

### 2023-2024 Officers

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>President</b>                             |          |
| Susan Thurman                                | 386-2555 |
| 1134 Blackthorn Road<br>Louisville, KY 40299 |          |
| <b>1st Vice President</b>                    |          |
| Vicki Lete                                   | 396-2713 |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b>                    |          |
| Pam Gooch                                    | 836-7640 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                             |          |
| Mary Perry                                   | 693-3714 |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>                   |          |
| Marilyn Puckett                              | 935-7002 |
| <b>Corresponding Secretary</b>               |          |
| Debbie Dunn                                  | 541-1865 |
| <b>KRTA Representative</b>                   |          |
| Tara Parker                                  | 226-0219 |
| <b>Past President/Parliamentarian</b>        |          |
| Dale Warren                                  | 609-7954 |
| <b>Audit and Budget</b>                      |          |
| Ann Marie Hafling                            | 690-3358 |
| <b>Community Liaison</b>                     |          |
| Donna Wiseman                                | 228-7733 |
| <b>Insurance</b>                             |          |
| Lue Peabody                                  | 767-9328 |
| <b>KRTA Membership</b>                       |          |
| Sheila Carson-Smith                          | 262-2686 |
| <b>Legislation</b>                           |          |
| Beth Dowdell                                 | 641-5667 |
| <b>JCRTA Membership</b>                      |          |
| Marilyn Hazard                               | 499-2716 |
| <b>Necrology/ Remembrance</b>                |          |
| Sahara Myers                                 | 245-0781 |
| <b>Nominating</b>                            |          |
| Melanie Wood                                 | 290-4944 |
| <b>Scholarship</b>                           |          |
| Myra Fugate                                  | 807-8517 |
| <b>Technology</b>                            |          |
| Ken Draut                                    | 592-8049 |
| <b>Trips and Tours</b>                       |          |
| Martha O'Bryan                               | 426-5394 |
| <b>KRTA/AARP Essay Contest</b>               |          |
| Cindy Goldstein                              | 541-2786 |



**Susan R. Thurman**  
JCRTA President

### *A Message from the President*

Like true Kentucky thoroughbreds, spring always seems to find us racing around the track with tons of new and exciting spring activities! JCRTA is off and running as well with an exciting program planned for our next general meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Wildwood Country Club.

We are in for a real treat at this meeting! I am pleased to announce our guest for the meeting is Ms. Senior America 2023 – Debbie Blakeman Robbins! Debbie is a proud hometown girl and JCPS graduate. She grew up in Jeffersontown and graduated from Jeffersontown High School. Throughout the years, Debbie has won several pageant titles, performed as a professional singer, entertained military personnel around the world, coached candidates for scholarship pageants, and served as a youth mentor. Being chosen Ms. Senior America has now given Debbie the platform to become a true advocate for seniors. With her positive and engaging demeanor, Debbie promotes seniors as “one of our most valuable resources and treasures.” Debbie will share her message of hope and inspiration for living a great senior life through both words and song. It’s a meeting you won’t want to miss!

In addition, our May meeting kicks off the start of our membership campaign! Now is the time to renew your JCRTA membership. Dues are only \$15 per year. The primary purpose of JCRTA is to serve the retired teachers of Jefferson County and all dues go towards that effort. Membership in JCRTA affords you quarterly newsletters, pension and healthcare benefits and updates, legislative information, volunteer opportunities, and travel experiences – just to name a few! We offer two \$1000 scholarships and donate school supplies each year for JCPS students. We also contribute financial support to Blessings in a Backpack. We are proud of our work and our members. It is now easier than ever to renew your membership! You can go to our website at [www.jcrta.org](http://www.jcrta.org) to renew your membership via credit card or simply return the membership card found in this newsletter.

As part of our membership campaign, I want to encourage each of you to become an ambassador for our organization. JCRTA will only be able to continue if new members join us in supporting the retired teachers of Jefferson County. So, spread the word, ask other retirees to join JCRTA, and invite a friend or colleague to the meeting on May 16! It will be one of the highlights on your spring calendar!

Happy spring and happy Derby!

Sincerely,

*Susan R. Thurman*

Susan Reynolds Thurman

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

*Vicki Lete*

Spring is finally here! With flowers blooming, spring reminds one of opportunity and growth. Let's all help grow JCRTA by bringing a friend to our next meeting on May 16, 2024 at Wildwood Country Club.



Ninety members attended our March 2024 meeting; this number was an increase over our normal March attendance of seventy-five. Let's pack the house by bringing a retired educator friend!

**Debbie Blakeman Robbins** Our guest speaker for May will be a delight! Debbie Blakeman Robbins, Ms. Senior America 2023, graduate of Jeffersontown High School and graduate of Belmont University will join us for a motivational speech and a few songs! Debbie was honored to serve as Ms. Senior America, established in 1971, the crown represents women who have reached

“The Age of Elegance.” Debbie is an inspired and accomplished music professional experienced in multiple genres as solo concert artist, worship leader, director, critic, and teacher. Debbie has served in executive roles as creative director, producer, leader, spearheading programs and events for multiple professional, musical, and volunteer organizations. She also has six solo independent albums and she serves as mentor, talent, and interview coach to contestants competing in The Miss America Scholarship Organization. In addition, Debbie is a published author and has performed hundreds of concerts around the world. Debbie is happily married to Scott Robbins and has a son, Jackson



**Ms. Senior America 2023**

**Community Liaison**

*Donna Wiseman*

Exciting news, at our May meeting we will be announcing our 2023 Volunteer of the Year, awarded to a humble and deserving member of our group. In addition to this announcement, we will have a representative from the Ky Derby Museum as a guest speaker who will share information regarding volunteering at the Museum. In the spirit of a Kentucky icon for our city and state please consider volunteering.

We have been contacted by three organizations asking for volunteers and offering employment opportunities. First is the St. Benedict Center for Early Childhood Education. They are looking for volunteers and paid staff who can support their program priorities and provide the best early childhood educational experience. Whether, a few hours per week or fulltime employment contact Felicia Alfred, Executive Director, 946 25th Street,

Louisville, Ky. 40210, or call 502-719-7178, Felicia@stbcenter.org

The second organization is the Teach Kentucky Program. They need Teacher Advocates who are paired with 1-3 new teachers to provide nurturing support prior to the start of the school year and during the school year. Stipends are provided to cover travel costs and summer training sessions. If interested contact Bonnie Baragary, TKY Teacher Support Coordinator, 502-696-1462, bonnie@teachkentucky.com

The third organization is KET [Kentucky Educational Television]. They are searching for an Educational Outreach Specialist, who will serve as a liaison between KET and schools, districts, and other educational agencies. Contact Devetta Jackson, Director of Human Resources, KET, 600 Cooper Dr., Lexington, Ky. 40502, www.ket.org/jobs.

**JCRTA Officer Nominations for 2024-26**

JCRTA officers are elected for 2-year terms and may serve for two consecutive terms. At the end of June 2024, some of our officers' terms will sadly be coming to an end. They have each served faithfully and diligently for four years.

Pam Gooch, 2nd Vice President; Marilyn Puckett, Recording Secretary; and Debbie Dunn, Corresponding Secretary, will all be finishing up in their current positions. Our appreciation and gratitude for the work these women have done cannot be underestimated. Pam has organized and coordinated the arrangements and wonderful meals we have enjoyed for the past few years at Wildwood. Marilyn has served in various capacities on the board for over 20 years with her most recent responsibility being to meticulously record the minutes of each meeting. Debbie has overseen getting our awesome newsletter put together, printed, and distributed every quarter. Hats off to these wonderful board members and best wishes in their next endeavors!

Fortunately, our Nominating Committee, led by Melanie Wood, has selected an excellent slate of officers to be presented for election at the upcoming May 2024 general meeting. We are pleased that Pam Gooch has agreed to run for a new position on the board.

The following JCRTA members are nominated for officer positions serving through 2024-2026.

- Sheryl Tapp – 2nd Vice President
- Pam Gooch – Recording Secretary
- Cindy Goldstein – Corresponding Secretary

We appreciate our new nominees for their willingness to serve and support retired teachers!

**JCRTA Membership***Marilyn Hazard*

The Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association is our local chapter of KRTA. JCRTA has two types of membership, which is regular membership and associate membership. Regular membership is made up of retired teachers who live in Jefferson County and receive their annuity check from TRS. They all live in Jefferson County and taught in Kentucky. Also, made up of retired teachers who taught in Jefferson County and receive their annuity check from TRS but do not live in Jefferson County. Associate membership is made up of people who do not receive an annuity check from TRS but are interested in the concerns of educators.

Some teacher's are confused between JCRTA and JCTA the teacher's union which has continuous membership for their teacher members. The membership for JCRTA is not continuous! The membership for JCRTA must be renewed each year. Our fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th. The cost is \$15.00 a year! With this newsletter, you will receive a membership form to renew your membership. Please, return this membership form. If you know any teacher receiving an annuity check or someone that's a friend to educators and they are not members of JCRTA, share this information.

Remember, checks can be mailed to Mary Perry, Treasurer at 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, Ky 40229-5430. Credit card payments can be made at our website [www.jcrt.org](http://www.jcrt.org). If someone needs a form, please call me (Marilyn Hazard) at 502-468-3654 and I will mail out a membership form.

**Credit Card Option for Membership Payment***Ken Draut*

When you renew your membership for 2024-25, you can either send in a check as usual or you can join by using our Credit Card Payment option. If you go to our JCRTA website ([www.jcrt.org](http://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.

**Insurance Update**

*Lue Peabody*

**2024 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Insurance**

**What you need to know:**

**Resources available to you:**

- JCRTA [www.jcrta.org](http://www.jcrta.org)
- TRS (800-618-1687) [www.trs.org](http://www.trs.org)
- KTRS (502-231-5802) [www.krta.org](http://www.krta.org)
- Under 65 - Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, CVS Caremark (TRS: 800-618-1687)
- Over 65 - UnitedHealthCare Group Advantage (PPO) (1-844-518-5877)
- Express Scripts (1-877-866-5834) or [www.Express-Scripts.com/pharmacies](http://www.Express-Scripts.com/pharmacies)

**KEHP (under 65 retirees)**

**Remember to complete the LivingWell Promise by the July 1 deadline.**

- Retirees insured through the KEHP can earn up to \$480 a year (\$40 per month) in premium discounts in 2025 by completing an online health assessment by the deadline. It asks various health and lifestyle questions, and only takes about 10 minutes to complete.

- As of January 1, the LivingWell program is administered by Castlight, which is a change from WebMD. Registration is required if you have not created a Castlight account.
- If you have questions or want additional information, visit <http://mycastlight.com/mybenefits> or contact Castlight at 800-681-6758.

**MEHP (over 65 retirees)**

- VISA Gift Card \$50 reward for HouseCalls an in-home assessment program.
- Renew Rewards Gift Cards: reloadable, funds loaded within 24 hours of completed activity, consolidated rewards on one card for larger purchases, can see reward card balance and transaction details every time you log-in to Renew Rewards, must be used within 12 months, **Annual Wellness Visit Rewards is now \$25.**

**REMEMBER to say NO!** Enrolling in another Medicare Advantage plan will **cost you more money** and will automatically **“TERMINATE”** your TRS MEHP coverage. *You may not be able to re-enroll.*

**JCRTA Newsflash!**

**JCRTA GENERAL MEETING/LUNCHEON - THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 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 7, 2024***
- *Mail \$20 reservation check to Pam Gooch, 13804 High Trail Court, Louisville, KY 40299*



**Need to pay your \$15 JCRTA dues?** *Make a check out to JCRTA, mark dues in the memo line, and mail to Mary Perry, 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, KY 40229. To pay by credit card, go to [www.jcrta.org](http://www.jcrta.org).*

**Next JCRTA General Meeting – Friday, August 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** *This meeting is our biggest of the year and is sponsored by KRTA, TRS, and their supporting partner organizations.*

**Congratulations Retirees!!!**

**November/December 2023**

Barbara Bruker-Corwin  
 Dianne Cheshire  
 Steven Durm  
 Jeffrey Gossett  
 Celeste Harrigan  
 Renee Jones  
 Louis Kelley, Jr.  
 Linda Knopf  
 Kimberly Lotze  
 Dora McDougle  
 John Muench, Sr.  
 Karen O’Shea  
 Janet Seibert  
 Jill Shoulta  
 Deitra Smith  
 James Willis  
 Mary Wiseheart

**January**

James Aich  
 Charles Bentley  
 Therese Brennan  
 Mary Cartwright  
 Douglas Conway, Jr.  
 Lynda Currington  
 Laura Eble  
 Lori Elkins  
 Christel England  
 Elaine Hall  
 Pamela Hayden  
 Bruce Hermes  
 Kelly Hinkle  
 Julia Jury  
 Enver Jusufbegovic  
 Geoffrey Lee  
 Michaëlle Leslie

Deborah McQuillen  
 Kathy Mudd  
 Helen Petersen  
 Karen Reynolds  
 Jonathan Roberts  
 Robert Rueff  
 John Sallee  
 Shannon Ullrich  
 Cheri Warren  
 David Weber  
 Julie Wileman  
 Phoebe Williamson

**February**

Frances Duffy  
 Marian Foster  
 Michelle Proffitt  
 Daniel Radeke  
 John Timm  
 Christi Turner  
 Darryl Watsib

*Celebrate your retirement by joining us at the general meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Be sure to send in your reservation to Pam Gooch, 13804 High Trail Court, Louisville, KY 40299.*

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Eastern Area Community Ministries is an organization whose mission it is to partner with people in need or crisis to support them in achieving life-long stability and dignity. As a part of its Multicultural Community Services Program, EACM provides free classes to people who are fluent in another language but would like to learn to write and speak in English. We are looking for retired teachers who may be interested in teaching classes both online and in person. For more information, please call Paty Robles at 502 426-2824 or contact her at [probles@eacmonline.org](mailto:probles@eacmonline.org).

**Legislative Report**

*Beth Dowdell*

Spring is a wonderful time of the year in Louisville. The weather is warmer, the days are longer and the flowers are blooming! Let's not forget that Derby is just around the corner too! I hope you are enjoying the season with your family.

We have some good news to report from the state legislature this session. Last Friday was the 58th day of the General Assembly. They are off the first week of April but will gavel back in Monday, April 15th. Those days will see additional bills passed as well as possible overrides of the Governor's vetoes. Two of our priorities were realized last Friday. The Conference Report on House Bill 6 passed both chambers and now awaits the Governor's signature. It fully funds the TRS pension request and fully funds retiree health insurance as stipulated by the Shared Responsibility plan passed in 2010. This ensures that TRS will have been fully funded by the

General Assembly for 10 consecutive years!

There was a change to the proposal to pay off the unfunded liability. This is the liability caused by past administrations not paying into our pension plan. The original bill included a 500 million dollar payment. That was paired back to 80 million dollars.

KRTA followed several prescription drug bills throughout the session. KRTA advocacy was able to get an exception to allow TRS annuitants 65 and older and their dependents excluded from SB188. This means that our prescription drug plan will remain the same.

We appreciate the leadership of Tim Abrams, Greg Roush and the legislative team volunteers who have advocated for our interests in Frankfort. 2024 has been a good year for Kentucky's retired teachers!

| <i>GENERAL MEETINGS</i>    | <i>Wildwood Country Club</i> | <i>BOARD MEETINGS</i>    | <i>KRTA Office</i> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Thursday, May 16, 2024     | 10:00 AM                     | Tuesday, June 18, 2024   | 10:00 AM           |
| Friday, August 23, 2024    | 10:00 AM                     | Tuesday, October 8, 2024 | 10:00 AM           |
| Thursday, December 5, 2024 | 10:00 AM                     |                          |                    |

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road

Limited handicapped parking and golf-cart shuttle is available

**Menu**

Chef Salad, Dressings, Rolls, and Cookie; Coffee or Tea

Registration: 9:30 A.M.  
Meeting: 10:00 A.M.  
Lunch Following Meeting

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**Meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2024**

*Please detach this form and return it to:*

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 7, 2024. Make your check to JCRTA.**

**No telephone or walk-in reservations will be accepted.**