



Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association

Visit us at www.jcrta.org

2024-2025 Officers

President	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
1134 Blackthorn Road	
Louisville, KY 40299	
1st Vice President	
Vicki Lete	396-2713
2nd Vice President	
Sheryl Tapp	558-4350
Treasurer	
Mary Perry	693-3714
Recording Secretary	
Pam Gooch	836-7640
Corresponding Secretary	
Cindy Goldstein	541-2786
KRTA Representative	
Tara Parker	226-0219
Past President/Parliamentarian	
Dale Warren	609-7954
Audit and Budget	
Ann Marie Hafling	690-3358
Community Liaison	
Donna Wiseman	228-7733
Insurance	
Lue Peabody	767-9328
KRTA Membership	
Sheila Carson-Smith	262-2686
Legislation	
Beth Dowdell	641-5667
JCRTA Membership	
Ken Draut (interim)	592-8049
Necrology/ Remembrance	
Sahara Myers	245-0781
Nominating	
Melanie Wood	290-4944
Scholarship	
Myra Fugate	807-8517
Technology	
Ken Draut	592-8049
Trips and Tours	
Martha O'Bryan	426-5394
KRTA/AARP Essay Contest	
Marilyn Puckett	935-7002

Volume XXII, Number 1

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FEBRUARY 2025



Susan R. Thurman
JCRTA President

A Message from the President

Remember the icy cold winters of the 70's when schools were closed for days and the winter of '94 when we received record amounts of snow and had record low temperatures? This winter has us recalling the phrase "cabin fever" and longing for springtime in Kentucky! Fortunately, JCRTA has our upcoming March meeting and buffet luncheon to brighten even the dreariest of days!

Our next JCRTA General Meeting will be on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Wildwood Country Club. Emily

Kirkpatrick Haag, Executive Director of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) will be our featured speaker. A proud native and resident of Kentucky, Ms. Kirkpatrick Haag is a frequent guest speaker at the national level on topics such as organizational leadership, improving literacy and education, and removing barriers to inclusion and success. Her talk will also include current and relevant trends in literacy education. It's sure to be an informative and interesting morning!

In addition, we will have a brief remembrance ceremony to honor and celebrate those retired JCPS educators who passed away in 2024. It's our way of acknowledging the dedicated careers of these former teachers and administrators who impacted countless lives.

In April, we're looking forward to the KRTA Convention on April 21-22, 2025, at the Holiday Inn East on Hurstbourne Lane. The convention is open to all members and features guest speakers, entertainment, updates on legislative, pension, and healthcare, as well as dinner on Monday, April 21 and lunch on Tuesday, April 22. The total cost for the convention is only \$37! Registration is through KRTA. Watch for registration details in the upcoming issue of the KRTA Newsletter.

For even more fun, check out our JCRTA trips and tours for 2025! Washington, D.C. and New England/Nova Scotia will be gorgeous by spring, and you can't top Asheville, North Carolina in the fall!

Beat the winter blues and sign up with your friends and colleagues for these upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Susan Reynolds Thurman

From the Desk of the First Vice President

Vicki Lete

We survived the snow storm of 2025! The sun and warmer temperatures have been a welcomed change as we usher out January and get outside to resume normal activities. Fall proved to be fruitful as the JCRTA collected funds for our two philanthropies; we collected \$1,037 for Back to School Supplies and \$1,583 for Blessings in a Backpack. This year we will work with Principal Jameela Henderson at Kenwood Elementary to provide supplies for the school. More details about how funds were used to support students will follow in the spring. Blessings in a Backpack funds will make an immediate impact to help feed local students on weekends. Thank you to all who donated to these two endeavors.

Our next meeting will be held on March 6, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Wildwood Country Club. Emily Kirkpatrick, Director of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) will serve as our keynote speaker. Ms. Kirkpatrick has served as the NCTE for the past nine years; her previous positions include Vice President of the National Center for Family Literacy, Director of Development for the National Center for Family Literacy, and Finance Director for Mary Boyle for U.S. Senate. Ms. Kirkpatrick earned her MBA from Bellarmine University and her BA from Centre College. She resides in Louisville with her husband Steve Haag and their three children. Ms. Kirkpatrick is a dynamic, sought after speaker you will not want to miss. The JCRTA Board looks forward to seeing you March 6, 2025!

Congratulations Retirees!!!

October

Albert Alexander
Robert Dahmke
Marsha Fouts
Jamie Gallagher
Terri Gettlefinger
Kimberly Grider
Rosa Hudson
Michelle Keller
Julie Osborne
Laurie Qualah

Damon Romel
Micaela Rowland
Barbara Starr-Arnett
Glenn Taylor
Sara Taylor
Peggy Vedelli
Keisha Wilson
Natalie Wimsatt
Rebecca Wollam
Beth Wren

JCRTA celebrates your retirement by inviting you to attend our upcoming luncheon on Thursday, March 6, at a reduced cost of \$10 if you are a new retiree. Be sure to send in the special invitation you received in the mail to: Sheryl Tapp, 10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd., Louisville, KY 40241.

Community Liaison

Donna Wiseman

Volunteer Opportunity

Thank you for the wonderful response to the request for volunteer hours. I received 33 responses at our last meeting and another 28 via text or email. We have reached an incredible 10,273 volunteer hours and there were many more. Thank you all for all that you do. In addition, there were eight highly qualified people who were nominated for Volunteer of the Year. Again, I will say a great big Thank You.

I have one new request for volunteers, so if you are looking for a place to help this may be the place for you.

Citizen Foster Care Review Board

Thousands of children enter foster care each year. This Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers play a significant role in protecting these children by reviewing the case of each child in custody of the Department of Community Based Services and by making recommendations to judges who make decisions about placing children in safe permanent homes. For more information Contact: Linda Miller, linda.miller@twc.com 800- 928-2350, CFCRB@kycourts.net

JCRTA Newsflash!



- **Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – Reservations due** for March 6th JCRTA General Meeting.
Mail checks payable to JCRTA for \$25 and mail to: Sheryl Tapp, 10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd, Louisville, KY 40241
- **Thursday, March 6, 2025 – JCRTA General Meeting and Buffet:** 10:00 AM at Wildwood Country Club
- **Monday/Tuesday, April 22-23, 2025 – KRTA Convention** at Holiday Inn East on Hurstbourne Lane; see upcoming KRTA Newsletter for registration information.
- **Friday, June 6, 2025- JCRTA Day at Churchill Downs!** Join us for a fun day on Millionaire's Row! Ticket information will be available soon on our website at www.jcrt.org.

Trips & Tours for 2025

Martha O'Bryan

You all missed a really neat experience if you did not go on the day trip to Churchill Downs on November 7, 2024 with the JCRTA teachers and their friends. We had a GREAT time and even came home with a fist full of dollars! We are working on more day trips for 2025. Please go to JCRTA.org from time to time and check out our day trips.

2025 Trips

Washington, Washington, D.C.

Our Nation's Capital

June 5 – 11, 2025

\$919, Final payment due 3/29/25

There are spots available for the Washington, D.C. trip. Please sign up immediately. Don't delay so that you will have a seat on the bus!

Join us for a summertime tour of Washington D.C. Your trip includes motorcoach transportation, six nights lodging with 4 nights in Washington. 6 breakfasts, and 4 dinners included. You'll get a guided tour of Washington: WWII Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, Korean and Vietnam Memorials, the Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Memorials, Arlington Cemetery and a visit to the Smithsonian.



Canada and New England Cruise
Sunday-Monday, October 5 – 12, 2025

\$2,559-\$2,906

Final payment due May 7, 2025

Join your fellow teachers on a fun cruise up the New England coast to Canada. We will depart from New York City and make the following stops: Newport, Rhode Island, Portland, and Bar Harbor, Maine, Halifax in Nova Scotia, and St. John Bay and the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick. Lobster and great fall cruising weather are in the works. **PASSPORT REQUIRED**

Cost: Great Discounted Price! \$2,559-\$2,906 double occupancy.

Cruise Line: Norwegian Cruise Line

SIGN UP NOW! DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

Asheville and Biltmore Estate, North Carolina

November 23 - 26, 2025

\$615 Double Occupancy

Final payment due 9/16/2025

Visit the Blue Ridge Mountain area of beautiful Asheville, North Carolina and the Biltmore Estate. A motorcoach will take us on this 4 day trip with 3 nights in Asheville. 6 meals will be provided along with a tour of Asheville and the Biltmore Estate. Travel will take us along the Blue Ridge Parkway with stops at the Folk Art Center and Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center. The Biltmore will be aglow with beautiful Christmas decorations. You don't want to miss this Christmas event.

For more information on any of these trips go to JCRTA.org or contact Martha O'Bryan tennisbridgemom@gmail.com 502-426-5394



Insurance Update

Lue Peabody

2025 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Insurance

Resources for Retired Members

Retired members under age 65:

Kentucky Employees' Health Plan: KEHP <https://trs.ky.gov/retired-members/under-age-65/>

- Anthem BlueCross Blue Shield – your health insurance provider (TRS: 800-618-1687)
- CVS/Caremark Pharmacies – Do not have to use CVS, as long as your pharmacy participates in the network
- StayWell – a wellness and rewards program that helps you live healthier
- Vitals Smart Shopper – use cost effective locations, helps you and the plan, avoid higher-cost claims will reward you with financial incentives
- Know Your RX Coalition – provides support

to help retirees make the most of their prescription benefits. KYRX is 855-218-5979.

Retired Members age 65 and over:

Medicare Eligible Health Plan: MEHP <https://trs.ky.gov/retired-members/age-65-over/>

- UnitedHealthcare – your health care provider
- Express Scripts – access to affordable medications and the services you need to stay healthy. through mail order, a 90-day or longer medications at a very low cost; short term medications available through most local pharmacies
- Coriell Life Sciences – a partner in TRS's Personalized Medicine Program.
- Know Your Rx Coalition – provides personalized support to help retirees make the most of their prescription benefits. KYRX is 855-218-5979.

JCRTA Scholarships!

Myra Fugate

The Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association was established as an agency for continued service for teachers and community after retirement. While the focus of the association is to advance the interests and welfare of retired teachers, the underlying connection of all members is the passion for education. The JCRTA is proud to provide two (2) \$1,000.00 one-year scholarships in the hope that two young students from Jefferson County Public Schools can follow their dreams to become the newest generation of educators.

All applicants are asked to write a one-page, typed essay on their reasons for choosing education as a career. Specific examples would enhance the quality of the essay. In addition to the essay, students must meet the following criteria:

- Students must have a minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA for high school and be enrolled as a full-time student for the fall semester at a community college or university following high school graduation.
 - Students must submit three letters of recommendation. One should be from a teacher, one should be from an administrator, and one should be from a member of the local community. All letters must be typed.
 - Students must submit the application, essay, letters of recommendation, and a copy of their transcript, including ACT scores, to fugatemyra@gmail.com on or before March 15 of the application year.
- Additional information and scholarship forms can be found at jcrtta.org or by contacting Myra Fugate 502-807-8517 or fugatemyra@gmail.com.

KRTA Executive Council Meeting, December 9, 2024

Tara Parker

2023-24 Financial Audit Report-Julia Meredith, Monroe Shine presented the audit & stated that all financials are in good order with a very strong portfolio at 2.273 million.

-Membership Committee Report- Tim Abrams reported that we are about 150 members short of our goal. Our goal is 31,725 and we are at 31,600.

-Health & Insurance Committee-Margaret Sims, State Health and Insurance Chair, reported that formularies for some medications have changed and if a member is affected, they need to call Know Your RX Coalition. As of September 1 of this year, there are now 3 categories that require pre-authorizations for retirees over 65: Physical Therapy, Speech Services and Chiropractic Services. Margaret announced that Grace Dotson is

now the Director of the Health Insurance Division at TRS.

-Legislative Committee-Allen Schuler, State Legislative Co-Chair, discussed the success of defeating Amendment 2 and mentioned that a law suit has been filed to include Charter Schools as a subset of the public school system.

-AARP/KRTA Specialist Cebert Gilbert, Jr. thanked those who participated in the school supply drive, and reminded us that the Grandparent Essay is due 12/15/24. Prize money has been increased to \$500.

-2025 KRTA Convention dates have been approved. The annual KRTA Convention is scheduled at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne in Louisville on Monday, April 21-Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Legislative Report

Beth Dowdell

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your family. It's hard to believe that the holidays are over and we're already well into January! Time does fly! Anyway, that also means that it's time to focus on our priorities for the 2025 legislative session. But first, I have an update.

Social Security Fairness Act

Most Kentucky teachers paid minimum amounts into Social Security (summer work, work in college, work as teenagers etc.) However, those teachers found out that when they went to draw a rather small Social Security benefit that even though they paid in like other workers, they did not receive their fair share. In addition, they were prevented from receiving survivor benefits from their spouse's Social Security accounts.

We've got some good news to report. The Social Security Fairness Act, WEP/GPO: HR:82 passed Congress and was signed into law by President Biden on 1/5/25. This bill eliminates the reduction of Social Security benefits to individuals who are entitled to pension benefits from work not covered by Social Security. It also eliminates the reduction applied to an individual's

Social Security spousal or survivor benefits if they also receive a pension from work not covered by Social Security. The Social Security Administration is evaluating how to implement the Act. KRTA is recommending that those affected be sure to go to www.SSA.gov to make sure all personal records are updated and current. It is believed that benefits will be effective 12/23.

2025 Legislative Priorities

The new legislative session is beginning in Frankfort this month. Our representatives will be available to meet with constituents the first week of February. KRTA will be leading a delegation to Frankfort every Wednesday in February and the first 2 weeks of March. I plan to go several times to meet with Jefferson County representatives. Our legislative priorities are the same for 2025 as they were in 2024. It is still very important that we are mindful of the changes of representation in Frankfort and that we make certain that our priorities are known to all our representatives. You can help by contacting your legislative representative to reinforce our concerns as well. Working together can make a difference! Thanks for your support!

GENERAL MEETINGS

Wildwood Country Club

BOARD MEETINGS

KRTA Office

Thursday, March 6, 2025

10:00 AM

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

10:00 AM

Thursday, May 15, 2025

10:00 AM

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

10:00 AM

Friday, August 22, 2025

10:00 AM

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

10:00 AM

Registration and time to visit vendors 30 minutes prior to meeting.

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Wildwood Country Club*

5000 Bardstown Road

Registration: 9:30 A.M.

Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Lunch Following Meeting

*Limited handicapped parking and golf-cart shuttle is available

Menu

Buffet

Salad Bar

Lasagna

Vegetable, Rolls

Coffee and Tea

Dessert

JCRTA Luncheon Meeting: Thursday, March 6, 2025

Sheryl Tapp

Please detach this form and return it to:

10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd

New retirees, as listed in this newsletter, must send in this special invitation to qualify for a free lunch.

Louisville, KY 40241

(please print address)



Name: _____ Telephone No.: _____

School Table Reservation: _____

New Retiree: _____

I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ reservations at \$25 each. **Make your check out to JCRTA.**

My E-mail _____

Reservation/payment deadline for a meal is February 25, 2025.

No telephone or walk-in reservations will be accepted.

****NEW RETIREES** whose names are listed in the newsletter are eligible to attend the luncheon at a reduced cost of \$10. Send in the "special invitation" you received in the mail to qualify for the reduced rate. For questions, please contact Sheryl Tapp at 502-558-4350 or tappshoe@twc.com Please make checks payable to JCRTA.

Carolyn Abell
 Loren Abma
 Jeannie Allbritten
 Alexandra Allen
 Duane Andrews
 Ivan Bailen
 Mary Baltz
 William Barger
 Peggy Barnum
 Janice Barthle
 Elizabeth Barton
 Charles Basham
 Lana Baumgardner
 William Beasy, III
 Fred Belcher
 Wilma Benson
 Ronnah Bogert
 Joyce Bosco
 Marilyn Boyd
 Vickie Bramer
 Barbara Braun
 Billy Brown
 Charles Brown
 Davalene Burch
 William Burden
 Kimberly Carden
 Linda Carden
 Reon Carothers
 Patricia Carter
 Jose Casado
 Bessie Chambers
 Thomas Cheaney
 Martha Classon
 Geraldine Colley
 Lisa Collier
 Elmer Collina
 Eleanor Collins
 James Collins
 Lois Collins
 Phillip Cooper
 John Cornell
 Barbara Cothron
 Robert Crafton
 Joyce Croft
 Sharon Crosby
 Henry Davidson, Jr.
 Pamela Davis
 Rodney Dempsey
 Clara Dixon
 Priscilla Donan
 Alton Dull, Jr.
 Alice Dunlap
 Theresa Dunlap
 Shirley Elgin
 Caroline Embry



"A life that touches others goes on forever"

In Remembrance

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Shirley Erickson
 Carrie Evans
 Titus Exum
 Judith Ford
 Nollie Foreman
 Janice Fraser
 Charlene Freeman
 Jacquelyn Frost
 Garland Garner
 Louis Giancola
 Gary Gibson
 Raymond Grant, Jr.
 Edith Greschel
 Phyllis Hafling
 Patricia Hall
 Sue Hall
 Bennie Hammons
 Julie Hardin
 Margaret Harp
 Robert Harris
 Sandra Harris
 Dolores Hartman
 Jean Hemesath
 Earl Henderson
 Wanda Higgs
 Louis Hilkey
 Perry Hill
 Danny Houchin
 Jamie Houchell
 Barbara Howard
 Terry Humphrey
 Carolyn Hutto
 Hattie Hysinger
 Sheila James
 Jacqueline John
 Eugene Johnson
 Douglas Jones
 Clifford Jones
 Thelma Jordan
 Katherine Jungbert
 Donnie Kays
 Sandra Keesee
 Anna Keys
 Mary Kiser

Francine Kniffley
 Linda Kraft
 Horace Krizan
 Brian Kulp
 Thanh Le
 Mary Leet
 Norman Lewis
 Natalie Lisanby
 Jean Littlefield
 Sarah Livingston
 Mary Madden
 Louise Maggard
 Dorothy Martin
 Joseph Mattingly
 Jane Maxey
 Julie McGinnis
 Frederick McGinnis, III
 Elaine McIntyre
 Michael McKissic
 James McWhorter
 Herschel Meredith, Jr.
 James Mitchell
 Michael Montgomery
 Dorothy Morsey
 Charles Nalevanko
 Judith Napper
 Cora Neumayer
 Elizabeth Newell
 Barbara Noel-Hicks
 Jane Norman
 Marcia O'Grady-Hageman
 Joe Page
 Rizal Parel
 Opal Parkerson
 Maureen Petzold
 Mary Pieper
 Jacquie Planck
 James Pounds
 Vera Prater
 Carlene Price
 Yvonne Price
 Jacqueline Pumphrey
 Pamela Reid

Mary Reilly
 Josephine Reiter
 Sharon Render
 Kenneth Rhodes
 June Rice
 Monica Richards
 Jerry Riley
 Harry Reinhart
 Carol Rogers
 Terry Rowe
 Kevin Salyer
 Stuart Sampson
 Adley Sandefur
 Pamela Savoy-Jarvis
 Constance Schickel
 Susan Schmied
 Mary Schuble
 Victoria Schuler
 Joan Shepler
 Vivian Simmons
 Carolyn Sisk
 Lauren Slone
 Eugene Smith
 John Smith
 Marcella Smith
 Mary Smith
 Barry Steenbergen
 Beverly Stewart
 Theresa Stiebling
 James Stites
 Anna Stivers
 Todd Stoke
 Bette Strange
 James Strause
 Elizabeth Swindler
 Raymond Tackett
 Myra Taylor
 Carol Thomas, Jr.
 Esther Thompson
 Candace Thornton-Biddle
 Charlotte Tyler
 James Vaughn
 Joseph Villanova
 Ernest Wallshield, Jr.
 Catherine Welle
 Mary Westerman
 Sharon Whelan
 Letha Whitworth
 Howard Wilson
 Joseph Wilson
 Willie Woods
 Fonrose Wortham, Jr.
 Shirley Yeates
 Melissa Young
 Bonna Zion