



Retirement Times

President's Message

The state of our membership is strong! But, as with any organization, we have the opportunity to make it stronger. The last two years I was honored to serve as Membership Chair for TRTA. I presented and led discussions at regional meetings across the state. This year we participated in the S.W.O.T. strategy. This strategy helped us identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats or roadblocks to membership in our association.

There were so many wonderful suggestions and discussions. Here are some that apply to us. We have strong leadership, community support, and participation. We are strong in our giving to scholarships, teacher grants and the Teacher Supply Depot. Our weaknesses are difficulty gaining membership and finding folks who are willing to take on leadership positions. KCRTA has endless opportunities. We have opportunities to involve prospective members and to find more ways to support our members. The threats seemed to be much like the weaknesses. It's difficult to convince folks of the importance of membership in our association. TCRS, COLA, UMR (secondary health insurance) are all benefits we enjoy. Your July retirement increased by 2.9%. It's important that prospective members understand these benefits are due to the hard work of those who came before us.

The state of our membership is strong! Now it's time to take on leadership roles, recruit new members, and support each other. It is my honor to assume the role of president for the 2025-2027 term. Come join us and bring a friend to the luncheon on Thursday, July 24th at Rothchild's. Lunch begins at 11:15 with an exciting program to follow. See you there!

Libby Burney, President



KCRTA JULY LUNCHEON

If you plan to attend the KCRTA luncheon on Thursday, July 24, 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, July 21, 2025. 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 according by the number given on Monday, July 21, 2025. The cost of the luncheon is \$25.00. We need at least 30 members to attend to break even on the cost for the luncheon. Looking forward to seeing you at the luncheon. Bring another member.

David Huntsinger, Executive Secretary/Treasurer



As you know, there are two vacancies on the KCRTA Board. If you are interested in joining the Board as President-elect or if serving as Newsletter Editor appeals to you, please contact Libby Burney or Karen Peterman prior to the July 24th luncheon. libbyburney13@gmail.com or petermank1@gmail.com



KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

President:

Libby Burney

President-Elect:

Past President:

Karen Peterman

Secretary:

Myra Sowder

Communications:

Margaret Willis

Community Participation:

Karen Peterman

Hosting Chair:

Kitty Spry

Information & Protective Services:

Pam Chipley

Legislative Chair:

Terry Whitaker

Membership

Nora Messing

Chris Vandergriff

Newsletter Editor:

Parliamentarian:

Mike Blankenship

Scholarship Foundation Rep.:

Lexa Hooten

Web Page Chair:

Libby Burney

Executive Secretary /

Treasurer:

David Huntsinger

Community Participation

KCRTA's Community Participation Committee is gearing up for the second year of Active Teacher Grants. Grant information will be distributed when teachers return for In-Service. If you know teachers who are still in the classroom, please share this opportunity for a \$400 grant with them and encourage them to apply. Three of last year's five recipients, Cindy Cihak, Becca Russell and Adrienne Notess, will share their projects with attendees at our July 24th luncheon.

Karen Peterman, Community Participation Chair

Membership

The Membership Committee is pleased to report continued progress in our annual renewal efforts. Chris Vandergriff prepared and finalized the membership renewal correspondence with care and professionalism. Nora Messing and Jessie Olive diligently handled the folding, preparation, and mailing of the letters. We are encouraged by the positive response from members thus far and appreciate everyone's contributions to this important process.

Welcome to Our New Members

The Knox County Schools Retired Teachers Association is delighted to welcome the following new members to our organization. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your commitment and look forward to your active involvement. Your presence strengthens our community and helps us continue our mission of support, fellowship, and service.

- * Gary Harmon - Joined January 23, 2025
- * Katherine G. Harmon - Joined January 23, 2025
- * Jennifer L. Krouse - Joined March 18, 2025
- * Kim Wilburn-Cullom - Joined March 30, 2025
- * Donna B. Gobbell - Joined May 22, 2025
- * Vrondelia G. Chandler - Joined June 12, 2025
- * Dr. Kathy D. Sims - Reinstated June 17, 2025

We welcome each of you with enthusiasm and encouragement and we are excited for the many ways you'll enrich our association.

Chris Vandergriff and Nora Messing, KCRTA Membership Co-Chairs

Information and Protective Services Fraud & Scam Alert: Spotlight on Fake Check Scams

Fake check scams are on the rise in the U.S., with numbers doubling between 2021 and 2023 alone, so what can you do? First, know who you're dealing with --don't send money to someone you don't know. Trash offers that ask you to pay for a prize. Beware of urgency --pressure to act quickly is a red flag for all sorts of scams. If you are unsure about a check, don't deposit it. Talk it over with your banker.

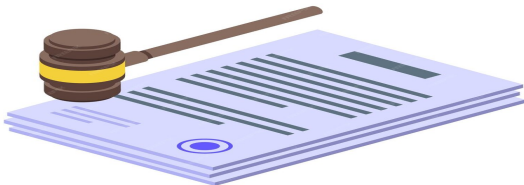
Pam Chipley, Information and Protective Services, Chair

Legislative Notice - Tennessee Legislature is Currently Out of Session Until 2026

Although the legislature is not in session, we need to continue to contact our State Representatives and Senators to ask them to support ALL students being part of our public schools and that public schools are free. If you have another issue, vouchers or whatever, please share that with your state legislators as well. These emails and phone calls should be done on a regular basis so the legislators know who you are.

Email me if you want more information: (terryewhitaker@gmail.com)

Terrye Whittaker, Legislative Chair



KCRTA ANNUAL **SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

For the
Knox County
Teacher Supply
Depot



Help us provide essential supplies to students in need and make a positive impact on their education. Join our School Supply Drive for the Teacher Supply Depot and contribute to a brighter future for these young minds.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

Please bring your items to our July 24th meeting

Please select items from the list below and bring them to our July 24th KCRTA meeting. Thank you for your donation.

ELEMENTARY ITEMS:

#2 Wooden Pencils
Cap Erasers
Composition Books
24 Count Crayons
Scissors
Pocket Folders w/o Brads

Big Pink Erasers
Wide ruled, Single Subject Spiral Notebooks
Wide ruled, Loose-leaf Notebook Paper
Glue Sticks
Pencil Boxes or Pencil Pouches
Highlighters

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

3" or 4" 3-ring Binders
Package of Dividers
Red Ink Pens
Index Cards
Cap Erasers
Package of Mechanical Pencils
College Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
Scissors

1" 3-ring Binders
Pencil Pouches
Blue Ink Pens
Pocket Folders w/o Brads
Highlighters
#2 Wooden Pencils
College Ruled Spiral Notebooks
Composition Books

Calendar

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

- NEW VENUE for July 24, 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, September 25th. 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

"Retirement means your mornings are yours, but your influence still walks the halls. You've touched so many lives, and we're grateful for all your hard work, dedication, and inspiration that you brought into the classroom."

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

In Memory of

March - April

Paul Bean
Roy Biberdorf
Alice Dollar
Dr. Margie LeCoultre
Dr. Lula Powell
Mike Zukowski

From

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Annette Cardwell
Barbara Duke
Donna Hardy
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe

May - June

Paul Bean
Sue Biggerstaff
Tom Dunne
Mayford A. Galyon
Dr. Margie LeCoultre
Roy Mullins
Roy Mullins
Dr. Lula Powell
Andrea Ray

David Huntsinger
Linda Hagaman
Sandy Forester Mussman
Wilma Greene Myers
Linda Hagaman
David Huntsinger
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Gussie Cherry
Jimmy Jane Ray

In Honor of

Roy Mullins
Karen Peterman
Karen Peterman
Shirley Underwood

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Nancy Meyer
Janet Oakes
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe

Donations

Gussie Cherry
Nancy Gerhardt

Necrology

Peggy Sue Reed
Douglas James "Jim" Monroe Jr.
Betty Lynn Ellis Hall
Peggy Ann Elliott Tillery
E. Paul Bean
Miriam Elizbeth Overton Lawhorn
Sue Biggerstaff
Roy Mullins
Linda Radcliffe
Fred E. West Jr.
Margaret Ann Christian

