

**Minutes of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 24, 2026**

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 9:55 a.m. Vicki thanked Sahara Myers for the beautiful Remembrance Program and praised our speaker, Donna Benton, from our last General Meeting. Susan Thurman, 1st Vice President gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present: Sheila Carson-Smith, Beth Dowdell, Ken Draut, Kathy Fries, Pam Gooch, Vicki Lete, Sahara Myers, Tara Parker, Lue Peabody, Marilyn Puckett, Sheryl Tapp, Susan Thurman, and Dale Warren

Members Absent: Myra Fugate, Cindy Goldstein, Ann Hafling, Martha O'Bryan

Recording Secretary: Pam Gooch provided copies of the minutes of the previous meeting held on January 13, 2026. Revisions were suggested and made. A motion to approve the minutes with revisions was made by Tara Parker and seconded by Sheila Carson-Smith. The motion passed.

President: Vicki Lete reported as follows:

- Local Philanthropies—Junior Achievement (JA)—Vicki provided a sign-up sheet for board members to sign up to volunteer at upcoming JA events in schools.
— Supplies Over Seas (SOS) collects surplus medical supplies from healthcare organizations and redistributes them globally and locally to improve healthcare access and support education. They are located at 1500 Arlington Avenue and are asking for help separating supplies. Kathy Fries contacted them and proposed we volunteer on the second Wednesday of each month from 1:00-4:00 starting in May. They also have a fundraiser every year in March at the Mellwood Arts Center that we could consider attending.
- New General Meeting Venue-Audubon Country Club or Big Springs Country Club are possibilities. Wildwood Country Club has a new general manager and even though we were quoted \$29 per person for our luncheon, the actual bill included \$900 in extra charges. We paid the \$29 per person amount as verbally agreed. Several new venues were shared. Big Springs in St. Matthews near Bowman Field quoted \$32.50 per person. They were not available for the August KRTA workshop meeting. Audubon Country Club was the best price at \$26.71, and they can accommodate all the meeting dates chosen. Yvonne Boyd is a member so

we will be charged \$400 instead of the normal charge of \$800. Susan Thurman shared concern that the space for the August KRTA Workshop may not be adequate for vendors. Vicki shared that the Bomar Room accommodates 180-350 people. Members also suggested to check that adequate parking is available and that no extra charges would be added. These concerns will be checked with a visit to Audubon by Vicki and Sheryl. Vicki asked for a vote to change our meeting venue for the remaining general meetings for this calendar year. A motion was made by Sheryl Tapp and seconded by Lue Peabody. Communications about the venue change will be in our newsletter and on our website. Ken Draut will send an email blast to JCRTA members. Vicki will ask Greg Roush to send a message to all KRTA members and include this change on their website.

- Meeting Sponsorship---Austin Belcher with Liberty Federal Credit Union approached Vicki and asked, "How can we help you?" She asked about helping sponsor our General Meeting luncheons. She asked him for \$1,000 for each meeting in exchange for 5 to 10 minutes to share about their banking services and advertisement on our website and in our newsletter. Beth Dowdell suggested we also contact Class Act Credit Union since their members are all teachers. Commonwealth Credit Union could also be contacted as the sponsor for KRTA. The possibility of having different sponsors for each meeting was discussed. We must explore ways to reduce the cost of our general meetings. Any other ideas can be offered at the next meeting. We will discuss the findings at the next meeting and bring it to a vote.
- Newsletter Costs—It costs \$3,000 to mail each of our quarterly JCRTA newsletters. Don at Pennant Litho provided a breakdown of costs as follows: 1,250 copies of an 8-page newsletter include \$444 for the envelope and stuffing of each mailing. Vicki shared another organization's similar mailing that is folded and mailed without an envelope that would save that extra charge for processing. Concern was expressed about our practice of including attachments for the membership drive newsletter. The back page of the newsletter would include half as a membership renewal form and the other half as the luncheon reservation form that could be cut apart and mailed in. We can also now do both online. A motion to change the format of our newsletters was made by Sahara Myers and seconded by Dale Warren. The motion passed.
- Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and General Liability insurance was discussed. We do not have insurance. The attorney for KRTA will be contacted. We might have it through KRTA. Vicki will report at the next meeting.

- Future Board Meetings are 6-9-26 and 10-13-26 at 9:30 for breakfast and 10:00 meeting. Future General Meetings are 5-14-26, 8-28-26 and 12-10-26 at 10:00
- Orders for JCRTA Polo shirts will be offered to all members.
- Celebrations of birthdays in March – May were acknowledged. Board members sang Happy Birthday.

1st Vice-President: Susan Thurman reported our speaker for our May 14, 2026, General Meeting will be Lindy Casebier from the Kentucky Tourism Arts & Heritage Cabinet. Ken Draut shared that the Lions Club has asked for 10 to 15 minutes to share their mission to provide eye checks for 4- and 5-year-olds. The children look into a device that assesses if they need corrective lenses. He is asking retired teachers to volunteer to help so they can go to more schools. Donna Wiseman will contact them.

2nd Vice President: Sheryl Tapp reported the numbers for the last General Meeting held on March 13, 2026. There were 105 paid registrations with 4 walk-ins, 1 guest, 2 not eating, 4 new retirees (2 actually attended) and 15 no shows. Our next General Meeting is May 14, 2026. May 4 is the deadline to turn in reservations.

Treasurer: Vicki reported that Ann Hafling and Mary Perry have worked on the treasurer's report to update and correct some amounts that were in the wrong account. She asked all board members to check their account line to be sure there are no more discrepancies. Ken is getting things out of the P.O. box in the interim until we elect new board members at the May General Meeting. She received tax forms 1099 INT and is asking KRTA for guidance. In the past, we were not responsible for completing these tax forms since we are not a tax deductible organization and function more like a club.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Goldstein was not in attendance. April 2 is the newsletter deadline.

KRTA Representative: Tara Parker reported there is no report since the next meeting will not be until the April Convention.

Parliamentarian: Dale Warren reported that the AARP Driver Education courses were not offered since offices were closed for extreme weather.

Committee and Chairperson Reports:

Audit and Budget: Ann Hafling was not in attendance. She asked everyone to check their budget line amounts for accuracy.

Community Liaison: Vicki reported in Donna Wiseman's absence. The Volunteer of the Year has been awarded to Tara Parker. She volunteered 250 hours to the Kentucky Derby Museum this year to help with school tours and provide workshops such as making Derby hats and fascinators.

Insurance: Lue Peabody reported there is no report since the next meeting will not be until the April Convention.

KRTA Membership: Sheila Carson-Smith reported 66.2% of retired teachers are members of KRTA. The total number of 5,435 are potential members with 3, 597 as members and 1,838 are nonmembers. At the April KRTA Convention, we should receive the Top Hat and Yes, We Did awards. Sheila is trying to work on a Derby Event for us to tour Churchill Downs and potentially sign-up new members.

JCRTA Membership: Kathy Fries reported 1,217 members; 3 more members from the last meeting. She met with the member that offered suggestions for increasing membership. They were good ideas but all cost money. She is working on recruiting a group of people to go into schools to meet with people retiring. She is contacting the 80 people that did not renew this year to give them another opportunity to join. Vicki reported we normally receive the Silver Award at the convention because of our percentage of members. Kathy is trying to partner with KRTA and TRS again to have an event to target retiring teachers. She encouraged all board members to try to obtain 5 retiring teachers to join. That would add 100 members to JCRTA.

KRTA/AARP Essay Contest: Marilyn Puckett reported that Harper Barnett from Joanie Heitz's classroom at Wilder Elementary is our winner. Yvette Stockwell is Harper's grandparent. \$50 checks for the teacher and student will be awarded along with a certificate and plaque. There is a potential for 7 guests to attend with Harper.

Legislative: Beth Dowdell gave an update of the legislative session and the state biennium budget. The Senate passed its version of the budget. The bill was then sent back to the House of Representatives. The House did not agree with the Senate version, so the budget will now go to a conference committee where final decisions will be made. The legislature needs to complete this process by April 1 to allow for the Governor's veto period. The Senate's version of the budget is positive for retired teachers. It fully funds both the pension system and retiree health insurance. It also includes favorable language regarding under 65 health coverage (KEHP). The insurance cost is the hold up in the House.

Nominating/Elections: Vicki shared the proposed slate in Melanie Wood's absence as follows:

1st VP—Tara Parker

KRTA Representative--Susan Thurman

2nd VP— Sheryl Tapp will remain

Treasurer—Teresa DeVenuto

Recording Secretary—Melissa Case, she was an educator in Hardin County, came to Jefferson County and served as principal at Lincoln Elementary.

Corresponding Secretary—Cindy Goldstein will remain

Vicki asked for approval of the slate. Sheryl Tapp motioned to approve, and Ken Draut seconded. This slate will be voted on at the next meeting on May 14, 2026, and will become effective July 1, 2026.

Necrology/Remembrance: Sahara asked for feedback about not having an extra copy of the list of deceased members at the meeting. It was agreed that it was not necessary since the list went out to all members as part of the newsletter.

Scholarship: Myra Fugate was not in attendance. Vicki shared a report from Myra. We have received several applicants for our two \$1,000 scholarships. The committee will meet in April to review the applications and award the scholarships to the two best applicants.

Technology: Ken Draut reported that 32 people made their luncheon reservations online and the process was successful with Ken providing Sheryl with a spreadsheet of names. Ken reminded board members to continue to check your section of the website. We receive on average 300 to 400 hits a month. We have the capability to send out email blasts to 5,000 retirees. Depending on the topic, we can reach out through KRTA or JCRTA or both to communicate.

Trips and Tours: Martha O'Bryan stepped down from the role of Chair of this committee. Rick Tatum shared with Vicki that Buell Snyder is interested in chairing this committee. Susan Thurman shared that Marsha Ackerman is also interested in the position.

History of Trips and Tours: Ken Draut shared the history of this committee. When Ruth Boone stepped down in October 2021, a committee was formed to address the concern of liability to our JCRTA Board. It was decided to quit collecting money and go through a travel agency to reduce liability. The committee chair would report to the board the number of attendees for each trip. Local trips were a stumbling block because no travel agency would continue to organize those since there was not a profit to the agency. The Board decided to start collecting local money again and attendees were required to sign a waiver.

Trips planned for 2026: Vicki reported the following:

Churchill Downs—June 6, 2026, \$50. Vicki will coordinate with Churchill Downs to be sure JCRTA attendees are seated together.

New York Trip—December 3-9, 2026

16 have signed up (3 JCRTA educators, 13 other)

35 are needed to run the trip

KRTA has a planned trip to New York City (Collette Travel)—December 7-11, 2026. We are competing with the KRTA New York trip so It was decided to cancel our trip and encourage those signed up to go with Collette.

2 trips have been cancelled: Pacific Coast Cruise and Madison Trip

We should stay with local trips and let KRTA do the out-of-state travel. JCRTA will plan and coordinate day trips only and all long trips will be through Collette with KRTA. A motion was made by Sheryl Tapp and seconded by Marilyn Puckett to make this change. The motion passed.

Old Business: Fifteen members are attending the Convention. 10 Delegates will vote on whether to increase the dues by \$5 from \$20 to \$25. Five non-delegates' registration fee was paid by JCRTA.

New Business: Beth Dowdell and Ken Draut shared that they would write a newsletter article informing members about checking with Social Security to add Spousal benefits to their Social Security benefits.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Pam Gooch and seconded by Kathy Fries. Breakfast was served at 9:30, prior to the meeting beginning at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary