



Tennessee Retired Teachers' Association
an NEA-Retired affiliate

Bulletin

Issue 2 February 2022

Tennessee Retired Teachers' Association "Advocates for Retired Educators and Education" Since 1957

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TRTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Past President	Lynn Tucker
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ETN Regional	Al Doty
MTN At large	Susanne Boshers
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MTN Regional	Doris Hendrix
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WTN Regional	Alice Fennel
WTN Regional	Daisy Cleaves
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Ex Officio	Linda McCrary
Ex Officio	Beth Brown
Ex Officio	Mike Barker

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ANNA BOOHER

Olympic Gold

The Olympics provide a fabulous showcase of skill, individual accomplishments, team camaraderie, and competition. The diversity of the athletes is amazing. The backdrop of the Olympic Games changes each time they are held. What remains constant is every athlete has had a master teacher (coach) in his/her chosen field.



The Winter Games are in China, and they follow the lunisolar calendar. This calendar is often used to determine religious festivals and national events. They are currently celebrating the Chinese New Year. How interesting that these are the winter games, and they are competing during the Spring Festival. As educators we also seek harmony between the terms professionals and retired.

We are encouraged to remain active members of our profession and of our community. Our skills are not lost simply because we are no longer in the classroom. However, we must continue to practice these skills in other ways.

Diversity is not limited to talent but extends to every aspect of a person's life. The more you know the more you grow. The same is true of Olympians. As retired educators we continue to teach and grow. We are the authors of not only our life story but also the life stories of future generations. We celebrate the accomplishments of both our students and our peers.

Involvement in a retired teachers' association helps each of us to maintain the same camaraderie that kept us going through years in the classroom. We encouraged each other to strive for excellence just as the Olympians do.

Retired educators, like Olympians, spent years perfecting their skills. We invested our time and talents in our students. It is now our time to reach for the gold. Our numbers speak volumes with the legislators who control our future. We need to identify those retirees who have not joined us in the vigil of protecting our retirement benefits. We are a team of diverse, energetic, and dedicated individuals; we need more members, and we need to give them a reason to join the TRTA.

Executive Director's Column: DONNA COTNER

“Traveling by detour is a persistent reality”

As we travel life's pathway we must constantly re-evaluate based on the circumstances of the moment. TRTA began this year in July with cautious optimism of recognizing that change occurs and we must adapt and utilize the skills and knowledge we possess to move forward. Homeostasis (the tendency to avoid change) is not possible if we are to remain successful in attaining our objectives and fulfilling our mission.



Change demands action! The best day to act is today! We must take positive action and make progress every day! As an organization we must increase our outreach to our members and prospective members. This outreach is best accomplished by one-on-one contacts and involvement at the local association level. To be succinct, utilize a two-step process- “show- up” and “ask”.

Showing up is the first step toward success. Simply stated, this means being visible and accessible. Utilize every opportunity and avenue available to increase awareness of your local association with both retirees and active teachers who are your future retirees! Utilize the marketing opportunities in your local area to build name recognition and branding. Establish identity both internally and externally to make your presence known. Be accessible by providing contact information for your local association.

This must be a continual process and kept current.

Asking is the most efficient and most successful action you can take. Ask the prospective member to join you in accomplishing the goals of the association in promoting and protecting the well being of retired educators. Please remember that asking is a verb that requires repetition...ask, ask again, and ask again. Asking should be the first ten rules of membership recruitment and retention!

There is no single, straight-line trajectory to success in any endeavor. You will change directions and tactics as the circumstances change. Every detour is a challenge and an opportunity to expand your knowledge base and skill set in pursuit of your objective. I headlined this article with a quote from Stephan Gower because we must be willing to recognize and utilize changing directions “detours” as we move forward in advancing this wonderful Association...local, TRTA and NEA-R.

Fastest Growing SCAM...Compromised QR codes!

BEWARE! QR codes may contain malware which will be downloaded into your cellphone to steal your identity and/or information. QR codes are everywhere... from use by diners to obtain menus at restaurants or to access sales, services and alerts! However, scammers are creating fake codes to steal sensitive data, such as account passwords. How to protect yourself? Do not scan codes printed on stickers as scammers sometimes stick fake codes over legitimate ones. Do not scan codes found online or in e-mails unless you are certain the site or sender is legitimate. As always be diligent in protecting your personal and/or sensitive information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2022

- 7 WTN regional workshop 1ST Baptist, Jackson, TN
- 14 MTN regional workshop TEA Bldg., Nashville, TN
- 21 ETN regional workshop Central Baptist Church Fountain City (Knoxville)

April 2022

- 1 Deadline to report change in 2022-23 local dues to TRTA
- 4 Deadline to submit New Business Items for TRTA RA
- 8 TRTA RA delegate allocation numbers mailed to Presidents

May 2022

- 2 Deadline to submit Necrology reports to TRTA

June 2022

- 14 TRTA RA Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, TN
- 29-July 6 NEA-R and NEA Representative Assemblies
- 30 **Deadline to submit Local Officers and Committee Chairs for 2022-23**

July 2022

- 31 **Deadline to submit to TRTA 2022-2023 Membership**
 - ◆ **Marked Membership Rosters**
 - ◆ **New Member forms**
 - ◆ **Drop List**
 - ◆ **Payments**

The Value of Membership

Judy Whitehill TRTA President-elect



Numerous times daily, we hear and see ads for products and services that speak to the Value versus the Cost. What is the meaning of Value? It can mean the importance of, the worth or benefit of belonging. We Value our family, friends and community organizations and as retired educators, we should Value our professional association. TRTA, organized in 1957, is the

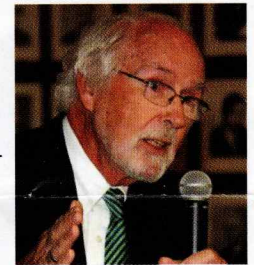
ONLY Tennessee education association working to protect retiree benefits.

Do you ever think about what your current situation would be if you didn't have your monthly TCRS deposit? I know that most of us would be financially devastated. TRTA member Mike Barker, is our representative on the TCRS Board and is a valuable resource enabling us to stay informed about the benefits and security of the retirement system. What is that representation and information worth to us? Can we put a cost to that important benefit of membership? It is invaluable, yet it costs less than \$7 a month for that security and peace of mind. Thinking of a restaurant meal or item in a store, I can't think of any purchase I've made that has that type of Value versus Cost.

Thank you for being a member who Values the association. Please reach out to other retired educators who may appreciate their monthly TCRS benefits but haven't yet joined TRTA. Those individuals are potential members. Help them understand the Value of Membership.

Birdwatching (and the lessons I've learned)

Lynn Tucker TRTA Past President



Living in an area with an abundance of trees, water, and suitable food sources, over time I found that I am in a great location to renew an interest in birdwatching. Over the years, I moved birdfeeders closer to the windows of my house to enhance the ability to photograph or just observe close range. Reelfoot Lake and the Mississippi River are just a few miles away. Not only do I get to observe native songbirds, but also visitors just over-wintering here for a brief time. Most fascinating, I think, are migratory birds following the great flyways.

In 1972, Dr Robert McNeish wrote a sermon to be shared with his church based on observed patterns of geese. His "Lessons from Geese" has been used for years as a metaphor for teaching cooperation and teamwork in schools and leadership training in the corporate world. The essence of his sermon was that we can accomplish more working together, encouraging each other on our journey, and moving in the same direction until we reach our destination. Long journeys are difficult, and often we must travel at night or whenever conditions are favorable.

As we approach the current legislative session and midterm elections, perhaps we should reassess our ranks, align our flock and stay focused on our destination. As retired educators, we do not want to lose or give up any benefits, and we do not want to see our retirement eroded by the current level of inflation. It is important to convey this message to elected officials and candidates. Flocks of geese are noisy. Let's continue to use our collective voice.