

**EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023**  
**VILLA OLIVIA, BARTLETT**

**EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING** was held at Villa Olivia in Bartlett, on Friday, February 24, 2023. Social hour was at 11:30, and the luncheon was at 12:00. Lucy Niemeier, EARTA president, began the meeting with a warm welcome.

**CHAPLAIN – MICK WILLIAMS** offered a very meaningful invocation before the meal.

**LUNCHEON** Members enjoyed visiting and sharing the meal of Caesar Salad, Chicken Rosela, Broccoli and Wild Rice, Ice Cream Sundae, and Coffee or Tea.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**PRESIDENT – LUCY NIEMEIER** Lucy introduced herself to members as EARTA's new president. She told about her teaching positions in U-46, and shared her love for the profession. She is excited to serve EARTA. She began the meeting by introducing Sandy Smith, a new EARTA member. Lucy told the group that she would like to give a Red Cup (Valentine thought) that was filled with candy to each member at the luncheon as a thank you. The gift was greatly appreciated.

She shared how some E-mail addresses have changed. Lucy sent around a sheet for members to sign up their e-mail addresses in case of a change. The EARTA DIRECTORY COMMITTEE is working on the new directory.

**TREASURER – DAVID WEDEMEYER** There is \$1245.59 in the EARTA checking account. There is \$5521.74 in the EARTA savings account. There are approximately 355 members. The fees are up to date. Dave is working on obtaining dues from twenty-seven people who still need to pay dues.

**LEGISLATION – MICK WILLIAMS** Mick reminded members that IRTA Legislative updates are available on line ([irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)). He passed out a printed copy of the latest update (2/8/2023) to members at the meeting.

In summary, the report included a schedule of the 2023 Key Session Deadlines. Gov. Pritzker announced the end of State COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation. The state's public health emergency will end on May 11, 2023. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) named School District U-46 (Elgin) Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders the new state superintendent of education after a nationwide search. He will assume his duties in late February. Complete report is on line.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The EARTA Supper Club that met at Hoopers for past years, has been dissolved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Information about the EARTA scholarship will be discussed at the next EARTA Board Meeting and then shared with members. Members are encouraged to volunteer for Board vacancies. A suggestion was made to have more "lead time" to the message on EARTA's Robo-call member contact, as some of the message did not record.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Lucy adjourned the Business Meeting at 12:57.

### **PROGRAM**

Lucy introduced Mikhail Antoshin, pianist and accordion player. Mikhail is a U-46 music teacher and presented a beautiful program of various varieties of music with narrative that was enjoyed by members. The piano portion included familiar songs: "Yesterday", "Let it Be", "Blue Moon", and many others. Mikhail presented a history about Sergey Prokofiev, a well-known composer. He played a song written by Sergey that was beautiful. Mikhail played his accordion as part of the program. Among the songs were "Beer Barrel Polka", "O Sole Mio", "Que Sera. Sera. Whatever Will Be, Will Be", and various polkas and waltzes. Towards the end, the audience joined in by singing some of the familiar tunes. Mikhail ended his program with the song, "How Great Thou Art". It was agreed to have Mikhail return for a program in the future.

**DISMISSED** at 1:46.

Respectively submitted

Kay Lincicome, Recording Secretary

