

ECRTA

Elkhart County Retired Teachers Association

ECRTA Newsletter, August 2020

website: www.ecrta.com

From Your President: Marie Palacios



Please Note: Sept. & Nov. meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19

As I write this letter, we find ourselves still in the COVID-19 pandemic. Elkhart County as well as the state of Indiana is under mandatory mask wearing. Our school corporations in the county have begun school virtually, hopefully next week in person school will begin safely and successfully. Active teachers, students, administrators, and staff are chartering the unknown. We know our active teacher colleagues are resourceful and caring. We retired teachers pray for the safety of our fellow teachers as they care for each student in their classrooms.

Welcome to our newly retired teachers. We hope you are enjoying your retirement. There are many exciting ventures ahead of you, and we hope that you will be interested in joining other retired teachers in the Elkhart County Retired Teachers Association (ECRTA). Our yearly dues are \$10 with \$5 going to a scholarship we give out yearly. We meet 4 times a year for lunch, a program, and fellowship. Please join us.

As we all volunteer in the many areas of life—please keep track of all of your hours for 2020. These will be turned into Lenette Burckhart by mail or email at the end of November. We have included the 2020 Volunteer Hours tally sheet with this newsletter.

Our local organization, ECRTA, is in need of several members to step up and be involved. Please consider donating a small amount of your time to serve with us. There are 4 board meetings and 4 ECRTA meetings a year you would need to attend. It really is a lot more fun than work. We need active members to be a successful organization.

I hope to see many of you this year at our spring meeting in April.

Thank you!

Marie



ECRTA Meetings:

April 15, 2021

Del Mar, Nappanee

June 10, 2021

Sept. 9, 2021

Nov. 11, 2021

Officers & Committee Chairpersons

President: Marie Palacios

President Elect/Programs: need a volunteer

Recording Secretary: Marilee Keim

Corresponding Secretary: Pat Huber

Treasurer: Karen Tobias

Newsletter: Dawn Wysong

Legislative: Gary Stoltz

IRTA Foundation: Gary Stoltz

Retirement: need a volunteer

Community Services: Carol Grieser

Volunteer Hours: Lenette Burckhart

Membership/Past Pres.: Connie Schrock

Scholarship: Nancy Bonewitz

Necrology: Donna Palacios

The 2020-21 ECRTA Scholarship Recipient, By Nancy Bonewitz



Kaitlyn Burger, a junior at Manchester University, majoring in elementary education, is the recipient of the 2020 ECRTA scholarship. Kaitlyn, the daughter of Rick and Pam Burger, graduated from Fairfield High School in 2018. During college, Kaitlyn, has been active in the Student Education Association, Simply Brethren, MU Women's Tennis Team, Walk Into My Future, and Blessings in a Backpack.

Remember: \$5 of your yearly \$10 dues goes to this scholarship

Congratulations, Kaitlyn!

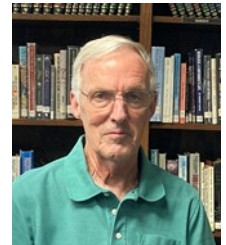


Legislative News by Gary Stoltz

During the 2019 session of the Indiana General Assembly the IRTA supported the concept of a two year annual stipend to be paid in September of 2019 and again in 2020. This bill passed without the additional \$50 that IRTA had indicated was needed.

When the 2021 General Assembly convenes next January construction of a two year budget will be the first and main item of concern for our legislators. Loss of tax revenue to the state due to the coronavirus closures will play a large role in forming this budget.

Retirees will also be advised to watch carefully for any information coming out regarding the size of the Social Security COLA, usually payable in January.



Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation (IRTF) News by Gary Stoltz

Our annual November ECRTA contribution to the IRTF Endowment Fund supports the three major Foundation programs. Last year one of our members, Judy Atkinson of Elkhart, applied for and received "A Hand Up" grant. A fourth grade teacher at Pinewood School in Elkhart, Stacey Sailor, also applied for and received an "Active Teacher" grant. This year we could support a future educator by sponsoring them when they apply for an IRTF Scholarship next spring.

Remember also that any of us can recognize a fellow educator by making a \$250 contribution to the Endowment Fund. An apple will be placed on the "Giving Tree" in honor of this person.

Congratulations for Awards from Indiana Retired Teachers Association!



Necrology Report June 2019 – May 31, 2020 by Donna Palacios

Jennie Barwick	Lois F. Hahn	Sue A. Root
Ann Adele Broadbent	Doris I. Castator Haile	Robert L. Roth
Richard D. Campbell	Sue W. Harp	Diane R. Shelton
Robert Clark, Jr.	Catherine E. Hartman	Loretta P. Simmons
Gladys Cone	Dennis V. Howard	Dean G. Slagel
Peggy Cowen	Teresa J. Jamison	Doris M. Smeltzer
Ann V. Emmitt	Shirley J. Klingler	Phyllis Warrick
Pamela A. Fileccia	Ruth E. Mattingly	Harold L. Weaver
Norine J. Francis	Eli Miller	John G. Wolber
Dr. Robert B. Franklin	Robert A. Minichillo	Rae A. Wright
Phyllis J. Frey	Mabel A. Nisley	Norma Wysong
Rosemary Fry	Barbara Perrin	Martha M. Yoder
Vickie Gowdy	Janet A. Riblet	Melvin A. Yoder
Angela M. Hahn	Myron J. Roll	

Pension Payment News from INPRS

If you currently receive your pension payment by direct deposit to your bank on the first day of every month then there is no news for you because that process will continue. However, if you know of anyone that still receives a paper check in the mail please advise them to call INPRS at (844) 464-6777. They can be switched to direct deposit or get information about the only other available option which is a monthly debit card deposit.

November Election Information

From the President to the Governor to every State Senator and State Representative that represents Elkhart County (except one) we have choices to make because there is more than one candidate in each race. Your vote is important!! More than ever before, this year voters may choose to vote absentee by mail. Select one of the following options to start the process by obtaining the application for absentee by mail:

1. Visit www.indianavoters.com to submit your application electronically.
2. Visit www.elkhartcountyclerk.com to print out an application to submit.
3. Call (574) 535-6469 to request an application to be mailed to you.

Want to make a difference for an Elkhart County Teacher?

Access teacher wish lists on “Amazing Teachers (Elkhart County K-12) on Facebook to make your donations of classroom and personal needs—your choice.



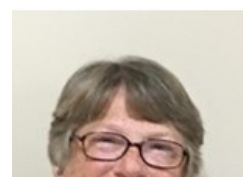
Volunteer Hours 2019-20 by Lenette Burckhart

Thank you all for the generosity of having 11,992 volunteer hours. What an awesome job! Three people had over 1,000 volunteer hours. They are Elaine Frey, Dawn Wysong and Judy Hostetler, Area 2 Director. Congratulations to all volunteers. Keep up the good work for 2020. If there are any questions, let me know. Hope you are having a good summer.

Thank you, Volunteers!



2020 Elkhart County Retirees by Connie Schrock:

<u>Baugo</u> - 1 Jeffrey Ziegler	<u>Middlebury</u> - 3 Patti McGlauchlen Kahlil Schertz Byron Warkentin	<u>Goshen</u> - 7 Becky Boston Craig Frazier Marcia Kehr Carol Kichen Dawn Kline Jeanna Saylor Diane Woodworth
<u>Concord</u> - 6 Neil Boston James Devreese Kathy Greene Cheryl Stouder Timothy Tahara Linda Wagner	<u>Elkhart</u> - 12 Trudi Alwine Laura Fox Kirsten Hawn Elaine Jarvis Barbara Kurth Michael Maloney James McClain Debra Rorie Nancy Sanders Donna Sting Jaime Stith Robin Sutton	<u>Wa-Nee</u> - 3 Shari Walter Paul Widner Melanie Williams
<u>Fairfield</u> - 2 Kathlene Ediger Rachel Stiver		

ECRTA Membership News by Connie Schrock for 2019-2020:

ECRTA has 215 members. Just to remind you, your current membership is for the school year 2020-2021 and not the calendar year. This means your membership will expire August 2020. You will receive a membership card with the Newsletter. Please complete it and return it with \$10 dues payment for the school year 2020-2021. It is important to renew your membership each year because each member is an important part of our association. Several members have missed a year. If you want to check your status, you can email me at csschrock@gmail.com or call me at **574-849-7536**. We appreciate your support each year. Encourage your newly retired friends to join us. Their first-year membership is free!

A reminder to each of you; update your addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Remember to check if you want notices by email or U.S. mail. Receiving notices by email reduces the cost of postage for the ECRTA. We will continue to send postcard notices to those who request U.S. mail. A part of your membership dues also helps support our ECRTA Scholarship Fund. Every year we give a \$1000 scholarship to a junior or a senior in an Indiana college with an education major.