

Retirement Times

President's Message

We have just begun a new decade. In the last one, retired teachers have largely maintained their buying power since the legislature has maintained TCRS and annually supported the Cost of Living Allowance. However, the state's support of k-12 education has been far below the level it should have been. The Public School Advocate of December 31 reports that from 2015-2019 the state diverted 4 times as much revenue into cash reserves as added to public school funding: \$3 billion added to an already \$2.5 billion surplus vs. \$750 million to Tennessee schools. This leaves Tennessee 45th in the nation in per pupil funding with schools thousands short of personnel and countless other critical needs. We are asked to support TEA's effort to get an increase in K-12 funding of \$5 million (9%) by attending a rally on Capitol Hill on Monday, March 16, 2020. You can get more details and sign up for the rally at teateachers.org. Please join me at the rally.

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

Proposed Bylaws Change

On September 26, 2019 the Executive Board approved the following changes to the KCRTA Bylaws to combine the functions of the COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE and COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE into a single COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE. The membership will vote on the changes at the January 2020 meeting.

Article V. Standing Committees

Change Section 4 to read:

Section 4. THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE shall:

Promote and record the participation of the membership in school and community activities consistent with the purposes of the KCRTA.

Promote Association and Scholarship Foundation activities through various media.

Delete Section 8.

Since chairs of standing committees are voting members of the Executive Board, this change also means one less member on the Executive Board.

Email Newsletter

As the membership roster has updated, we have received emails that are not current so some of the electronic version of the newsletters "bounced" back. Several of you need to update your email address at knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com. Because of a snafu with Yahoo mail, we have switched to Gmail. If you are on AOL or Juno, please add knoxretiredteachers.com to your contact list and resend us your email to receive the electronic version.

Check It Out!!!

The KCRTA website, www.knoxretiredteachers.com has lots of information about current meetings, etc. We also have a new email address: Knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com. Our Facebook page can be found at **Knox County (TN) Retired Teachers**. It has updated information regarding upcoming meetings, recent deaths, and other news. Just ask to join and you'll be able to post comments, etc.

January Program

KCRTA's January 23rd luncheon is at the **Southern Depot** beginning at 11:15 am. Our guest speaker is Richard Cook, author of *Ignored Heroes of World War II*, that describes the amazing, epic, and inspirational story about ending World War II. Oak Ridge is the most important site of the 20th century American history but few Tennesseans know the story. Part of his talk will focus on the challenges of creating a school system that in 2 years went from 800 students to over 9,000.

Libby Burney, President-Elect, Program Chair



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:

Jane Skinner

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 23, 2020
Richard Cook, author,
*Ignored Heroes of
World War II*
- *** Meeting at Southern Depot**
- March 26, 2020
TBA
- *** Meeting at Southern Depot**
- May 28, 2020
Social for newly
retired teachers
- July 23, 2020
Legislative Forum
- September 24, 2020
TBA
- November 19, 2020
Scholarship
Foundation Luncheon
and Awards
Ceremony

In January and March, our meeting will be held at the Southern Depot, 318 West Depot Avenue, at 11:15 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.

David Huntsinger

Quote of the Month:
*"Memories of our lives, of our
works, and our deeds will con-
tinue in others".*

Rosa Parks

Legislative

The KCRTA Legislative Committee has been very busy this past December and January. A team of 3 persons: Jane Skinner, Valerie Biberdorf, and Don Loy have been meeting with Tennessee Senators and Representatives. Everyone we met with had very fond memories of Betty Berry and her work as the Legislative lead for KCRTA; she is greatly missed by all of them. The general purpose of our meetings was to introduce ourselves to our Senators and Representatives and to discuss any upcoming legislation which might impact our members. **Everyone** we spoke to will continue to support the retirement fund and COLA. We are so fortunate to have so many great representatives and we look forward to working with them this upcoming 2020 session. Of particular note was our meeting with Representative Rick Staples, who recorded a video for Facebook regarding our meeting. You can find it at: <https://www.facebook.com/teamrickstaples/videos/455178848415183/UzpfSTU0MjUwNDQ3MT0xMDEINzExNTYzMTUwOTO3Mg/>

Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair

Scholarship Report

IN MEMORY OF

Janie Banks
Mercedes Bean
Bonnie Goff
Larry Graham
Barbara Webster

IN HONOR OF

Lexa Hooten
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Sylvia Upton

DONATION

GIVEN BY

Sylvia Upton
Jaque Bradford
Jane Matthews
Roy Mullins
Jaque Bradford

GIVEN BY

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Donna Hardy
Donna Hardy

GIVEN BY

Kathleen Bailey
Donna Cotner
Shirley Underwood
Tom Underwood
Kathleen West
Linda Thiele Williams

Necrology

Mercedes Bean

*Correction from November Newsletter - Molly **Biscoe**. Our apology for the mistake.*