Retirement Times

President's Message

New year, new opportunities. Every year the media gives us reviews of events that have happened in the old year. Cartoonist draw an aged, bearded figure representing the old year leaving the scene and making way for diapered baby representing the new. This year, Charlie Daniel drew a twist to the picture: the baby new year was looking for a backdoor to avoid making his entrance. Given the stock market drops and the government shutdown, a pessimist has a basis to say I told you so. But here in Knox County, Tennessee the optimist has grounds for a hopeful outlook. Thanks in large part to your present and past membership in your professional organizations, the TCRS remains actuarialy sound and the COLA built into the system prevents or reduces our loss of buying power over time. Our KCRTA meetings provide opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones as our membership continues to support ourselves and public schools. Come join us this month.

Don Loy, President
knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com, (865) 281-9689

Proposed Local Membership Dues Increase

Since KCRTA was founded about 60 years ago, our annual local dues have been $5.00. In the early years generous contributions of members established a savings account. For the past five (5) years, we've had to make withdrawals from savings at year's end to meet expenses. The Executive Board is therefore recommending that the membership increase the dues to $10.00, effective in the 2019-2020 membership year. The decision on the dues increase will be made by the members present at the January meeting.

Legislative

With a newly elected Governor who favors school vouchers and newly elected Legislators, it is important that our Legislators hear from us regarding vouchers and other important issues that affect retirees. Please contact your Legislator and ask them to please support any Legislation that will improve benefits for retirees. Especially protect COLA!

Check It Out!!!

The KCRTA website, **www.knoxretiredteachers.com**, is now live. We also have a new email address: **Knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com.** We also have a Facebook page that can be found at **Knox County (TN) Retired Teachers**.

If you have been receiving the newsletter by email, you will no longer receive a hard copy unless you request it. To receive a hard copy, please contact Leslie Casteel - lcasteel@casteelandcompany.com.

January Program

Nicole Wilson, Leaders for Readers Project Manager at Great Schools Partnership is our January speaker for our program. Leaders for Readers is a new volunteer program to help selected first, second, and third grade students improve their reading skills. It is supported by Knox County Schools and operated by Great Schools Partnership. This program aims to increase the number of children reading at grade level by pairing volunteers with individual students.

Volunteers with Kindergarten or Elementary experience are also requested to teach a foundations class for students with the Burundi population who have little or no English. Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 am, contact Sandra Fugate at (865) 776-4251.

KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

President:
> Don Loy

President-Elect:
> Libby Burney

Past President:
> Jeanette Casteel

Secretary:
> Glenda Childress

Community Participation:
> Charlotte Linge

Hosting Chair:
> Lu Jones

Information & Protective Services:
> Pam Chipley

Legislative Chair:
> Betty Berry

Membership:
> Chris Vandergriff

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

Calendar

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

- January 24, 2019
  Nicole Wilson,
  Leaders for Readers
  Project Manager,
  Greater Schools
  Partnership
- March 28, 2019
  TBA
- June 11, 2019
  TRTA Annual Meeting
  Murfreesboro

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:
"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of becoming"
Goethe

Inclement Weather Policy

If Knox County Schools are closed, then the KCRTA meeting is canceled.

Membership Directories

Directories are on the way. They should be available for pick up at the January meeting. If you would like a copy mailed, contact David Huntsinger.

Information and Protective Services

Beware of "skimmers", not "scammers". Skimmers are devices that thieves place on what looks to be card swipes on gas pumps, ATMs, etc. in order to steal your card information. As we traveled over the holidays, within thirty minutes of using our card at a gas pump, thieves already had a fake card and had attempted to use it in Missouri and Kansas. More reputable gas facilities use cameras and check their pumps daily to ensure that skimmers have not been placed on the pumps. Some of the "older" stations have not switched to the chip technology that prevents skimming. The horizontal readers are ones that accept the new chip technology. Watch for these card readers and newer pumps to decrease your chances for being "skimmed".

Pam Chipley,
Information and Protective Service Chair

Scholarship Report

IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY
Ann Balitsaris	Jaque Bradford
Bill Crosland	Ron Campbell
Bob Goff	Jacque Bradford
Bonnie Goff	Jane Matthews
Carol Sue Hicks	Ron Campbell
Reuben Hunter	Elaine Ralston
Vincent Kanipe	Jacque Bradford
	Ron & Lexa Hooten
John R. McCloud	Jacque Bradford
Joan McMullen	Ron Campbell
William E. Monday	Shannondale Retired Teachers/
	Shirley Lawson
Cindy Underwood	Jacque Bradford
	Norma Kelley

IN HONOR OF	GIVEN BY
Pat Hunter	Elaine Ralston

DONATION	GIVEN BY
	Donnie & Connie Graham
	Kaye Williams
	Kathleen Bailey
	Kathleen West

Necrology

Anne Balitsaris	Anna Mayes	John R. McCloud
Mary "Jean" McManus	Katherine North	Frank Sharp