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Lexa Hooten

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Executive Secretary /

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David Huntsinger

Retirement Times

November KCRTA Scholarship Foundation Luncheon

Each year the Knox County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships to students enrolled in education programs at area colleges and universities. These scholarships are presented at our November luncheon, making it a very special occasion. For me, this year's Scholarship Luncheon will be even more special because three extraordinary individuals will be honored with scholarships bearing their names. I first met Jeanette Casteel in 1995. As active members of the Knox County Education Association, we attended many state and national representative assemblies where we were frequently roommates. Jeanette was there to welcome me to my first retired teachers luncheon in July of 2021; and for many years, prior to her unexpected passing last year, she worked tirelessly to recruit new association members. Lexa Hooten and David Huntsinger have dedicated countless hours of their well-earned retirement working to assure the financial health of our association. Even before my retirement, their names were known to me. Since my retirement, I have observed firsthand their dedication to the promotion of public education and the well-being of our association and its members. I am honored to have known and worked alongside these inspiring educators and Association leaders.

Please join me at our November luncheon where these three individuals, along with seven other outstanding educators, will be honored for their contributions to our profession; and where ten aspiring educational professionals will receive the financial boost they need and deserve. Remember that due to the special nature of this luncheon, you must confirm your attendance. I look forward to seeing you on November 21st.

Karen Peterman, President

KCRTA Scholarship Foundation

The November meeting of KCRTA will be a luncheon to award scholarships to ten students from colleges and universities in the East Tennessee area.

Thanks to the generosity of KCRTA members the Foundation will be awarding ten \$1500.00 scholarships. This is the most that has been awarded in the History of the Foundation. The luncheon to award the scholarships will be on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at the Foundry.

We will be honoring the following persons with a named scholarship: Tom Underwood, Pat and Reuben Hunter, Colleen Bennett, Bill Crosland, Cindi Fuller Schowalter, Billie Cannon, Jeanette Casteel, Connie Silvey, Lexa Hooten, and David Huntsinger.

If you are planning to attend the November 21st luncheon, you will need to RSVP to 423-231-0682 (David Huntsinger), or send an email to [huntsingerd@bellsouth.net](mailto:huntsingerd@bellsouth.net) by Monday, November 18th to confirm.

The luncheon is free to all KCRTA members, recipients, and guests. Please be seated at your table by 11:30 a.m. Hope to see you at the luncheon.

David Huntsinger, Chairman of the KCRTA Scholarship Foundation

## KCRTA Membership

We have several new KCRTA members and several that are planning to join. If you are interested in joining KCRTA, please contact Chris Vandergriff ([chris.vandergriff@gmail.com](mailto:chris.vandergriff@gmail.com) or 865-924-4600) or Nora Messing ([ndbmess@comcast.net](mailto:ndbmess@comcast.net)) ASAP, so we can get you involved in our committees and programs.

If you pay your dues annually, they were due on 7/11/2024. Please send your dues in ASAP to KCRTA, 711 N. Hall of Fame Drive, Knoxville, TN 379117

Chris Vandergriff and Nora Messing, KCRTA Membership Co-Chairs

## Information and Protective Services

**Subject: Spot and Out Smart Scammers' Emotional Triggers:**

1. Take A Break. If you notice you're feeling a strong emotion during an interaction with a stranger, recognize the danger and step away.
2. Tell someone. In a study, people who shared what was happening with a friend or family member were told, It's a scam.
3. Do your own research. Don't click on links or use phone numbers, email addresses or account numbers provided by scammers.
4. Set up a crisis only code word with family members. Agree on a word to use in an emergency that everyone can remember.  
(AARP Article)

Pam Chipley, Information and Protective Services

## KCRTA Teacher Grants

KCRTA is excited to announce the teachers who submitted award-winning applications for our 2024-25 KCRTA Teacher Grants. Grants will be awarded to the following:

Becca Russell, Sarah Moore Greene, K-5 PE  
Cindy Cihak, Belle Morris Elementary, K-5 STEM  
Jim McPhetridge, Halls High School, Senior English  
Jamie Kelly, Green Magnet Academy, K-5, Weather Design Lab  
Adrienne Notess, Dogwood Elementary, K-5 Music

Congratulations to these teachers and their schools, and thanks to all of the teachers who submitted applications.

Special thanks to our Selection Committee:

Karen Peterman  
LuJan Petrozello  
Betty Sue Sparks  
Elnora Williams  
Kitty Spry  
Nelldean Bragg  
Linda Tyler

Linda Tyler, Community Participation Chair



## KCRTA Venue Location Change

There will be a change of venue **beginning with our January, 2025 luncheon**. On January 23, 2025, Rothschild Catering and Conference Center (8807 Kingston Pike) will be the new site of our luncheons. KCRTA meets alternate months (January, March, May, July, September, and November). In order to assure that everyone is served, a RSVP will be required.

KCRTA Legislative November News

Once again we had the opportunity to meet with our local legislators at the September luncheon. We were so honored to have them attend as there were numerous other events to which they had been invited to on the same day. However, they still found time to visit with us at the Foundry. Because of these conflicts, we had to modify our normal schedule and give them the first half hour to speak and answer questions. Thank you to everyone for your support, understanding and patience with theses changes. Valerie Biberdorf did a great job introducing them, asking questions, and limiting their time to respond (with the aid of Bill Parker, the time keeper).

The following legislators were in attendance:

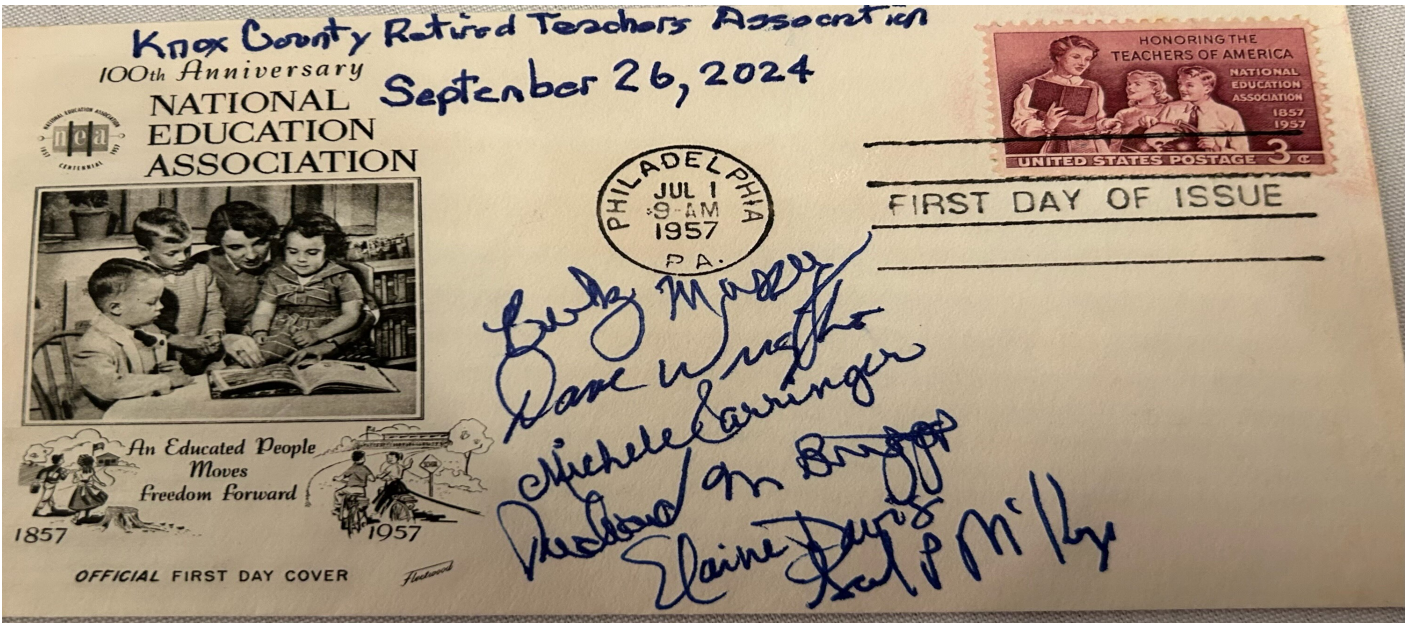
Sen. Dr. Richard Briggs dist 7, Sen. Becky Massey dist 6, Rep. Elaine David dist 18, Rep. Sam McKenzie dist 15, and Rep. Dave Wright dist 19, and Rep. Michele Carringer dist 16. It is always great being able to talk with them, ask questions and learn what is happening in our state legislation.

Our questions dealt primarily with Vouchers, Charter Schools, Funding our Public Schools, Safety and Mental Illness. Please follow up and continue to reach out to your representative by phone, email or snail mail with your concerns. It's important that they hear from us. Senator Massey mentioned that we should not participate in those group emails, as for the most part they pay no attention to them, but will respond to personal stories and emails. All the representatives nodded and were in agreement with her.

We need to be diligent on the voucher issues as Governor Lee will be calling a special session soon after the election to try to get this law passed.

If you are interested in getting involved, Call or email me: 865-250-3854 jaskinne@hotmail.com

Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair



**HISTORICAL PHOTOS** Shows the signatures of all six of our legislators who were in attendance during our question and answer Legislative Session at our September KCRTA meeting. Photo courtesy of Mike Blankenship.

Mike Blankenship, Parliamentarian





Calendar

Be sure to mark your calendar for the following dates of the Knox County Retired Teachers Association meetings:

- November 21, 2024  
Scholarship Luncheon  
(The Foundry)
- NEW VENUE for  
January 23, 2025  
Meeting  
at Rothchild Catering &  
Conference Center  
8807 Kingston Pike  
In Order to assure that everyone  
is served, a RSVP will be  
required.

Executive Board meets at  
9:30 am. All members are  
welcome to attend.

In November the meeting is  
on the third Thursday. The  
Executive Board does not  
meet during November.

\*Any change of address, email  
address, or phone number  
should be sent to KCRTA,  
711 N Hall of Fame Drive,  
Knoxville, TN 37917 or to  
Chris.vandergriff@gmail.com

\*A hard copy of *Retirement  
Times* is available upon request.  
Contact Chris Vandergriff at  
Chris.vandergriff@gmail.com

Thank you to all who brought  
school supplies to our  
September meeting.

Gratitude can transform  
common days into  
thanksgivings, turn routine jobs  
into joy, and change ordinary  
opportunities into blessings.

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

Received for September - October

In Memory of

Carolyn "Corky" Brooks  
Joe Dent  
Joe Dent  
Christi Kirk  
Elizabeth Neff  
John Staley  
Sara Starnes Baugh Wilson

From

Sara Baskin  
Connie Cole  
Janet Oakes  
Donna Hardy  
Ira Gladson  
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe  
Donna Hardy

In Honor of

David Huntsinger  
Tom Underwood  
Jim and Vicki Andrews  
Emma Ruth Catlett

Donations

Nelldean Bragg

Necrology

Patricia Fulcher Haff  
Arzolla Ilee Phillips  
Shirley K. Davenport  
Carolyn "Corky" Brook  
Christi Moore Kirk  
John Davis Staley, Jr.  
Frank Joseph Scimonelli, Jr.  
Elizabeth Edmonds Neff  
Judith "Judy" Ann Hollingsworth  
Lois Ann Luebke



The most important office, and the one which all of us can and should  
fill, is that of private citizen. Go Vote

Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another,  
this country, and this world.