

KNOX COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

RETIREMENT TIMES

JULY 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Semisesquicentennial

Half (semi) plus one and a half (sesquin) times 100 (centennial)

As an old middle school math teacher, I would love to have built a lesson around numbers like this. The 250th anniversary of the founding of our country is also referred to as the Quarter Millennial. My family tends to celebrate birthday month rather than a day. Our American family is continuing to celebrate our 250th throughout the year. There are more backyard family picnics, county fairs, and holidays to come. There'll be more red, white, and blue bunting, patriotic décor, and, of course, our flag. Karen Peterman and Kathy Coley will share more activities this month to highlight our country's history. We'll also be collecting gently used purses, bags, totes, and costume jewelry for the Mobile Meals fundraiser, Power of the Purse.

July 23 Program

If you attended last July's luncheon, you know what a treat it was to hear from the Active Teacher Grants recipients. If you weren't with us last July, you have another opportunity to hear from some outstanding classroom teachers. This year's grant recipients, Jake Albright, Carrie Brooks, Maria Duke, and Adrienne Notess, will be with us on July 23rd. to share how they utilized their grant money to enhance their teaching.

Please join us at 11:15 AM on Thursday, July 23rd at Rothchild Catering and Conference Center on Kingston Pike. The cost of the luncheon and program is \$25.00. The deadline for making a reservation for the luncheon and program is noon on Monday, July 20th. To make a reservation, text me, Karen Peterman, at 865 363-6854 or email me at petermank1@gmail.com. The Association is held responsible for the number of meals that are submitted to Rothchild Catering. Remember that if you make a reservation and don't cancel before the July 20th deadline, you are expected to reimburse the Association for the cost of your reserved meal. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd.

Officers and Committee Chairs

President-Libby Burney

President-elect-

Past President-Karen Peterman

Secretary-Jennifer Krouse

Communications-Margaret Willis

Community Participation-Karen Peterman

Membership-Chris Vandergriff and Nora Messing

Legislative Chair-Terry Whitaker and Jane Skinner

Hosting Chair- Kitty Spry

Information and Protective Services-Pam Chipley

Parliamentarian-Mike Blankenship

Scholarship Foundation Rep-Lexa Hooten

Scholarship Foundation Chair-David Huntsinger

Executive Director/Treasurer-Karen Peterman

Newsletter editor-



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Our schools are under ATTACK. We must get out the vote to support candidates who support our public schools. We must all get out and VOTE in the upcoming elections, so we can turn this around. We MUST continue this fight!!

2026 – Federal/State Primary, County General, and Town of Farragut Municipal Election*

Early Voting: Fri July 17 – Sat Aug 1 Election Day: Thurs Aug 6

2026 – Federal/State General Election

Early Voting: Wed Oct 14 - Thurs Oct 29 Election Day: Tues Nov 3



PLEASE VOTE in both upcoming elections JULY/AUG and OCT/NOV.

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

Jane Skinner, Legislative Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP

Every year, Knox County Retired Teachers Association loses members through illness, relocation, and the passing of cherished colleagues. In fact, for every 20 members we lose, our voice becomes a little quieter.

Many retirees think, "I'm already receiving my pension, so I don't need to belong." But that couldn't be further from the truth. The benefits we enjoy today did not happen by accident. They were earned through years of advocacy, and they continue to be protected because retired educators stand together.

When membership declines, our influence declines. Legislators pay attention to numbers. The larger our membership, the stronger our voice when it comes to protecting pensions, health benefits, and the issues that matter to retired teachers.

If you value your retirement benefits, please don't assume someone else will do the work. Join, renew, and encourage a fellow retiree to become a member. Together, we can continue fighting for the benefits we've earned and deserve.

We spent our careers advocating for our students. Now it's time to advocate for ourselves and for future retirees.

Your membership matters. Your voice matters. And together, we are stronger.

Nora Messing and Chris Vandergriff, Membership Co-chairs

INFORMATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SCAM ALERT!

Active Prevention Steps

Hang Up and Verify: If an unexpected call induces panic, immediately hang up. Look up the official, verified phone number of the organization or family member independently to check the claim.

Implement Family Code Words: Establish a distinct verbal password within families to instantly verify identity during an alleged emergency call.

Secure Your Devices: Never click links in unsolicited texts or pop-ups, and absolutely never grant remote access to an unknown caller.

Report Fraud Immediately: If a scam occurs, report it right away to the local police, the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, and the FTC Fraud Report Portal to increase the rare chances of asset recovery.

Pam Chipley, Information and Protective Services Chair

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DONATIONS

In Memory of

Jane Dominick

Jane Dominick

Mayford Galyon

Michael McCurry

Michael McCurry

Ernestine Moore

Renee Johnson Sherer

Roy Benton Wolfe

Roy Benton Wolfe

Roy Benton Wolfe

From

Nelldean Bragg

Wilma Greene Myers

Wilma Greene Myers

David Huntsinger

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe

Patricia A. Thomas

Bonnie Lockwood

Nelldean Bragg

Kathy Goldstein

Mrs. Shirley Wolfe



CALENDAR

Be sure to mark your calendar for the following dates.

July 23 Active Teacher Grant Presentations 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

September 24 TRTA Executive Director, Dr. Antionette Lee 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

November 19 Scholarship Foundation 11:00 a.m.-1:00 pm.

Location:

Rothchilds Catering and Conference Center

8807 Kingston Pike

Knoxville, TN 37923

The Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. prior to each luncheon, except November. All members are invited to attend.

Contact us

Email: knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com

Website: <https://Knoxretiredteachers.com>

Facebook: Knox County (TN) Retired Teachers Association

KNOX COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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