



Retirement Times



March Program

What did Rita Hayworth, Charlton Heston, Pat Summitt, E.B. White and my mother, Ruth Thompson, have in common? They all experienced Alzheimer's, a progressive disease that destroys memory and thinking skills. According to a 2024 Alzheimer's Association report, an estimated 6.9 million Americans age 65 or older are living with this disease. It seeks out the famous and the not so famous; and unfortunately, most of us know someone who has faced this disease.

Katie Harbin, a Development and Public Relations Specialist for Alzheimer's Tennessee, will join us at our March luncheon. She will be sharing information about Alzheimer's Tennessee, what they do, and why it's important to support your local "boots on the ground" organization. As Walk coordinator, Katie will likely share information about the Foothills Walk to Make Alzheimer's a Memory. This year's Walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th. There's also a Knoxville Walk scheduled for April 12th. Valerie Beiberdorf, who has participated in past Walks, will be on hand at our March luncheon to give us the opportunity to donate to her 2025 team.

Please join us on March 27th for lunch and this valuable program. Our luncheon will begin at 11:15. Reservations are required, and you can make your reservation by emailing (huntsingerd@bellsouth.net) or texting (423-231-0682) David Huntsinger by March 24th. We are required to submit the number of expected attendees prior to our meeting, and we are charged for that number of lunches. Should you make reservations, and then discover that you are unable to attend, please notify David as soon as possible.

Karen Peterman, President



KCRTA MARCH LUNCHEON

If you plan to attend the KCRTA luncheon on Thursday, March 27, 2025, you will need to RSVP to David Huntsinger at 423-231-0682 or email him at huntsingerd@bellsouth.net. The last day to call will be Monday, March 24th. The luncheon will be at Rothschild's on Kingston Pike beginning at 11:15 am. If you RSVP and can't attend, you need to call David at the number listed above. We are charged by the number given on Monday, March 24, 2025. The cost of the luncheon is \$25.00. Come and check out the food, it was delicious.

David Huntsinger, Executive Secretary/Treasurer



SPRING Is Here

SPRING is a season of renewal, growth, and rejuvenation. It inspires us to embrace change, both in the world around us and within ourselves.



KCRTA Officers and Committee Chairs

President:

Karen Peterman

President-Elect:

Past President:

Libby Burney

Secretary:

Gussie Cherry

Communications:

Margaret Willis

Community Participation:

Karen Peterman
Nora Messing

Hosting Chair:

Kitty Spry

Information & Protective
Services:

Pam Chiple

Legislative Chair:

Jane Skinner

Membership:

Nora Messing
Chris Vandergriff

Newsletter Editor:

Myra Sowder

Parliamentarian:

Mike Blankenship

Scholarship Foundation Rep.:

Lexa Hooten

Web Page Chair:

Libby Burney

Executive Secretary /

Treasurer:

David Huntsinger

KCRTA Membership



Welcome to our New KCRTA Members
Gary Harmon
Katherine G. Harmon
Lisa Ault Webb

Please continue to recruit and look for new KCRTA members and invite them to join you at our next KCRTA luncheon on Thursday, March 27th. Please remind them to RSVP to David Huntsinger. If they are interested in joining KCRTA, please have them contact myself Chris Vandergriff (chris.vandergriff@gmail.com or 865-924-4600) or Nora Messing (nbmess@comcast.net or 865-406-5867)

Chris Vandergriff and Nora Messing, KCRTA Membership Co-Chairs

Information and Protective Services

New Paper Checks

We recently warned about traditional paper checks being altered by scammers. Apparently new safer paper checks are coming and may be available through your bank or check supplier. An article in Consumer Reports (March 2025) indicated that they use chemical sensitive paper, watermarks, holograms, and special links that change color when exposed to heat. I will be checking with my check supplier since we prefer checks for some transactions.

Pam Chipley, Information and Protective Services, Chairman

Legislative News

Sadly, Bill Lee's voucher proposal passed the House with 54 ayes to 44 nays and one amendment to the bill. The amendment requires school boards to pass a resolution accepting the state's new school voucher system in order for teachers in that district to receive the one time \$2,000 bonus included in the bill by June 1. The proposal passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 13 nays and has been signed into law by Governor Bill Lee. This is a \$447 million program offering about \$7,300 each to students to attend certain state accredited private schools with a lot of specifics to be worked out in the coming weeks and months. The program will be ready to launch in time for students to enroll for the 2025-26 school year.

More sad news: Book removals in public schools hit a new high in 2024, with nearly 1,400 books (spanning 1,155 unique titles) pulled from school library shelves across the state. Familiar books like "Wacky Wednesday" by Dr. Suess and a graphic novel rendition of "Time Machine" by H. G. Wells along with recent popular releases like "Six of Crows" by Leigh Bardugo and "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens have been removed from libraries across the state over the past year.

There are numerous bills out there regarding education, a couple that caught my attention were a bill to allow public schools to hire chaplains, and another bill to require proof of citizenship in order to attend public schools.

And to think just last year at this time we were pleading for everyone to continue to push back 3rd and 4th grade retention. Whatever became of that???

There are trips to Nashville planned for March 4th and March 11th, however, I fear that those dates will have past by the time you receive this newsletter.

Call or email me if you want more information: (865-250-3854 or jaskinne@hotmail.com)
Jane Skinner, Legislative Chairman





Knox County Retired Teachers Association
711 N Hall of Fame Drive
Knoxville, TN 37917
knoxretiredteachers.com



July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Since 1957, KCRТА /TRТА has been working to improve the lives of retired educators and educational support personnel.
KCRТА /TRТА is the only organization working to improve retiree benefits.

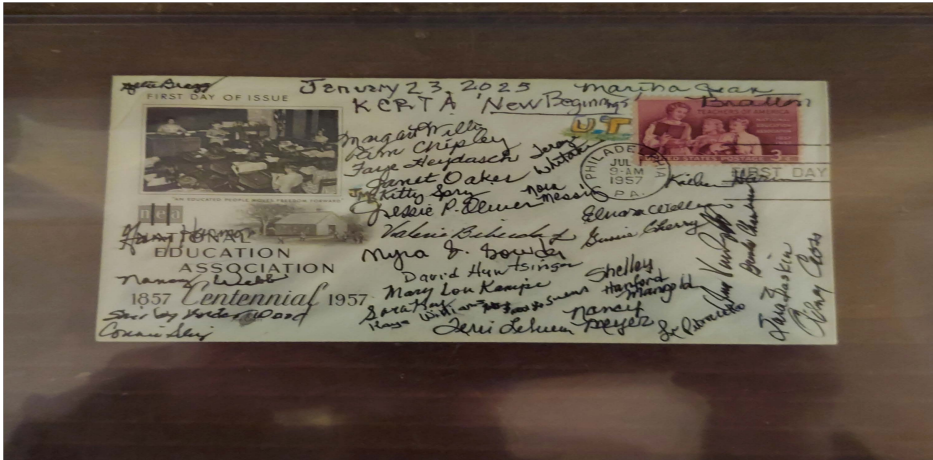
- KCRТА /TRТА advocates and lobbies for retiree pension (TCRS) and health insurance.
- KCRТА provides an opportunity for fellowship, community service, and timely information on issues involving retirement.
- KCRТА /TRТА membership entitles you to discounts for Hearing tests and Hearing aids through HEAR in America.
- KCRТА /TRТА membership includes the ACCESS DISCOUNT PROGRAM through TEA.
- NEA-R membership enables you to maintain your NEA insurance, credit cards, travel, car rental, cell phone discounts, and all other NEA member benefits.

UNIFIED 2024-2025 DUES:	
NEA-Retired Lifetime	\$300 one-time payment (check payable to NEA-Retired)
NEA-Retired Annual	\$35 (\$2.92 per month if using automatic withdrawal)
NEA-Retired ESP* Lifetime	\$180 one-time payment (check payable to NEA-Retired)
NEA-Retired ESP* Annual	\$21 (\$1.75 per month if using automatic withdrawal)
TRТА Annual	\$25 (\$2.08 per month if using automatic withdrawal)
KCRТА Annual	\$10 (\$0.83 per month if using automatic withdrawal)

***ESP-Educational Support Personnel**
(Members who worked as teaching assistants, secretaries, custodians, etc.)

If paying by check, complete Section 1 and 2. If using automatic withdrawal, complete Section 1 and 3. Mail this form and your check(s), if needed, to KCRТА, 711 N Hall of Fame Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917.

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
<div>Knox County Retired Teachers Association Enrollment Form</div> <div>Name: _____ First MI Last</div> <div>Address: _____ Street</div> <div>City State Postal Code</div> <div>Phone # (____) _____ - _____</div> <div>Home Email _____</div> <div>Member Signature _____</div> <div>Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____</div> <div>Date: _____</div>	<div>Unified membership is required if you retired after August 1992. You must belong to NEA-Retired, TRТА and the local Association to be a unified member.</div> <div>Member # _____</div> <div>NEA-Retired Annual Membership \$ _____</div> <div>TRТА Annual Membership \$ <u>25</u></div> <div>KCRТА Annual Membership \$ <u>10</u></div> <div>Total Dues paid \$ _____</div> <div>Check # if paying by Check _____</div> <div>Association Officer _____</div>	<div>Optional Automatic Dues Withholding from your TCRS Pension Check</div> <div>I hereby authorize TCRS to deduct the following dues from my TCRS pension check. I agree that the dues shall be deducted until such time as I notify TRТА and TCRS in writing that I no longer wish to have such dues deducted.</div> <div>Authorization signature _____</div> <div>SS# if pension deduction _____</div> <div>Date: _____</div> <div>NEA-Retired Annual Dues \$ _____ per month</div> <div>TRТА Annual Dues \$ <u>2.08</u> per month</div> <div>Local Dues \$ <u>0.83</u> per month</div>



HISTORICAL PHOTOS Shows the signatures obtained of those in attendance at our January 2025 KCRТА Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Mike Blankenship.

Mike Blankenship, Parliamentarian

Calendar

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

- NEW VENUE for March 27, 2025 Meeting at Rothchild Catering & Conference Center
- 8807 Kingston Pike

In Order to assure that everyone is served, a RSVP will be required. Please see page 1 for more information.

Save the date: Next meeting will be Thursday, May 22nd. The executive Board meets at 9:30 am before each luncheon, except in the month of November when the Excutive Board does not meet.

All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board Meetings.

*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

Welcome Spring
Flowers don't worry about how they're going to bloom. They just open up and turn toward the light and that makes them beautiful. Jim Carrey

KCRTA Scholarship Donations

December - February

In Memory of

Alice Bratton
Alice Bratton
Alice Bratton
Frances Prince Corlew
Ernestine Everhart
Ernestine Everhart
Ernestine Everhart
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Norma Kelley
Diana Waldrip

From

Vicki Andrews
Myra Sowder
Kaye Williams
Vicki Andrews
Dr. Martha Jean Bratton
Myra Sowder
Kaye Williams
Teresa Brown
Libby Burney
Patti Hong
Judy Irwin
Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe
Rhonda Keas
Christine Oehler
Nancee Rogers
Kitty Spry
Betsy Taylor
Cindy White
Jim and Vicki Andrews

In Honor of

Mrs. Emma Ruth Catlett (103rd birthday) Kaye Williams
Karen Peterman Terry Uselton

Donations

Necrology

Ruthellen Crews
Ronnie Lee Smiddy
Annette Myers Merritt
Frances Prince Corlew
Jennie S. Whited
Diana Deatherage Waldrip
Benton Clay "Ben" Stewart

