

**Minutes of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 28, 2025**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association Board of Directors was called to order by JCRTA President Vicki Lete at 10:02 a.m. Sheryl Tapp gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present: Sheila Carson-Smith, Beth Dowdell, Ken Draut, Myra Fugate, Cindy Goldstein, Pam Gooch, Ann Hafling, Vicki Lete, Martha O'Bryan, Tara Parker, Lue Peabody, Marilyn Puckett, Bill Routh, Sheryl Tapp, Susan Thurman, Dale Warren, Donna Wiseman.

Members Absent: Sahara Myers and Melanie Wood

Recording Secretary: Pam Gooch provided copies of the minutes of the previous meeting held on June 24, 2025. A motion was made by Tara Parker and seconded by Sheryl Tapp to approve the minutes as printed. The motion passed.

Vicki Lete shared her President Leadership Training, and what our first meeting should cover. She provided our JCRTA Constitution and Bylaws. She went over the handbook she was provided and its wealth of information. She shared the District Association Recognition Program that is due March 15, 2026, and what each recognition is and the points earned. She pointed out the Frank R. Hatfield Volunteer of the Year Award and reminded us to fill out our Volunteer Hours and Volunteer of the Year form.

JCRTA Membership Chair is being filled by Kathy Fries. Ken Draut was thanked for his work as interim chair.

Nominating Committee: Melanie Wood could not attend, but Vicki shared the positions for election this year of 2026. They are 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and KRTA Council Representative.

Fall Conference Survey results: Pluses and Deltas were shared from the survey. There were 169 attendees and Pluses were as follows: vendors were informative, many loved the information shared, many appreciated wrapping up on time, many want to keep the workshop the same. Deltas were as follows: lower the cost, post two buffet lines, limit speaker times since one of the speakers went way too long, integrate a technology workshop, allow attendees to pay for lunch online (Ken shared we could add another link to pay for lunch online), make iced tea available during the meeting, ask vendors to stay longer, lower speaker volume, add music to the program, have participants share trip experiences, explain how schools are chosen to receive school supply money, provide a workshop evaluation. Feedback evaluations may be added for general meeting attendees to list a quick Plus/Delta about our meetings.

2026 Board Meetings were shared 1-13-26, 3-24-26, 6-9-26, 10-13-26 beginning at 9:30 with a light breakfast and conversation followed by the meeting. We discussed dietary restrictions which should not be just pastries. Sheryl asked us to text her suggestions. Cindy Goldstein said we need the newsletter articles six weeks prior to each general meeting date. She will provide a list of deadline dates.

2026 General Meetings were shared 3-12-26, 5-14-26, 8-28-26 (KRTA Workshop), 12-10-26 10:00 a.m. Vicki Lete shared her rationale for each date based on guidelines from the handbook.

2026 KRTA Convention is April 20-21, 2026, at Holiday Inn East. Ten board members can attend free of charge.

Name Badges and **Polo** examples were shared by Vicki and she asked our preference. She will pay for the name badges out of her president's budget and members will purchase their own polos.

Celebrations:

- **KRTA News**-We were in the KRTA News for November.
- **Retired Teachers' Appreciation Week, October 19-25, 2025**-since the date has passed, we can celebrate teacher appreciation at the December meeting.
- **July-December Birthdays** Vicki shared everyone's birthday during this time frame; she baked cookies for everyone celebrating their birthdays.

1st Vice-President: Susan Thurman shared the recipient for our \$1000+ School Supplies Drive as Goldsmith Elementary. She will coordinate with the school principal to present the donations. Blessings in a Backpack donations will be collected at the next meeting. Our program performance will be from the Advanced Choir from Fern Creek High School with 60 members. The Fern Creek Alumni Association agreed to pay for the performers to have lunch afterwards at Mark 's Feed Store.

2nd Vice President: Sheryl Tapp shared the numbers from our KRTA Workshop luncheon as follows: 155 paid, 17 no shows, 7 walk-ins, 149 prepaid, 6 guest, 4 new retirees and 7 not eating but attended meeting only. She thanked Beth for helping her at the front table of the last general meeting since her attention is pulled in many directions to facilitate registration issues. Thank you to Bill Routh for picking up the cheesecake desserts and to Martha O'Bryan for serving it at the meeting.

Treasurer's report was shared by Bill Routh. Total income is \$10,345.30 and expenditures are \$9,367.29. He said our budget is fiscally sound. The treasurer's report was approved as printed and will be filed for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Goldstein reported that the newsletter is ready to go out. She explained she proofreads our articles but does not edit.

KRTA Representative: No report

Dale Warren shared information about the AARP Safe Driver Course guidelines and provided a booklet titled Smart Driver Guidebook. Your insurance agent should reduce your car insurance upon completing the 4-hour course. AARP members are charged \$20. The discount is good for 3 to 5 years depending on the agency. Eye exams are required now in Kentucky and some states require Driver Safety.

Committee and Chairperson Reports:

Audit and Budget: Ann Hafling reported that the budget has been approved and the audit completed. She reminded everyone that your reimbursement forms need to be submitted in a timely matter near when expenses are incurred.

Community Liaison: Donna Wiseman handed out a form to capture volunteer hours which will be due at the December meeting. She reported on a recent volunteer event. Payton Ray, with CASA, requested help with stuffing backpacks. Donna had so many responses that she had to turn people away. Payton has asked for 5 volunteers to help on November 6 at 10:00 until finished at the CASA building on Eastern Parkway behind the Shriners Building.

New volunteer opportunities:

- Supplies Overseas (SOS)-medical supplies are collected and redistributed. Help is needed to organize and sort supplies. SOS is located at 1500 Arlington Avenue.
- Wreaths Across America is scheduled for December 13 to honor veterans. Our region has 11,000 graves and volunteers place wreaths on graves as they say each veteran's name.
- Sullivan University Pharmacy School needs testing proctors and role-playing participants.
- Junior Achievement needs volunteers to help teach students economics.
- Little Sisters of the Poor needs Angel Tree gift providers for elderly-poor residents.

Insurance: Lue Peabody provided an insurance information sheet and the changeover from UnitedHealthcare to Humana will occur on January 1, 2026. The fitness program, SilverSneakers, will resume with Humana. She reminded everyone: **Do not enroll in other Medicare Advantage coverage since this would cancel your TRS MEHP coverage.**

JCRTA Membership: Ken Draut (Interim chair) reported that the 2025-2026 membership numbers are 1,153 which is 171 members less than last year. Members will get their reminders in the newsletter and those not renewed will get a mailing to remind them to renew their membership.

KRTA Membership: Shelia Carson-Smith reported that KRTA potential membership is 3,590 with 1,350 members. Our membership received awards at the silver level, Top Hat and Yes We Did awards. Our current percentage of members is 65.4% and 72% is our goal. We have 3 members on our volunteer telephone committee to call potential members.

Donna was asked to provide a sign-up list asking for more volunteers at our next general meeting in December.

KRTA/AARP Essay Contest: Marilyn Puckett reported that the same 6 schools are participating this year with one additional school, Dixie Elementary, participating. A reminder letter with deadlines is being sent to those schools. A JCRTA Newsletter article will appear in our upcoming newsletter.

Legislative: Beth Dowdell reported that a legislative committee meeting will be held soon. The legislative priorities remain the same. She reminded everyone that it is very important to get to as many legislators as possible. KRTA is very well respected. The KRTA website (KRTA.org) is updated frequently and is a good resource. Be sure your email is always current to receive notices. This year (2026) is a biennium budget year. There is some concern that it may be a more difficult legislative session.

Necrology/Remembrance: no report

Scholarship: no report

Technology: Ken Draut reminded everyone to check their portion of the JCRTA.org website.

Trips and Tours: Martha O'Bryan reported on the recent trips' successes. She reported on upcoming trips. Many people are asking for day trips. The cost of buses is prohibitive, but she will have \$2,000 to spend on a bus. She asked for suggestions of destinations close by that we would want to visit.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. and lunch was served. Tara Parker made the motion, and Bill Routh seconded the adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary