

Hickory Stick Gazette

Ogle/Lee RTA

October 2, 2018



Our next meeting takes place on **Oct 2, 2018** at the Rock RiverCenter, 810 S 10th St., Oregon IL. For details, see **Calendar of Events**,

RESERVATIONS are required. Your contact person will call you for your reservation. **If you have not received a call by Sept 21st, please call Marvel Blomberg at (815) 562-2884**

REMINDER: You must pay for your meal, even if you cannot attend (exception-illness). The cost of the meal is \$15. Send payment to Ogle-Lee treasurer, Linda Kenney, P.O. Box 314, Rochelle, IL 61068. OR you may pay at the door!!

During our second year we will be looking for one or two members to take on the position of president. Please give it some serious thought. The alternative would mean the closing of the Ogle/Lee Association. More details to come. Please have a wonderful and safe Autumn and Winter. We will see you all again in the Spring!!! Again, our thanks and gratitude to all members!!!

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). 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.

PROGRAM

Diane Kenney and Carole Sutton

Program: The program for this meeting has been arranged by Kim McKenna, Legislation Rep,. She has gone to great lengths to organize the following candidates:

- David Simpson – Illinois Senate District 45
- Representative Tom Demmer - Illinois House District 90,
- Amy Davis – Illinois House District 90,
- Andrew Chesney – Illinois House District 89,
- Nick Hyde – Illinois House District 89.

Most importantly, please vote at the general election on November 6th

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Becky Cheek and Michele Glen

Dear Fellow Ogle/Lee IRTA members,

Beautiful Autumn colors!!! Orange pumpkins popping out in yards!!! Yellow, bronze, purple and orange mums decorating porches and straw bales!! Gourds in all shapes and sizes, colored with Autumn's paint brush!!! Can you tell we love Fall!!!

This meeting ends our first year as your co-presidents. We have learned so much, from the inner workings of the organization to the resourcefulness of our members, especially the Ex. Board, to the vital importance of keeping this group active in the state of Illinois. We will continue to do our best throughout our second year.

Legislative Update Sept. 2018

On August 21, 2018 Governor Rauner signed into law SB3026, an IRTA initiative. This law allows eligible TRS benefit recipients and TRS dependent beneficiaries to elect to participate in the teacher retirement insurance program (TRIP or TRAILS) if they had previously opted out. Re-enrollment can only be made during the benefit recipients' open enrollment period. The IRTAPAC developed a questionnaire that was mailed to 240 incumbents and candidates on the ballot for IL Governor, House and Senate. Of the 78 questionnaires returned, IRTAPAC endorsed 52 of the candidates. IRTAPAC is a policy, not a politically, driven group and recognizes that members make their own candidate choices at the ballot box. The IRTAPAC endorsed candidates who have a record of supporting retired teachers or have committed to supporting retired teachers. Endorsed candidates include: Illinois Governor – JB Pritzker, Illinois Senate District 45 – David Simpson, Illinois House District 89 – Andrew Chesney, Illinois House District 90 – Amy Davis. Contrary to a recently published article in Crain's Chicago Business which implied that the TRS portfolio carries "risk" and poses a "threat" to teacher pensions. The TRS portfolio grew from



49.4 billion in fiscal year 2017 to \$51.3 billion in fiscal year 2018, a 3.8% increase in assets. The TRS investment portfolio assets have increased 80% over the last ten years. Please join the Ogle-Lee IRTA on October 2nd to meet and hear the candidates on the ballot in our counties for the Illinois House and Senate: David Simpson – Illinois Senate District 45, Representative Tom Demmer - Illinois House District 90, Amy Davis – Illinois House District 90, Andrew Chesney – Illinois House District 89, and Nick Hyde – Illinois House District 89. Most importantly, please vote at the general election on November 6th

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
- Past Presidents Jean Hoff
 Jean Whipple

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!!!!



STEP UP FOR THE SMALL THINGS

Thank you so much to the following members that volunteered to "lend a hand" : Harvey and Mary Folkerts, Armande Vasilopoulos, Christy Roberts, Joanne Mayes, Denise Cheek and Kevin Zilm!!!! And newcomer to the list **Maja Shoemaker!!** Your dedication is shining!!!
If interested, please sign the "Step Up for the Small Things" 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.
You are our best advertising!!!*

Scholarships
Phillip Bratta

We are pleased to announce The Ogle-Lee Retired Teachers Association – IRTA has awarded two \$750 scholarships!!! There were 4 applicants. The two winners are Jessica Hickey and Josh Duval, both from the Rochelle area. Jessica is looking forward to teaching at the Middle School level. She will spend the first semester of her senior year studying in Spain. Josh is studying music and would also like to teach in the elementary/middle school level. Our congratulations to each of these future educators!!!!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!!

- **Kathy Connor**
- **Floya Hawkins**
- **Marianne Jones**
- **Linda Voelker**
- **Robert Nelson**



******As veteran members, please introduce yourself and help to orientate our new members to the workings of this fantastic group !!!!***

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Member Meeting

***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-1:00 Legislator’s Forum



