

**Elgin Area Retired Teachers Association / IRTA**

January / February 2020

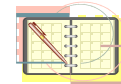
**www.earta.org**

**Facebook: EARTA**



# The Jogger

**Mark Your Calendar**



General Meeting: Friday, February 21, 2020  
Elgin Country Club

11:30 Social

12:00 Luncheon

Menu: Cheddar broccoli soup, rolls, Chicken Florentine and vanilla ice cream with a warm truffle cookie for dessert. Beverages of Coffee, Hot and/or Iced Tea, and Lemonade will be available.

**Please let Barb know of any food allergies so substitutions can be made ahead of time.**

Reservations due Thursday, February 13, to Barb McGee 12728 Williams Rd.  
Genoa, IL 60135 Phone: 815-784-5186

**Please make checks for \$25 payable to EARTA.**

## Program Notes

Our February program will feature Peggy Ognacevic Engels. She is a professional pianist, organist, cellist, and classical music performer. She holds a bachelor's in piano and a master's in piano performance from NIU. Peggy is a long time church musician providing music for church services. She also has time to give music lessons in her home studio. Welcome Peggy.



## **MINUTES OF THE EARTA GENERAL MEETING Friday, Nov. 15,**

**2019 EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING** was held at the Elgin Country Club on Friday, November 15, 2019. Social hour was at 11:30 and the luncheon at 12:00. Christine Moeller, Vice President, welcomed guests and visitors. She recognized new member Laurel Puchek, and guest Kathy Olivarez. Dave Brown reminded members that EARTA annual membership renewal is due and that there were envelopes on the table that could be used. Luncheon was served following the invocation by Chaplain, Mick Williams.

### **OFFICERS' AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Vice President – Christine Moeller** called the meeting to order.

**Recording Secretary – Kay Lincicome** Minutes of the September 20, 2019, General Meeting/Luncheon were printed in the JOGGER. Christine asked for corrections or additions. Hearing none, the minutes were approved and will be on file.

**Corresponding Secretary – Joyce Causey** reported the passing of Paul DeLair. Joyce announced that hand-made Thanksgiving cards would be for sale at the end of the meeting for \$2.00 each. Proceeds will go to EARTA.

**Treasurer – Jean Jederman** reported that as of November 1, 2019, there was \$626.05 in the checking account, and \$8498.93 in the savings account. The report will be filed for audit. Jean reported that she received a thank you from IRTA for the donation in memory of Paul DeLair and Kathy Hornback. Another thank-you was sent from IRTA for the monetary donation for the IRTA Convention's Silent Auction. The auction raised \$10,299 to support IRTA-PAC initiatives. Jean reminded members that she would collect yearly dues after the meeting.

**Social/Charity – Coral Reinert** reported that the Supper Club met at Hooper's Bar and Grill on November 11<sup>th</sup>, and will meet again on December 9<sup>th</sup> and on January 13<sup>th</sup>. All are welcomed. The Epicurean Adventure met at the Migrate restaurant located in East Dundee on November 21. Coral reported that all had a great time on the EARTA Caribbean Tour on October 7 – 17.

**Legislation – David Wedemeyer** reported about the IRTA Convention which was held in Springfield on October 14- 15. He shared that IRTA has 38,700

members. There are 93 units and 543 websites. John Flaherty was introduced as the new president, along with our AREA 2 representative, Wendy Wieggers. IRTA-PAC continues working on giving scholarships and grants to teachers. The organization encourages members to give to IRTA-PAC that supports these programs. There were reports given by TRS, TRAIL, and AMBA, and David shared programs of these organizations that benefit members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominations – Adrienne Berna** presented the slate of officers that were nominated. The names were printed in the October JOGGER. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominated for president was Christine Moeller, for treasurer was Diane Arnhold, and for Corresponding Secretary was Joyce Causey. Adrienne moved that the slate be accepted. Coral Reinert seconded the motion and the motion carried. Adrienne conducted the installation of the new EARTA officers and presented them to the members.

**ADJOURNMENT** Christine adjourned the business meeting. She reminded EARTA that the next General Meeting/Luncheon will be on February 21, 2020.

**PROGRAM** Marilyn Foster, Program Chairperson, introduced George Holmes who presented a musical program. He is a native Elginito who graduated from Judson University with a Bachelor of Arts in music and a minor in Theology. George began with a big band rendition of "It Had to Be You". He added fun with his songs by dancing with a member and sitting down and singing "Summer Wind" with a member. He walked around and interacted as he sang. He sang "Music of the Night", and he danced to the song of "I Want a Girl of My Own." He sang Elvis' tunes and Dean Martin's "That Amore". George shared stories of other songs and entertainers as he sang. He shared that he saw Elvis in 1962. George also sang in Las Vegas with Celine Deon. He ended his presentation with a verbal tribute to teachers. He named all his teachers from grade school to high school, even mentors at college. He emphasized his feelings by saying "YOU MATTER". He stated how thankful he was for teachers and their service. He ended his program with the song "You Raised Me Up". He ended the presentation by saying "Your tenure matters". The EARTA audience was so very receptive and appreciative of his singing and comments.

Respectively submitted,

Kay Lincicome. Recording Secretary

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Thank you for your contributions to the Crisis at the April luncheon. They were very appreciative of the donations. If you are involved in a group or know of a particular need for a certain organization, please contact me at: [clange50@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clange50@sbcglobal.net) or call me at 847-695-1822 to provide me with contact information.

Cindy Lange

**We will be looking for donations of:**

**Personal Items:** Shampoo, cream rinse, body soap, deodorant, etc.

**Any of the other items listed in previous Joggers are always appreciated!**

### **Legislative Report** **IRTA Biennial Convention**

**Kay Lincicome**, Irene and I attended the IRTA convention in Springfield, October 14-15, 2019. Kay was our unit honoree, and was recognized at the convention for her contributions to our local. She was also our EARTA 2019 Retired Teacher of the Year. We were 3 of the 319 delegates in attendance. Some convention information/highlights ...

**IRTA** was founded in 1955 and is the premier group advocating for retired teachers at the state level. Think: "organization that spearheaded the Illinois Supreme Court lawsuit that saved our pensions and TRIP benefits." As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, membership was at 38,670, the highest in history. There are 93

locals, like EARTA. We are one of 53 locals that have their own website: [www.earta.org](http://www.earta.org).

**2018-2019 IRTA Goals** included some major successes: funding TRS according to the latest agreement, funding TRIP, no state income tax on retirement incomes, refunding overcharges of insurance premiums to some members, allowing retired teachers to go back to the classroom in critical areas (shortages) and developing criteria for endorsing state senate and house candidates. Still working on passing WEP/GPO legislation at the national level where we currently have 15/18 of our US Congress representatives. (This is a decades long, ongoing issue that affects some of our members who as individuals or through their spouses earned significant Social Security benefits that they cannot collect because they receive TRS pensions.)

**The IRTA Foundation** has spent \$91, 340 in member assistance over the last two years. \$46,506 went to scholarships for college juniors and seniors who are enrolled in education programs. Grants to teachers currently in the classroom totaled \$72,709. The Foundation is funded through contributions from IRTA members, not dues.

**IRTA-PAC** raised \$5,570 in \$1 monthly donations deducted directly from IRTA members' TRS monthly pension payments – that is 18% of IRTA members. (Hope you are signed up for this \$12 a year contribution that funds our officers and lobbyists in the political arena.) The Committee endorsed 52 candidates in 2018. A total of \$144,000 was contributed to 25 of those candidates, 19 of whom won their elections. Our Political Action Committee is funded through contributions

from IRTA members as well as the \$1 deduction mentioned above, not dues.

I picked up two pieces of information for those of you on the **United Healthcare Medicare Advantage Plan**. There is a new benefit for hearing aids: up to \$2,500 for each ear, every two years. Also, we were told that we could use the Good RX without voiding the drug part of the plan.

**New Benefits** for IRTA members are constantly being upgraded and added. There is a new grandchild life insurance program this year. There are also several new hybrid (read that more affordable) long term care plans. Those are just two that caught my attention; you can find more information at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) and go to the AMBA benefits section.

**New Officers:** President – John Flaherty, Vice President – Bill Funkhouser, Treasurer – Donnie Ostrom, Secretary – Doris Heaton (re-elected) and Area 2 Rep. – Wendy Wieggers.

submitted by David Wedemeyer

## A Few Words from Our President

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am the daughter of an educator and the product of District U-46, having attended Gifford, Abbott and Larkin. Because I was exposed to so many inspiring teachers, I was able to choose my career at an early age. I went on to teach in U-46 for 34 years. This career has allowed me to work with, and for, many talented and gifted people, make

lifelong friends, and create meaningful relationships with students and their families. To be a part of EARTA seems to be a natural next step as I will be able to continue to be connected to this important community. One of my goals is to increase membership. I want to know what interests you and your friends. With some of this information, the Board and I hope to help create some opportunities to expand on those interests to reach out to potential members. I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your interests!

Christine Moeller

## Epicurean Adventures

Our next adventure for some epicurean delights will be a re-visit to one of our favorites.....Biaggi's in Algonquin Commons. We'll gather there on Wednesday, February 25. As always, we'll meet at 6pm. Our March excursion will be on Monday, March 23.....we haven't zeroed in on a restaurant yet for that date. We're still checking out some eateries and will let you know where we'll eat when we figure that out. We always offer separate checks. We thoroughly enjoy connecting with old friends and meeting new ones, so feel free to bring along a friend, a relative, a neighbor or even your spouse. If you do plan on joining us, please RSVP to Karen Patterson (h 847-742-5433) (c 847-421-5433) ([karenteacher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenteacher@sbcglobal.net))

**MEMBERSHIP:** The 2020 directory is being prepared to go to the printer. Hopefully you have rejoined and sent us any corrections that we need by Jan. 15. Directories will be available for those who attend the Feb. 20 luncheon. The remainder will be mailed after the luncheon date.



**STAY WARM AND SAFE!**

Please continue to let Joyce Causey (Corresponding Secretary), know when there is an illness or death among our membership. Also, let Diane Arnhold or David Brown know about deaths.

\*\*\*\*\*

Treasurer's Report  
As of November 30, 2019

Savings: \$8498.93  
Checking: \$452.93

\*\*\*\*\*

**SOCIAL EVENTS:**

**Supper Club:** We met on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup>, at Hooper's Bar and Grill at 5:30 p.m. Our next Supper Club will meet on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at Hooper's at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring guests. The more, the merrier!

**Epicurean Adventure:** Members are looking forward to Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, to go to the Black Bear Bistro in Algonquin at 6:00 PM. If you'd like to join us, please contact Karen Patterson or Irene Wedemeyer.

**Tour Information:** At this time, no new tours have been planned.