

2022-2023 Officers

President Susan Thurman 1134 Blackthorn Road Louisville, KY 40299	386-2555
1st Vice President Sahara Myers	245-0781
2nd Vice President Pam Gooch	836-7640
Treasurer Mary Perry	277-1813
Recording Secretary Marilyn Puckett	935-7002
Corresponding Secretary Debbie Dunn	541-1865
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 Marilyn Hazard	499-2716
Necrology/ Remembrance VACANT	
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 VACANT	



Susan R. Thurman
JCRTA President

A Message from the President

With the Kentucky Derby just around the corner, JCRTA is off and running with renewed spirit and energy as we plan new programs, opportunities, and benefits for our members!

First out of the starting gate is our JCRTA General Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, May 18 at 10:00 AM at Wildwood Country Club. Our guest speaker is Hank Hensley, a proud KRTA partner who is a finance and investment advisor. Hank has some great financial tips to share!

There's also something new on our "racing form" – a field trip! Join us for a guided tour of the Roots 101 museum on Monday, May 22 from 11:00 AM-1:30 PM. The museum focuses on the African American community – its story and accomplishments. Reservations must be made in advance. Guests are welcome. See registration info within this newsletter or at jcrta.org.

With a call to the post, we're proclaiming May as the start of our annual membership campaign! The primary purpose of JCRTA is to serve retired teachers and all membership dues go to that effort. The list below highlights a few benefits and supports our local dues provide.

- Four newsletters per year with updates about legislation, benefits, and social activities
- Four business/luncheon meetings per year that provide information and entertainment
- An up-to-date website, jcrta.org, with info on membership, trips, and volunteer opportunities
- \$1000 scholarships awarded annually to two JCPS seniors majoring in education
- \$50 award given to the JCPS winner of the AARP/KRTA Grandparent Essay Contest
- Delegates sent annually to the state KRTA convention in Louisville
- Contributions for school supplies, food initiatives, and the KRTA "Bourgard Fund," which helps retired teachers throughout the state who experience emergency situations.

For JCRTA to continue to offer these benefits and more, it is apparent we must increase our membership dues. Therefore, the JCRTA board of directors voted to increase membership dues to \$15 annually starting in May 2023. This increase in dues allows us to keep pace with skyrocketing costs that affect our programs, opportunities, and benefits. Note this increase is in line with other retired teacher associations across the state.

For your convenience, JCRTA now offers online payment for membership. Go to jcrta.org for easy access to both online payment information and traditional membership forms. You can also pay your dues by returning the membership form included with this newsletter.

Be a part of the winning ticket and renew your JCRTA membership today!

Happy spring and happy Derby!

Susan R. Thurman

From the Desk of the First Vice President

Sahara A. Myers, 1st Vice President

Dear friends, this article will be my final newsletter entry as the First Vice President of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association. Let me first say, “Thank you!!!” to all of you who have been supportive of me and have on so many occasions expressed heart-felt encouragement. The first two years we were in covid mode. We had to be creative with our community outreach as well as be creative in the way we connected with each other. You have been so awesome in your willingness to do what we normally do differently. Thank you for your generosity as we partnered with our neighborhood schools to provide supplies, clothing and food.

We recently received an acknowledgement from Kim Holsclaw, Managing Director of Blessing in a Backpack Louisville Chapter. As you may know, for the last 3 years we have made monetary contributions to this organization for our annual food donation. They thanked us for our gift of \$1,561.00. She mentioned in her letter that over 80,000 children in Louisville are food insecure. With support from organizations such as JCRTA, they are changing that. She continues to say, “We are so glad to have you on Team Blessings. If you are wondering whether you have made a difference by partnering with us, you can be certain that you have!”

Thank you to Dale Warren, Susan Thurman and the entire JCRTA board for being welcoming and friendly. They helped me to be the best version of myself as I performed my duties as First Vice President. A special thanks to Eunice Payne, the former First Vice President who helped me get acclimated to the position. Thanks to my husband Ralph who provided entertainment for one of our meetings and served as my article proofreader. Thanks, babe!

I was not able to attend the last general meeting because of a sudden illness but I would like to thank Dr. Rita Greer and the panelists who participated in the discussion of “Where do we go from here?” I understand it was an informative and enlightening presentation.

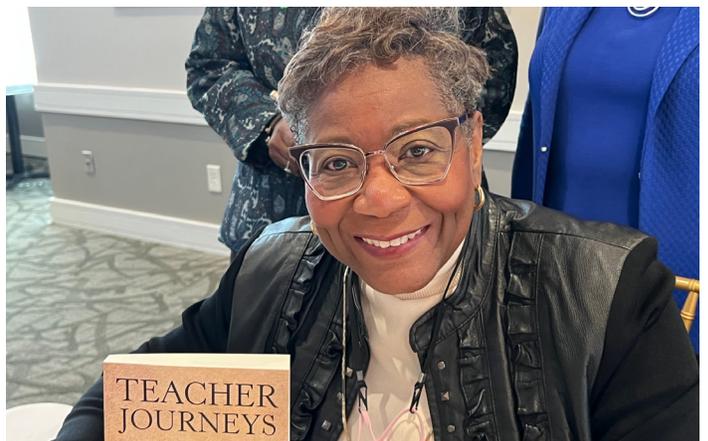
Finally, I’d like to thank Sarah Newby, my mother, for being a teacher. My first understanding of what it meant to be a teacher came from her. I saw her get up early and come back home late having been at school teaching and preparing for her students. From her, I learned how to grade papers and prepare bulletin boards. I saw how she cared for each student and communicated well with parents. She was an example of how to work with colleagues and be a true champion for her school. She was a dedicated educator for fifty years. She loved students and they loved her...even the ones who may have been difficult in the classroom. They all knew that she

meant business when it came to learning. She challenged her students to be more, to know more, and to try more so that they could not only meet her expectations but to WANT to excel for themselves. That is something I hope I was able to do for my students. There is no more noble profession than to be a teacher. I am grateful for the opportunity to share in the shaping of minds and talents.

Our next general meeting will be on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Wildwood Country Club located at 5000 Bardstown Road. Our guest will be Henry “Hank” Hensley of Henry Hensley and Associates, Inc. Hank is a financial advisor, and he will do a presentation that will be of interest to us all. I hope to see you in May! Thanks again and be blessed!



Elizabeth Caples, Verna Cahoon, Shirley Fuqua-Jackson, Dr. Eugene Kelly, and Dr. Rita Greer share their memories and thoughts about education at the JCRTA March meeting.



Dr. Rita Gilbert Greer’s new book, Teachers Journeys, includes memories, reflections, and lessons from African-American Educators.

Trips & Tours for 2023

Martha O'Bryan

**Exploring America's National Parks-
Western States
September 5-19, 2023**

Join your fellow teachers on a trip of a lifetime. This includes bus transportation starting in Las Vegas, lodging, and gate entry to 10 different parks- Arches, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer, Devil's Tower, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Colorado National Monument. Participants will need to provide transportation to Las Vegas to join the tour.

Go to **JCRTA.org** for more information and tour forms needed for the trip. Cost is \$2979.00.

For further information, contact Russ Dunlap at Platinum Travel at 502-425-4464, Russ@platinumtv.com or Martha O'Bryan at 502-426-5394, TennisBridgeMom@gmail.com.

JCRTA Scholarships!

Myra Fugate

We are proud to provide two (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships to high school seniors who intend to pursue education as a college major. The deadline is April 15, but most of the required information can be duplicated from other scholarship applications. Documents can be found in the school counseling department or from the teachers of the child development classes. For any additional information contact Myra Fugate, 502-807-8517 or fugatemyra@gmail.com.

Community Liaison

Donna Wiseman

Recently we received some requests for volunteers. We have the Louisville International Film Festival, October 6-7. They need 25 volunteers who can welcome viewers into the screening room, distribute flyers, sit down and view the film, when it is finished collect the materials as the viewers leave the room. There are 2 shifts 10:00am-2:00pm and 2:00pm-6:00pm. You may choose either shift or do both if you choose. They will pay for your parking and give you lunch.

Contact: Cindy Howard, 502-341-1133, International Film Festival, Cindylou2018gmail.com

Our second request comes from Kelsey Johnson, Volunteer Program Manager for the Kentucky Derby Museum. They have several varieties of help needed. Two of them are the Docent Program, where you lead a group through the museum and answer questions and another is Group Sales Events, when a group requests an activity such as making derby hats, or decorating a horseshoe for souvenirs.

Contact: Kelsey Johnson, 502-271-5338, Kentucky Derby Museum,

www.derbymuseum.org/get-involved/volunteer.html

Our third request is an opportunity for employment.

Heather Hill, Education Outreach Specialist for the Louisville Water Company is hiring an Education and Outreach Specialist. Please email a resume and cover letter to: educationprograms@louisvillewater.com

Subject line: Contract Educator Application

Questions: contact Heather Hill, 502-569-3600 Ext.3710

Or hhill@louisvillewater.com

As always be sure to check out the JCRTA website for other volunteering opportunities.

JCRTA Newsflash!

- **JCRTA General Meeting/Luncheon - Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**
 - *Location: Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road, 40291*
 - *Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Lunch reservations due by **Tuesday, May 9, 2023***
 - *Masks are optional, but always encouraged*
- **Roots 101 museum tour - Monday, May 22, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
 - *Make reservations with Roots 101 by **Friday, May 19, 2023***
 - *Cost: \$10 per person; guests welcome*
- **Have you paid your \$15 JCRTA dues?** *Make checks out to JCRTA, mark dues in the memo line, and send to Mary Perry, 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, KY 40229*
- **Next JCRTA General Meeting - Friday, August 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**



Legislative Report

Beth Dowdell

Hello! I hope you have been enjoying our spring weather and have some fun activities planned for the upcoming months!

On to the latest legislative news... We were fortunate that this legislative session in Frankfort ended with no bills that directly affect our membership making much progress. That being said, there are still some bills that we are tracking for the next legislative session in 2024.

Senate Bill 128

This bill would require school districts to annually report sick leave balances to TRS, beginning in fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The bill would require TRS to report in the annual actuarial valuation the total liabilities and costs of the sick leave program. This bill did not move from committee.

Senate Bill 149 and House Bill 83

Both bills are related to patient access to pharmacy benefits. These are prescription drug bills. These bills did not move from committees this session.

Senate Joint Resolution 83

This bill seems to imply that the Public Pension Oversight Board might look to consolidate services between the 3 retirement systems, i.e., actuary services, investment services and others. We will watch this discussion during the interim Public Pension Oversight Board meeting.

House Bill 553

This bill removes excess General Fund support for the actuarial costs of sick leave benefits for new retirees under the Teacher Retirement System. This bill did not move but was included in HB 448 in a free conference committee report so the state will be taking back the approximate \$78 million that was over paid to TRS.

Please note that we will continue to monitor any news affecting our membership from Frankfort, even while the legislature is not in session.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and get to spend some time with your family! We will be back in touch in August!

JCRTA Membership

Marilyn Hazard

Thank you, for maintaining your membership in JCRTA. This is the time of year that we need to renew our membership in JCRTA for the new year of (2023-2024). The renewal form is included with this newsletter and the cost is \$15.00 for the new year. There are two types of membership in JCRTA: Regular Membership – teachers who live in Jefferson County and receive their annuity check from TRS. Teachers who taught in Jefferson County and receive their annuity check from TRS but do not live in Jefferson County. Associate Membership – People who do not receive an annuity check from TRS but are interested in the concerns of educators and also enjoy the benefits of trips and tours.

Remember, the biggest benefit is the protection of our pension and other benefits for teachers/educators. Your checks can be mailed to: Mary Perry, Treasurer, 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, Ky 40229-5430.

Credit Card payments can be made by going to the web site www.jcrt.org. No over payments!

Retired Teachers’ Day Out Field Trip

Sheila Carson-Smith

Join your fellow teachers on a KRTA/JCRTA Day Out trip to the Louisville Museum, Roots 101. Founded in 2019, Roots 101 is a museum where you can explore the African-American story and grow a greater understanding of the African American community’s achievements, cultural contributions, and experiences. The museum gets its name from the idea that the first class taken in any subject in higher education is 101.

We have arranged a guided tour of the museum for a discounted price. Details of our visit are below:

Date: Monday, May 22, 2023

Time: 11:00 – 1:30

Location: Roots 101, 124 N. 1st Street, Louisville, KY 40202

Cost: \$10

Register by May 19th by sending your \$10 check to Valerie Moore, Roots 101, 124 N. 1st Street, Louisville, KY, 40202.

Congratulations 2022-2023 Retirees!!!

November

Melanie P. Benitez
 Paula C. Burdon
 James E. Clark
 Doyle B. Decker
 Dianne S. Devore
 Christina L. Goatley
 Patricia J. Kannapel
 Diane Mackenzie
 Andrea L. O'donoghue
 Rebecca J. Overberg
 Jesse T. Whitt

December

Anthony L. Adams
 Susan S. Bush
 Victoria L. Cummings
 Terrace K. Dillow
 Amanda J. Duncan
 Karen P. Stull

Janaury

Michelle M. Anderson
 Patricia G. Biedenbender
 Julie T. Brown
 Robin W. Cosby

Nancy C. Downs
 Victory R. Gentry
 Lonnie D. Golston, Jr.
 Audrey V. Griffith
 Richard D. Haws
 Joann F. Jones
 James D. Myers
 Angela L. O'toole
 Scott E. Patton
 James H. Peden
 Anne M. Reardon
 Robyn S. Senn
 Margie Stanton
 Karen L. Stearman
 Janine B. Stubblefield
 Timothy J. Vickers
 Rolanda H. Williams
 Anne B. Wood
 Anitra W. Woodford
 Christine E. Young

February

Mark S. Bauman
 Susan A. Ellis
 Merlin T. Jones-Smalley
 Mary A. Kustes

We celebrate your retirement by inviting you to be our guest for lunch on Thursday, May 18, 2023. Be sure to send in your special invitation to Pam Gooch, 13804 High Trail Court, Louisville, KY 40299.

Technology Update

Ken Draut

Credit Card Option for Membership Payment

When you renew your membership for 2023-24, you can either send in a check as usual or you can join by using our new Credit Card Payment option. If you go to our JCRTA website (www.jcrt.org) you'll see an option on the Home Page to pay for membership by credit card. Follow the instructions to make a membership payment. We pay a .67 cent fee for this service; therefore, your credit card would be charged \$15.67. The fee is approximately the cost of a stamp so the credit card option doesn't cost much more and may be more convenient.

Email Addresses: Please be sure to let us know if you have a change in your email address. We'll update our list and keep you informed via email of the latest news from JCRTA. You can go to our website and send an email to me on any topic including a change of email address. Simply scroll down on the home page to the bottom and you'll see an email option.

JCRTA Officer Nominations for 2023-24

Our Nominating Committee, led by Melanie Wood, has determined a new slate of officers to be presented for election at the upcoming May 2023 general meeting. Sadly, it is time for Sahara Myers, our 1st Vice President, to rotate off the elected board as she has completed two terms of office in this position. Sahara has done a wonderful job, bringing us a variety of programs that are relevant, informative, entertaining, and interesting. Fortunately, Sahara has agreed to remain on the board serving as committee chair for Necrology/Remembrance.

The following JCRTA members are nominated for officer positions in 2023-24:

- Susan Thurman – President
- Glenna Hess – 1st Vice President
- Mary Perry – Treasurer

All other current officers and committee chairs remain the same for 2023-24.

Insurance Update

Lue Peabody

**2023 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Insurance
Live Healthier, Live Longer!**

Consider taking advantage of the many programs and services available through your 2023 UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) plan for members over 65. Two are highlighted below.

DID YOU KNOW...

- Healthy at Home – Benefits up to 30 days after discharge from inpatient and skilled nursing facilities with a **\$0 copay**.
- Meals (requires a referral from a UnitedHealthcare Engagement Specialist): 28 home-delivered meals – **contact Mom's Meals for details, 1-866-204-6111**.
- Transportation (requires a referral from a UnitedHealthcare Engagement Specialist): 12 one-way rides to medically related appointments and the pharmacy. **Call Modivcare, 1-833-219-1182 to schedule**.
- In-home personal care (no referral required): 6 hours of in-home care from a CareLinx professional caregiver for meal preparation, bathing, medication management and other tasks. **Call CareLinx, 1-844-383-0411, for more information.**

Renew by UnitedHealthcare

- Renew provides resources and activities – at no additional cost such as brain games, healthy recipes, learning courses and fitness activities.
- Through Renew Rewards you can earn rewards by completing certain health care activities. For example, **earn \$25** by completing your annual physical or wellness visit by December 31, 2023. To learn more about what Renew offers, sign-in to **retiree.uhc.com/trs** and go to **Health & Wellness**.

For additional information about these programs and others, call 1-844-518-5877, TTY 711 or sign-in to retiree.uhc.com/trs.

Health care information and resources are available on our JCRTA website's home page - <https://jcrta.org>.

REMEMBER to say NO! Enrolling in another Medicare Advantage plan will **cost you more money** and **"TERMINATE"** your TRS MEHP coverage. You may not be able to re-enroll. For TRS News & Information – 800-618-1687, 502-848-8500, <https://trs.ky.gov> and visit our website <https://jcrta.org>.

<i>GENERAL MEETINGS</i>	<i>Wildwood Country Club</i>	<i>BOARD MEETINGS</i>	<i>KRTA Office</i>
Thursday, May 18, 2023	10:00 AM	Tuesday, June 20, 2023	10:00 AM
Friday, August 25, 2023	10:00 AM	Tuesday, October 10, 2023	10:00 AM
Thursday, December 7, 2023	10:00 AM		

Registration and time to visit vendors 60 minutes prior to meeting.

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road

Limited handicapped parking and golf-cart shuttle is available

Menu

Salad, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Vegetable, Rolls and butter; Coffee, Tea, Soda; DESSERT

Registration: 9:30 A.M.

Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Please detach this form and return it to:

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

Name: _____ Telephone No.: _____

School Table Reservation: _____

I am enclosing \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$20 each.

E-mail _____

Pam Gooch

13804 High Trail Court

Louisville, KY 40299

(please print address)

Reservations deadline for a meal is Tuesday, May 9, 2023. Make your check to JCRTA. No telephone or walk-in reservations will be accepted.