



# April 2023 Newsletter



Visit our website:  
[OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com](http://OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com)

or find us on Facebook at Ogle-Lee RTA

Contact us: [OgleLeeRTA1@gmail.com](mailto:OgleLeeRTA1@gmail.com) or Jean Whipple, Membership at 815-222-2681

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## Ogle-Lee RTA Luncheon Membership Meeting



**When:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023

**Where:** Post House 100 W 2 nd Street Dixon



Parking and entrance ramp in the back of the building

**Time:** Doors open 11:00; Business meeting AMBA presentation 11:30 -12:00, Lunch 12:00, Program 1:00

**Lunch:** Catered by Mama Cimino's – chicken strips, pizza, mostaccioli, breadsticks, salad, cinnabites, beverages

**Program:** Introduction to Indoor Gardening presented by Happy Leaf Oregon IL

**Cost:** \$15.00 payable at door by cash or check payable to Ogle-Lee RTA

**RSVP:** Email Jean Whipple at [jwhipple5@gmail.com](mailto:jwhipple5@gmail.com) or call her at 815-222-2681 by **April 28, 2023**

If you are unable to attend, please notify us to cancel your reservation to avoid payment.



### Ogle-Lee Retired Teachers Association Needs Your Help

We need your help recruiting new members. Would you please invite your friends who are retired educators or who will be retiring this year to join IRTA and Ogle-Lee? IRTA is the only association that is just for retired educators and it has been a vital part in keeping our pensions and insurance benefits safe.

Encourage your friends to join us in continuing our efforts to do this. Visit [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) to get more information to share or go to [www.ogleleertaonline.weebly.com](http://www.ogleleertaonline.weebly.com) to see what we do locally! I encourage you to invite two retired educators to join our group!

Any questions, please contact me at [jwhipple5@gmail.com](mailto:jwhipple5@gmail.com) or 815-222-2681.

Jean Whipple, Ogle-Lee RTA Membership



## Ogle-Lee RTA Officer Elections

Our local unit executive board needs you. Please consider joining the executive board as President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. Your involvement will make a huge impact on the future of Ogle-Lee RTA. Nominations will be accepted at the May meeting. Election of officers will take place at the September meeting. Please contact [Kim McKenna kmckenna732@gmail.com](mailto:kmckenna732@gmail.com) , subject line Ogle-Lee RTA Executive Board nomination, if you are interested or know of anyone interested in joining the board.

We also have positions on committees for Technology( Webmaster) and Member Benefits(this is not the same as membership). These positions are appointed not elected. Contact Kim McKenna at [kmckenna732@gmail.com](mailto:kmckenna732@gmail.com) if interested in serving or have a recommendation.



## Message from Kim McKenna, Ogle-Lee RTA President

Hello Spring, the time of year that robins appear, trees bud, early flowers bloom and the days begin to warm.

The Ogle-Lee RTA Executive Board has been busy planning the 2023 meetings, inviting new retirees to join, and monitoring state activities. We hope that you will join us on Wednesday, May 10th at the Post House in Dixon IL for our first general meeting of the year. Details on the meeting can be found in this newsletter.

IRTA held a virtual conference in February. A few of the highlights were:

Proposed changes to the IRTA constitution: For example, eliminating the regional director position, eliminate regions as a division and use areas/units; allowing all members to vote for state board members and area representatives – currently only conference attendees can vote for these positions. The proposed changes will be mailed to IRTA members later this year.

IRTA has proposed several bills to the state legislature: One bill would require Central Management System to announce any changes to insurance 120 days in advance of the change. Another proposed bill would require CMS to offer two options to TRIP/TRAIL insurance. A bill to require all Drs. to accept Medicare, and a bill that CMS offer vision and dental insurance were also proposed.

IRTA does not negotiate healthcare, that is the task of Central Management System. If anyone is having trouble accessing care or has experienced interruption in treatment, please share with your state representatives.

As the end of another school year approaches, please consider inviting a new retiree to join our unit and become a member of IRTA. Our organization is vital in defending our pension and healthcare.

I look forward to seeing you at the May meeting in Dixon.

## Minutes of Prior Board & Membership Meetings



All minutes from Board Meeting and Membership Meetings from 2017 on our website: <http://OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com> .

## Legislative Update of Interest to Retired Educators by Kim McKenna, Ogle-Lee RTA Legislative chairperson



Governor Pritzker's budget fully funds \$9.8 billion to the state's pension system. Governor Pritzker proposed contributing another \$200 million towards pensions using surplus revenue from this year. TRS, the largest pension in Illinois, is one of five Illinois pensions. The state has an unfunded pension liability just under \$140 billion dollars.

The state will invest more than \$200 million over the next three years as part of the proposed Teacher Pipeline Grant Program. The program would provide money to school districts facing the greatest teacher shortages. The fund may be used for signing bonuses, housing stipends, down payment assistance, tuition payments, and loan repayments. The funds can also be used to support currently employed educators with supplies or professional development opportunities.

Remember to sign-up for **Voter Voice**, a resource to contact legislators, on the IRTA members only webpage. (<https://members.irtaonline.org>) You can sign up to receive email or text alerts if an issue or action is needed on legislation, find legislation, and find elected officials. If you currently live out of state, Voter Voice will not be able to match your address to an Illinois Legislator. However, you can go to Illinois General Assembly Home page ([ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov)) and find the email address or phone number to contact any legislator in Illinois.



### Highlights From the IRTA Good Dog Newsletters March 2023:

**WEP/GPO:** Federal lawmakers seeking to repeal Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) are giving it another try this year. U.S. Representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Garrett Graves (R-LA) reintroduced the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 (H.R. 82) in January. A similar bill received widespread bipartisan support in 2022 but never made it to a floor vote. Bills that don't pass expire at the conclusion of each Congress. The WEP and GPO, which are part of federal law, can reduce Social Security benefits for recipients of public pensions that serve as a substitute for Social Security. While some bills in recent years have aimed to modify one or both the WEP and GPO, H.R. 82 seeks to fully repeal both provisions. As of early March, the bill had nearly 180 cosponsors, twelve of whom are from Illinois: Rep. Sean Casten [D-IL-6], Rep. Robin Kelly [D-IL-2], Rep. Mike Bost [R-IL-12], Rep. Lauren Underwood [D-IL-14], Rep. Janice Schakowsky [D-IL-9], Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi [D-IL-8], Rep. Nikki Budzinski [D-IL-13], Rep. Bill Foster [D-IL-11], Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia [D-IL-4], Rep. Eric Sorensen [D-IL-17], Rep. Delia Ramirez [D-IL-3], and Rep. Bradley Schneider [D-IL-10]. What's IRTA doing about it? Since this is a federal issue to be determined by Congress, we encourage members and retirees to contact their members of Congress to share their opinion about these provisions and how they affect them. We will continue to update members of any movement of this legislation.

**TAX COUNSELING FOR THE ELDERLY :** The Tax Counseling for the Elderly program offers free help to those 60 years and older, and volunteers specialize in pension questions and retirement-related topics, the IRS says. The IRS online locator provides a list of sites offering Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly options. You can also call 800-906-9887.

**Thank you for being a member of Ogle-Lee RTA !**

