

Retirement Times

President's Message

Welcome springtime! Mother nature is beginning to decorate our surroundings with the colors of spring, showing new life all around us. While we enjoy the earth's beauty, let us pause to reflect on the beauty of the life of a teacher. No other profession impacts so many lives! No other profession is as important as an educator! "You retire from the classroom, not from the profession", as many of us have heard several times from Donna Cotner, TRTA Executive Director.

During this term, I have encouraged you to "step up" and get involved. Sign up sheets have been available at each meeting. New officers will be elected and installed at our May meeting. KCRTA is currently in need of a Membership Chairman! As many of you may know, long time Membership Chair, Jim Oakes, passed away after a short illness. We need some people who know how to work with different database applications and that love to "play on the computer" to "step up" to fill this vacancy. Chris Vandergriff has volunteered to help with the database.

Another way to become involved is to bring your retired friends to KCRTA meetings—just invite them to lunch at the Foundry. Educators always enjoy lunch out (free at their first meeting).

Jeanette Casteel, President

jacasteel1@gmail.com, (865) 705-9632



KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

President:

Jeanette Casteel

President—Elect:

Don Loy

Past President:

Elnora Williams

Secretary:

Glenda Childress

Community Participation:

Charlotte Linge

Hosting Chair:

Lu Jones

Information & Protective
Services:

Pam Chipley

Legislative Chair:

Betty Berry

Membership:

Jim Oakes

Newsletter Editor:

Leslie Casteel

Parliamentarian:

Dan Williams

Publicity:

Margaret Willis

Scholarship Foundation
Rep.:

Lexa Hooten

Web Page Chairman:

Chris Vandergriff

Executive Secretary /
Treasurer:

David Huntsinger

Opportunities for Service

A nominating committee has been put in place to secure nominees for new KCRTA officers. Many of you have talents which can help make our association stronger. The answer is **YES** when your call comes. You can find the list of officers and committees in the block on the right of this page. Please contact Pam Chipley, Chairman at chipleypl@tds.net to let her know where you are willing to serve.

Check It Out!!!

The KCRTA website, www.knoxretiredteachers.com, is now live. Thanks to Jason White, TEA Uniserve Rep for KCEA has graciously worked with us to achieve this. This website has been several years in the making and has finally become a reality.

Inclement Weather

KCRTA will not meet if Knox County Schools are closed for weather. Please check for school closings before you venture out in bad weather.

News Flash

The KCRTA Newsletter will soon only be available by email. To receive an electronic copy, please email newsletter editor, Leslie at lcasteel@casteelandcompany.com. If you would like a hard copy, please contact Jeanette at jacasteel1@gmail.com.

Membership

ATTENTION!!! KCRTA needs your voice in Nashville as well as Washington. KCRTA / TRTA continues to be an advocate to improve the lives of retired educators. You will be receiving information for membership renewal soon. If you are on TCRS dues deduction, you will not receive a letter.

Calendar

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

- **March 22, 2018**
Natalie Ivey, Director of Advocacy and Outreach, Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- **May 24, 2018**
Brunch, Celebration and Recognition with O'Connor Singers, Installation of Officers
- **June 12, 2018**
TRTA Annual Meeting, Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro
- **July 26, 2018**
KCRTA Legislative Forum

Meetings are held at the Foundry, 747 World's Fair Drive, at 11:00 am. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of alternate months. The Executive Board meets at 9:30 am. All members are welcome to attend.

Quote of the Month:
"You retire from the classroom,
not from the profession"
Donna Cotner

Information & Protective Services

Things to Consider About Senior Living

Teachers of all ages will probably be faced with the responsibility of selecting a senior living facility for parents, a spouse, or yourself. When you inspect a facility, be prepared to spend two to three hours. Inspect the outdoor gardens and grounds. Are there nice outdoor sitting spaces? Are the grounds clean and well maintained? Is road noise an issue? Next, try to talk to some of the residents when staff is not close by. Do they like the food? Ask what a typical day is like. What is their favorite activity? Pay attention to how the residents are cared for. Find some resident family members to discuss their opinions. Find out why they chose the facility and if they have regrets. Ask tough questions to the staff. Do you know the names of that group of residents? What is their job? How long have you worked here? Discuss the turnover issue with administration, staff, residents, and family members. Share a meal with the residents. Use all of your senses. Can you hear or smell anything offensive? Most important, visit again during off-hours for non-scheduled visit. Compare the planned and unplanned visits.

From AARP Bulletin Nov. 2017

Scholarship Foundation

IN MEMORY OF

Bill Crosland
Bill Crosland
Bill Crosland
Emma Fox
Bobby Gratz
Jim Oakes
Jim Oakes
Jim Oakes
Maureen Pooler
Kathleen Valentine

IN HONOR OF

Jim Oakes
Margaret Willis

DONATIONS

KCRTA Endowment Fund

GIVEN BY

Ron & Lexa Hooten
David Huntsinger
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
Ron & Lexa Hooten
David Huntsinger
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Ron & Lexa Hooten
Sylvia Upton

GIVEN BY

Bill Crosland
Bill Crosland

GIVEN BY

Nancy Gerhardt

Legislation

Legislation is another way retirees can be involved. We are not all able to go to Nashville, but we are able to contact our Legislators. Please help us continue to fight to protect our COLA and other retiree benefits. Go to www.capitol.tn.gov/legislators/ or www.knoxretiredteachers.com.

Necrology

Bill Crosland
Jim Oakes

Bertha Jewell Davis
Maureen Pooler

Emma Fox