

Hickory Stick Gazette

Ogle/Lee RTA

July 10, 2018



Our next meeting takes place on July 10, 2018 at the Chana United Methodist Church, 606 Main St., Chana, IL (south of railroad tracks).

Handicap accessible on West side of the building via the drive-thru going back of the church. For others, there are 2 doors available on the East side of the building. Please do NOT use the entrance to the sanctuary. 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 June 30th, 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: Chicken and Homemade Noodles, green beans, fruit salad, rolls, cheesecake with fruit toppings, drinks C, T, W, L. **Send payment to Ogle-Lee treasurer, Linda Kenney, P.O. Box 314, Rochelle, IL 61068. OR you may pay at the door!!**

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.

Legislative Update June 2018

The Illinois State operating budget totals \$38.5 billion, which is an increase of over \$600 million from the current budget. The increase is largely due to increases in education funding and making required pension payments.

Highlights of the budget include:



- \$350 million increase in K-12 funding ensuring every school district will see an increase.
- \$50 million increase in early childhood programs.
- State support for the retired teachers health insurance program (TRIP).
- Higher education receives 2% increase.
- A series of voluntary pension reforms include: COLA buyout; Tier 1 employees have the option of having the state buyout the compounded COLA for 70% of the value. Pension spiking: End of career raises would be limited to 3%, currently 6%. If school districts award end of year career raises in excess of 3%, the school district would be charged to cover the increase expense.
- The \$1 billion budget deficit will be closed through savings, reforms, and using other available revenues.
- The state is authorized to utilize up to \$800 million in existing various state accounts and pay it back over the next two years

The budget won Senate approval 56-2 and passed the House 97-18.

PROGRAM



Diane Kenney and Carole Sutton

Program: Will Rezin of Wild Birds Unlimited will be with us for an informative talk regarding our feathered friends and their effect on the ecology.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Becky Cheek and Michele Glen



Dear Fellow Ogle/Lee IRTA members,

Welcome to summer!!!! We would like to offer an enormous **Thank You** to everyone that lent a hand, inspired ideas, smiled at our mistakes, came to the meetings and offered words of encouragement!!! What a fantastic group you are!!!!

Please refer to our website frequently and encourage friends to stop at the website!!

**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!!!!

***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!!!!
 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. and consider joining Ogle/Lee IRTA!! You are our best advertising!!!!



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.

At the time of this printing, we only have one applicant. If you know anyone that meets the above requirements, please encourage them to fill out an application ASAP!!!!

***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

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
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

