

EARTA GENERAL MEETING
Friday, November 15, 2024 at Elgin Country Club

The EARTA luncheon and meeting was held at the Elgin Country Club. Lucy Niemeier, President, called the EARTA General Meeting to order at 12:00.

Lucy welcomed new member Jill Schmidt, and guest, Debbie Walters to the meeting.

Also introduced was Steve Huber, EARTA's guest speaker, who will present AMBA insurance options later in the meeting.

Mick Williams gave a very meaningful prayer before the luncheon was served.

EARTA enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal of hot dinner rolls, winter salad of mixed greens, poached pear, candied pecans, dried cranberries, blue cheese with Modena vinaigrette, roasted sliced turkey, cranberry relish, whipped potatoes and gravy, squash medley, and pumpkin cheesecake. Hot and cold tea, coffee, and lemonade included. A cash bar was available from 11:30 to 12:00.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT – Lucy Niemeier

Lucy announced that there will be a new directory in 2025. If there are any changes to a member's address or phone number, please contact Karen Patterson, David Wedemeyer, or Lucy Niemeier with the corrected change.

Lucy reminded members to check out the EARTA website for new information, insurance updates; etc.

Members were reminded that EARTA dues of \$25 are being accepted at this time.

Steve was introduced as the EARTA's presenter. He shared some of AMBA programs that members are invited to join. He shared that IRTA and AMBA are now partners. Dental and vision is now available to IRTA members and their families. The information about this is on the IRTA website. Steve recommended that members review their policies. Questions can be directed to Steve and/or AMBA directly. More information will be coming out soon. Steve reminded EARTA that the plan is very good for members. Members were encouraged to check the EARTA website for phone numbers and other contact info for AMBA as well as other pertinent entities. Steve announced that he would be available the rest of the meeting to confer with individual questions and concerns individually.

TREASURER-DAVID WEDEMEYER

David reported that the EARTA assets are held at the KCT Credit Union. As of November 14, 2024, the account balances are:

Checking:	\$4,092.11
Savings:	\$3,028.69
<u>Certificate of Deposit:</u>	<u>\$4,108.05</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,228.85

David said that on December 1, 2024, the KCT Credit Union will merge with Consumers Credit Union. KCT will be a division of Consumers, but there would be no major changes in the immediate future. This includes no name change.

He also said that members that pay their dues annually should be mail \$25.00 to the EARTA post office box or bring it to the February luncheon.

The Committee is working on updating the EARTA Directory for 2025 printing, with an estimated delivery this coming summer. If you recall, we went to publishing the Directory every two years to save both time for the volunteers who assemble the information to be included as well as significant cost savings for us. Over the next several months, we will be asking you to verify your information to be included in the Directory. Just an FYI, the current Directory is the lime green covered edition with 2023 on the cover.

LEGISLATIVE & CHAPLAIN-MICK WILLIAMS

Mick reported on the IRTA's "Good Dog News" printed report. The report was about the petition for Nomination of Annuitant Trustee Candidate Rainy Kaplan. IRTA is endorsing Lorraine (Rainy) Kaplan as our

candidate for TRS Annuitant Trustee. The report contained a link to electronically sign the Petition. Only TRS annuitants can sign the petition. The deadline is January 31, 2025.

Mick reported on the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, which presents a significant opportunity to right a long-standing injustice. This legislation seeks to fully repeal the windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), which have unfairly reduced the retirement benefits of dedicated public servants, including retired educators, police officers, firefighters and other public servants who have served our communities.

The United States House of Representatives convenes on November 12th and will likely vote on The Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82. Although over 300 legislators have signed onto H.R. 82 there is no guarantee they will vote in favor of the legislation. Advocacy efforts remain critical. We need to remind Congress that both the WEP and the GPO are unjust and should be repealed.

Now is the time to urge Congress to vote YES on H.R. 82. IRTA members are being asked to ACT NOW to make your voice heard on this important issue!

Click on the link below to log in and send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/>

BroadcastLinks/

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MEMBERSHIP – KAREN PATTERSON

Members were reminded that they can join IRTA for \$46 per year. This is a good way to protect our pension. Candidates for the 2025 EARTA board were announced. They are:

Lucy Niemeier – President

David Wedemeyer – Treasurer

Diane Geary – Corresponding Secretary

Jackie Kutina – Member at Large

Marilyn House – Member at Large

LUNCHEONS – BARB MCGEE

The February 21, 2025 EARTA Luncheon will be held at Villa Olivia Country Club.

OLD BUSINESS

The September luncheon's meal payments covered the meals and the speaker (within \$10). EARTA members were reminded to check the website for updates.

The Audit committee has met.

Concerning the recording secretary requirements: This office will be voted on in 2026. The time period for the position is so we can keep our non-profit status. We must have only one recording secretary and he/she must take the minutes as heard.

NEW BUSINESS

(The future directory's preparation was already presented.)

Lucy thanked all members for their suggestions for speakers and to please continue to suggest presenters.

Respectively submitted

Kay Lincicome, Recording Secretary