

McLEAN COUNTY

# Retired Teachers Association

NEWSLETTER

A unit of IRTA

**May 2018**

**Program for June 1, 2018 @ 10:00 A.M.**

All meetings are held at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church, 211 N, School St., Normal

Candace Summers from the McLean County Museum of History will be the guest speaker for our June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Plan to attend and hear about the exciting work going on right in our own community. Meet Alyson Layden who is a recipient of one of the IRTA scholarships. Congratulations, Alyson!

**KUDOS ARE IN ORDER!** Larry Pennie has prepared the newsletter for **MCRTA** for some time, but is experiencing health issues preventing his continuing to do so. THANK YOU, Larry, for years of faithful service keeping our membership well informed! *HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW!*

**Thank you notes** have been received from the following organizations for the donation received as a result of the Paddock bequest: Big Brothers/Big Sisters; IPCF Fostering Dignity; Unity Community (McLean County Extension); Mom and Me Camp, Western Avenue Community Center; Children's Home + Aid.

## **MEMORIAL**

During the March meeting Harriet Zoeller conducted a meaningful remembrance of the following teaching colleagues who died during the past year: Norma Rupp, Dist 87; Patricia Kastor, Tri-Valley; Claude Bell, U High; Madeleine Hoss, U High; Carole Bode, Olympia; Raymond Belcher, Unit 5; Victor Bell, Chenoa; Robert McKay, Unit 5; Mary Orth, Chenoa, Fairbury; Douglas Blair, Olympia; Eileen Britton, Tremont & Hopedale; Norma Hackl, Dist. 87; Warren Crews, high school coach and ISU; Judith Mason, Olympia; Donald Gore, Unit 5; Phyllis Bruno, Metcalf; Sharon Gordon, Holy Trinity, LeRoy, Dist. 87; Estella Hensley, Octavia; Sarah Alberts, Olympia; Evelyn Hartman, Dist. 87; Crystal Sancken, Fairbury and Goodfield; Wayne Patkunas, Unit 5; Joreece Crumbaugh, LeRoy; Berry Widmer, Chenoa; Donald Manahan, Unit 5; Ben Barnhill, Dist. 87; Evadna Mooney, rural McLean County; Winifred Thomassen, Cooksville; Marjorie Metcalf, Dist. 87; James Bowers, Dist. 87; Michael Macesich, U High; Edith "Lucy" Roberts, Kickapoo Union; Anita Gilmore, Dist. 87.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Governor Rauner has declared August 13, 2018 as Retired Educator Day in Illinois. Plan on joining fellow IRTA members for a day of fun at the Illinois State Fair this August 13 in Springfield.

### **New Dues Offer:**

We voted in December to approve a new membership option. You can now purchase a 5 year MCRTA membership for just \$40. That's \$10 off the annual rate of \$10 annually. You may also still purchase a yearly membership for \$10, or a lifetime membership for \$100. Please note that this is for **MCRTA** membership, NOT IRTA. They are separate organizations with separate membership structures.

## New **IRTA** brochures

We just recently received new brochures from IRTA with an insert for MCRTA. The brochures look WONDERFUL and are PERFECT to share with friends/colleagues who might be interested in membership in IRTA or MCRTA. Sandy will have plenty available at our June meeting or just let her know if you'd like some to share, and she'll get them to you!

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**IRTA Information Services Committee** is now posting unit newsletters on the web site. Participating units will have access to news from across the state. **MCRTA** is part of that news distribution.

**MCRTA** was represented at the Area 4 Conference May 22 in Springfield by the following members: Marilyn Myers, Sandy Dickson, Patsy Sherrard, Maxine Bassi, Maria Millen, Velma Nordine and Joyce Cryer.

**SAVE THE DATE!** ISU Civic Chorale celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November and invites **YOU**, and other **MCRTA** members, to a beautiful concert and reception at the ISU Center for Performing Arts. You will receive 2 complimentary tickets via US mail. Details to follow.

CELEBRATE ILLINOIS 200 years of statehood 12/3/2017-12/3/ 2018

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The following bills have passed the Senate and were sent on to the House:

**SB 336** Those prescribed opioids may now use medical marijuana;

**SB 2332** Minimum age raised from 18 – 21 to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products;

**SB 2343** Bump stocks banned;

**SB 3080** Between 7/1/2017 and 6/30/2019/ retired teachers may increase employment without impairing retirement status; allows 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in a school year, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom;

**SB 3046** would allow any eligible TRS benefit recipients or TRS dependent beneficiaries to re-enroll into **TRIP** if they had previously opted not to participate in the program. Opting back into the program must be done during the annual open enrollment program.

## **IRTA Foundation**

Hopefully, you have received the mailing labels from the Foundation and sent your personal donation as a way of supporting the outreach of the Foundation. These funds are used for scholarships and assistance to several teachers whose financial means are greatly diminished.

Phone # for TRS: **877-927-5877**

Web site for **IRTA**: [www.IRTAonline.org](http://www.IRTAonline.org)

Sign up for **VoterVoice** to stay informed.

**Marilyn Myers, unit president** 530-8157

**Sandy Dickson, membership chair** 825-1148