



September 2020

Newsletter

Visit our website:
OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com



Contact us: OgleLeeRTA1@gmail.com or Jean Whipple, Membership at 815-222-2681

Message from Kim McKenna, Ogle-Lee RTA President

What happened to summer? So many summer activities were either limited, canceled, or postponed – family reunions, travel, boating, golf, baseball games, outdoor concerts/plays, fireworks, weddings... It has been an unusual summer.

On behalf of the Ogle-Lee RTA board, we hope that everyone is staying healthy and safe during these unprecedented times due to COVID-19. As we are unable to meet in person, we are sending this newsletter of information about our organization. All Ogle-Lee Membership and Executive Board Meetings have been canceled for 2020. The Executive Board conducts business via e-mail. We want you to know that we continue to work to protect benefits (especially pension and insurance) as retired teachers of the state of Illinois.

Thank you for being a member of the Ogle-Lee Retired Teachers Association. Stay safe! Stay well!

Welcome to New Members of Ogle-Lee RTA

Bill Andrews, Donna Drought, Patricia Hallquist, Gretchen Ihde-Nelson, Billy Mills, Jill Schwartz, Joe Schwartz, David Stanley, and Diane Winekauf

As of September 8, 2020, there are 324 members, but 4 of them still owe 2019 membership dues. So, technically we have 320 members and that includes the 9 new ones.

In Memory of Deceased Colleagues in 2020

Kathy Colbert	Oregon	1/4/2020
Sharon Wagner	Oregon	1/15/2020
Ruth Drake	Forreston	2/4/2020
Warren Reckmeyer	Mt Morris	3/26/2020
Elaine Kiesling	Dixon	3/ /2020
Leo Marshall	Mt Morris	7/23/2020
Beverly Power	Franklin Grove	8/16/2020
Thelma Hedrick	Polo	9/2/2020
Larry Lee Taylor	Dixon	9/10/2020



Legislative Update September 2020

The fall election will soon be here. The Illinois Retired Teachers Political Action Committee has made its legislative endorsements. The IRTA PAC endorses legislative candidates based on their views or past voting record on retirement benefits. In order to receive an endorsement a candidate must submit answers to a questionnaire to the political action committee. If a candidate does not return the questionnaire, that automatically excludes the candidate from an endorsement.

In the 90th District Illinois Representative race between Representative Tom Demmer and Seth Wiggins, the IRTA PAC endorsed Seth Wiggins. (Representative Demmer did not return the questionnaire)

For the Illinois General Assembly 89th District, no candidate was endorsed. (Representative Andrew Chesney is running unopposed. (Representative Chesney did not return the questionnaire.)

The Illinois Senate District 45, Brian Stewart's, term is not up for election this year.

The following questions were on the survey:

Do you oppose amending the Constitution to eliminate or modify the Illinois Constitution Clause that states a pension is an "enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired?

Do you oppose any legislative changes to current tax code that would allow for the taxation of retirement income?

Do you oppose any efforts to reduce current health insurance benefits or access to those benefits for retired teachers?

Do you support the state's appropriation to Teachers Retirement Insurance Program?

Do you support maintaining State of Illinois funding for the Teacher's Retirement System at the amounts required by PA 90-528(A 1995 law stating TRS will be 90% funded by 2045)

Seth Wiggins responded "yes" to all of the above questions. 100% in support of teacher retirement benefits.

As you know, the Illinois Allow for Graduated Income Tax Amendment is on the ballot in Illinois on November 3, 2020. IRTA is not taking a position on the amendment. In early August, IRTA did send an informational email to it's members about the graduated income tax. If you did not receive the email, please contact me, and I would be happy to forward it to you. The outcome of the Constitutional Amendment does not affect your retirement income.

The Teacher's Retirement System of the state of Illinois is the 37th largest pension system in the United States. The system serves over 400,00 members and even in these times of a struggling economy has assets of over 50 billion dollars.(June 2020) Your membership in the Ogle-Lee Teacher's Retirement Association and the Illinois Retired Teacher's Association, helps insure that the system works to protect our pension and insurance benefits.

by Kim McKenna, Ogle-Lee RTA Legislative Committee Chair, kmckenna732@gmail.com

Ogle-Lee RTA Board E-Meeting Minutes Summary, March - August 2020

The Ogle-Lee RTA Executive Board Meeting scheduled for April 14, August 11, and October 13, 2020 at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library were canceled per Covid-19 Guidelines recommended by the Illinois Governor. Instead, the Board conducted business via e-mail communication to discuss an informal agenda and President Kim McKenna conducted e-mail voting as needed. The Ogle-Lee RTA Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order guidelines were temporarily adapted for the e-mail format. Any major policy changes or funding requests were voted upon with several days allotted between presenting the motions and voting deadlines. The Board members are Kim McKenna, Carole Sutton, Linda Kenney, Jean Whipple, Becky Cheek, Michele Glen, Phil Bratta, Gene Chaplin, and Elke Grennan.

Secretary Elke Grennan e-mailed the minutes from the January 21, 2020 Executive Board Meeting. The minutes were accepted. Treasurer Linda Kenney e-mailed the Ogle-Lee RTA Treasurer's Report on April 30, 2020. As of April 30, 2020, the Checking Account balance was \$8,509.28, the Memorial Fund Balance was \$320.81, and the Life Account Balance was \$7,861.62. Total assets are \$16,691.71. The treasurer's report was accepted.

By unanimous vote, all Membership and Executive Board Meetings were canceled for 2020. Kim McKenna will notify the IRTA office about these changes, cancel the speakers for September, and plans on continuing to use email to communicate amongst the board members. Due to the unusual circumstances relating to Covid-19 guidelines, any changes to the meeting schedule will be on a trial basis and reviewed later for amending the Constitution.

In June 2020 all previously scheduled speakers were notified of cancellation and the Ogle-Lee RTA Board will not to try to host the speakers for a virtual meeting such as on Zoom.

President Kim McKenna announced that the IRTA executive committee voted to hold IRTA committee meetings via Zoom rather than meet in Springfield for the balance of 2020.

IRTA has canceled all June training sessions for local units.

Kim McKenna conducted an e-mail vote from 4/25/20 to 4/27/20 on whether or not to approve the new Ogle-Lee RTA website at **OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com** designed by Elke Grennan (chairperson), Kim McKenna, Jean Whipple, and Richard Longfellow. It was approved 6-0 with Elke Grennan abstaining and three not responding.

Jean Whipple and Kim McKenna inquired about setting up recurring dues with a website provider. It was decided not to pursue this as costs outweigh the benefits. The membership chairperson and treasurer will continue to collect local unit dues per current practice.

Jean Whipple has updated our membership brochure and sent membership information to all "new" retirees from our local school districts. Recruiting new members continues to be a concern common to most local units and IRTA. Members are reminded to encourage recent retirees to join. The new Ogle-Lee RTA and IRTA website both list some member benefits.

Jean Whipple reported on the following changes to the Contact Caller List: Sharon Bayne taking over for Anita Gallick, Linda Engle taking over for Joe Thiele, Armande Vasilopoulus taking over for Loretta Bell, and Betty Ebert taking over for Janice Bates. Callers will contact members on their contact list the second week in May to check in with members to let them know they can contact Ogle-Lee RTA if they need assistance or want someone to chat with. The May newsletter will include a reminder that the IRTA Foundation has an assistance program for retired educators facing financial difficulties.

Kim McKenna prepared Legislative Updates for the May and September Newsletters. A July memo was e-mailed or a newsletter was mailed to notify members by their preferred communication method of the canceled meetings and remind them of the IRTA Foundation Financial Assistance Program.

Submitted by Elke Grennan, Secretary

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Checking Account Balance - Nov. 12, 2019		\$8,619.71
Receipts		
11/14/19 Dues	\$55.00	
12/26/19 Dues	\$15.00	
12/1/19 Nov. Interest	\$1.09	
12/30/19 Dues	\$5.00	
12/30/19 Dec. Interest	\$1.07	
1/29/20 Dues	\$10.00	
2/9/20 Dues	\$5.00	
2/9/20 Jan. Interest	\$1.09	
2/25/20 Dues	\$5.00	
3/9/20 Dues	\$65.00	
3/16/20 Dues	\$100.00	
4/22/20 Dues	\$10.00	
4/22/20 Feb. & Mar. Interest	\$2.14	
4/28/20 Dues	\$40.00	
5/21/20 Dues	\$175.00	
6/1/20 Apr. & May Interest	\$2.20	
7/20/20 Dues	\$105.00	
8/1/20 Dues	\$50.00	
8/1/20 June-July Interest	\$2.25	
8/12/20 Dues	\$50.00	
8/26/20 Aug. Interest	\$1.16	
Total Receipts		\$701.00
Expenditures		
11/12/19 Jean Whipple - Postage & Printing	\$100.25	
11/13/19 IRTA Foundation (honor of past presidents)	\$200.00	
11/22/19 Jean Whipple - Post, Print, & Supplies	\$81.57	
2/1/20 Elke Grennan - Postage	\$44.00	
5/7/20 Elke Grennan - Printing	\$76.70	
7/7/20 Elke Grennan - Postage and Printing	\$31.75	
7/29/20 Check Order - Bank	\$14.95	
Total Expenditures		\$549.22
Checking Account Balance - 09-10-20		\$8,771.49
Memorial Fund Balance - 11-12-19		\$305.81
1/20/20 Memorial for Erika Fischer (Elke's Mom)	\$15.00	
6/4/20 Memorial for J. Brink (Michelle & Becky's Mom)	\$55.00	
Memorial Fund Balance - 09-10-20		\$375.81
Life Account Balance - 11-12-19		\$7,794.67
4/1/20 Interest	\$66.95	
Life Account Balance - 09-10-20		\$7,861.62
TOTAL ASSETS - 09-10-20		\$17,008.92