

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the  
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association  
March 6, 2025**

The General Meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association was held on March 6, 2025, at Wildwood Country Club. JCRTA President Susan Thurman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed all. Sahara Myers gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The minutes of the previous General Meeting on December 5, 2025, were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Tara Parker and seconded by Ann Hafling. The treasurer's report was provided by Mary Perry and approved as printed.

Beth Dowdell gave an overview of KRTA's Legislative Session with no adverse bills having been passed to adversely affect teachers. Social Security Windfall Protection Act WEB and Government Protection Offset GPO passed and she provided an information sheet.

Myra Fugate, Scholarship, reported that high school seniors that plan to enroll in college with a degree in education in the fall are eligible to apply for a scholarship. JCRTA awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year. The only requirement is a 2.0 GPA. The deadline is March 15, 2025. Our website, JCRTA.org, has all the information and forms to apply.

Greg Roush, KRTA Executive Director, shared his background. He is retired from Franklin County and had been the deputy director of KRTA for 3 years. He then was elected the KRTA Executive Director effective January of this year. He praised the JCRTA chapter as strong. He gave an overview of the Social Security Fairness Act WEP/GPO. Celebrations for those that already got their WEP/GPO back pay. He gave an overview of the struggle to get this legislation passed and KRTA along with local chapters advocated for this legislation. He will continue to inform us about upcoming legislation that we need to be aware of and support or oppose. A legislative session update was given. The good news is that retired teachers are in no danger regarding their pension or health care. Two bills that he is monitoring are Senate Bill 12 which would eliminate the pharmacy pool where prescription rebates are used to keep our premiums low. It should not move forward. House Bill 694 modifies the shared responsibility language. Bob Wagner was instrumental in creating a compromise to fully fund health Insurance. Once the fund is at 100% there are discussions about how to use those funds. He advocates to use them as a salary increase in teacher pay.

Sahara Myers, Necrology/Remembrance, presented a program remembering our 2024 Deceased Educators. She lit the memory candle, and the names scrolled on a screen.

Sahara read a poem and with her daughter, Brittany Nevitt, sang a song of remembrance. Susan also thanked Ralph Myers and Ken Draut for their help in the program.

Guest Speaker, Dr. Emily Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) was introduced by Susan. Dr. Kirkpatrick presented a discussion titled *Beyond the Cover*. She shared the attacks that education is experiencing. NCTE is pushing goodness into classrooms to support educators. She introduced Kentucky advocates for education that were in attendance. Supporting authentic readers, authentic writers and critical thinkers is NCTE's goal. Teacher-led growth opportunities such as *Classroom Corridors Expertise for Elementary Teachers*. NCTE helps teachers in building diverse libraries with *Build Your Stack*. The 2025 Joint Conference for Elementary Literacy and Mathematics in Chicago is this summer in June. Teachers use their summers to grow and learn. NCTE provides many awards such as Student Writing Awards. The awards for 2025 were shared: Award for Excellence in Poetry was awarded to Charles R. Smith, Jr; the Orbis Pictus Award for Nonfiction and the Charlotte Huck Award for Fiction were shared. Bookshop.org provides a list of award-winning books and gives a discount and a commission for small bookstores. Retired teachers are encouraged to reach out to NCTE to work together. An updated version of Wondrous Words by Katei Wood Ray with Stella Vilaba is to be released in June.

Susan Thurman, President, reported on upcoming events and opportunities.

- KRTA Convention—April 21-22, 2025—Holiday Inn Hurstbourne (\$37); Dr. Rick Tatum will be the outgoing President with a reception on Monday, everyone was encouraged to attend. KRTA's sole goal is to support retired teachers. Susan encouraged everyone to be active members in KRTA and our local JCRTA.
- Upcoming Trips and Tours include bus trips to Washington, D.C. May 29-June 4 (\$919); Asheville and Biltmore Estates, North Carolina, Nov 23-26 (\$615), a Cruise: fly to New York City and board Norwegian Cruise Line to parts of the eastern shoreline and Canada. October 5-12, 2025 (\$2559-\$2906). Our website JCRTA.org provides additional information, forms and contact information for Martha O'Bryan.

Two teachers, new to our meetings were recognized. JCRTA Board Members were recognized and thanked. Door prizes were presented.

The next General Meeting of JCRTA will be on Thursday, May 15, 2025. Everyone was encouraged to attend. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m., and a lunch buffet was served.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary