

Retirement Times

President's Message

The Responsibilities of Citizenship

We live in a great country. The privileges of being an American come with duties and responsibilities. We must obey the laws and pay taxes. We may be required to sit on a jury. We may be expected to defend our country. As responsible citizens, we should seek ways to serve our community. Moreover, we should accept responsibility for sustaining a just society.

Arguably the greatest responsibility of citizenship is to vote in local, state and federal elections. Based on NEA statistics, 95% of NEA members over the age of 65 voted in the 2020 presidential election. However, before entering the voting booth, we must be informed on important issues. We should also see it as our responsibility to share our concerns and wishes with our elected officials. On September 26th, you will have the opportunity to hear from our local state legislators. You will also have the chance to share your thoughts on the issues that affect your life. Join us at the Foundry for lunch and an informative session with those serving us in Nashville. I hope to see you on September 26th. The program will begin sharply at 11:15. First-time attendees will be our guests.

Karen Peterman, President

September Legislation Program

Please plan to attend our September 26th luncheon to meet with our Knox County representatives and senators. This is always a great opportunity to find out more about who they are, what their role is in the state legislation and what their priorities are. We are so fortunate to have this venue to meet with our legislators and to have these special conversations. Our local senators and representative include: Sen. Dr. Richard Briggs dist 7, Sen. Becky Duncan-Massey dist 6, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally dist 6, Rep. Elaine Davis dist 18, Rep. Michele Carringer dist 16, Rep. Gloria Johnson, dist 90, Rep. Sam McKenzie dist 15, Rep. Dave Wright dist 19, Rep. Jason Zachary dist 14, and Rep. Justin Lafferty dist 89. All of them have been invited and I will be calling each of them again the first week of September to confirm their invitations. To date they have all agreed to attend, several will only be able to stay for 30 minutes or so due to prior commitments.

This past legislative session Michele Carringer, Gloria johnson, Justin Lafferty, and Sam McKenzie were on education subcommittees. This might be a great opportunity to find out more about ESA's/Vouchers, Charter Schools, Funding and Third Grade Retention and Fourth Grade Retention.

Terrye Whitaker was able to attend the state legislative meeting this month with Dewayne Emert. Drew Sutton, our TEA Lobbyist, indicated he thought Governor Lee will try to bring a special session after the election regarding, adopting vouchers. We really need to stay involved with this issue!!!

It would be great if you would submit questions for our legislators before the event. You can submit these to Valerie at valbeeb@gmail.com . Valerie has graciously volunteered to introduce all our guests in September.

Let's have a big turn out for our legislators and let them know how much we care. Invite a fellow retired teacher and encourage them to join.

Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair jaskinne@hotmail.com 865 250-3854



KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

- President:
Karen Peterman
- President-Elect:
Bill Parker
- Past President:
Libby Burney
- Secretary:
Gussie Cherry
- Communications:
Margaret Willis
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Linda Tyler
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Nora Messings,
Chris Vandergriff
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Myra Sowder
- Parliamentarian:
Mike Blankenship
- Scholarship Foundation Rep.:
Lexa Hooten
- Web Page Chairman:
Libby Burney
- Executive Secretary / Treasurer:
David Huntsinger

KCRTA Membership

We have several KCRTA new members and several that are planning to join. Please, if you are interested in joining KCRTA, please contact Chris Vandergriff (chris.vandergriff@gmail.com or 865-924-4600) or Nora Messings (ndbmess@comcast.net) ASAP, so we can get you involved in our committees and programs. Please, invite some of your retired teacher friends to our September Legislative luncheon. Remember, their first time at one of our luncheons is "FREE".

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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES Drive for The Teacher Depot

Please bring School Supplies to our September meeting. All school supplies will be given to the Knox County Teacher Depot.

Supplies Needed are:

2 pocket folders, dry erase markers, pencils, crayons, glue sticks



Information & Protective Services

Subject: CYBER SAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS!

- *Use Strong Passwords:** Strong passwords are a first line of defense against identity theft and fraud. Use on in-home devices, personal devices, social media, and banking portals.
- *Install Security Software:** Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software to protect yourself online. Make sure the software is installed properly and run regular updates to mitigate new threats.
- *Set up two-step authentication:** This can add an extra layer of security to protect your health information.
- *Be careful with Attachments:** Don't open attachments from unknown senders or attachments that seem suspicious. Attachments can contain viruses that can infect your computers.
- *Be wary of Messages:** Don't click on links or respond to pop-up windows in emails, texts, or on your computer from unfamiliar senders or people you don't know well. Be especially wary of unexpected or strange messages. You can also ignore unsolicited phone calls and robocalls.
- *Shop at Reputable Retailers:** When shopping online, stick with retailers you know and trust. Avoid retailers you've never heard of, as they may try to steal your information or not deliver the promised product.

Pam Chipley, Information & Protective Services

KCRTA Teacher Grant Initiative

"Our Teacher Grants Initiative was announced at the Principals' meeting in August by Karen Peterman. Each Knox County principal was given a flyer for their schools. Also, the Knox County Education Association will be given the flyers in their packets for their KCEA school representatives. Thanks to everyone for their efforts in supporting our first ever outreach for active teachers, librarians and administrators!" Please see the flyer attached in this newsletter for more information.

Linda Tyler, Community Participation Chairman

ADVICE From a SUNFLOWER: BE BRIGHT, POSITIVE & SUNNY, Rise, shine and hold your head high.

Expanded Membership Eligibility

At our May luncheon and business meeting, the Members in attendance amended the Association's Bylaws by adopting the following new language for ARTICLE II Membership Section 3:

Any retired teacher, administrator, supervisor, or educational support personnel previously employed in the public school sector or in higher education may become a member upon the payment of dues as set out in ARTICLE X herein.

This amendment opens KCRTA membership to retired educational support personnel and individuals who were employed in higher education. While you may be unfamiliar with the term educational support personnel, you might recognize these individuals as "classified" employees. Educational Support Personnel are educational workers holding positions that do not require teaching certification. They are the teaching assistants, office staff, cafeteria workers, janitorial staff and others who make our schools work.

Please share this good news with those you know who are now eligible for membership in our association. Their membership will strengthen our ability to promote efforts that are good for public education and that protect our retirement benefits.

KCRTA Scholarship Foundation

Thanks to the generosity of KCRTA members, the Foundation will be awarding ten \$1,500.00 scholarships this year. The luncheon to award the scholarships will be on November 21, 2024 at The Foundry. Students receiving scholarships will be from colleges and universities in the East Tennessee area.

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

The Selection committee consists of members of KCRTA and is co-chaired by Mary Lou Kanipe and Christin Oehler. The committee will determine the recipients of the 10 scholarships.

If you would like to donate to the Scholarship Foundation in memory, honor, or a donation, please complete the form in the newsletter. Attach your check, made out to KCRTA Scholarship Foundation, and mail it to Lexa Hooten, 716 Plainfield Road, Knoxville, TN 37923. If you are planning to attend the November 21, 2024 luncheon, you will need to RSVP to 423-231-0682, or email to huntsingerd@bellsouth.net by Monday, November 18, 2024. The luncheon is free to all KCRTA members. Hope to see you at the luncheon.

Board of Directors of the Foundation:

Chairperson	David Huntsinger
Vice Chairperson	Gussie Cherry
Secretary	Connie Cole
Treasurer	Lexa Hooten
Member	Karen Peterman
Member	Mary Lou Kanipe
Member	David Sincerbox

David Huntsinger, Chairman of Scholarship Foundation

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 bimonthly luncheons. **In order to assure that everyone is served, a RSVP will be required.**



HISTORICAL PHOTOS 1) Shows the signatures of our newly retirees in attendance at our July KCRTA luncheon. 2) Shows David Huntsinger receiving a signed birthday card presented by Mike Blakenship with signatures from all guests who attended David's 85th Birthday Celebration.

Calendar

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

- September 26th, 2024: Legislative Program (The Foundry)
- November 21st, 2024 Scholarship Luncheon (The Foundry)

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of alternate months at 11:15 at The Foundry. The 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.

No matter how you feel,
Get up, Dress Up, Show up,
and Never Give Up

Be Proud of the work you
have done, the person you
are, and the difference you
have made.
Happy Retirement

*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

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

Received for July - August

In Memory of

Billie Cannon
Bill Crosland
Joe Dent
Joe Dent
Joe Dent
Joe Dent
Joe Dent
Gary Masterson
RoseMary Pressly
Cindi Schowalter
Dr. Patricia Shockley

From

Terry and Linda Tyler
Jennifer Crosland
Jennifer Crosland
Lexa Hooten
David Huntsinger
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Susan Turner
Ira Gladson
Ira Gladson
Dale Schowalter
Ira Gladson

In Honor of

David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
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David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
Kaye Williams

Sara Baskin
Mike Blakenship
Libby Burney
Ron and Lexa Hooten
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Brett LeSueur
Bill and Jane Parker
Karen Peterman
Jane Skinner
Myra Sowder
Kitty Spry
Terry and Linda Tyler
Chris Vandergriff
Elnora Williams
Margaret Willis
Emma Ruth Catlett
Kaye Williams

Donations

Necrology

Howard G. Johnson Jr.
Patricia Hawn Shockley
Joe Dent
Neil Clabo
Clifford Davis
Brenda Ballard
John Verlin Cabage, Sr.
Carolyn Ann Compton McConnell
JoAnnHenson Cooper
Helen J. Marks

