

## Ogle-Lee Retired Teachers' Association Meeting – September 14, 2022

The fall meeting of the Ogle-Lee RTA was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at The Rec Center in Rochelle, Illinois with registration beginning at 11:00 AM, lunch served at Noon, and adjournment at 1:45PM. Forty-two members and five guests attended. There were two early cancellations, four no-shows, and four attendees not preregistered.

President Kim McKenna called the business meeting to order at 11:35 AM. The motion by Phil Bratta and seconded by Diane Kenney to accept the Treasurer's Report was approved. As of 9/6/22, the checking account balance was \$6,954.07, the Memorial Fund balance was \$105.81, and the Life Account balance was \$8,045.21, resulting in total assets of \$15,105.09. The motion by Phil Bratta and seconded by Diane Kenny to accept the May 11, 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes with the addition of "held at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center" was approved.

President Kim McKenna announced that Ogle-Lee RTA has about 300 members and welcomed new member Suzanne Rypkema.

Scholarship Chairperson Phil Bratta announced that there were nine well qualified applicants for the Ogle-Lee RTA Scholarships. With an additional anonymous \$1000 donation, Ogle-Lee RTA awarded one \$500 and two \$1000 scholarships funded by the Memorial Fund. The 2022 recipients are :

Judy Kohler from Davis Junction, elementary education major with an emphasis in reading at Northern Illinois University (\$1000 scholarship)

Alexis Trank from Byron, elementary education major transferring from Rock Valley to Rockford University. (\$1000 scholarship)

Paxton Barrett from Stillman Valley: elementary education major at Illinois State University (\$500 scholarship).

They will be invited to speak at our Spring Member Luncheon Meeting. Phil also discussed the current teacher and substitute teacher shortage.

IRTA Area 1 Executive Board Representative JoAnne Nelson announced that the IRTA Vice-President has resigned. She also discussed the insurance change from United Healthcare who offered both HMO and PPO to Aetna Medicare Advantage who will offer only PPO, change in enrollment period, and the need to stay alert for updates and further information. JoAnne also reminded us the lawsuit concerning the discrepancy between the mandated and actual funding to TRS health insurance by State of Illinois is still in the courts.

Gary Devito from AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors) highlighted benefits available to IRTA members and how these benefits exceed the cost of membership. AMBA benefits are used as a recruiting tool to attract new IRTA members. AMBA Advisor Kevin Ridley was also available to informally talk to members and distributed benefits information along with toothbrushes donated by the dental plan provider. Joanne Mays won the AMBA door prize drawn by President Kim McKenna.

President Kim McKenna thanked :

Carole Sutton for the booking the site, luncheon arrangements, and table decoration

Dave and Marilyn Balch from Ralphie and Lulu's for the catered lunch

Gayle and Diane from the Chana United Methodist Church for assisting in serving lunch

The business meeting was recessed at Noon for lunch.

Jan Dietrich gave the Blessing prior to lunch being served buffet style with server assistance. The catered lunch was served at Noon consisting of pulled pork, Italian beef, buns, pasta salad, fruit salad, potato chips, pumpkin bars, chocolate peanut butter bars, ice tea, lemonade, coffee, and water.

President Kim McKenna called the business meeting back to order at 12:50 PM.

Kimberly Radostits, Spanish teacher at Oregon High School and the 2022 Illinois Teacher of the Year, spoke about her after-school program and early intervention efforts and the renewal of students' learning from the impact of the pandemic. She was proud to speak on how at Oregon Community Unit School District 220, she is using many creative techniques to engage students, her key role the development of the "Hawks Take Flight" after-school program begun in 2008, developing a program to identify junior high students who may need additional support upon entering high school, and through the New Teacher Academy (NTA), her assistance to teachers new to the Oregon school district to get acclimated through a series of monthly professional development sessions. Our membership honored her with a standing ovation and \$50 as a thank you for speaking at our meeting.

Brad Fritts, Republican Candidate for Illinois State Representative District # 74, spoke on the issues facing Illinois with emphasis on education and his experiences that will help him make decisions. He spoke on the negative connotations associated with our current educational system and how impressed he was with Kim Radostits and teachers in general. Brad stated that he will always be a protector of pensions since teachers earned it and it was a promise made, and promises should be kept. Brad requested input from the audience and led a discussion on educator concerns. Brad stated he will have an open door policy to discuss issues and concerns. Brad Fritts spent the lunch time visiting with members.

Other invited local candidates were either unavailable or did not respond to the invitation.

President Kim McKenna announced that membership meetings will be planned for May and September in 2023 and requested members submit suggestions for locations and guest speakers.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 9:30 AM at the Village Bakery in Oregon, IL. (Date changed from previously announced due to Nov. 8 being Election Day).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Elke Grennan, Secretary