

### 2019-2020 Officers

<b>President</b>	
Dale Warren	609-7954
412 East Southside Court Louisville, Ky. 40214-3026	
<b>1st Vice President</b>	
Sahara Myers	245-0781
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	
Marilyn Puckett	935-7002
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Mary Perry	277-1153
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	
Linda Ratti	245-4539
<b>KRTA Representative</b>	
Melanie Wood	290-4944
<b>Past President/Parliamentarian</b>	
Dr. Rick Tatum	649-7613
<b>Audit and Budget</b>	
Ann Hafing	361-5245
<b>Community Liaison</b>	
Ken Draut	592-8049
<b>Insurance</b>	
Lue Peabody	767-9328
<b>KRTA Membership</b>	
Sheila Carson-Smith	262-2686
<b>Legislation</b>	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
<b>JCRTA Membership</b>	
Marilyn Hazard	499-2716
Doris Carter	365-4362
<b>Necrology</b>	
<b>Nominating</b>	
Tara Parker	226-0219
<b>Remembrance</b>	
Laura Marquess	267-7779
<b>Scholarship</b>	
Maritza Cassidy	314-5264
<b>Technology</b>	
Ken Draut	592-8049
<b>Trips and Tours</b>	
Martha O'Bryan	426-5394
Ruth Boone	451-6430
<b>Trips/Tours Treasurer</b>	
Bonnie Wantland	241-7535
<b>KRTA/AARP Essay Contest</b>	
Donna Seaford	429-8227



Dale Warren  
JCRTA President

### A Message from the President

May this message find you and your family healthy and happy regardless of the stressful pandemic we are battling.

Many activities around our world both large and small have been canceled, and the KRTA Annual Conference scheduled for April 20-21 is no exception. It was cancelled in March.

We have also had to cancel our General Meeting on May 16, 2020 at the University Club. A tentative date has been set for August 28th. New retirees who would normally receive a free lunch on May 16th will be eligible for one on August 28th or December 5th. In addition many of our Trips and Tours have been cancelled.

Even with the COVID-19 virus taking up the headlines, the Kentucky State Legislature has been busy attacking our retirement and health benefits. It is necessary for us to remain vigilant. TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONG.

We want to recognize and thank several board members who will be terming out this year: Linda Ratti, Tara Parker, and Laura Marquess. They have been great supporters of our organization for many years. Ladies, Thank You.

I look forward to seeing you all at the August 28th General Meeting and Luncheon!

Sincerely,

Dale Warren

### Nominating Committee Report

*Rick Tatum*

Following is the slate of officers that have been recommended by the Nominating Committee for vacancies that exist in Elected positions for JCRTA. The candidates would begin their term on July 1, 2020. We are conducting this election through the newsletter since we will not be having our May General Meeting. The ballot for the election is located at the end of this newsletter where we normally have our Registration Form for our General Meeting.

- 2nd Vice President – Pam Gooch
- Recording Secretary – Marilyn Puckett
- Corresponding Secretary – Debbie Dunn
- KRTA Representative – Rick Tatum

Please locate the Ballot at the end of the newsletter, vote and return the ballot to Marilyn Puckett, 9111 Royal Oak Drive, Louisville, KY 40272 by June 3, 2020.

**From the Desk of the First Vice President**

*Sahara A. Myers, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” I don’t think Thomas Paine will mind me borrowing this quote from his essay “The Crisis”. The crisis to which he is referring isn’t the same as the crisis we are currently experiencing, but THIS crisis, OUR crisis, is one that is making us stop and ponder. So many fellow Kentuckians of our commonwealth are greatly concerned about the COVID-19 virus and how it continues to impact our communities and families. We don’t know how long this situation will last and the uncertainty gives us pause. Let me suggest to all of us, even during this time, that we do our best to think of something positive.

Scripture tells us in Philippians 4:6-8 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understand, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

I have spent my time these last few weeks doing things that I’ve wanted to do. For instance, I’ve been watching various episodes in the Star Trek series. There are so many! There’s the original series, Deep Space Nine, Discovery, the newest one, Picard, and many more...binge watching them all. I’m using this time getting familiar with tools that keep me connected with others such as GroupMe, Zoom and GoTo Meeting. Our church is using Conference Call for meetings but I don’t like it much, you can’t see people’s faces. I am exercising with my stationary bike and walking on my treadmill. All the while, I keep track of my progress using Samsung Health on my phone. I use the app YouVersion to be diligent in my Bible reading. Are you seeing a pattern? Technology is becoming my friend. I have tried to read novels but I find that watching television takes less effort. You may have also noticed that I didn’t mention dusting. Don’t judge me.

All and all I am enjoying my time at home. My husband and best friend is great company. As you stay home, here are a few suggestions for keeping yourself well. Stay connected with family/friends, get plenty of sleep, wash your hands often, take vitamins such as D and C, stay healthy AT HOME, and think of GOOD things. As you have heard many times during these last few weeks, “We are in this together.” Stay safe, stay sane, and may God bless.

**Community Liaison**

*Ken Draut*

*JCRTA Volunteers of the 2020 Year*

*In 2019, JCRTA had two outstanding candidates for Volunteer of the Year. The committee decided both needed recognition; therefore, congratulations to Susan Heichelbech and Rose Mangino. After you read their volunteer summaries, you’ll agree we have two very special members of JCRTA. Thanks to both Rose and Susan for their dedication to our community.*

**Susan Heichelbech**, a retired teacher with 30 years in Jefferson County Public Schools, has been a member of JCRTA since 2010 when she retired. While working she was active in the NEA, KEA, and JCTA serving as a building representative for over 20 years. Within 6 months of retirement, Susan was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and underwent treatment. After being declared cancer free, Susan decided to become an avid volunteer for many community organizations.

During 2019, Susan volunteered with the following groups:

- Actor’s Theater of Louisville is where she volunteers as an User and works the Student Matinee programs.
- The Kentucky Center for Performing Arts is a regular volunteer spot for the last three years and she received the Home Away From Home Award which is awarded to the top 50 volunteers out of a pool of 500. In addition, she is on an exclusive 9 person volunteer team called Sensory Friendly Team for the Center. The Sensory Friendly Team helps create a welcoming environment for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other individuals with sensory issues.
- The Louisville Zoo is another favorite volunteer spot and Susan received three months of training to become a Louisville Zoo Docent. In addition, her volunteer hours also included training for the Science Nights at Schools, Outreach Program, Zoo Camp, School at the Zoo and Docent meetings. She enjoys working at the Santa Safari, Animal Interpretations, and Animal Passport Days.

And if those aren’t enough to keep anyone busy, Susan is very active in her church, St. Ignatius. She is a member of the Saint Ann’s Sodality and Grace Ministry

**Community Liaison (continued)**

(formerly known as St. Vincent De Paul Society). She has served as a Eucharistic Minister and Gift Bearer. And she is active with the Church Picnic, Food Pantry, Christmas Baskets, various fundraisers like the Card Party and Lenten Fish Fries. She counts collection and works in the church office helping with financial matters.

Susan’s passion for life and her community, teamed with her teaching years makes her an extraordinary volunteer. Susan Heichelbach is a JCRTA Volunteer of the Year for 2020.



**Rose Mangino**, a member of JCRTA since 2006, is a tireless volunteer with over 1,400 hours of volunteer work in 2019. She has a passion for all the different agencies she volunteers for and is known to step in at a moment’s notice if called on. That dedication comes from an over a 40 year career starting out at Southwick Elementary and moving to Bloom Elementary and then to Audubon Elementary for 24 years. Her last 6 years were spent at Maupin Elementary in the ESS program. Her students loved her and so do the various volunteer agencies she now supports.

During 2019, Rose volunteered at the following agencies:

- Louisville Muhammed Ali Airport is regular stop for Rose. For the last 5 years, she is the face of Louisville as she works at the Welcome Center for travelers. She gives out information on tourist sites, answers phone calls, provides directions to airport facilities, and helps connect non-English speaking visitors with interpreters. You’ve probably seen Rose’s smiling face but just didn’t know she was one our very own retired teachers.
- Kentucky Center for Performing Arts is the beneficiary of 15 years of Rose’s volunteer work. She checks tickets, directs people to their seat locations and has won the Home Away from Home Award (top 50 volunteers out of 500) for two years. She eagerly volunteers for extra hours when the Center needs her.

- Ronald McDonald house has seen Rose enter their doors for 15 years as a volunteer. She is a Jill of All Trades and helps cleaning rooms, baking deserts, and making the experience for nervous parents a little more tense while their children receive treatment at local hospitals. Parents at the Ronald McDonald house see Rose as one of their special angels.
- Candy for Caring, a non-profit that directly helps the underserved through the Jewish Hospital and St. Mary’s Foundation, is a regular volunteer stop for Rose. In her 15th year, she helps direct people on making candy, selling candy at various locations, and is on the Board of Directors for Candy House. She is instrumental in raising money and dispensing it to some thirty charities in the metro area.

On top of the various groups above, Rose also is active in her local church, St. Stephn Martyr. She regularly volunteers for numerous church activities.

Rose Mangino, filled with energy and dedication to our community deserves her recognition as a JCRTA Volunteer of the Year for 2020.

**JCRTA Volunteer Statistics for 2019**

**132 JCRTA members documented 28,033 hours of community service for 2019. Rose Mangino, Susan Heichelbech, Beatrice Jones, Rick Tatum, and Frankie Buckman all had more than 800 hours of volunteer work. Thanks to all JCRTA Volunteers for their dedication, time and service. Please keep track of your 2020 volunteer hours and we’ll ask for a summary next fall.**

**KRTA Membership**

*Sheila Carson*

KRTA members are Needed! Your voices are definitely needed to call your representatives in Frankfort in order to protect our pension, medical insurance and anything due in our retirement fund.

We must be together! Together, we make a difference!!!

**Trips & Tours for 2019**

*Ruth Boone & Martha O'Bryan*

**VERMONT**

September 20-26, 2020 • \$846

Join us for an adventure to Vermont. We will explore the Morse Farm and see how sap is harvested and turned into syrup, take a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain and a 30 minute factory tour of Ben and Jerry's. Other side trips include watching stone sculpting at the Rock of Ages Granite Quarry and exploring the Shelburne Museum. At the museum we will see 19th century American folk art, quilts, circus pieces and the Ticonderoga Steamboat.

This trip is full at the current time. Please call Ruth Boone 502-451-6430 to put your name on a waiting list. More information can be found on the website <https://www.jcrta.org/travel>

For questions call Ruth Boone 502-451-6430 or Martha O'Bryan 502-426-5394 or email Martha at [tennisbridgemom@gmail.com](mailto:tennisbridgemom@gmail.com).

**DANUBE RIVER CRUISE FROM  
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY TO  
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

August 9-22, 2020 • \$4,885

Travel from Budapest, Hungary along the Danube to Bucharest, Romania. This is a 14 day river cruise with Grand Circle Cruise Line. The trip is scheduled for August 9-22, 2020.

The cost is \$4,885 round trip from Louisville, Ky. **(including airfare, 7 free tours, accommodations for 14 days)**. Information about the trip is posted on our website: <https://jcrta.org/travel>. If you have any questions feel free to call Martha O'Bryan (502-426-5394) or email Martha at [tennisbridgemom@gmail.com](mailto:tennisbridgemom@gmail.com) Final payment is due three months before the tour, May 9, 2020. This trip is still scheduled at this time.

The day trip which was scheduled in June 2020 to the KY HORSE PARK was cancelled because of the coronavirus. It will be rescheduled in the Fall.



**JCRTA Membership**

*Marilyn Hazard, Chair | Doris Carter, Co-Chair*

**RENEW! RENEW! RENEW!**

It is now time to renew our membership in JCRTA for the new year of 2020-2021. Enclosed with your newsletter is your new membership form that should be returned. It would be greatly appreciated if this form is returned to Mary Perry, our treasurer. The cost of our membership is \$10.00 per year. Remember, we do not pay for multiple years. If you decide to pay more than \$10.00 (or pay for multiple years), it will be counted as a donation to the organization. This will not be counted as an extension of your membership. Membership is vital for the strength of our organization. It protects our pension, healthcare, and our benefits. If you know of any recently retired teacher that's not a member, share with them the benefits of membership in JCRTA. So, let's renew and return those membership forms!

Thank you,  
Marilyn Hazard, Chair

**Legislative Update**

*Susan Thurman*

Almost like a rite of spring, politics in Kentucky has increasingly focused on teacher pension and health care issues as part of the spring legislative session. Spring 2020 has been no exception. In addition to the global health crisis, a budget crisis impacting retired teacher pensions has made headlines this spring.

The Kentucky House of Representatives initially passed a budget fully funding teacher pensions for the next biennium, but only partially funding health care for retired teachers under 65. When the House version of the budget came to the Senate, state senators met behind closed doors to come up with their own version of the budget. Once released, the Senate version of the budget included measures that could divert up to \$1.13 billion from the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS).

With many teachers isolated at home due to the corona virus, Kentucky's retired teachers still found a way to make our voices heard and insist that Frankfort honor past pension promises. Following the release of the proposed budget by the Senate, state legislators received a historic number of emails and phone calls from retired teachers demanding that our pension and health care benefits be fully funded.

The General Assembly eventually passed a budget that provided the actuarially required contribution to the TRS and fully funded the medical insurance fund. However, the "fine print" called for the state to contribute lower amounts to TRS to offset an expected shortfall in the state budget. Governor Andy Beshear vetoed these "fine print" items, but the General Assembly voted to override all of the governor's line-item vetoes.

The resulting one-year state budget keeps pension and health-care benefits for teachers stable and intact for the short term. However, with funding set at only 58 percent for pensions and 46 percent for health insurance, the long term impact puts the stability of these funds at risk. If lawmakers continue to underfund teacher pensions and medical insurance, TRS will be facing an economic shortfall similar to what occurred in the past.

Two things remain clear: 1) averting a crisis with teacher pensions and health care benefits remains an ongoing task for the foreseeable future, and 2) contacting your local legislators to voice your concerns does make a difference! Thank you to the many retired educators who made those much needed calls and penned poignant emails during such troubling times. Your efforts continue to be invaluable!

Visit [www.jcrta.org](http://www.jcrta.org) to view key comments about the budget from Tim Abrams, KRTA Executive Director.

**Congratulations 2020 Retirees!!!**

**January**

- YOLANDA M BALLANGER
- JAMESON O BOWDEN
- MONICA A CLARK
- KIMBERLY D COSLOW
- PATRICIA G COUDEN
- JULIE A CUMMINGS
- KENNETH D FARRIS
- CATHERINE L GIBBS
- BARBARA V GRUMBLATT
- LAURA P GUISSINGER
- PEGGY A HARRINGTON
- SCOTT K HOOPER
- KEITH D KNOX
- SATKO N LUNJA
- SHARON E MCNAIRY
- KATHERINE K MILLER
- JAMIE D NEAL
- RHONDA R PUTT
- MARGARET E REED
- AMY J REYNOLDS
- STEPHEN J RIGGS
- LYNLEY D SCHROERING
- WENDY A STOLL
- JAMES R SYME
- MARGARET A TARI
- ELIZABETH S WHITNEY
- MARGARET K WILSON

**February**

- LAURA L BARNETT
- SHELIA K BROCK
- STEVEN W BROWN
- MARY J COLLIER
- JAMES JACKSON, JR.
- SYLVIA Y SMITH

**March**

- LIDIA I HIGGINS
- KATHLEEN A HOGAN
- CATHY W JOHNSTONE
- BETH A MANN
- CLARA T MIRANDA
- GARY A SMITH

*We celebrate your retirement and want to congratulate you on the completion of a wonderful career. In order to celebrate in person we will be inviting you to be our guest for lunch at the next scheduled General Meeting of JCRTA to be held in August. Please see our next newsletter for the exact date and the form with which you can make your luncheon reservation.*

**Insurance Update**

*Lue Peabody*

**From United Health Care – What You Need to Know!**

You may hear it called the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believe that the risk of contracting the virus is currently low for most people. Those at higher risk of illness are:

- Older adults
- People with serious health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes

The CDC recommends that those at higher risk take steps such as stocking up on supplies, avoiding crowds and staying home as much as possible. Visit the CDC website to learn more.

**How to protect yourself.**

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.

- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect things you touch often.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue and put tissue in trash.
- If possible, stay home when you feel sick.

Stay safe and healthy at home!

I hope this email finds you safe and well. The link below is an audio visual tool that United Health care has prepared for Kentucky’s Retired Teachers who are 65 and older and on the Medicare Eligible Health Plan (MEHP). I think you will find its contents very informative.

<https://www.brainshark.com/ovations/vu?pi=zHdzUmaBAzUvm2z0>

Tim Abrams, State President

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

**UofL University Club**

Friday, August 28, 2020 10:00 AM  
 Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:00 AM

*Registration 30 minutes prior to meeting.*

**BOARD MEETINGS**

**KRTA Office**

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 10:00 AM



**BALLOT FOR NEW JCRTA OFFICERS**

(Place an X in front of the candidates you want to vote for)

\_\_\_\_\_(An X here indicates that I am in favor of all candidates)

\_\_\_\_2nd Vice President – Pam Gooch

\_\_\_\_Recording Secretary – Marilyn Puckett

\_\_\_\_Corresponding Secretary – Debbie Dunn

\_\_\_\_KRTA Representative – Rick Tatum

\_\_\_\_Write-in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_Position\_\_\_\_\_

*(Thank you and please return this ballot to Marilyn Puckett,  
 9111 Royal Oak Drive, Louisville, KY 40272. Please return the ballot by June 3, 2020.)*