

Retirement Times

President's Message

Building Membership

If you are reading this article, you know the benefits of membership in your professional organization. You know that your interest in and your responsibilities to your profession didn't end with retirement. You may also know that membership in professional organizations has been on the decline.

To ensure that our local, state and national affiliates remain strong, we must recruit and retain members. How do we do that? We start by becoming ambassadors for the Association. Talk with fellow retirees. Share why you became an Association member. Were you looking for ways to protect your retirement security? Perhaps you were seeking an opportunity to use your time to advocate for public education. Maybe you joined to remain in contact with retired colleagues. Whatever your reason, share it with potential members. I have repeatedly been told that people who haven't joined have simply never been asked. Ask, and, on the advice of Libby Burney, always carry a membership form.

One of the benefits of your membership is the opportunity to join me bimonthly for lunch and an informative program. For our May luncheon, Linda Tyler has invited Autumn Jackson-Snider, Volunteer Coordinator at Zoo Knoxville, to share information about the zoo and volunteer opportunities. Please join me at The Foundry at 11:15 AM on May 23rd and bring a friend or two.

Karen Peterman, President

Historical Photos

Today's commemorative cachet shows the signatures of those who attended the March 28th KCRTA luncheon. KCRTA Members "Be Loud and Be Proud!"



Mike Blankenship, Parliamentarian

May Program

Our speaker for the May 23rd luncheon will be Autumn Jackson-Snider. She is the Volunteer Coordinator at Zoo Knoxville. She is a Knoxville native and a Carter High School Alum. She began her time at ZK as a Youth Volunteer in 2006. She worked various positions in the Education Department doing birthday parties, and various educational programs until she became the Youth Volunteer Coordinator in 2012. She went to Carson-Newman University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. She then went on to get her Masters in Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Autumn has been the Volunteer Coordinator since 2021 overseeing more than 250 youth and adult volunteers. Most of her background is in educating, presenting, and training, but her passion for Zoo Knoxville is strong! She is married to Philip and they have a hound dog named Comet. In her off time you will find her teaching baton at her studio, Spectra Twirlers, with her mom. She is vivacious and enthusiastic. Come have a new reason to love Zoo Knox!



KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

President:

Karen Peterman

President-Elect:

Bill Parker

Past President:

Libby Burney

Secretary:

Gussie Cherry

Executive Secretary/Treasurer:

David Huntsinger

Membership:

Chris Vandergriff

Nora Messing

Community Participation:

Linda Tyler

Myra Sowder

Nora Messing

Communication:

Margaret Willis

Newsletter Editor:

Myra Sowder

Legislation:

Jane Skinner

Information & Protection Services:

Pam Chipley

Social Media:

Libby Burney

Hospitality:

Linda Tyler

Scholarship Foundation Rep:

Lexa Hooten

Parliamentarian:

Mike Blankenship

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 May luncheon. Remember, their first time at one of our luncheons is "FREE".

Chris Vandergriff and Nora Messing, KCRTA Membership Co-Chairs

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 Moments

Information & Protective Services

Subject: TCRS Data Breach

Please be aware of the following announcement: Due to the past TCRS data breach new Medicare cards are on the way with new numbers. I am confident that this is due to the many retired teachers and state workers who let TRTA and TSEA know their concerns through many letters, phone calls, and emails. This is an example of what belonging to the local chapters and working through state affiliated can do. Change can come from using the power of working together. Message from Marilyn Toppins (mtoppins51@gmail.com)

Pam Chipley, Information & Protective Services

KCRTA Scholarship Foundation

KCRTA Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors

Chairperson	David Huntsinger	Huntsingerd@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chairperson	Gussie Cherry	
Secretary	Connie Cole	
Treasurer	Lexa Hooten	lexahooten@bellsouth.net
Member	Liz Honeycutt	
Member	Libby Burney	
Member	David Sincerbox	
Member	Karen Peterman	

May 2024 Legislative News

Tennessee School Voucher Bill is DEAD!! (for this year)

Governor Lee does plan to pursue the program again next year. We have been fighting vouchers for a very long time (my earliest email regarding vouchers was in 2015). We **MUST** continue this fight!!

WE now need to turn our attention to supporting candidates who support our public schools. Please **VOTE** in the upcoming elections.

2024 - Federal/State Primary, County General, and Town of Farragut Municipal Election

Early Voting: Friday, July 12 - Saturday, July 27 Election Day: Thursday, August 1

2024 - Presidential and Federal/State General Election

Early Voting: Wednesday, October 16 - Thursday, October 31 Election Day: Tuesday, November 5th

And one more thing to come out at the end of their session: **Tennessee passed a bill to allow teachers to carry concealed weapons!!**

Please **VOTE** in both upcoming elections July/August and October/November

If you are interested in getting involved, Call or email me: 865-250-3854

jaskinne@hotmail.com Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair

Community Participation

Are you interested in volunteering in your community and making a difference?

Our **KCRTA Community Participation Committee** is looking for more committee members. If interested please contact **Linda Tyler (lctyler@charter.net)** or **Myra Sowder (Sowdermossy868@gmail.com)** for more information about serving on our **KCRTA Community Participation Committee**.

Listed below are 12 Unexpected Benefits of Volunteering That Will Inspire You:
(taken from article by Joanne Fritz)

Volunteer for Others But Also for Yourself

1. Volunteering Builds Community
2. Ends Loneliness
3. Increases Socializing
4. Builds Bonds, Creates Friends
5. Devlops Emotional Stability
6. Improves Self-Esteem
7. Helps Those Most Affected By Mental Illness
8. Promotes Longevity
9. Reduces Risk of Alzheimer's
10. Leads to Graceful Aging
11. Burns That Stubborn Belly Fat
12. Volunteering Adds Fun to Your Years

Volunteering saves lives, both the lives of the people you help and yours. When you invest the time and energy to volunteer, you are investing in yourself just as much as in the causes you support.

ENJOY the pictures below of some of our active KCRTA Volunteers participating in Read Across America Day.



Read Across America Day
Readers:

Linda Tyler - Beaumont Magnet
Academy

Gussie Cherry - Sarah Moore
Green Magnet Academy

Calendar

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

- May 23, 2024:
Zoo Knox Volunteer Coordinator and Carter High School alum Autumn Jackson Snider
- July 25th, 2024: New Retirees Celebration
- September 26th, 2024: TBA
- 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

*"If every American donated five hours a week, it would equal the labor of twenty million full-time volunteers."

*"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action."

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

Received for March - April 2024

In Memory of

Betty Berry
Jeanette Casteel
Minerva Reece
Janette Wyatt

From

Elnora Williams
Elnora Williams
Sara Baskin
Nancy Meyer

In Honor of

Annette Cardwell
Karen Peterman

Elnora Williams
Elnora Williams

Donations



Necrology

George Robert "Bob" Martin
Nancy Burkhart Reeder
Sara Starnes Baugh Wilson
Claxyton Allen Moultry
Kathryn Bryant Russell Lester
Conrad Leonard Majors
Mary Sue Beggs Miller
Margaret Elizabeth Martin