

Retirement Times

President's Message

Differences

It's an undeniable fact that educators make a difference. For years, we made a difference in the lives of our students. Some of us had the added opportunity to make a difference in the professional lives of our colleagues. In retirement we have been given the opportunity to live our lives differently. We can go shopping during the workday, when stores are less crowded and street traffic is lighter. We no longer need to vacation in June and July. We are free to enjoy the off-season when prices are lower and students are in the classroom. Lunch breaks can now exceed 25 minutes, and we can actually have lunch in a restaurant. Have I mentioned the enjoyment of innumerable bathroom breaks? In retirement, we may find the time to make a difference beyond the classroom by volunteering. For example, we learned at our May luncheon that Zoo Knoxville and Meals on Wheels love teacher volunteers. Embracing the differences brought on by retirement can be difficult. As experienced retirees, we need to offer our expertise to the newly retired.

At our July luncheon, we will be recognizing new retirees and celebrating the differences they made in the lives of their students. It will also be our first chance to share our retirement wisdom with the recently retired. Encourage your newly retired colleagues to join us on July 25th at the Foundry for lunch and a musical program. Linda Tyler, Myra Sowder and Bill Parker have gone the extra mile to make this luncheon a special celebration. First-time attendees will be our guests. I hope to see you and your friends at 11:15 on July 25th at The Foundry.

Karen Peterman, President

July Program

As we honor new retirees at our July meeting, please make plans to attend this meeting on July 25th at 11:15 at The Foundry. Bring all your retired friends with you that will fit in your car, as the entertainment will be a wonderful experience. We will have two outstanding performers from Knox County Schools. Sisters Eva and Amy Jo Rogers will be providing our entertainment for this gathering. Both young ladies have been performers with the Knoxville Children's Theatre. Eva debuted as a 7 year old with the theatre and has performed in 14 productions, while Amy Jo has been in three performances at the Knoxville Children's Theatre.

Eva is a rising senior at Farragut High School and Amy Jo is a rising 5th grader at Farragut Intermediate School. Eva is active in Musical Theatre, National Honor Society, and AP classes at Farragut High School. Amy Jo most recently honored the passing of her 105 year old great aunt by singing "Down to the River to Pray". Eva often presents special music in her church. She has also been a guest singer on WDVX's Sean McCullough's KIDSTUFF three times.

On a competitive note, Eva has also participated in Dolly Parton's Mountain Soul Contest two times, winning as a 12 year old. Her prize was a Dolly Parton signed guitar.

David and Wendy Rogers are the proud parents of these girls, and Sam and Margaret (Retired Librarian at Farragut Primary) Rogers are proud and loving grandparents.

Bill Parker, President-Elect



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KCRTA Membership

Interested in joining KCRTA, please contact Chris Vandergriff (chris.vandergriff@gmail.com) or Nora Messings (ndbmess@comcast.net) for assistance. Please, invite some of your retired teacher friends to our July luncheon. Remember, their first time at one of our luncheons is "FREE".

Chris Vandergriff and Nora Messing, KCRTA Membership Co-Chairs

KCRTA MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS: The KCRTA Membership Committee hopes that you will take just a few moments and write down one of your special moments that you experienced during your teaching career. It might be an interaction with a student, staff or an award that you are proud of receiving, or a funny, sentimental, happy moment, a leadership moment, a friendship moment, or why you became a teacher, why it is important to be a KCRTA member, etc., etc. KCRTA members can submit as many "moments" as they would like—the more the merrier!! The Membership Committee is going to take the members' moments and publish them in our newsletter and share a few at our KCRTA luncheons. We are so excited about this project and want as many KCRTA members to participate as possible. Thank you!

Please email to Sowdermossy868@gmail.com or mail to Myra Sowder, 8045 Majors Road Corryton, TN 37721-2713

KCRTA MEMBER NAME: _____

DATE: _____

YOUR BIRTHDATE: _____

YEARS AND SCHOOLS YOU TAUGHT AT: _____

KCRTA Membership Moment(s)

Information & Protective Services

Subject: Check Washing Fraud Alert!

Several legitimate news sources have recently been reporting on the "check washing" fraud problem. Briefly this involved intercepting paper checks from the mail system and altering the payee and the amount and cashing it directly from your bank. No person is really looking at canceled checks to determine if there is evidence of alterations. It is all done by cameras and computers.

The problem can begin with your street mailbox with the flag raised. Thieves can drive by and remove the outgoing mail (perhaps bill payments). Senior citizens are more likely to use paper statements and paper checks and have the mail retrieved by your mail person. Even drop boxes outside Post Offices have been compromised and outgoing mail stolen.

There are two ways to reduce the risk. The first way is avoiding the use of street mail boxes for outgoing checks. The best way to send mail that includes checks is to use the interior drop slots inside a post office. Use your street box with flag up only for non-check mail.

Another way to reduce risk is to use pens that are difficult to erase. Evidently most ball point pens are easy to erase using chemicals. Several university studies have shown that the use of liquid ink with "roller ball" tips are the most difficult to wash and alter. In one study the best pen of this type was the Uniball 207. This is not an endorsement.

I hate all this! For some payees I still prefer paper statements and paper checks. My husband pays a lot of bills online, but there are some payees that I still prefer to handle with old-fashioned paper!

Pam Chipley, Information & Protective Services

Expanded Membership Eligibility

At our May luncheon and business meeting, the Members in attendance amended the Association's Bylaws by adopting the following new language for ARTICLE II Membership Section 3:

Any retired teacher, administrator, supervisor, or educational support personnel previously employed in the public school sector or in higher education may become a member upon the payment of dues as set out in ARTICLE X herein.

This amendment opens KCRTA membership to retired educational support personnel and individuals who were employed in higher education. While you may be unfamiliar with the term educational support personnel, you might recognize these individuals as "classified" employees. Educational Support Personnel are educational workers holding positions that do not require teaching certification. They are the teaching assistants, office staff, cafeteria workers, janitorial staff and others who make our schools work.

Please share this good news with those you know who are now eligible for membership in our association. Their membership will strengthen our ability to promote efforts that are good for public education and that protect our retirement benefits.

July 2024 Legislative News

I want to encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming Federal/State Primary, County General, and Town of Farragut Municipal Elections. These elections typically have low voter turnout, so **we can have a BIG impact** if we get out and vote in these elections especially for our school board candidates. Early voting is Friday, July 12-Saturday, July 27, and election day is Thursday, August 1.

We need to support candidates who support our public schools and not those with a partisan agenda.

District 2 covers the North Knoxville communities served by Central and Fulton High Schools. **Incumbent Jennifer Owen (1)** is running again. She taught for 18 years and has been on the school board for 8 years. Also running are Pat Polis (1) and Anne Templeton (D). **District 3** covers the Cedar Bluff schools. Incumbent Daniel Watson has decided not to run. **Patricia Fontenot-Ridley (D)** has been a teacher for 30 years and retired this past May from Belle Morris Elementary School. She grew up going to District 3 schools before graduating from Farragut High School. Angie Goethert (R) has volunteered for years in her children's classrooms and served as the parent-teacher association president at Hardin Valley Academy. In 2021, she helped lead an unsuccessful lawsuit against Knox County Schools over its COVID-19 mask mandate. **District 5** covers far-west communities including Farragut. Incumbent Susan Horn has decided not to run again. Terrye Whitaker (D) has a bachelor's degree in education. She moved to Knoxville in 1981. Whitaker has worked for the University of Tennessee and has served as a substitute teacher with the district. Whitaker's daughter graduated from Farragut High School. Lauren Morgan (R) has three children in Farragut Schools and has been volunteering in various capacities. **District 8** The eastern-most district in the county has the Carter and Gibbs schools. Travis Wright (7) won the primary and has already taken the oath of office to fill the void left by Mike McMillan. *The **bolded candidates** are those who have served as teachers.

Please **VOTE** in the Upcoming elections.

Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair



Calendar

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

- July 25th, 2024:
New Retirees Celebration
- September 26th, 2024:
Legislative Program
- November 21st, 2024
Scholarship Luncheon

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

In November the meeting is on the third Thursday. The Executive Board does not meet during November.

*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 is a blank sheet of paper. It is a chance to redesign your life into something new and different" - Patrick Foley

*"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops" - Henry Adams

*"A truly great teacher is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget" - Unknown

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

Received for May - June 2024

In Memory of

Leolah Hodge
Conrad Majors

From

Martha Coppock
Martha Coppock

In Honor of

Kathleen Greenwell
Anna Marie Hughes

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe

Donations

Nelldean Bragg

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Gary Masterson
Don Myrick



KCRTA Scholarship Foundation

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