

Retirement Times

President's Message

I graduated from high school in 1969. That fall, I entered East Tennessee State University and later transferred to the University of Tennessee. My parents were factory workers who believed in the power of Education and I was the first from either side of my family to attend college. This month, members of KCRTA will reaffirm our belief in the power of Education by awarding nine scholarships to individuals who are currently preparing for careers in education.



If you have paid for a child or grandchild to attend college, you know the cost of a college education has increased significantly since we matriculated. According to the Education Data Initiative, the average cost of a year's tuition and fees at a public four-year college in 1969 was \$323. The National Center for Education Statistics placed the 2020-21 average cost at \$10,560 or a 2580% increase over 1970-71 prices. Thanks to two hardworking parents, I graduated in 1973 without a penny of debt; however, according to the Department of Education, the average debt for a June 2023 graduate was \$37,650. It's clear that obtaining a college degree is a huge financial commitment and financial assistance is essential for many students. U.S. News and World Report published a 2022 survey revealing that scholarships and grants typically cover 26% of college costs in 2021-22.

KCRTA members are proud of our continued support of future educators. On November 16th at The Foundry, we will recognize and celebrate this year's scholarship recipients at our annual Scholarship Luncheon. I hope to see you there. **Remember this special luncheon requires a RSVP.**

Karen Peterman, President

KCRTA Program

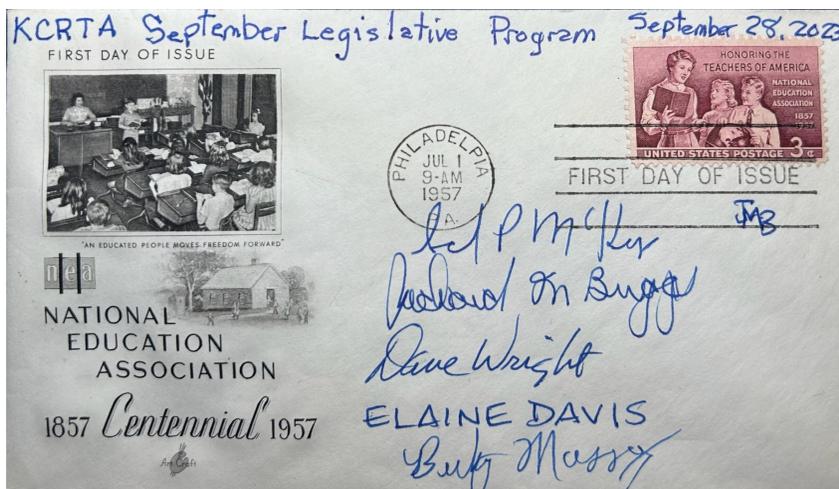
Our September meeting was dedicated to learning about what is coming in the next Legislative session. This year we visited with five legislators: Rep. Elaine Davis, Rep. Richard Briggs, Rep. Becky Duncan Massey, Rep. Dave Wright, and Rep. Sam McKenzie. The most important topic this year was whether Tennessee should reject federal funding for education. The majority of retired teachers present want to keep federal funding for education. The legislators seemed to be noncommittal at this point. The other item discussed was the future of the 3rd grade retention law.

Mary Brockett, President Elect

Historical Photo

Today's commemorative cachet shows the signatures of state legislators who attended the September 28, 2023 KCRTA luncheon.

Mike Blakenship, Parliamentarian



KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

President:

Karen Peterman

President-Elect:

Mary Brockett

Past President:

Libby Burney

Secretary:

Gussie Cherry

Community Relations:

Margaret Willis,

Nora Messings

Hosting Chair:

Linda Tyler

Information & Protective
Services:

Pam Chipley

Legislative Chair:

Jane Skinner

Membership:

Nora Messings,

Chris Vandergriff

Newsletter Editor:

Myra Sowder

Parliamentarian:

Mike Blankenship

Scholarship Foundation Rep.:

Lexa Hooten

Web Page Chairman:

Libby Burney

Executive Secretary /

Treasurer:

David Huntsinger

KCRTA Membership Moments

Special thanks to those who have already paid your dues for 2023-2024. If you haven't already done so, simply fill out the membership form and mail it along with your dues check to:

KCRTA, 711 Hall of Fame Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917.

Payroll Deduction is still an option for paying your dues! All you have to do is fill out your personal information on the membership form and your SS number and signature on the right hand side of the form! Then send that to KCRTA, 711 Hall of Fame Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917. Less than \$6.00/month will be deducted from your TCRS check; you will never have to remember to mail a dues check again!

Several have asked questions about your membership card/number. These are included in the Fall issue of the TRTA Newsletter which is mailed to all members. It will be on the back of that newsletter and is perforated for easy removal. Your membership number will be on that card. If you still have questions regarding this matter, contact Chris Vandergriff or Nora Messings; and we will assist you in any way we can

Thank you for your continued support of KCRTA!

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: PBI Letter in reference Move It Data Breach

Retired teachers may receive a letter with PBI> letter head. Careful reading of this document reveals that Pension Benefit Information (PBI) is the audit contractor to TCRA. Evidently, they were impacted by the MOVEit computer virus data breach publicized in June 2023. My letter indicates that my name, SSN, and birth date may have been compromised.

The MOVEit virus problem is well documented on internet and printed media. Many federal and state private organizations were impacted as well.

They are offering to enroll effected retirees into Kroll's Monitoring Seervices at no charge. This Service includes credit monoitoring and fraud consultation. I plan to do this.

If this seems confusing, you might want to share the PBI letter with a trusted financial advisor or a knowledgeable friend.

Pam Chipley, Information & Protective Services

KCRTA Scholarship Foundation

The KCRTA Scholarship Foundation will award nine (9) \$1500.00 scholarships at the November 16th luncheon and awards ceremony to be held at The Foundry. The scholarships are made possible through the generosity of KCRTA members and their families.

Without these donations, the Scholarship Foundation could not exist. Students receiving scholarships are from colleges and universities in the East Tennessee region.

Students receiving scholarships are:

Tania Becerra, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Andrea Byrd, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Jaydon Hedrick, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Rebecca Hemens, Carson-Newman University
Katelynn Jackson, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Ashley Martinez Santiago, Carson-Newman University
Kate Martinez Santiago, Carson-Newman University
Kadijah Tinker, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Lindsey Troop, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

The selection of these recipients was made by a committee of outstanding retired teachers directed by Mary Lou Kanipe and Christine Oehler.

If you plan to attend the luncheon at the Foundry on Thursday November 16th at 11:00 a.m., **you will need to RSVP by Friday November 10th, 2023. RSVP to David Huntsinger via (text) at 423-231-0682 or (email) at huntsingerd@bellsouth.net**

The luncheon is free to all recipients, guests, donors and KCRTA members.

Hope to see you at the luncheon.

KCRTA Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors

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

Legislative News

At our September luncheon we were happy to have the following legislators in attendance: Sen. Dr. Richard Briggs District 7, Sen. Becky Massey District 6, Rep. Elaine Davis District 18, Rep. Sam McKenzie District 15, and Rep. Dave Wright District 19. It is always great being able to talk with them, ask questions and learn what is happening in our state legislation.

The meeting went well. The audience seemed most concerned about the possibility of Tennessee declining the \$1.8 billion federal dollars for education, although there was some concern of the fact that math scores not up to par in grades 3 and 8 would require summer school/tutoring. Please follow up and continue to reach out to your representatives by phone, email or snail mail with your concerns. It's important that they hear from us.

Dewayne Emert is inviting us, the Knox County Retired Teachers to join with Oak Ridge, Clinton City, and Anderson County to sponsor Dr. Derek Black from the University of South Carolina in speaking about his book *School House Burning: Public Education and the Assault on American Democracy*. He will visit on Thursday, December 7th at Clinton High School in the Little Theater (425 Dragon Dr., Clinton, TN) at 5:00 pm. He would love for retired teachers to be on hand for this.

Our state representatives: Senators Massey, Briggs, Speaker McNally and Representative Lafferty and Carringer wrote an endearing resolution in honor of the memory of Betty Sue Berry. This is a wonderful tribute to Betty and a copy of it is printed in this newsletter. Additionally, the resolution can be read online at: SJR 274.

If you are interested in getting involved, Call or email me: 865-250-3854 jaskinner@hotmail.com

[Jane Skinner, Legislative Chair](#)

Calendar

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

- November 16, 2023

Scholarship Awards Luncheon

- January 25, 2024

Bryan Massengale, pianist

- March 28, 2024

Women's History Month Program:
First Lady, First Teacher presented
by Mary Brockett and Karen
Peterman

- May 23, 2024: TBA

- July 25th: TBA

Meeting are usually held on the fourth Thursday of alternate months at 11:15 at The Foundry. In November it is the third Thursday. The Executive Board meets at 9:30 am. All members are welcome to attend. The Executive Board does not meet during November.

*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 hard copy of *Retirement Times* is available upon request. Contact Chris Vandergriff at Chris.vandergriff@gmail.com

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

Received for September - October 2023

In Memory of

Betty Berry
Jeanette Casteel

Jeanette Casteel
Jeanette Casteel
Carolyn "Ann" Chandler
Emma Jean Huddleston
Jane Jones
Marjorie Rogers
Cindi Showalter
George Whedbee
George Whedbee
Jerry Wrinkle

From

Bonnie Lockwood
Brenda Monday

TN Alpha Pi Chapter/Alpha Delta Kappa

Jane Skinner
Myra Sowder
Donna Hardy
David Huntsinger
Nelldean Bragg
Bonnie Lockwood
Dale Showalter
Carol Grubbs
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
David Huntsinger

In Honor of

Gloria Johnson

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe

Donations

Jeanette Wyatt
Brenda Chambers

Necrology

Winston Halen "Sid" Davis
Emma Jean Leak Huddleston
Barbara Kaye Wyrick
Jeanette Ada Ballew Casteel
Ellen "Jane" Griz Jones
Jerry Britt Wrinkle

