



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 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 Officers and Committee Chairs

President:

Karen Peterman

President-Elect:

Bill Parker

Past President:

Libby Burney

Secretary:

Gussie Cherry

Communications:

Margaret Willis

Community Participation:

Linda Tyler

Nora Messing

Hosting:

Jane Parker

Information & Protective Services:

Pam Chipley

Legislative:

Jane Skinner

Membership:

Nora Messing

Chris Vandergriff

Newsletter Editor:

Myra Sowder

Parliamentarian:

Mike Blankenship

Scholarship Foundation Rep.:

Lexa Hooten

Web Page:

Libby Burney

Executive Secretary /

Treasurer:

David Huntsinger

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 or 865-924-4600) or Nora Messing (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 these 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:

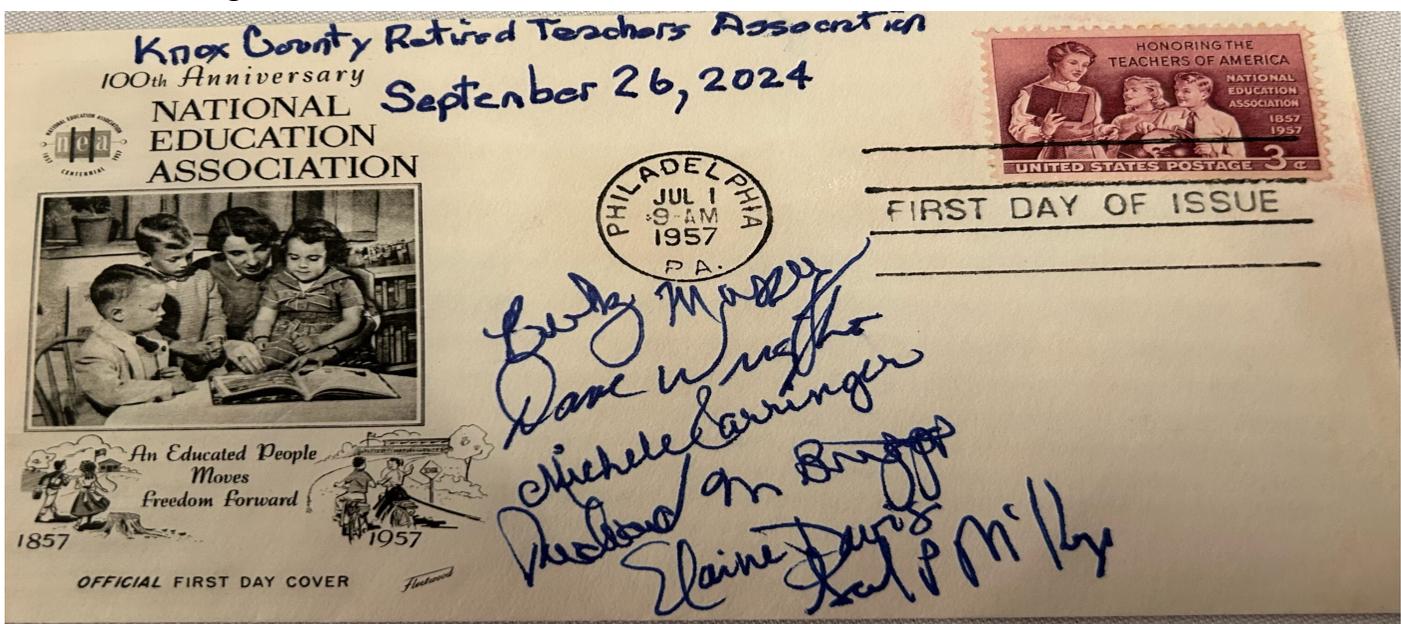
Sen. Dr. Richard Briggs dist 7, Sen. Becky Massey dist 6, Rep. Elaine David dist 18, Rep. Sam McKenzie dist 15, and Rep. Dave Wright dist 19, and Rep. Michele Carringer dist 16. It is always great being able to talk with them, ask questions and learn what is happening in our state legislation.

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 KCR TA 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.**