

EARTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2024
Villa Olivia, Bartlett

EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING was held at Villa Olivia, Bartlett, on February 23, 2024. Social hour was at 11:30, and the luncheon was at 12:00. Lucy Niemeier, President, welcomed members to the meeting. Lucy offered the invocation for our meal. The menu was garden salad, chicken Roselo, vegetable medley, roasted potatoes, and ice cream sundae. During dessert, Lucy introduced a brief game, with the question, "What was the greatest disruption in your classroom during the school day?". Members then voted amongst 4 choices. The winner was mimeograph ink! Those with that winning answer received specialty pencils with "EARTA for the win!" printed on them. Lucy asked all members to read the literature on the tables: the legislative report from Mick Williams, the November 17, 2023 minutes, and today's agenda.

Lucy Niemeier called the meeting to order at 12:14.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT - LUCY NIEMEIER

Lucy welcomed everyone, and additionally recognized 4 guests: Rebecca Miller, our speaker for the day, Gary Swick, our speaker for our future September luncheon, Mary Alice and Joe Masonick, a retired U-46 nurse and retired U-46 4th grade teacher, respectively.

Lucy asked for a motion to accept the November 17, 2023 minutes. Cliff Olson moved that EARTA accept the minutes as printed, and it was seconded by Sandra Woolcott. Motion passed.

TREASURER-DAVID WEDEMEYER David reported that as of February 22, 2024, the EARTA balances were:

\$3,450.80 in checking
\$3,026.43 in savings
\$4,016.48 in EARTA CD
\$10,493.71 in total assets.

David reported on Gov. Pritzker's budget address:

- 1) Fully certified funding for the rest of the fiscal year for TRS. TRIP, TRAIL
- 2) First governor to do this. He went beyond annual funding.

It was proposed, when the TRS bonds retire in 2030-2045, that the state put \$5 billion per year towards the pension systems. 100% funding by 2048 is the goal.

LEGISLATIVE – Written report was provided at tables since Mick Williams was absent. (See below*)

OLD BUSINESS - The Coffee Group gathering will meet at Big Apple Bagel on Thursday, March 7, at 1:00. Contact Bonnie Skapyak for sign-up.

The Musical will be at ECC on March 16. Contact Lucy Niemeier for sign-up.

NEW BUSINESS- David announced the Epicurean Adventure will be on March 19, 6:00, at Biaggi's on Randall Road. Contact Karen via e-mail for reservations.

Jonathan Bast announced that a former student from U-46, will be on Shark Tank tonight, February 23rd, for developing a bionic hand. This former student has a doctorate and will be making San Diego the headquarters for his bionics.

Lucy directed each member to one of the reminder magnets on their table. The magnets read:

Friday, April 19, 2024, Elgin Country Club (send check in to Barb by April 12)
Friday, June 21, 2024, Elgin Country Club (send check in to Barb by June 14)
Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, Elgin Country Club (send check in to Barb by Sept. 13)
Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, Elgin Country Club (send check in to Barb by Nov. 8)

BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED

PROGRAM -

Lucy introduced EARTA's program speaker, Rebecca Miller, Museum Educator of Elgin Historical Museum. Rebecca began her presentation by telling the group that she is a Big Fan of U-46. She presented an interactive slide show that included many facts,

as well as a plethora of anecdotes and stories from Elgin's schools. The membership participated by calling out correct answers to almost every question Rebecca presented! In fact, many members found that they had a mutual kindergarten teacher - Miss Frisby!

Today the museum contains 2 floors of Elgin History. The gift shop sells books about Elgin and its history. The Museum sponsors special events for the public such as the Car Show of Old Cars, Elgin's Historical House Walk, and Bluff City Cemetery Walk. The Museum offers programs for the public, also.

Rebecca told about the opportunity for EARTA members to volunteer. There is an opportunity to be a front desk docent, or to help out with special events and to support programs. Volunteers are needed to help out for various educational programs at various stations.

***LEGISLATIVE REPORT** Mick Williams legislative report reminded members of the IRTA web site and the recently improved online app. This month IRTA provided a link to a review of all the actions or non-actions of the legislators and the Governor. Nick made note of a few actions of importance to educators.

The General Election is in November! Remember to vote!

Local and State also impact your pension and your daily life.

Legislation for the spring session of the General Assembly was actively underway. The deadline to introduce new bills was February 9th.

HB4431 – Rep. Jeff Keicher (the bill's sponsor). This new legislation would amend the Illinois Vehicle Code, ending the requirements for drivers over the age of 75 to retake a driving test to renew their driver's license. "Illinois is the only state in the United States that does this...." (Note: There are still amendments that could be added and final wording is not yet known. There is opposition but this could happen.)

Donate to IRTA PAC fund Consider donating to the Illinois Retired Teachers' Political Action Committee (IRTAPAC) by supporting IRTAPAC. You can play a significant role in shaping the future of post-retirement benefits for educators.

Respectively submitted,

Kay Lincicome, Recording Secretary