

Retirement Times

President's Message

When I was asked to allow myself to be nominated to be your president I answered yes because of two fundamental beliefs. First, free, quality, public education is by far the most necessary ingredient for freedom in a democracy. Second, anyone who spends their working life in public service – including teachers – deserves a secure retirement that will support a decent standard of living. As I have been your president, I have become more and more convinced that keeping either of those beliefs as realities in Tennessee depends upon increasing our active membership (along with other locals across the state). A big block to making that happen is that at the moment of retirement very few people want to commit to any organization – they just want to rest awhile. A year or two later, when they might be ready to join us, we do not have the contact information needed to ask them. We have the names and schools of the 235 people who retired from Knox County Schools in 2019. Contact information for most of them can be obtained from the internet with a little effort if the membership committee can get enough volunteers to divide the task so that no one is asked to invest an unreasonable amount of effort. If you are willing to make a one-time commitment to that task please notify me at knox-retiredteachers@gmail.com.

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

Legislative

We (KCRTA members) will be meeting with our legislators this month March 24 in Nashville. I personally find meeting with our legislators interesting, fun, and educational. There are numerous bills which impact education such as SB1787/HB1550 which deletes the Tennessee Education Savings Account Pilot Program (Vouchers), HB2026/SB1916 requests 1 nurse and 1 counselor for each school funded by BEP, HB2025/SB1917 increased number of teachers funded by BEP to 1 per 20, HB2051/SB2701 fund 1 social worker per 1500 students, HB 2229/SB2160 dictates K-2 reading curriculum (this is bad bill, no "1 size fits all" solution to literacy), and HB 1687 removes Science/Social Studies standards for K-2 (another bad bill). There may also be a petition drive for better funded schools. If this is something that might interest you, we can always use more people on our committee. If you would like to participate or have questions, please email me at jaskinne@hotmail.com or text or call (865) 254-3854.

The Tennessee Education Association (TEA) is working across the *Volunteer State* to improve public education. We are trying something we have not done in nearly a decade, we are working toward a huge rally in Nashville during our spring break in Knox County. We are asking educators, parents, students and community members to join us on March 16, 2020 in our rally for our schools. Please RSVP by texting **Rally** to **84693** or go to www.TEAteachers.org/, then click on Rally for Our Schools to register. Contact TEA Beth Brown at TNEA.org or (615) 242-8392.

Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair

March Program

Storyteller and avid retiree Caneta Glenn will join us for our next luncheon on March 26, 11:15 am at the **Foundry**. Caneta was a teacher for 32 years, mostly 5th grade. The last 20 were at Norris Elementary. She says it has taken her a while to find something she's really good at — retirement! "I'm really good at retirement. Now I spend my time volunteering at historic homes, telling stories, and playing with grandbabies."

*** Please note, we are back at the Foundry for our luncheons ***

Libby Burney, President-Elect, Program Chair



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Don Loy

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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:

- March 26, 2020
Caneta Glenn,
Storyteller
- ***Meeting at the Foundry**
- 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 March, our meeting will be back at the Foundry on the Fair Site, 747 Worlds Fair Park Dr, Knoxville, TN 37902, 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:
"Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school".
Albert Einstein

Community and Protective Services

One of the most disturbing scams for late middle aged persons are those involving romance! Someone was scammed for about \$70,000 several years ago by an unscrupulous former insurance agent that used his trusted position to steal from several of his former clients. Today the internet and dating websites make this type scam even more wide spread. The recent AARP Newsletter had several suggestions to help avoid disappointment. If you do use a Match maker website you should check out the name and information of the interested person independent of the original website. You can also use the photo and have it searched on the internet. If you need help, go to the local senior center. They have computers and senior citizen helpers with great computer skills that are willing to help. Another clue that the relationship is not well intentioned, is when the other person asks for financial help. Never allow any money to change hands and never loan your car or credit cards to anyone.

Pam Chipley,
Information and Protective Services Chair

Scholarship Report

IN MEMORY OF

Anna Bowling
Annice Scruggs
Ramah Seymour
Sarah Smith

IN HONOR OF

Valerie Biberdorf
Jeanette Casteel
Alan Cheatham
Julia Craze
Connie Graham
Earl Wells
Elnora Williams
Sallie Young

DONATION

GIVEN BY

Norma Kelley
Gussie Cherry
Jaque Bradford
Jacque Bradford

GIVEN BY

* For service on the Foundation Board *

David Huntsinger
David Huntsinger
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David Huntsinger

GIVEN BY

Neldean Bragg
Glenda Childress
Linda Denta
LaNoka Rhodes

Necrology

Lillian Bailey Cates Anna Ruth Bowling Betty Sims Griffin
Ramah Seymour Harry Witt