

Retirement Times

President's Message

Excited, nervous, anxious! I felt all of these emotions and more during our May 27th luncheon. It was exciting to see so many old friends and welcome new members. Many of whom just completed the most challenging year of teaching and learning. Nervous that everyone would feel safe but the first hug took care of that! I was anxious that we would get through everything on the program but sadly we did not. We didn't get a chance to introduce each person individually. Finally, I'm grateful for the generous donations to Austin-East. We will be presenting almost \$300.00 in gift cards to the administration prior to beginning of school in August. For our next luncheon on July 22, we will get to know each other a little more and elbow bump, air hug, or give good old hugs! How about a little good news?

Effective with your July TCRS pension, we will see a 1.4% cost of living adjustment (COLA). Our ability to receive COLA is due in no small part to the efforts of KCRTA/TRTA. Many states do not have these benefits. TCRS is among the top pension systems in the nation. Your continued membership makes all the difference! Do you have retired teacher friends who have not yet joined the association? Please encourage them to do so. Our retirement, COLA, and insurance benefits depend on all of us being involved. July 22 Luncheon Program is "Health and Wellness". The folks at Your Home Team Care will provide our luncheon program. They will discuss ways to care for those we love and ourselves as we age. Please make your reservations by either emailing Libby at burneylib@comcast.net, or call 584-4875.

JULY Special Project. School supplies are already being stocked at the stores. I look at them and think about the things I bought for my students each year. It's so tempting to buy dry erase markers, pencils, or notebook paper. Give in to that temptation and bring an item to the July meeting to be donated to the Knox County Teacher Supply Depot.

Libby Burney, President

Membership

You should have received a second reminder if you have not paid your dues. Send your dues check immediately to **KCRTA, 711 Hall of Fame Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917**. Please consider changing to "**Payroll Deduction**". Your dues can be deducted from your TCRS check. If you are an NEA/R member, \$2.92 per month is deducted from your check. Full membership costs just \$5.83 per month. You don't have to remember to send a check every year! If you have any questions, please contact Chris Vandergriff at (865) 924-4600 or chris.vandergriff@gmail.com. If you know a retired teacher, please invite them to lunch with you!

Jeanette Casteel & Chris Vandegriff, Co-Chairs, Membership

Legislative

Seems as though all is quiet on the legislative front. So quiet I almost did not write an article for this month's newsletter. I do plan on contacting all of our Knoxville state representatives and senators soon to invite them to the September luncheon. I think you will all enjoy meeting with them, getting to know them and asking them questions.

Locally, in response to COVID-19, the U.S. Congress has passed legislation that will provide one-time public education funding to address learning loss and improve in-person learning. Knox County Schools will receive \$114,000,000 over the next four years and is seeking strong community feedback on how to best utilize the funds. KCS has conducted surveys, met with advisory teams, and held public meetings in an effort to gain public input on how to spend these monies. If this is the first you are hearing about this, you are not alone.

Hope everyone is having a wonderful, relaxing, and COVID-free summer!!

Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair



KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

President:

Libby Burney

President-Elect:

TBA

Past President:

Don Loy

Secretary:

Glenda Childress

Community Relations:

Margaret Willis

Hosting Chair:

Lu Jones

Information & Protective Services:

Pam Chipley

Legislative Chair:

Jane Skinner

Membership:

Jeanette Casteel,
Chris Vandergriff

Newsletter Editor:

Leslie Casteel

Parliamentarian:

Mike Blakenship

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:

- July 22, 2021
Health & Wellness By
Your Home Team Care
- September 22, 2021
Meet Your Legislators
- November 17, 2021
Scholarship Luncheon

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of alternate months at 11:15. The Executive Board meets at 9:30 am. All members are welcome to attend. November is the third Thursday.

Quote of the Month:
"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."
-Albert Einstein

Any change of address, email address, or phone number should be sent to KCRTA, 711 Hall of Fame Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917 or to Chris.vandergriff@gmail.com

A hardcopy of *Retirement Times* is available upon request. Contact Jeanette Casteel at (865) 705-9632 or jcasteel1@gmail.com

Community and Protective Services

Tips for connecting with lawmakers:

With budgets upended by the pandemic and needs soaring, it's time for educators to speak up about needs for children and us as retired educators.

Here are a few tips that might help with the process.

- Introduce yourself to new legislators and share your story. Tell a brief story help them how hard it is to teach when students do not have the needed resources. Let them know how they can help.
- Reach out early and often.
- Ask lawmakers to vote for bills that will boost public schools and vote against those that harm schools.
- Stick to a few key facts.
- Be accurate so your lawmakers will see you as a trusted source of information. Too much data can be overwhelming.
- Face-to-face meetings might not be possible. So consider sending a one minute video to your lawmaker before the session begins. Join virtual meetings and town halls.
- Follow up with a thank you when legislators stand up for public education.

Educators know the power of positive feedback.
NEA Today for Retired Members, January 2021

Pam Chipley, Chairman

Scholarship Donations

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Marianna Davis
Dr. Belva Holleman

Wanda Moody
Orville Rhea
Atha Rhea
Caroline Trousdale
Stanley Underwood
S.L. Valentine
Earl Wells

IN HONOR OF

DONATIONS

GIVEN BY

Judy Fleenor
Judy Fleenor
Lexa Hooten
Patsy Vittetoe
Nancy Rhea
Nancy Rhea
Gussie Cherry
Lexa Hooten
Lexa Hooten
Lexa Hooten
Pat Payne
Patsy Vittetoe

GIVEN BY

GIVEN BY

Anonymous
Kathleen Bailey
Nancy Gerhardt
Jimmie Jane Rhea
Barbara Wyrick

Necrology

Corbin Allen
Herman Baker
Belva Holleman
Mary McConnell
Nola Shown

Ruth Armstrong
Edna Clark
Stella Iroff
Peggy Melhorn

Phyllis Baer
Mariana Davis
Ann Lewis
Pamela Rainwater