
Christy Hackett, Fulton High School, Fulton (1)
Caryn Hardy, Durand Elementary School, Durand (1)
Erin Hartman, Jefferson Elementary School, Sterling (1)
Amanda Harvey, Hononegah High School, Rockton (1)
Kelly Kloster, Blackhawk Elementary School, Freeport (1)
Cindy Koester, Dakota Elementary School, Dakota (1)
Megan Post, Saratoga Elementary School, Morris (1)
Holli Rapp, Northwest Elementary School, LaSalle (1)
Angie Serafini, Putnam County Primary, Granville (1)
Amy Shannon, Saratoga School District 60C, Morris (1)
Pachia Tenpas-Rice, Scales Mound High School, Scales Mound (1)
Summer Traver, Henry-Senachwine Grade School, Henry (1)
Tammy Walsh, Minooka Junior High School, Minooka (1)

Jessenia Chadick, Little Fort, Waukegan (2)

Maria Larson, Little Fort Elementary School, Waukegan (2)
Sharon McDaniel, Little Fort Elementary School, Waukegan (2)
Taylor Relle, Meadowview, Grayslake (2)
Becky Seal, Little Fort, Waukegan (2)
Rebecca Sheade, Kenneth Murphy Elementary School, Beach Park (2)
Megan Swirsley, SEDOL sector classroom, Old Mill Creek (2)
Caroline Szostak, Viking Middle School, Gurnee (2)
Jaclyn Warneke, Little Fort Elementary School, Waukegan (2)

Jennifer Giemza, Jefferson Elementary, Berwyn (3)

Brooke Jensen, James Howard Monroe Middle School, Wheaton (3)
Idalia Marin, Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School, Bradley (3)
Lori Montgomery, Prairieview-Ogden CCSD#197, Ogden (3)
Kimberly Rumery, Monroe Middle School, Wheaton (3)
Kiera Strecker, Pennoyer School, Norridge (3)

Sara Young, Waubonsie Valley High School, Aurora (3)

Sarah Allen, Illini Bluffs Middle School, Glasford (4)

Trista Barrett, Virginia CUSD 64, Virginia (4)
Beth Bergschneider, Hickory Grove Elementary School, Dunlap (4)
Shellie Brooks, Havana Junior High, Havana (4)
Linda Brown, Virginia Junior High School, Virginia (4)
Kara Chambers, Ridgeview Elementary, Peoria (4)
Jill Heinz, Wilder-Waite Grade School, Peoria (4)
Megan Johnson, Ridgeview Elementary School, Peoria (4)
Kyla Mason, New Central Elementary, Havana (4)
Desiree Masters, Dunlap High School, Dunlap (4)
Sydney McDaniels, Midwest Central Primary School, Manito (4)
Valerie Roche, Banner Elementary, Dunlap (4)
Samantha Tabor, Hollis Grade School, Peoria (4)
Stephanie Wilson, Gillespie Middle School, Gillespie (4)
Brittany Wrigley, Illini Central Grade School, Mason City (4)

Erin Barker, Okaw Valley Elementary School, Bethany (5)

Roberta Biggs, Jasper Grade School, Fairfield (5)
Pamela DeWerff, Taylorville Jr High School, Taylorville (5)
Patricia King, Sullivan High School, Sullivan (5)
Jessica Reber, Taylorville Junior High School, Taylorville (5)
Ryan Repking, Dieterich Jr-Sr High School, Dieterich (5)
Jessica Sefton, Brownstown Elementary School, Brownstown (5)
Corrie Stauder, Okaw Valley, Findlay (5)

Laura Brennan, Liberty Middle School, Edwardsville (6)

Sarah Childers, Opdyke Belle Rive Grade School, Opdyke (6)
Shanyra Cox, Woodland Elementary School, Edwardsville (6)
Hannah Donoho, Farrington Grade School, Bluford (6)
Selena Eastling-Chalmers, James Avant Elementary School, East St. Louis (6)
Erica Harris, East Side Elementary, McLeansboro (6)
Abby Hawkins, Rome Grade School, Dix (6)
Allyson Heitmeyer, Rome Grade School, Dix (6)
Nina McLean, James Avant Elementary School, East St. Louis (6)
Tyler Slaby, Liberty Middle School, Edwardsville (6)
Megan Thompson, Washington Elementary, Marion (6)

The 2023 grant application will be available to Illinois public school educators (Pre-K through 12) in February. Active teachers can 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, 2023.

*Chicago Public School employees are not eligible for this grant program.

Member Benefits & Scholarships



CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from **IRTA & AMBA**:

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IRTA - Illinois Retired Teachers Association



IRTA Foundation Scholarships 2023

The 2023 application and current guidelines for the IRTA Foundation Scholarship is now available. Applications and current guidelines are posted on the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org and located under the Foundation tab.

One **\$2,000** scholarship is available in each of the six **IRTA Areas** of the state. These scholarships are only available to incoming juniors or seniors in college enrolled in a certified teacher training program. The deadline to postmark or email applications is March 7, 2023.

Another scholarship available in 2023, is the **Moler-Austin Scholarship** which offers two **\$4,500** scholarships to KENDALL COUNTY high school graduates that will be entering their Sophomore, Junior, or Senior year in college and with a declared major in Education.

Applications for any of the above scholarships must be postmarked or emailed and sent to the IRTA office on or before March 7, 2023, and the recipients will be announced by April 21, 2023. The awards will be given as follows: one half in June for the fall semester with the balance to be awarded in January upon registrar verification of a 3.0 or above GPA on a 4.0 scale.

If you have any questions or need assistance in obtaining an application, please contact Susan Goetz at susan@irtaonline.org or call 1.800.728.4782.

IRTA Political Action Committee Donation Form



The IRTAPAC Fund continues to grow, but we need your help. Donate to our Political Action Committee and protect the status of retired educators by donating just \$1.00 per month through pension deduction. IRTA will continue to fight for retired educators' benefits as we have for over 60 years. Help Us in Our Fight! The IRTAPAC donation form can be found on the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org. *Member dues money is never used for PAC purposes.*

Election Wrap Up from P1

people of Illinois disappointed with these results, don't give up hope. Tomorrow is a new day," said Leader Durkin.

- The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports that Rep. Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) has been tapped as the Republican party's upcoming House leader.

Illinois Democrats now control:

- A supermajority in the Illinois Senate: possibly 39 Dem – 20 GOP, which is a net loss of -2 Democrats
- A supermajority in the Illinois House: possibly 77 Dem – 41 GOP, which is a net gain of +4 Democrats

IRTAPAC ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association's (IRTA) most important objective is fighting for the rights of our members. We do this by working to elect legislators in Springfield that will keep the best interests of Illinois retired teachers in mind while voting on issues such as health insurance funding and pensions. These are just a few reasons why the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Political Action Committee (IRTAPAC) is so important during the election season.

The IRTAPAC developed a questionnaire used to evaluate candidates seeking endorsement in the November 2022 election. The questionnaire was mailed to all candidates on the ballot running for both the House and the Senate during the 2022 election (excluding write-ins). A total of 73 were returned from the House of Representatives (39-D & 34-R) and 36 (20-D & 16-R) from the Senate totaling 109 returns, which is historically the most returns that the IRTAPAC has received during an election cycle. The questionnaire contained questions regarding their position on matters such as the constitution, the current tax code, health insurance, Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP), and funding. The recipients to receive endorsement were carefully selected and voted on by the IRTAPAC Committee, then ultimately approved by the IRTAPAC Board of Directors.

The IRTAPAC conclusively made the decision to endorse 52 House candidates, and 27 Senate candidates for the 2022 Election Cycle. All 27 endorsed Senate candidates won, and for the House all but 2 candidates (Brian Meyers D-63 & Kevin Wallace R-49) won.

We are very pleased with the outcome of this election and are confident that each legislator we chose to endorse has our members best interest in mind. The IRTAPAC strives to support candidates who understand the importance of retired educators' pension and health insurance benefits.

(To see a complete list of endorsed candidates and their election results, please visit our [Members Only](#) section at www.irtaonline.org.)

Memorials

In Memory Of

Below, you will find a list of names of those remembered by memorial gifts for the months of August - October. For a complete list of donations to the Foundation, please visit the IRTA website and look under the Foundation section.

August

Adams County RTA in memory of:

2019 deceased members:

Mary Alice Clark
John Damm
Charles T. Hall
William Winn

2020 deceased members:

Joan Frey
Robert Garmer
Duane Leech
Elizabeth "Biz" McConnell
Robert Dale Mixer
Warren Speckhart
Diane Tenhouse
Eugene Willimann

2021 deceased members:

James Balzer
William Fessler
Rodger Hannel
Ricard Heitholt
Richard Meyer
Richard O. Moore
Shirley Williams

Champaign County RTA in memory of:

Carolyn Phelps

Christian County RTA in memory of:

Robert Smith
Shirley Wheeler

Douglas County RTA #58 in memory of:

Sandra Dolan
Lisa Sigrist

Elgin Area RTA in memory of:

Susan Spooner

Jasper County RTA in memory of:

Judy Lewis

Lawrence County RTA #62 in memory of:

Charleen Huber

Madison Co #1 RTA in memory of:

Shirley Aszman
Christina Bramstedt
Larry T. Montgomery
Duane Mossman
Gloria M. Parker
Dr. Norman Showers

Madison County #2 in memory of:

Charles (Chuck) D. Conner

Mason County RTA in memory of:

Joyce Specketer

Northwest Sub Cook RTA Unit 90 in memory of:

Jeffrey Huebner
Diane Uhl
Charles Wagoner

White County RTA in memory of:

Curry Baker
Norman Fechtig
Cliff Ibbotson
Kent Wheeler

Other Memorials:

Shirley Dodds in memory of:

Shirley Aszman

Johanne Garmon in memory of:

Edward R. Garmon

Bill Bailey in memory of:

Bill McCauley

Jacob G. Rendleman in memory of:

Carolyn L. Rendleman

Rona & Joe Purpura in memory of:

Rudy Skul

Stephen Snap in memory of:

Alfred Snap

September

Clinton County RTA in memory of:

Paula Williams

Madison County II RTA in memory of:

Jeanne Gaines
Janet Hohenstein

Northwest Suburban RTA in memory of:

Russell Attis
Lorraine Tancredi

Perry County RTA in memory of:

Shirley Bigham

Randolph County RTA in memory of:

Teletha Pautler

West Lake Shore RTA in memory of:

Charles Bolton
Betty Lou Bunert
William Keller
Claudia Murdock
Kate Singletary
Marie Trankina

Other Memorials:

Marti Swanson in memory of:

Marie Husmann

Barbara R. DiPierro in memory of:

Nancy Ann Johnson "J.C."

Patricia & Roger Hampton in memory of:

Steve Polep

October

Hamilton County RTA in memory of:

Penny Lee

Northwest Suburban RTA in memory of:

Sharon Mattson

Randolph County RTA in memory of:

Alice Reid

Tazewell County RTA in memory of:

Bob Trombini

Thank You!

Please remember that you can ask your local funeral home to add the IRTA Foundation as a memorial choice at your loved one's funeral.

IRTA Foundation Donation Form



828 S. Second St., 4th Floor Springfield, IL 62704

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to the Foundation for:

Donation \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

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