

Hickory Stick Gazette

Ogle/Lee RTA

April 10, 2018



Our next meeting takes place on April 10, 2018 at Rochelle Presbyterian Church, Rochelle. Telephone number for this facility is (815) 562-7053. Doors open at 11 AM, the business mtg. will take

place at noon, with the meal to follow. A memorial service will take place prior to the program. The program will be last on the agenda.

RESERVATIONS are required. Your contact person will call you for your reservation. **If you have not received a call by April 1st, please call Marvel Blomberg at (815) 562-2884**

REMINDER: We must pay for your meal, even if you cannot attend (exception-illness). The cost of the meal is \$15. As of this writing the menu will include BBQ pork on Vienna Bun, 7-layered salad, fruit salad, Mrs. Fisher's potato chips, mini cherry-cheese cake, coffee and tea. If you reserve a meal and find that you will not be able to attend, please call Marvel Blomberg in order to cancel your earlier reservation. Otherwise, if you cannot attend, please send \$15. to Ogle-Lee treasurer, Linda Kenney, P.O. Box 314, Rochelle, IL 61068. If you are planning to attend the April 10th meeting, you will be able to pay for your meal when you arrive.

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PROGRAM

Diane Kenney and Carole Sutton

Program: Raul Guzman, Assistant General Manager of Mighty Vine in Rochelle, will explain about the up and coming tomato growing industry. Mr. Guzman will share the latest techniques of growing tomatoes indoors and educate us on the history of Mighty Vine, a relative newcomer to the Rochelle area.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Becky Cheek and Michele Glen

Dear Fellow Ogle/Lee IRTA members,

Welcome back to a year of wonderful programs, informative updates and a chance to mingle with old and new friends.

We thought we should introduce ourselves as your new co-presidents. I, Becky Cheek, live in DeKalb and taught for 29 years at Rochelle Middle School as a

Sp. Ed. Teacher (my dream job!). My undergraduate work was completed at Illinois State University (Go Redbirds!!!) and I received my masters in Education from Aurora University. My husband of 35 years, Ed, and I have 2 children, Heather (33) and Ethan (31). Additions to the family include a daughter-in-law, Amanda and grandson, Liam (3). I am looking forward to working with my sister, Michele Glen, for the next two years as your co-presidents. Thank you for your support. Once in a while, please send a little prayer our way!



I, Michele Glen, live in Rochelle with my husband of 34 years, Jeff Glen. We have two children, Justin (31) and Megan (29). Justin is married to Kayla and they have our first grandchild, Seamus with another on the way this May! They live in the Dubuque area. Megan will be married this October 6th to Dave Sheets in Indianapolis. I enjoyed teaching as a teacher for visually impaired students for 35 years, the first 8 years in Lee County and the remainder in Ogle County. I graduated undergrad and graduate from NIU (Go Huskies!!!) I agree with Becky, we will certainly appreciate your prayers and support these next two years. Becky and I feel very fortunate to be in such a group of devoted and caring teachers, willing to keep learning and sharing with their colleagues. Stay healthy and warm!

A special thanks to all those that were kind enough to give a hand to the Newbees!!! You are so appreciated!

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IRTA and Ogle-Lee RTA is your link to Springfield!!!!!!!

LEGISLATION

Kim McKenna

PLEASE CONSIDER!!!!

IRTA has a Political Action Committee, known as IRTA-PAC. IRTA-PAC is raising funds to endorse legislators that support our cause to not reduce our pensions or cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). Last fall, IRTA-PAC paid for eight Ogle-Lee members to attend Sen. Bivins' fund raiser to thank a legislator who consistently votes to protect our benefits. Please make a contribution to IRTA-PAC or sign up for a one dollar monthly deduction from your TRS annuity. The few dollars invested in the Legal Defense Fund and IRTA Political Action Committee today will save you thousands in the future. Don't forget that if the state gets away with reducing our COLA, it opens the door to future reductions of our

benefits which are guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions.

Legislative Update March 2018

There have been thousands of bills filed in the IL General Assembly in January, forty of which deal with the TRS pension system. Most recently legislation sponsored by Sen. Andy Manar on behalf of the IRTA was moved out of the education committee. Senate Bill 3045 will allow retirees to substitute teach up to 120 days or 600 hours (currently 100 days or 500 hours) in a school year without impacting their retirement status or benefits. This legislation is important as IL faces a teacher shortage, and it helps ensure a qualified teacher is in the classroom. Senator Manar also moved Bill 3046 out of the State Government Committee that will allow TRS annuitants who have opted out of the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program to rejoin during the benefits choice period.

Governor Rauner proposed the shift of hundreds of millions of dollars of state pension costs to schools and universities. Rep. Dave McSweeney is sponsoring House Resolution 27 which declares "the opinion of the Illinois House of Representatives that the proposed educational pension cost shift from the State of Illinois to local school districts, community colleges, and institutions of higher education is financially wrong." The Resolution now has 70 house sponsors.

Due to the March primaries, both the IL House and Senate will not be in session at the same time until April 10th. Please vote in the primary election. Voting is democracy in action.

2018-2019 Ogle-Lee RTA OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Rebecca (Becky) Cheek Michele Glen
Co-Vice-Presidents	Diane Kenney Carole Sutton
Secretary	Elke Grennan
Treasurer	Linda Kenney
Membership	Jean Whipple
Member Benefits	Phillip Bratta
Legislative	Kim McKenna
Contact Coordinator	Marvel Blomberg
Historian	Loretta Bell

Website Address: <http://ogleleerta.weebly.com>
We are in need of someone to continue the leadership role regarding our own website, with assistance from **Elke Grennan**. The Webmaster is responsible for updating the website with photos and information provided by the officers. Our site needs some updating at this time!!!!
Please refer to our website frequently and encourage friends to stop at the Ogle -Lee website. It changes frequently.

Please double check your name and information in the Membership Directory located on the registration table for accuracy.

STEP UP FOR THE SMALL THINGS

1. We would like a volunteer to store and bring to each meeting the Ogle/Lee Sign.
2. Money collector for each meeting.
3. Leader for the Pledge/Invocation
4. Mail out newsletters
5. Greeters
6. Back up person to read pre-written reports incase chairperson cannot attend
7. Helpers to assist those who may need a tray carried to the table.
8. Refill coffee and water at individual tables

If interested, please sign the Spiral Notebook at the registration table. You will be contacted by phone or email. Thank you in advance!!!

MEMBERSHIP

If you know of someone that will be retiring in the next year or two, please begin encouraging them to check out and join Ogle/Lee RTA. and consider joining Ogle/Lee IRTA!! You are our best advertising!!!!

DUES

ATTENTION: If you have not paid your dues for this year, please take care of this obligation by April 30th. After this date, your name will be removed from the membership. Yearly dues are \$5.00; lifetime dues-one time payment of \$50.00.



Memorials

Genevieve Bylinowski
Helen Glessner
Richard E Wing
Gordon Carlson
Nancy Ryder
Dora May Tetzlaff
Evelyn Smith
Mary E Smith
George Renne
Kathy Harper
Lujune Furman

Scholarships

Phillip Bratta

The Ogle-Lee Retired Teachers Association – IRTA is offering two \$750.00 Scholarships to college juniors or seniors from Ogle or Lee County, who are currently working toward a degree in Education and enrolled at an accredited school. Applications may be downloaded from the Ogle-Lee RTA website at www.ogleleerta.weebly.com.

Applications are due by July 31, 2018, to Phil Bratta, 5631 Fair Oaks DR, Davis Junction, IL 61020. Any questions may be directed to him at 815/520-5312.

The Scholarship winner will be announced on August 15, 2018 on the website and in local media.

Happy Spring, Everyone!!!

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Member Meetings

April 10, 2018: **Place**-Rochelle Presbyterian Church, Rochelle, IL
1100 Calvin Rd. and Hwy 38
Time-Registration-11:00
Gen. Mtg.-12:00
Meal-12:30
Luncheon-BBQ pork on Vienna Bun. 7-layer salad, fruit salad, Fisher’s potato chips, mini cherry-cheese cakes, coffee and tea.
Program-Mighty Vine Tomatoes

July 10, 2018: **Place**-Chana United Methodist Church, 606 Main St, Chana, IL
Time- Registration-11:00
Gen. Mtg.-12:00
Meal-12:30
Luncheon-Chicken and Homemade Noodles, green beans, fruit salad, rolls, cheesecake with fruit toppings, drinks C, T, W, L
Program-Wild Birds Unlimited

***October 2, 2018:** **Place**-Rock River Center, 810 S. 10th, Oregon, IL
(First Tuesday)
Time-Registration-11:00
Gen. Mtg.-12:00
Meal-12:30
Luncheon-Plated salad and roll, Chicken spinach lasagna, corn and bacon casserole, carrot cake, coffee and tea.
Program- Legislators Forum

