

Retirement Times

President's Message Colors and Celebrations

Colors are often used to represent organizations like schools, charities, states, and nations. The Alzheimer's Association uses purple and orange in their logo and print material. Orange, white, and Summit blue can be seen in every corner of Tennessee. We each attended and worked at schools that had mascots and specific colors. I taught at Whittle Springs Middle School for many years. Our colors were royal blue and white. Our KCRTA logo is red, white, and blue reminding us of both the state and nation's flag. Celebrating America 250 this year also reminds us of the significance of the colors on our nation's flag. Red is for boldness, bravery, and valor. White represents purity, innocence, and hope while blue stands for justice and perseverance. At our last luncheon, Karen Peterman and Kathy Coley continued their America 250 activities and gifted each of us with a flag lapel pin. Wear your best red, white, and blue and your lapel pin too! We will continue to celebrate America's birthday at our luncheon on May 28th.

Our program will feature Keith Barber, President and CEO of the East Tennessee Foundation. ETF is a public charity and nationally accredited community foundation created by and for the people of East Tennessee. Mr. Barber will present information regarding our scholarship foundation's resources and how our giving is invested. There is much to celebrate as our scholarship monies have been wisely invested.

Finally, we will celebrate membership. My challenge to you is to invite a newly retired or not so newly retired educator to our luncheon. There is a membership form inserted with this newsletter. Place it in your purse or wallet and the next time you see a fellow retired educator, hand them that form and invite them to join. The best method for recruiting new members is YOU!

Libby Burney, KCRTA President

POWER OF THE PURSE COLLECTION

We are collecting gently used purses, handbags, totes and jewelry for Mobile Meals annual fundraiser in October called Power of the Purse. Now is a great time to start spring cleaning and gather yours to donate to this wonderful cause. Bring them to our May and July luncheons.



KCRTA LUNCHEON Make Your Luncheon Reservation



Another school year of retirement is coming to a close. Please join us at 11:15 AM on Thursday, May 28th at Rothchild Catering and Conference Center on Kingston Pike. The cost of the May 28th KCRTA luncheon and program is \$25.00. The deadline for making a reservation for the luncheon and program is noon on Monday, May 25th. To make a reservation, text me, Karen Peterman, at 865865 363-6854 or email me at petermank1@gmail.com. The Association is held responsible for the number of meals that are submitted to Rothchild Catering. Remember that if you make a reservation and don't cancel before the May 25th deadline, you are expected to reimburse the Association for the cost of your reserved meal. We look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Karen Peterman, Executive Secretary/Treasurer



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Libby Burney

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Past President:

Karen Peterman

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Jennifer Krouse

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Community Participation:

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**Executive Secretary /
Treasurer:**

Karen Peterman

KCRTA Membership

The Knox County Retired Teachers Association is so much more than a place to gather--it's a community of dedicated educators who continue to make a difference long after leaving the classroom.

As retired teachers, we've worked hard for what we've earned, and together, we stay informed and engaged to help protect those benefits for future generations and ourselves. There's strength in our shared voice, and being part of this association keeps us connected to the issues that matter most.

But it's not all business--we truly enjoy one another! From delicious luncheons to meaningful fellowship, the friendships formed here are just as important as the advocacy we support. Our meetings often feature informative and inspiring programs that keep us learning, growing, and involved in our community.

Membership also brings added perks, including valuable discounts and opportunities that make retirement even more rewarding. Whether it's staying socially active, continuing to learn, or simply enjoying time with others who share a passion for education, there's something here for everyone.

If you know a recently retired educator, please invite them to join us. Together, our voices are stronger--and our fellowship is even sweeter.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Nora Messing, Co-Chair of Membership

KCRTA Membership Co-Chairs:

Chris Vandergriff chris.vandergriff@gmail.com (865-924-4600)	Nora Messing ndbmess@comcast.net (865-406-5867)
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LEGISLATIVE NEWS:

Tennessee Legislation has finally ended this year. Many terrible bills were passed including increasing vouchers. We need to continue the fight as they are already trying to add more vouchers with even fewer restrictions.

WE now need to turn our attention to supporting candidates who support our public schools. **We must all get out and VOTE** in the upcoming elections, so we can turn this around. We MUST continue this fight!!

2026 --Local Primary

Early Voting: Wed., April 15 - Thurs., April 3

Election Day: Tuesday, May 5

2026-- Federal/State Primary, County General, and Town of Farragut Municipal Election

Early Voting: Fri., July 17 - Sat., Aug., 1

Election Day: Thur., Aug.

2026 - Federal/State General Election E Early

Voting: Wed., Oct. 14 - Thurs., Oct. 29

Election Day: Tues., Nov. 3

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

HISTORICAL PHOTOS

This commemorative postcard was issued in honor of the 19th Amendment giving **WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE**. All KCRTA Members present at our March 2026 KCRTA luncheon held at Rothchild Catering had the privilege of signing the postcard.

Thank you **Mike Blankenship, KCRTA Parliamentarian** for making this special KCRTA Membership Moment happen.



Calendar

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

- Rothchild's Catering & Conference Center
8807 Kingston Pike

In order to assure that everyone is served, a RSVP is required.

The Executive Board meets at 9:30 am before each luncheon, except in the month of November when the Executive Board does not meet.

All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board Meetings.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS 2026

*May 28 Membership Mania

*July 23 Active Teacher Grant Presentations

*September 24 TRTA Executive Director, Antionette Lee

*November 19 Scholarship Foundation

*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

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

March - April

In Memory of

Catherine Ambrose
Dr. Sam Bratton
Juanita Cannon
Juanita Cannon
Jane Dominick
Geoff Duggan
Geoff Duggan
Mayford Galyon
Dr. William Phifer
Dr. William Phifer
Sandra Sincerbox
Sandra Sincerbox
John Staley
G. Earl Wells

In Honor Of

Donations

Sara Baskin
Nelldean Bragg

From

Bonnie Lockwood
Patsy Vittetoe
Gussie Cherry
Donna Hardy
Ira Gladson
Donna Hardy
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Bonnie Lockwood
Carol Grubbs
Patsy Vittetoe
David Huntsinger
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Patsy Vittetoe
Patsy Vittetoe

May - June

In Memory of

Paul Bean
Sue Biggerstaff
Tom Dunne
Mayford A. Galyon
Dr. Margie LeCoultre
Roy Mullins
Roy Mullins
Dr. Lula Powell
Andrea Ray

In Honor Of

Shirley Underwood

Donations

From

David Huntsinger
Linda Hagaman
Sandy Forester Mossman
Wilma Greene Myers
Linda Hagaman
David Huntsinger
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Gussie Cherry
Jimmy Jane Ray

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe

