
DUPAGE CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association in DuPage



DIRTA, Immediate Past President *Ida Lee*

Because of concerns for the health of our members the DIRTA Board has decided to cancel our May and June regular meetings. We will continue to notify you of important IRTA business with email messages.

On September 8 we will join the West Lake Shore Unit for a report from Doug Strand, the retired Trustee for the Teacher Retirement System. (Time and place to be announced.)

Our search for new leadership for our unit is continuing. I am happy to announce that Caryn Graham has joined the Board as Membership co-chair.

I hope you will continue your support of DIRTA. I hope new leaders will join us.

Membership Report *Mary Rogers, Caryn Graham, Bev Gilfillan*

We are currently sending IRTA and DIRTA information to educators who will be retiring at the end of this school year. We are inviting them to join our efforts to protect their TRS pensions and retirement benefits. We ask that all of you also reach out to anyone you know that is retiring and share with them why you joined IRTA. Encourage them to find out more about the Illinois Retired Teachers Association using this link <https://www.irtaonline.org/index.php/association/join-irta-before-leaving-the-classroom>

If you have any membership questions or you need to update your member contact information please email dupageirta@gmail.com or call Mary Rogers 630-890-7174.

Ill or Deceased Members *Suzanne Hennings*

We have been informed that two of our members have recently passed away. Clifford C. Hill of Wheaton died on February 19, 2020. He retired in 1990 and was a lifetime member of IRTA. The wife of Dr. John H. Meyer of Fairhope, Alabama notified us of his recent death. He retired in 2001. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

If you know of any members who are ill or have passed, please notify me by telephone (630-710-1803) or email medreading99@comcast.net

May 6th and June 3rd Lunch Meeting

CANCELED

DIRTA EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Ida Lee	ieaida@aol.com	630-653-7724
V.P.	Sandra S. Brennan	sandrabrennan@gmail.com	630-222-2449
Treas.	Sar Huffman	sarilee1949@gmail.com	630-220-5599
Sec.	Jane Munsie	jamunsie@aol.com	630-985-0320
Cor. Sec.	Suzanne Hennings	medreading99@comcast.net	630-710-1803
Membership	Beverly Gilfillan	beverlygilfillan@sbcglobal.net	630-969-9321
Membership	Mary Rogers	dupageIRTA@gmail.com	630-890-7174
Membership	Caryn Graham	crackers1010@comcast.net	630-391-3236
Polit. Affairs	Arnie Grimes	agamg@msn.com	630-527-1672
Website/Tours	Gary Elmen	gwelmen@gmail.com	630-624-3728
Benefits	Chuck Hlavaty	cjhjr1@yahoo.com	630-969-8595
Newsletter	Diane McManigal	stitchnstr1@gmail.com	630-697-9543

IRTA Member Benefits Highlighter

Chuck Hlavaty

New and Improved Dental & Vision Insurance

Choose Your Own Dentist With A Plan From AMBA. • Freedom to use any dentist – no network required! • Cleanings covered three times per calendar year • Exams covered twice per calendar year • \$100 calendar-year deductible per person • Dental Rewards – enables your \$1,500 Calendar Year Maximum to grow to \$2,500

Add vision for around \$15/month! • Vision exams covered every 12 months (copays apply) • Lenses covered every 12 months (copays apply) • Frames covered every 24 months up to \$170 (copays apply) • Contact lens exam (instead of glasses) covered every 12 months • And many other benefits, just call AMBA for all the details at 1-844-385-436 Enjoy these member benefits and many others so take advantage of your membership in the IRTA.

Our newsletter will only be emailed for May and June. They will not be snail mailed. If you know any members that do not usually use the internet please ask them to check for their newsletter on line. It will say *Gary Elmen, Newsletter from DuPage IRTA. It is called Constant Contact.*

A letter from the IRTA Region 4 Director *Marge Sucansky*

IRTAPAC—WE NEED YOU

IRTAPAC is a way to protect our benefits. It provides financial support to legislators who support us. The members go to fundraisers for their legislators (after the stay at home period has ended of course.) They should contact their local president to get donations that can be presented to the legislators at the fundraiser. There is currently a little over \$160,000 in the PAC fund.

The IRTAPAC Committee, headed by Ed Wollet, has a process to determine whom we support and endorse through a questionnaire that helps it assess the positions of Illinois legislative candidates. This year the committee has 4 goals: To recommend endorsements of legislative and gubernatorial candidates. To raise money for the IRTAPAC by increasing participation in the \$1 monthly deduction program. To assist in organizing campaign volunteers, particularly in units that have Tier 1 races. To explore avenues to initiate a federal PAC.

All four goals are important, but the first goal will be a main focus this election year. While our pensions have been constitutionally upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court, no such guarantee has been ruled on for our TRS health insurance programs. In fact, this year's state budget reduces the state's payment by over \$51 million. It is imperative that we endorse those candidates who will protect our hard fight for TRIP and TRAIL insurance.

At this moment, our region does not have representation on the PAC Committee. The committee will probably meet on July 30 in Springfield, pending the stay at home situation. All expenses, including mileage, are paid. If you can serve on this committee, please notify Ida Lee. There are no special qualifications other than a willingness to work to get to know the campaigns and the candidates who are running in your legislative district.

Many of you may make a yearly contribution to the PAC; however, through deduct, our legislative committee knows exactly what to expect as far as funds are concerned. It is a more reliable measure of what funds can be disbursed for lobbying. Look for the form on the website: www.irtaonline.org and sign up for deduct of PAC donations.

FOUNDATION NEWS

In 1985 the IRTA Foundation established an endowment to provide assistance to retired educators who were experiencing financial difficulties. Currently, the Foundation is assisting eight annuitants on a monthly basis and is further assisting other annuitants with real estate and medical expenses. Applications are found on the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org by going to the Foundation link and clicking on FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. Applications can also be obtained by calling the IRTA office at 1-800-728-4782 or by contacting Ida Lee. One need not be an IRTA member to qualify, and all information is confidential.

The IRTA Foundation continues assistance to classroom teachers by offering \$36,500 in grant money. This grant provides needed funds to public school educators (Pre-K to 12) so that students will be able to participate in special classroom projects. Applications can be found on the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org. Click on FOUNDATION and follow the link to GRANTS. The deadline for applications has been pushed to October 1, 2020. Many of us are still in contact with active teachers. Please do them a favor and pass this information on to them.

DuPage IRTA
Ida Lee
200 Wyndemere Cir.
#E132
Wheaton, IL 60187

All members, please check your **Newsletter Label** to see if the State & Local Dues are up to date. Please send your dues to the DIRTA Membership Co-Chair Mary Rogers.
State Dues: go to **IRTAonline.org** **Local Dues (DuPage Unit):** \$10 annually, \$45 for 5 years.

FIRST CLASS

The May and June Luncheon Meetings are Canceled

Our next newsletter will be mailed and emailed
Aug. 18th, 2020
Dates of lunch meetings:
Oct. 7, Dec. 2

DIRTA—Lunch Meeting
Steven's Family Restaurant
2393 63rd St., Woodridge
Wednesday-12:00-Noon

Local Unit Membership Form—DuPage IRTA

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Circle one : One Year-\$10 Five Years-\$45 Make checks payable to DIRTA

Mail to: Co-Chair Membership Mary Rogers— 173 Thunderbird Trail, Carol Stream, IL 60188