



# Retirement Times



## Thank You

Four year ago, I left my West Valley Middle School classroom for the yet unexplored world of retirement. One day later, I was agreeing to serve as KCRTA president-elect; and four years later, here I am nearing the end of my presidency. Time does fly when you're retired! I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Executive Board who have stood with me and made this a most enjoyable experience. Your knowledge and expertise have been invaluable. There have been numerous high points for me; but I am particularly pleased that in 2024 the Association was able to present its first ever Active Teachers Grants. Linda Tyler spearheaded this endeavor and I thank her for her hard work and dedication to this project. I want to extend a special thank you to newsletter editor Myra Sowder for always making my bimonthly ramblings intelligible, and to Nora Messing for reminding me that while my mouth may be silent, my face is always speaking. I also thank Nancy Meyer and Janet Oakes, my Alpha Delta Kappa sisters, for attending as many luncheons as humanly possible. It's always good to see a sisterly face or two in the crowd. Lastly, I want to thank the members of the Association for this opportunity to serve the retired educators of Knox County. It has been my pleasure.

You have one last chance to see me in action. Please make plans to attend the May 22nd luncheon at Rothschild's. Our speaker will be Rabbi R'Hvvah Loewenthal of Oak Ridge. You must text (423-231-0682) or email (huntsingerd@bellsouth.net) your RSVP to David Huntsinger by Monday, May 19th. I look forward to seeing you.

**Karen Peterman, President**

## KCRTA MAY LUNCHEON

If you plan to attend the KCRTA luncheon on Thursday, May 22, 2025, you will need to register. Please, RSVP to David Huntsinger at 423-231-0682 or email him at huntsingerd@bellsouth.net. The last day to call will be Monday, May 19th. The luncheon will be at Rothschild's at 8807 Kingston Pike beginning at 11:15 am. If you register but can't attend, you need to call David at the number listed above. We are charged by the number given on Monday, May 19, 2025. The cost of the luncheon is \$25.00. Come and check out the food, it is delicious.

**David Huntsinger, Executive Secretary/Treasurer**



**Are you interested in being  
president-elect or the  
newsletter editor?  
If so, please contact  
Karen Peterman at  
petermank1@gmail.com**

## KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

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Lexa Hooten

Web Page Chair:

Libby Burney

Executive Secretary /

Treasurer:

David Huntsinger

## KCRTA Membership

Please encourage all of your "Teacher Friends" to join us for our May luncheon. Please remind them to RSVP to David Huntsinger by May 19th.

If they are interested in joining KCRTA, please have them contact myself, Chris Vandergriff (chris.vandergriff@gmail.com or 865-924-4600) or Nora Messing (nbmess@comcast.net or 865-406-5867) Our July KCRTA luncheon will be for "new retirees". **Chris Vandergriff and Nora Messing, KCRTA Membership Co-Chairs**

## Information and Protective Services

This past week there was some confusion in upper level education circles about the difference between AI and A.I. You can use your computer search skills to discover the humor this recently caused in California. AI is an acronym for Artificial Intelligence. This technology probably started getting a bad reputation from the 1968 movie "2001: A Space Odyssey". Everyone remembers HAL! Recently computers have become so powerful that mimicking voices of a loved one using AI is possible. Apparently it does not take much real recorded speech to enable a desktop AI program to completely sound like the voice of a person that you know and love. The responses are guided by a computer operator on the other end. Usually they will eventually ask for money. Per the April 2025 AARP newsletter, the simplistic solution to this problem is to hang up the phone and call back to a phone number that you know is legit. I mentioned previously that I received a regular scam call many years ago about my grandson needing bail money. I played along for a minute with the response "That is so interesting, since I did not know I had a grandson." The phone went click...

**Pam Chipley, Information and Protective Services, Chair**

## Legislative News - Tennessee Legislature is Currently Out of Session Until 2026

Tennessee's 114th State General Assembly's adjournment was April 22, 2025. After a special session where vouchers for private schools passed, this legislative general session continued in the vein of having bills that were detrimental to public schools. Here are examples of bills that were passed and one that was rolled until 2026 since it passed in the Senate, but did not get approval in the House.

\*HB0958 (Slator) and SB095 (Powers) - Amends TCA Title 49

Bill proposes to create a seven-member task force to ensure Tennessee can effectively respond to any potential deregulation or dismantling of the Education Department at the federal level. The task force created by this legislation will identify K-12 Education funding, federal requirements for receiving federal funds and the number of positions paid for by the federal dollars.

The Task Force will be required to submit policy recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2025.

\*Passed Full Senate by 27 to 5 vote on 3/25/25.

\*Passed Full House by 74 to 23 vote on 4/21/25. House moved to substitute SB095.

\*HB0662 (White) and SB0714 (Taylor)

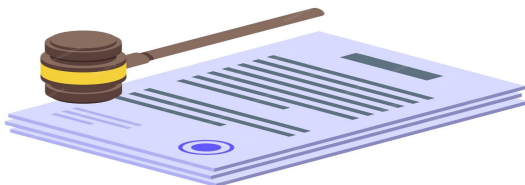
\*Allows Commissioner of Education to seize control of districts not meeting arbitrary performance criteria by replacing locally elected school boards with a state appointed Board of Managers.

\*Passed Full House by a 63 to 30 to 2 PNV on 4/22/25 - House moved to substitute Senate Bill 0714.

\*Passed full Senate on 4/22/25 by a 26 to 6 vote

\*Amendment: Would add 9 "advisors" from Memphis-Shelby over a two-year period to mentor and advise the Memphis-Shelby County School Board.

This bill was heavily amended in both chambers. If this can be done for one community in Tennessee, what is stopping it from happening in other communities within in the State?



Legislative News Continued:

\*HB0793 (Lamberth with co-sponsors Garrett, Capley, Butler, Todd, Martin, Rudd, Zachary, Reeves, Lafferty, Oggett, Fritts, Powers, Cepicky) and SB0836 (Watson with co-sponsors Yager, Johnson, Stevens, White)

As introduced, authorizes Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to refuse to enroll students who are unlawfully present in the United States. Amends TCA Title 4 and Title 49.

- \*Passed Full Senate on 4/10/25 by 19 to 13 vote (sent to House)
- \*\*House Sponsor Lamberth rolled the bill to 2026.

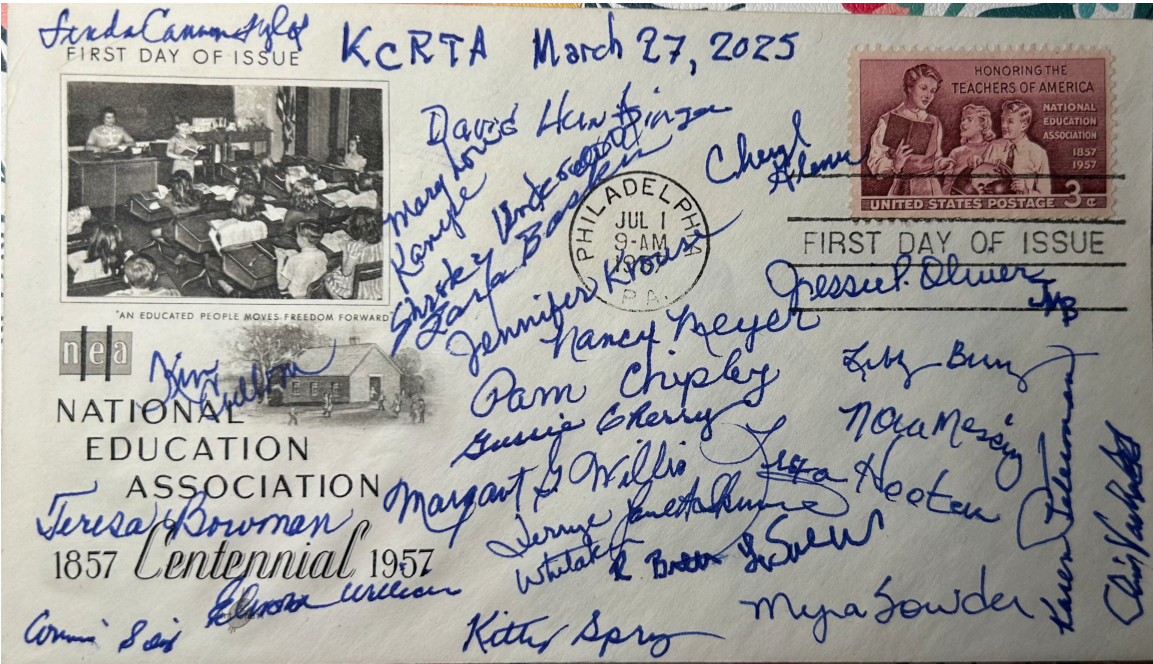
**AMENDED** - allows LEAs and public charters to charge tuition to students - without legal status. If parents cannot afford tuition, schools can deny admittance.

\*If eventually passed, this bill would challenge the 1982 Plyer v. Doe Supreme Court case from Texas. (Lawsuits would be imminent at all levels).

\*HB062 (Mayberry) and SB1083 (Johnson)  
Amend TCA, Title 5, Title 6, Title 7, Title 8 and Title 49, relative to hiring practices of governmental entities.  
This act is known as the "Dismantle DEI Act."

- \*House passed as amended 73 to 24 vote on 4/17/25.
- \*\*Senate substituted House Bill and passed on 27 to 6 vote on 4/22/25.

Email me if you want more information: Terrye Whitaker, Legislative Chair  
(terryewhitaker@gmail.com)



HISTORICAL PHOTO

Shows the signatures obtained of those in attendance at our March 2025 KCRTA Luncheon.  
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:

- NEW VENUE for May 22, 2025 Meeting at Rothchild Catering & Conference Center 8807 Kingston Pike

In order to assure that everyone is served, a RSVP will be required. Please see page 1 for more information.

Save the date: Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 24th. The executive Board meets at 9:30 am before each luncheon, except in the month of November when the Excutive Board does not meet.

All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board Meetings.

\*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

RETIREMENT

"Nothing exalts the soul or gives it a sheer sense of buoyancy and victory so much as being used to change the lives of other people."

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

February - March

In Memory of

Martie Boulton  
Mary Barger Ford  
Betty Jean (BJ) Johnson  
Dr. Margie LeCoultre  
Dr. Margie LeCoultre  
Dr. Margie LeCoultre  
Dr. Margie LeCoultre  
Dr. Margie LeCoultre  
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Dr. Margie LeCoultre  
Ernestine Moore  
Bill New  
Dr. Donald Rhodes  
Suzi Tisdell

From

Kathleen Greenwell  
Ira Gladson  
Kathleen Greenwell  
Judy Fleenor  
Ira Gladson  
Judy Houser  
David Huntsinger  
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe  
Mike and Susan LeCoultre  
Arleen Malcolm  
Karen & Mark Milani  
Evelyn Nations  
Susan Turner  
Patricia Thomas  
David Huntsinger  
Elnora Williams  
Nelldean Bragg

In Honor of

LaNoka Rhodes

Elnora Williams

Donations

Annette Cardwell  
Janet Oakes

Necrology

Martha "Martie" Scarbro Boulton  
Frances Prince Corlew  
Jennie S. Whited  
Diana Deatherage Waldrip  
Benton Clay "Ben" Stewart  
William R. "Bill" New III  
Cheri Beeler Wyrick  
Beverly Towry Hundley  
Thomas William Dunne  
Glenn E. Terry  
Paul Walter Pickens

Margie Humphrey LeCoultre  
Judy Eloise Simmons Palmer  
Susan "Suzi" Little Tisdell  
Hilda "Honey" Brewer Cooper  
Lula Cooper Powell

