



November/December 2019
Direct Line

Newsletter of West Lake Shore Unit, Illinois Retired Teachers Association

WLSU and IRTA...Your Voice in Springfield

WLSU—OVER 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RETIRED EDUCATORS

www.wlsu.weebly.com

Mark your calendar for the December 6 Luncheon, see P. 3

Presidents' Messages

Despite being retired for nine years, I still find myself thinking about time in academic terms. For instance, August started the 2019-2020 school term for me! I guess it's one of those things that I will be unable to lose despite being years out of a school system.

WLSU is off to a busy start this Fall! On September 10 we held a very successful membership meeting which featured Justin Witte, curator at the College of DuPage, speaking about the upcoming Frida Kahlo exhibit which, will be held at the college next summer. While we still didn't reach my goal of triple digits in attendees, we were VERY close. The morning featured light refreshments from a local Mexican bakery, colorful decorations, and give a-ways that had a Frida Kahlo theme. People in attendance appeared to really enjoy the presentation, and we hope to organize an outing to the exhibit in the summer.

On September 10 Vince and I delivered supplies to our partner school for 2019-2020, Wharton School in Summit. Thanks to your generosity, we arrived with two SUV's filled with items requested from the teaching staff. Everything was much appreciated and will be put to good use. Please remember that we will continue collecting and delivering items throughout the school year, so bring items to meetings or drop them off with any Board member or at my house. This project, which began years ago is still going strong and has resulted in many active teachers hearing about WLSU/IRTA for the first time.

WLSU was also present at the awarding of Excellence in Education Grants to three staff members at schools that are located within our geographical borders. The grants are given out by the IRTA Foundation to help fund projects within schools throughout the state. This year's recipients work at River Grove School and Pennoyer School. It appears certain that the Pennoyer staff members heard about this program as they were the school we partnered with last year in providing them needed supplies. It makes me proud to see the effort retired educators put in to supporting ongoing educational programs.

In October WLSU will be sending a contingent of just under 20 members to the IRTA convention in Springfield. This convention is held every other year, and it is a good opportunity to learn about the organization and hear information that impacts us as retired educators. I am personally pleased that we have so many members who are willing to give of their time and talents to attend this two day event.

You have heard me make this plea more than once over the last two years, but I cannot close this writing without sharing again that WLSU is in need of people to actively participate in the organization. The Board will have three openings, president, treasurer and recording secretary in 2020. Even if you are not prepared to assume one of these positions, please know that there is always much to be done and if you can find any way to contribute, it would be appreciated. **Julie Jeter, co-president**

WLSU Contact Information		Website: wlsu.weebly.com		
Presidents	Membership	Membership	Treasurer	Foundation
Julie Jeter /Vince LaPaglia	Onofria Perricone	Carol Villa	Louise Sterett	Frances Pettersen
708-352-7115/708-476-8400	630-985-5861	708-246-4033	630-325-6470	630-985-7508
jj149@aol.com/vlapalia@yahoo.com	operri@sbcglobal.net	ceevee43@gmail.com	louisesterett@att.net	

Membership Report

IRTA State membership as of October 14, 2019, was 38,807, the highest number in association history. Between September 9, 2018, and September 9, 2017, there was a 3,144 member increase. In that same time frame—2018 to 2019, IRTA gained 3,090 new members. We do continue to enroll new members. Not all new members are new retirees. Associate Life membership has increased to 535 since the *Action* article by Mike Schmidt. The committee had set a goal of bringing a net 1,500 increase in membership, but gaining membership is still a challenge though we are doing better than many other organizations. We lose approximately 800-900 members each year due to death. There are 107 state Pipeline members. IRTA is suggesting these members could provide names and email information of other pipeline workers.



Nathan Mihelich is putting together an email campaign to all non-members identifying the Arizona crisis and encouraging membership in IRTA to these retirees and reminding them that IRTA works on their behalf, so this doesn't happen in Illinois.

Tom Szot, membership *emeritus*

WLSU/IRTA WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS



- Katherine Lombardi John Corcoran James Grosser Lee Dabkey
 Rita McGuire Darlene Evan Kenneth Racine Linda Van Ausdall
 Diane Chathas Patricia Gallo Wilhelmina Gales Cynthia Mooney Robert Brunet
 Donna Banasiewicz Colette Rinn Rosanne Dusek-Tenuta Deborah Bluminberg Nancy Teclaw Sarah Rae Clifford Chapman

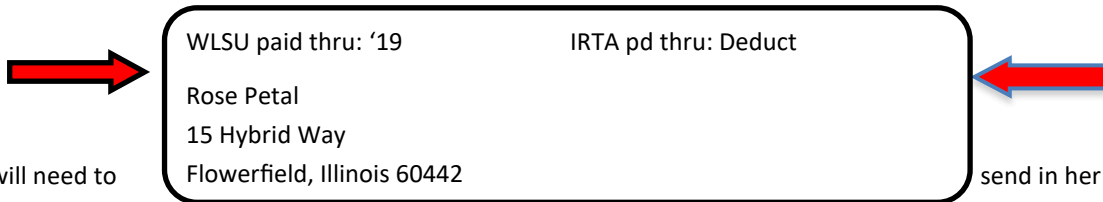


For each of our recently deceased members, WLSU donates \$25 to the IRTA Needy Teachers Fund.

- Klaus Kummer Martha Abbate Sophie Pawlowski

Read Your Label

Check the label on your newsletter to see your dues status or email/call Louise Sterett if you receive the newsletter via email.



Note: Rose will need to for 2020. Her IRTA dues are reduction. This means

send in her WLSU dues paid through dues de-

IRTA dues are deducted from her pension check monthly. She doesn't send any dues or need to reapply annually. **However, payment of IRTA dues does not cover her WLSU dues.**

Please contact Louise Sterett or Onofria Perricone with any questions. See the WLSU Contact Information Box.

WLSU December Luncheon
Friday, December 6, at Ashton Place
341 75th St., Willowbrook, IL –630-7 89-3337

Return this form and a check for \$25 members and \$30 guests to Marie Trankina, 400 W. Butterfield Road, #465, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126. Reservations must be received by November 20, 2017. No telephone reservations. Make checks payable to West Lake Shore Unit.

Member Name (s)

Guest Name (s)

email address

Phone _____ Total \$ _____

Entrée Choices

- Filet of Chicken Breast with Lemon Herb Sauce
- Herb Crusted Tilapia
- Peppercorn Crusted Sirloin

Confirmation of receipt of your reservation will be done by email only.

WLSU Winter Luncheon

ASHTON PLACE

341 75th St., Willowbrook

SW Corner of 75th Street and Clarendon Hills Road

Enter from Clarendon Hills Road, 630-789-3337

Friday, December 6, 2019 11:15-2:15

Socializing, cash bar, short business meeting, door prizes, and plated lunch

Program:



Enjoy a festive lunch and a presentation by John Broda
about the making of this classic holiday film.
Questions? Call Marie Trankina 708-306-6747

Be Green

If you would like to receive your next *Direct Line* via email rather than by snail mail, please contact Marge Sucansky at Sucansky@comcast.net or 630-985-2620. Going **GREEN** will save postage and paper. It will also ensure that you receive your newsletter wherever you are as long as you have internet access. Snow bunnies, this may be the way for you to know what is going on in Illinois when you are away from home.

TRY SOMETHING NEW WITH WLSU!



PROGRAMS/MEETINGS/EVENTS 2019-2020

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WEST LAKE SHORE CHAPTER OF THE ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (IRTA)

JOIN YOUR EDUCATIONAL COLLEAGUES for entertaining and informative experiences. Bring a friend. Open to all.

Mark your calendars now. [Details on each event to follow.](#)
 Questions and Reservations: please call:
 Kate Singletary; 508-737-1336
 Or
 Email Julie Jeter: jj149@aol.com

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE !

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 11 AM

> ASHTON PLACE, WILLOWBROOK

Cost: Holiday Luncheon: \$25.00

Enjoy a festive lunch and a presentation on the making of the holiday classic

TEA WITH CHURCHILL

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 10 AM

> HINSDALE COMMUNITY HOUSE,

HINSDALE

Cost: free

Indulge in an English Tea and a presentation by a Churchill actor/impersonator

A TRAVEL LUNCH TO GREECE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 11 AM

> GREEK ISLANDS, LOMBARD

Cost: Spring Luncheon: \$25.00

Enjoy a traditional Greek lunch followed by a travelogue on the Greek Islands.

FRIDA KAHLO 2020

SUMMER 2020

> COLLEGE OF DUPAGE, GLEN ELLYN

Cost: TBA

Join us for a docent led group tour of the paintings and the historical exhibit followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Mark Your Calendar— 2019 Dates

December 6, Friday Membership Luncheon Ashton Place 11:15 a.m.

Tentative 2020 Calendar

January 14, Tues	Executive Board Meeting	Plymouth Place	10:00 a.m.
March 12, Thurs.	Membership Meeting	Hinsdale Community House	10:00 a.m.
March 31, Tues	Executive Board Meeting	Plymouth Place	10:00 a.m.
May 13, Wed.	Membership Luncheon	Greek Islands	11:00 a.m.
June 9, Tues	Executive Board Meeting	Plymouth Place	10:00 a.m.
August 4, Tues	Executive Board Meeting	Plymouth Place	10:00 a.m.
Summer	Frida Kahlo at COD	COD	
September 9, Tues	Membership Meeting		10:00 a.m.
October 20, Tues	Executive Board Meeting	Plymouth Place	10:00 a.m.
December 4, Fri.	Membership Luncheon		11:00 a.m.

Foundation News

This Fall, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTAF) has awarded \$36,500 in grant money to 77 active public school educators from across the state. There were 390 applicants. Of the 75 grants awarded, 11 were granted to teachers in Area 3 and three were made to educators in the WLSU school districts.

This grant money will allow these educators to enrich their instruction with materials not otherwise available to them. Their students are the real winners! A special thank you to the Illinois Principals Association for their assistance with the promotion of this program. Below, you will find the name of each winner listed, along with his/her school, IRTA Area, and a paragraph summary about each project in the winner's own words.



Julie Diedenhofen, River Grove School, River Grove (3)

I would like to replace our current classroom atlas set for 30 students. The books we have now are much loved but old and falling apart. We use these daily for world geography skills.

Principal Cameron Wiley, Julie Diedenhofen, Jan Bryant, Julie Jeter

Megan Alpert, River Grove Elementary School, River Grove (3)

The Zones of Regulation curriculum will be utilized for students in Tier II who need additional support. Our students in Tier II attend a small group twice-a-week to learn skills related to expected behavior at school. River Grove School District is seeking an evidence-based program that benefits students ages 4-13 and teaches emotional regulation, problem-solving, and sensory skills that can be utilized age-appropriately across Elementary and Junior High ages.

Principal Cameron Wiley, Megan Alpert, Jan Bryant, Julie Jeter



Melissa Tronco, Pennoyer School, Norridge (3)

Using leveled readers to differentiate instruction during guided reading. Working at my students' instructional level and over time making them more independent readers with support.

Principal Gina Sierra, Dr. Kristin Gupta, Vince LaPaglia, Melissa Tronco, Jan Bryant



Fran Pettersen, Foundation Chair



REAL ID Reminder!

REAL ID goes into effect October 1, 2020. Your current Illinois Driver's license/ID will be accepted until October 1, 2020, for domestic flights, entry

to military bases, and entry to secure federal facilities. Starting October 1, 2020, in order to be compliant with TSA regulations, you will need a REAL ID. To get a REAL ID you will need to go to an Illinois Secretary of State Drivers facility. You will need to show proof of your identity, residency, Social Security status, and legal presence in the U.S.

The REAL ID website has all the information you need to prepare for your visit, including an interactive checklist to help you gather the documents you will need. The website is realid.ilsos.gov



REAL ID Gold Star Designation

Printed information about REAL ID is available at Drivers facilities, libraries, and state government offices. Check the www.wlsu.weebly.com under Related Articles and Videos for a full explanation of what you need to bring to the DMV to get your new license.

Remember, you have until October 1, 2020, to take care of this, but don't wait until the last minute!

Note: Your valid passport may be used for identification on domestic flights and is required for international flights.

Barbara Grabowski FYI Committee

Legislative Update

The Governor signed HB 2700 on August 23, 2019, making the legislation Public Act 101-483. The legislation increased the time period that an individual may receive a refund of an overpayment to TRIP or TRAIL to 7 years. The legislation passed the House unanimously and was forwarded to the Senate where it was also passed unanimously. IRTA will continue to work with CMS to make sure that the legislation is implemented correctly and eligible individual are able to receive their full refunds. Currently the law does not go into effect until January 2020 and is not retroactive. IRTA is talking to the Governor's office, and might be adding a trailer bill onto this legislation in the Fall Veto session to make it retroactive. The Legal Defense Fund currently is \$147,972,88.

Total Retiree Advantage Illinois

If you are enrolled in TRAIL for your health insurance, here is an exciting new benefit. Beginning January 1, 2020, you can get \$2500 per ear toward hearing aids. All that is required is an exam from a licensed audiologist. Watch for more information from TRAIL about this benefit.

Keep Up the Good Work

Look for volunteer pictures on the IRTA Facebook page and continue to send in pictures of yourself volunteering.



Please Notice: Membership Renewal

October began our annual renewal process. Only members who owe WLSU dues and pay on an annual basis will have received a renewal letter the first week of October. This letter contained a form explaining exactly what is owed and how to proceed. The mailing label on this newsletter will show your current dues status. A '19 behind IRTA and/or WLSU indicates that dues are owed for next year. You can pay your dues by mailing a check made out to WLSU to Louise Sterett, 770 57th St., #2, Clarendon Hills, Il 60514. Make the check out for \$30 for 3 years, \$45 for 5 years, or \$125 for life. Those owing IRTA dues will have received a separate letter from IRTA in late October. Any questions about membership, renewals, or dues status, if you received an emailed newsletter, should be directed to Tom Szot 630-852-3138, jtszot@comcast.net or Louise Sterett 630-325-6470, louisesterett@att.net. Please do your part by renewing quickly and for multiple years. Your immediate attention to this matter helps a lot since we don't have to contact you more than once. You save both the IRTA & WLSU time and money. Don't help those who oppose your TRS pension by not renewing in both IRTA and WLSU. If we don't receive your renewal, this will be the last newsletter you receive.

2019 IRTA Convention Highlights



The keynote speaker was Chief Justice Lloyd Karmeier. “Crisis is not the time to abandon the rule of law; it is a time to defend it.” These were the words of the Chief Justice in defending our constitutional rights to our promised pension when writing the



Illinois Supreme Court’s position despite the dire economic problems of our state. These words echoed in our memories and our hearts as the Honorable Justice addressed the opening session of the IRTA representative assembly, said **Mary Richie**. Karmeier went on to say we must enable the government to control the governed, but we must be sure the government controls itself

Next we saw a video address by Governor JB Pritzker in which he acknowledged the importance of education and the contributions made by educators.

After the opening of the General Assembly, Reports and Procedures, Breakout Sessions, and Caucuses to discuss the proposed constitutional amendments, delegates enjoyed a banquet at which Unit Honorees were announce and feted.



West Lake Shore’s honoree was Marie Trankina who has served WLSU members for 15 years as vice president. Marie’s diligence, knowledge, and expertise in finding venues for our meetings and luncheons have provided us with opportunities to catch up on IRTA news and socialize with fellow members.



President Julie Jeter accepting for Marie.



Your Delegates

Out-going president, Roger Hampton left us with inspirational words represented by the convention logo:

- IRTA is
- Our Guiding Light for Retired Teachers
- Our House—A shelter of consolidated purpose
- Our Shield—A constant protection of retiree benefits.



Look for more pictures on www.wlsu.weebly.com



IRTA State & Local Unit Membership Form

828 S. Second St., 4th Floor • Springfield, IL 62704 • 1-800-728-4782
e-mail: irta@irtaonline.org • webpage: www.irtaonline.org

- State Dues
- Dues Deduct - \$30 a year (see left side of form)
 - Annual - \$40
 - 5 Years - \$175
 - Life - \$400
 - Membership Free for the Calendar Year of Retirement

Dues Deduct – I hereby authorize the Teachers' Retirement System to deduct my IRTA dues in monthly installments at an initial rate of \$2.50 or as subsequently established by the Delegate Assembly.

Association Dues are Not Tax Deductible

- State Associate Dues (non-certified)
- Annual - \$25
 - Life - \$125

- Local Unit Dues
- First Year Free

(Signature required for Dues Deduction)

Social Security # _____

Please print or use your return address label.

(Only required for Dues Deduction)

NAME LAST	FIRST	MI	DOB		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	RETIREMENT YEAR	
PHONE ()	E-MAIL	UNIT West Lake Shore	SCHOOL DISTRICT	RETIRED FROM	

Please mail to IRTA.

“The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche gave a stern warning to those of us who confront the worst that we do to each other. ‘Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And if you gaze long enough into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.’ It’s a warning we would do well to heed. Empathy is a necessary tool but we have to guard against the horrors we see becoming our new normal.” from Val McDermid’s latest Carol Jordan/Tony Hill book *How the Dead Speak*.



West Lake Shore Unit
 Direct Line Newsletter
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 Direct Line Mailer: Simonette Urbain

DIRECT LINE

“Investing in the FUTURE of retired teachers”

December 6 Membership luncheon. See p. 3. and *rsvp* by November 20