

EARTA GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 25, 2025  
ELGIN COUNTRY CLUB

**EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING** was held at the Elgin Country Club. Lucy Niemeier, President, called the EARTA general meeting to order at 12:00. Lucy welcomed guests, speaker, and any new members. The speaker for the program was Sarah Sullivan. Guests were Ellen Smith, Katy Dougherty, Marty Jernberg, and Haley Doodebaum. There were no new members. Sandra Woolcott moved that the minutes from the November 15, 2024 general meeting be accepted. The motion was seconded by Joanna Martin. Motion passed.

**UPDATE ON REVISED EARTA DIRECTORY** David Wedemeyer explained major changes to the EARTA Directory. The EARTA Board voted on the changes. Following are the changes:

“1. An EARTA member generously donated \$1,000 anonymously towards the directory expense as long as the same format was kept. The directory committee looked at the new proposal (presented by Lucy N. at the February general membership meeting) as directed by a motion from the floor that had passed. In light of the donation and the committee’s best estimates to compare expenses, it was decided to go ahead with the work on editing and changing the internal format of the current directory and to use the current form.

2. To that end, the same size print has been kept throughout the whole document. Some extra space was taken out of the membership pages, and a demarcation line was added after each member’s entry for clarity. Membership status was changed from code to words. This will make the book easier to understand, and easier for the membership chair and treasurer to use.

3. By standardizing print size, some reformatting and editing out unnecessary information, the first introductory section will now be three pages instead of six pages. (The first eleven pages of members information would have taken 14 pages in the current directory.) The political representatives have been taken out, as well as some information that is easy to find online. The estimated length of the new directory will be 58-62 pages instead of the current 74 pages.

Over 60 hours have been donated by various EARTA committee members to this project.

4. Part of updating the directory is having your information recorded correctly. This can’t be done without your input. If David W. didn’t get to you at the February luncheon to verify your information, please see him today. If you want to see and/or compare the new format, Karen and David each have a current directory and the first pages of the new directory for comparison.

5. The last part of the directory has our constitution and bylaws. All members were notified in the Jogger about the three major changes and that all those present at this general meeting would be voting on those changes today.

By virtue of your board of directors’ action at the March board meeting, a motion was made by David W. to approve the changes in the Elgin Retired Teachers’ Association constitution and bylaws as printed in the packets that are on each table. Seconded by Sandra Woolcott. Motion passed. The updated documents will be included in the new directory.

**LUNCHEON:** Mick Williams gave a very meaningful prayer before the luncheon was served. We all enjoyed being together as we enjoyed our meal of garden salad with balsamic dressing, pretzel crusted chicken breast, green beans, garden Yukon potatoes, vanilla ice cream with a chocolate cookie. Rolls and butter, coffee, tea, (hot/cold) and lemonade were available. (cost: \$38)

**TREASURER REPORT – DAVID WEDEMEYER** All of EARTA’s assets are held at the KCT Credit Union. As of Thursday, April 24, 2025, account balances were:

Checking	\$6,682.43
Savings	3,030.20
Certificate of Deposit	4156.37

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\$13,869.00

IRTA Convention will be in June. Paper ballots will be sent to members via mail. Instructions will be attached on how to vote.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION – CINDY LANGE** EARTA members are invited to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church for their last Bake Sale on May 3. There will be a free-will offering to benefit the Crisis Center. Besides bake goods, plants and jewelry will be on sale.

**LEGISLATION – MICK WILLIAMS** A detailed report of legislation that IRA is watching this spring appears in the IRTA Good Dog News.

Note: The State House of Representatives convened Tuesday, 4/22/25. They will begin to consider bills that have qualified for vote. Among them is a bill in the House to raise the mandatory yearly testing age to 87 for one to keep one's driver's license. Keep watching!!

**EPICUREAN ADVENTURES –IRENE WEDEMEYER/KAREN PATTERSON** On Thursday, May 15, at 6:00, the Epicurean Adventure will be held at the Café Roma. Please contact either Karen W., Karen P., or Irene for reservations/information.

**OLD BUSINESS** Upcoming speakers for future EARTA General Meetings will be:  
June – Pianist and tenor                      September – TBA                      November – U-46 Foundation

**NEW BUSINESS** Lucy shared the EARTA's recent response to an IRTA questionnaire asking about the current health and statue of our chapter. She was happy to report to IRTA that EARTA is doing well and growing.

The IRTA Convention will be held on October 27 & 28. Changes to the voting rules for IRTA officers, area representative and amending the IRTA will be on the agenda at the Convention. From now on, there will not be delegates; rather every IRTA member will vote via email or via pre-requested paper ballot.

**ADJOURNMENT** Business meeting was adjourned at 1:22.

**PROGRAM** Sarah Sullivan was the quest speaker. Sarah works with the McHenry County Power Company. Her presentation was a slide/video presentation "Beyond Rosa – The Other Women of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

The presentation high-lighted events in Montgomery before Rosa Parks' arrest in December 1, 1955, as well as what transpired during that time. In 1953, Baton Rouge experienced an eight-day bus boycott. In 1955, bus segregation was legal. There were many arrests. Sarah related the story about JoAnn Robinson, a Professor at Alabama State College. She led a powerful bus boycott in 1952 and met with the mayor. She wrote to the mayor many times. There were many stories presented on how women were involved with various boycotts from 1939-1955. There were many arrests as a result of the boycotts. Many history events were presented in Sarah's program.

Respectively Submitted  
Kay Lincicome, EARTA Recording Secretary