



Elgin Area Retired Teachers Association / IRTA

August/September 2024

www.earata.org



The Jogger

GENERAL MEETING

The Elgin Country Club

Friday, September 20, 2024

Speaker: Gary Swick, retired science teacher from District 300 and local expert on the Fox Valley River ecosystem.

11:30 Social

12:00 Luncheon

MENU

- Tomato basil soup
- Herb crusted Pork Tenderloin medallions with tomato and artichoke and cabernet wine sauce
- Lemon thyme roasted Yukon potatoes
- Charred broccoli and cauliflower
- Warm Apple Blossom with vanilla gelato
- Coffee, Tea, (Hot or Iced), Lemonade

PLEASE NOTE:

It was a difficult decision, but a necessary price change was made

Reservations due **NO later than Friday, September 13,** to:

Barb McGee at 12728 Williams Road, Genoa, IL 60135 Phone: 815-784-5186

Please make checks for \$38 payable to EARTA

(Your check covers the cost of lunch, tax, gratuity and valet.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account	\$2,747.66
Savings Account	\$3,022.93
Certificate of Deposit	\$4,075.77
TOTAL Assets	\$9,846.36

All assets of the Elgin Area Retired Teachers Association are held at the Kane County Teachers Credit Union. These balances are as of 15-August-2024.

..... David Wedemeyer, EARTA Treasurer

Change of Address

Please make sure you keep us updated concerning any of your information changes.

This includes new: street, city, state, zip code
 telephone number
 email address

Changes can be sent to: EARTA
 PO Box 5515
 Elgin, IL 60121

2025 DUES

It's that time of year for those of you who pay annual EARTA dues to get us your \$25.00 checks. (IRTA annual dues should be sent down to the Springfield IRTA office.)

Make out your check to EARTA for \$25.00 and bring it with you to the luncheon, or mail it to:

EARTA
PO Box 5515
Elgin, IL 60121

Dues should be paid by January 1, 2025.

Thank you for your prompt attention,
David Wedemeyer
EARTA Treasurer

Out and About

The **Epicurean** dinner group met in May for dinner and is looking forward to their next dining adventure. Please contact Karen Patterson for the next dinner date if interested. Everyone is welcome!

Please check out our website, **EARTA.org** for information on future luncheons, legislative reports, minutes from the general meetings, and photos of our June luncheon!

ELECTRONIC JOGGER

Would you love to get the Jogger sooner? Don't want your copy lost in the mail? Are you interested in helping EARTA "go green"? If you are not currently receiving the Jogger by email, please consider changing to the email version. It will get to you quicker and **it will help us save quite a bit of money!** If you would like to receive your Jogger by email, please contact Christine Moeller deckmoe@aol.com , **if you haven't already done so**, with your information.





Help our membership grow!

Consider bringing an area retired teacher person who is not an EARTA member as your guest. Notify Barb McGee in advance and she will arrange a complimentary lunch for your guest.

Hopefully, the guest will enjoy their time with us and join our membership.

Also, reach out to members who haven't attended lately and invite them to attend. It's an easy way to double the fun!



EARTA has the means to notify all membership of a sudden change/sudden information. It's through a "robo-call". It's not a local number, so please, be sure to listen for the EARTA message. A robo-call will only be utilized in rare instances.

Legislative Report - 6/21/2024

At the Area II online conference (6/20), IRTA Lobbyist Andrew Bordewes reported on some of the legislative actions and lack of action as the State Legislature has adjourned for the election cycle. They will return in November after the election.

Some of Andrew's observations were optimistic, in that both parties appear to be committed to protecting the State's pension funds. The timelines differ, of course, but the way ahead is promising. The Governor has committed to working toward reducing the pension deficits and looking to create legislation that would see TRS 90% funded by 2040 and 100% by 2048. Still work to do on that front.

Turning to the political reality in Illinois. IRTAPAC has a need for more funding. It seems that the \$1 deduction from TRS has declined significantly over the past 4 years. Members need to be certain that they are up to date with TRS. Of course, direct contributions can be made to IRTAPAC through IRTA website. IRTAPAC will be providing endorsements of local and State candidates from all parties in the early fall. Hopefully before our September luncheon.

Federally, both Parties in Congress have endorsed legislation to end the penalty that keeps teachers who also qualify for Social Security benefits from receiving those benefits. However, as is the case with nearly everything in D.C., nothing has been finalized on that front.

NOW SOME GOOD NEWS

Sometime in late summer or early fall IRTA will be providing details of a new benefit for members with the TRAIL insurance program. Dental and Vision coverage is expected to be included in your plan as of January 1, 2025. Details are still sketchy and a small? increase in premiums may happen. Look for details later.

The bill to end road tests for elderly drivers is still alive as the Legislature looks to the veto session after the November elections.

Mick Williams, Chair
EARTA Legislative

Community Participation

The Board chose four agencies for our members to donate to during the year in the name of EARTA.

Community Crisis Center: Located at 37 S Geneva St. Elgin IL 60120.

To donate online, volunteer, or find information go to www.crisiscenter.org . Checks may also be sent to the address above.

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley Located at 56 S Grove Ave Elgin, IL 60120.

To donate online go to www.habitatnfv.org/get-involved/donate Checks may also be sent to the address above. Make check payable to HFHNFV. In memo line "New Hope Partnership".

If you are interested in participating on a Build Day or at the Elgin ReStore, visit www.habitatnfv.org/get-involved/volunteer/individual/ Contact Cindy Lange for more information at 847-814-3249

U-46 Educational Foundation Located at 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120. Phone 847-888-5000 ext. 5040
www.u-46.org/foundation - Click "Donate". Checks may also be sent to the address above.

Food For Greater Elgin Located at 1553 Commerce Drive, Elgin, IL 60123

For every \$1.00 of donation, FFGE can purchase approximately \$8.00 of food. To donate, go online to www.foodforgreaterelgin.org and make a onetime or monthly donation. Checks may also be sent to the address above.

Member Updates:

Karen Patterson Phone: 847.421.5433

Adrienne Berna (Mailing Address: 805 Carol Ave. Elgin) Phone: 224.523.6327
Residing at The Vines of Elgin

Mark your calendars!

Next Luncheon:

Friday, November 15, 2024 at Elgin Country Club



All meetings/luncheons begin at 11:30 AM

VERY IMPORTANT: Please continue to let our Corresponding Secretary, Diane Geary (email: dmgeary@comcast.net) know when there is an illness or death among our membership. Also, let our Treasurer, David Wedemeyer, know about deaths.

Starting at the September luncheon, there will be a designated list for members to add names of those members who need a get-well card and a space for those who have passed. This list will help Diane with mailing cards.