

Retirement Times

President's Message

It's time to celebrate! KCRTA has not had a luncheon since January 2020. Our Scholarship Foundation celebration last November was drastically paired down from a luncheon to a brief small gathering. Now that many of us are fully vaccinated, we are venturing out to attend church, shop, and dine still wearing masks, of course! So, it's time to get together again. Our May luncheon is going to be held at the Foundry on May 27 at 11:15 am. We will be careful and wear masks when not eating and give each other a little space when possible. Let us know if you plan to attend so that we can give the Foundry an approximate number. Invite a recently retired teacher to join us! Lunch is on us and they can join KCRTA on the spot!

RSVP to Libby at knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com or text / call (865) 599-4604.
Libby Burney, President

Special Service Project for May

We have all been touched by the recent events at Austin-East Magnet High School. Lets "shower" them with gift cards to show our love and support. Suggestions for gift cards include Amazon, Kroger, Walmart, etc. We will present those to the administrators for use at their discretion. Even \$5.00 can help a student or teacher in need of school supplies.

Program

Elvis just **MIGHT** be in the building! Brett LeSeuer will be performing for us. He is a brand new KCRTA member. Mr. LeSeuer has received numerous awards for his performances. He is known for his "Elvis" voice. He works for the Elvis Pressley Company. Come and be entertained by the Legend, "Elvis Pressley" as you enjoy lunch together.

Membership

You should have received your annual membership renewal letter. 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!

Legislative

This has been quite a Legislative Session. It's disappointing that our Governor and our Legislators did not do more to better fund our public schools. Tennessee currently funds its public school system at a level that consistently places it in the bottom five most poorly funded states in the country. During the current Legislative Session, numerous bills have been introduced by members from both sides of the aisle to provide additional funds for some of our public school's urgent needs. Among those needs adequately funding school counselors, social workers, and school nurses, and sufficient numbers of interventionists to support state mandated programing.

The state is running a budget surplus that is on track to exceed 2 billion this and future years and, the state is sitting on cash reserves exceeding 7 billion dollars.

There is no legitimate excuse for failing to fund our schools properly.

In light of this surplus, there was hope that this would be the year that Governor Lee would finally address the inadequacies of the Basic Education Program (BEP), the state's K-12 funding formula. Tennessee has under-invested in our children for far too long. The BEP formula needs to be adjusted to more accurately reflect the real needs and costs of providing a good public school education. The BEP formula should be adjusted by 20% or more to bring Tennessee's support of public schools into line with our students basic needs.

The focus now is setting next year's budget. It is never too late to write or call the Governor and you Legislators and let them know how you feel about better funding for our schools: Governor Bill Lee, bill.lee@tn.gov and copy his assistant, caroleanne.orsborn@tn.gov

Find your Senator and Representatives at <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/Apps/fmlv3/lookup.aspx>



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:

- May 27, 2021
Elvis Presley (aka Brett LeSeuer will entertain
- July 22, 2021
TBA
- September 22, 2021
TBA

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:
"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school"
-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

The FCC is Getting Serious About Robo Calls

This is a glimmer of good news about the most prevalent method of fraud for retired adults. Per the NY Post and other media outlets, the FCC has issued an order to phone service providers to that they must refuse to accept traffic that is not listed in the new "Robo Call Mitigation" Database by September 28, 2021. This should greatly reduce the unwanted fraud phone calls. Just a few years ago another Federal expert group had declared the conventional telephone so obsolete that nothing could be done to prevent telephone fraud. Perhaps even newer technologies has improved the situation. Keeping this in mind, continue to be vigilant and never consider a telephone call from a stranger to be legitimate.

Pam Chipley, Chairman

Scholarship Donations

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Sam Bratton
Joyce Bromley
Billye Chance
Dr. Nita Ganguly
Deborah Gwathney
Edythe McNabb
Donna Snodgrass
Stanley Underwood
Benna Van Vuuren
Earl Wells

IN HONOR OF

DONATIONS

Necrology

Dr. Sam Bratton
Weeks Edgar
Frank Kobosky
Donna Snodgrass
Stanley Underwood

Joyce Bromley
Deborah Gwathney
Herky Payne
Ronald Spire
Benna Van Vuuren

GIVEN BY

Ira Gladson
Judy Fleenor
Ira Gladson
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Madeline Elder
Judy Fleenor
Judy Fleenor
Ira Gladson
Judy Fleenor
Emma R. Catlett
Chilhowee Retired Teachers
Ira Gladson
David Huntsinger
Dan Williams
Kaye Williams

GIVEN BY

GIVEN BY

Peggy Tillery

Janet Dagley
Inez Jones
Mary Scruggs
Carolyn Truesdale
Earl Wells