

EARTA GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024
ELGIN COUNTRY CLUB

EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING were held at the Elgin Country Club. Lucy Niemeier, President, called the EARTA GENERAL MEETING to order at 12:00. Lucy welcomed new members, Renee Gladstone and Mary Pat Fontana. Also introduced was EARTA's guest speaker, Gary Swick. Members were welcomed with a decorated sign at each table setting for all members that read: "EARTA Is For All Seasons, [www. EARTA.org](http://www.EARTA.org)." Lucy announced an opportunity for all members to enter into a contest to guess how many beans were in a glass jar that was on the front table. She announced that the winner would be given a prize at end of the program for the closest guess.

Mick Williams gave a very meaningful prayer. There was a time of silence to remember departed members.

The Luncheon was served. It was Tomato Basil Soup, Herb Crusted Pork Tenderloin, Medallions of Pork encrusted with panko herb tomato and artichoke, and cabernet wine sauce. Charred broccoli and cauliflower, and lemon thyme roasted Yukon potatoes was served. Dessert was warm Apple blossom with vanilla gelato.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT – LUCY NIEMEIER called the business meeting to order. She reported about the local newspaper outreach for EARTA activities. There have been 11 new members joining EARTA in 2024. Lucy reminded the members to check the EARTA website. She highlighted the generosity of the EARTA members for the special opportunities to donate to EARTA's special giving opportunities. In the last eleven months, EARTA members have donated \$1200.

Chris Moeller moved that the minutes for the June 21, 2024, General Meeting be accepted. The motion was seconded by Sandra Woolcott. It was voted to accept the motion. The copies of the minutes were available on the tables.

TREASURER REPORT-DAVID WEDEMEYER

September 18, 2024

Checking	\$2,583.12
Savings	\$3,022.93
<u>Cert. of Deposit</u>	<u>\$4,085.95</u>
Total Assets	\$9,692.00

David reported that hearing and dental will be added to our insurance plan.

VICE-PRESIDENT – BARB McGEE Barb thanked EARTA members for support of EARTA. She shared that the new price for the Luncheons will be \$38.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE – MICK WILLIAMS At the September 19th general meeting, the Legislative chair gave an oral report to the assembled group which covered several communications from IRTAPAC and the IRTA legislative committee. Below is a summary of the main points from that report. More information is always available at IRTAonline.org/member.

VOTE !!

Presidential, of course, but down ballot is important to your Pension Protection.

See the Handout for the IRTAPAC endorsed candidates in your area. Those legislators are the only ones who pledged to support your pension (copy below).

September 5th, the IRTA legislative committee met via zoom. Two or three takeaways from that meeting: Andrew Bodewes (IRTA Lobbyist), reported: “Most of the IRTA goals were met this year without legislation, but for this fall, IRTA is working to help provide retirement security for Tier II retirees.” Jessica Hoselton (IRTA Executive Director) stated that IRTA is working with Central Management Service (IL state decision makers) to lock down details of the two new insurance benefits (vision & dental) that are expected to take effect in 2025.

Lastly, with this being election season, the State Legislature will not resume until the Veto session scheduled after the November elections is done.

IRTAPAC endorsed candidates in EARTA Districts

Consult your voter registration card or contact your county clerk for the number of your Illinois Senate and House of Representatives. A detailed questionnaire was requested from each candidate. From those who returned the questionnaire, IRTAPAC contacted all candidates running for the state offices of Senate and House of Representatives. A detailed questionnaire was requested from each candidate. From those who returned the questionnaire, IRTAPAC endorsed those who were judged to be friends of education and supporters of retired teachers.

Below is a list of the IRTAPAC endorsed candidates for 2024.

Note: Each state Senate District has two Representative Districts in it.

State Senate Districts:

S #22 - Rs #43 & 44 Parts of Elgin, South Elgin, Bartlett, Streamwood & St. Charles

S #25 - Rs #49 & 50 Bartlett & Parts of Batavia

S #33 - Rs #65 & 66 Crystal Lake, Carpentersville, Dundee, parts of Elgin and South Elgin

S #35 – Rs #70 & 71 Huntley & Hampshire

Endorsed Candidates by District:

Illinois House of Representatives:

Districts #44-45 NONE

Districts #49-50 Barbara Hernandez (D-50)

Districts #65-66 Dan Ugaste (R-65)

Districts #70-71 Jeff Keicher (R-70) & Daniel Swanson(R-71)

State Senate:

Karina Villa (D-25)

Rachel Ventura (D-43)

Meg Loughran Cappel (D-49)

All endorsed candidates state wide can be found in the Fall IRTA newsletter.

CONTACT – BONNIE SKAPYAK Bonnie reported that there are 2 more robo calls available for EARTA information for members.

MEMBERSHIP – KAREN PATTERSON Members are encouraged to contact Karen if there are changes of addresses and/or phone numbers so members can be notified of upcoming information. Members are reminded that dues are being collected. Karen reminded members to check e-mail for information about upcoming Epicurean Adventures.

OLD BUSINESS

Next General Meeting and Luncheon will be on November 15, 2024, at the Elgin Country Club.

NEW BUSINESS

Slate of candidates for 2025 EARTA election will be up for vote on November 15, 2024, at the Elgin Country Club. Slates of candidates for 2025 board positions will be President – Lucy Niemeier, Treasurer – David Wedemeyer, Corresponding Secretary – Diane Geary, At Large Board Members – Marilyn House and Jackie Kutina.

ADJOURNMENT of BUSINESS MEETING PROGRAM

“EARTA guest speaker was Gary Swick. Gary used his degrees in Natural Resource Management and Outdoor Teacher Education as a teacher in School District 300 for 34 years to create unique courses and field experiences at the high school level. Under his direction, students planted over thousands of trees, restored acres of natural areas, generated files of research, and accomplished many other acts of environmental stewardship that have become local history. Many of those students are now professionals in the environmental field.”

In Gary’s presentation, he shared many of his experiences with his talk and slide show. Gary shared his love for nature and the various opportunities he pursued to become an Outdoor Education Teacher. He was part of the Friends of the Fox River, and attended outdoor ed classes at the Community College. He became

involved in many outdoor college courses such as Forest Study, and other Environmental Nature Studies. He became Dundee Crown High School's Environment Program Instructor. He worked with students in field work, planting trees and plants. He taught River Studies in the Fox River. The students learned to organize a watershed project. Students helped to build hiking trails at Raceway. He organized various nature studies. Recycling became an important study.

He invited questions and enjoyed sharing all phases of his Outdoor Classroom.

CLOSING

Lucy asked EARTA members for their guess on how many beans were in the jar. The winner was Jim Crinigan, with the closest guess to the actual number which was 5,537 beans.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectively submitted
Kay Lincicome, Recording Secretary.