

Retirement Times

President's Message

Pandemics, masks, social distancing and hand sanitizers, oh my! Covid-19 has changed our lives in so many unforeseen ways. But one thing has not changed and that is our wholehearted support for colleagues who are still in the classroom. Teachers are preparing in-person lessons and in many cases virtual lessons all the while managing masks and hand washing. We are grateful that they are willing to do more than they ever imagined possible.

Our KCRTA luncheons provide opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones. Our membership helps to continue the work of public education and protects our retirement income. Your July TCRS retirement deposit represents a 2.3% cost of living (COLA) increase.

If you know of someone who has retired recently, KCRTA would like to celebrate his or her accomplishments. Please extend an invitation to attend the next luncheon. The lunch is free for first time attendees. Stay well and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Libby Burney, President

knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com, burneylib@comcast.net, (865) 584-4875

Legislative

Betty Berry, Legislative Chairman for KCRTA for many years recently celebrated a special birthday. It was her ninetieth! Because of COVID-19, her celebration was quite different this year. It was celebrated with a shower of birthday cards and commendations. Betty's relationship with our state Legislators was such that she was honored with Proclamations signed by Speaker of the Senate, the Honorable Randy McNally, Senators Richard Briggs and Becky Massey, and Representatives, Bill Dunn, Jason Zachary, and Rick Staples. When the Legislative Committee visited our Legislators and their staff, that they all called her by first name. We were amazed that she was on a first name basis with all of them!

Thank you for you many years of heading up our Legislative Committee for all of these years, Mrs. Betty!

September Meeting

Our next luncheon is scheduled for September 24 at the Foundry at 11:15. They have assured us that they are following CDC Guidelines and taking every precaution to make sure our time together is safe. We will wear our masks when not eating our lunch. In order to gauge interest, we ask that you let us know if you will be attending. Please RSVP To Libby at (865) 584-4875 by Friday, September 18, 2020.

Membership

If you have not sent your membership dues check, please do so, immediately! They were due by July 31. Our membership directory will be updated in September; we need your current information (address, phone number, email) in order to print the most accurate, up-to-date directory. This is the only way we can contact you.

Directories this year will be mailed to each member who has paid FULL dues.

Thank you to those who sent their dues in promptly. Your membership gives us a stronger voice when we talk to Legislators regarding retirement issues, especially concerning our COLA and insurance. Special thanks to those who are on payroll Deduction, this way you never have to remember to send a check. Your dues simply come out of your TCRS check each month.

Attention

KCRTA needs your help! We need a President-Elect. The President-Elect serves as our program chairman and will move into the President position in 2022. He / She will work with the President in whatever way needed.

Please step up and get involved with KCRTA Leadership. We need your talents.



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:

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:

- September 24, 2020
TBA
- November 19, 2020
Scholarship
Foundation Luncheon
and Awards
Ceremony
- January 28, 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:
"Handle success like you handle failure".
Coach Pat Summitt

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

Community and Protective Services

I certainly hope everyone is staying safe during this pandemic period! . One health related issue is voting this year! With the expected heavy turnout there will be long lines for the November general election for in-person voting. New voting equipment and social distancing mandates will make the problem worse. The lines may be outside the building to maintain distance. This applies to both early voting and Election Day voting! I would like to encourage everyone eligible to vote by mail (formerly absentee voting)! Most of us will be eligible based on the "over age 60" clause. The recent county judge order about universal vote by mail regardless of age was overturned by the TN Supreme Court. Vote by mail will definitely be safer and there is an allowance if you are "immediate fear for your health and safety". October 27 is the last day to request an absentee ballot for the November election. However it is unlikely if the US Postal Service, the Election commission and the voter would be able process quickly to make the November 3 election day deadline. Tennessee does not accept ballots arriving after Election Day regardless of post-marks. Vote early!!

Since I recommend "never click on a link" you can simply Google search "TN absentee voting" and it will lead you to the following pages.

Pam Chipley,
Information and Protective Services
Chair



Scholarship Donations

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Dan Williams

IN HONOR OF

Sandy Sincerbox

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