

### 2020-2021 Officers

<b>President</b>	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
<b>1st Vice President</b>	
Sahara Myers	245-0781
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	
Pam Gooch	836-7640
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Mary Perry	277-1813
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	
Marilyn Puckett	935-7002
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	
Debbie Dunn	541-1865
<b>KRTA Representative</b>	
Dr. Rick Tatum	649-7613
<b>Past President/Parliamentarian</b>	
Dale Warren	609-7954
<b>Audit and Budget</b>	
Ann Hafing	361-5245
<b>Community Liaison</b>	
VACANT (Contact Ken Draut)	
<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
<b>Necrology</b>	
Donna Seaford	429-8227
<b>Nominating</b>	
Melanie Wood	290-4944
<b>Remembrance</b>	
Tara Parker	226-0219
<b>Scholarship</b>	
VACANT	
<b>Technology</b>	
Ken Draut	592-8049
<b>Trips and Tours</b>	
Martha O'Bryan	426-5394
<b>Trips/Tours Treasurer</b>	
Bonnie Wantland	241-7535
<b>KRTA/AARP Essay Contest</b>	
VACANT	



**Susan R. Thurman**  
JCRTA President

### *A Message from the President*

Greetings and welcome to a new school year with JCRTA! As your incoming president, I want to thank the JCRTA board for placing their confidence and trust in me for the next two years as we navigate these challenging times in retirement, in education, and in our world. I promise to do my best to uphold the integrity of this organization, to honor the mission and goals set forth by both the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association and the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association, and to serve the interests of retired educators within Jefferson County.

Like anxious school children, we had been looking forward to once again meeting in person. However, due to the alarming rise of Covid cases in our area, your elected board members made the difficult decision to postpone gathering in person at this time. We felt it was a prudent decision based on the at-risk population we serve and changing state guidelines that may affect in-person meetings.

The good news is our upcoming 2021 KRTA Fall Workshop will now be offered virtually! **The 2021 KRTA Fall Workshop is scheduled for Friday, August 27 at 10:00 AM and will be presented via Zoom webinar.** During this workshop, JCRTA members will have the opportunity to hear from Dr. Tim Abrams, KRTA Executive Director, Dr. Bob Kelley, KRTA President, and representatives from TRS (Teachers Retirement System). President Kelley will inspire us with a message about the role of retired teachers and TRS will present their annual report on the status of our pension system and investments. Healthcare and legislative information will also be shared. This is a very informative program packed with important updates – watch for registration details via email from KRTA!

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### JCRTA Newsflash!



- The KRTA Fall Workshop on Friday, August 27 has been moved to an online format via Zoom webinar.
- Send donations for school supplies for JCPS to Mary Perry, JCRTA Treasurer, 640 Circle Valley Dr., Louisville, KY 40229-5430
- Remember to pay your **\$10.00 JCRTA membership dues** for 2021-22! Download a membership form at [www.jcrta.org](http://www.jcrta.org).

## From the Desk of the First Vice President

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

Hello, from warm and sunny South Carolina! I pen this message from the car as we travel to Myrtle Beach. Honestly in my haste to get ready for my first trip out of town since the Covid shut-down, I had forgotten all about my article until my phone reminder appeared. So here we are, writing in the car, missing the sights as we travel on US 17 from Charleston.

I'm thinking about yesterday's adventure to an event in Charleston called the Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Festival. We experienced the traditions of Gullah Geechee culture that



showcased foods, language and basket weaving. If you aren't familiar with these, check it out. There was a storyteller who spoke in the Geechee dialect. Her words were difficult to understand but it was interesting listening to her just the same. The lady created a rap and dance and invited the audience to participate in an activity. As she said a phrase, she showed us a movement that corresponded with it. While I couldn't always repeat the word, I could do the movement. I recognized the sounds associated with the movement and performed the dance. My husband recorded me on video. In reviewing the video, I saw that I seemed to be having a great time learning something new. As I watched myself on a video, it was amazing seeing my face light up.



Don't you remember how it felt to introduce a concept to students and see the joy on the student's faces when they were able to grasp something new as they

made connections to new information? I remember that awesome feeling for the students as well as for myself when they "got it". Well, that kind of instruction works on adults as well!

This past year, many of us were required to learn something new as we needed to access our JCRTA meetings via the internet. I have felt a sense of accomplishment learning how to use a new tool. How about you? Some of you may have said, "I'm too old to learn how to use Zoom" and you simply didn't try. I understand that sentiment as well. This past year

has been a period of trial, error and discovery. Even though I knew this period would come to an end, I have enjoyed learning how to use webcam and conference calls. My 88 year old father even purchased a webcam so that he could attend trustee meetings for Simmon's University and bought a new cell phone. Now he is having trouble learning some of the new apps but I never thought he would ever want to make the effort, but it just goes to show you that you're never too old to learn, if you have the desire to learn.

As you are very much aware, this is the time to collect school items to help students prepare for the beginning of school. Yes, it's our "Back to School Supply Collection" time. Last year we collected pre-prepared school supply kit boxes from Kroger. They had been providing these boxes for several years. We collected 70 boxes. It was such an easy way to make our purchases. I have been to Kroger several times in the last few weeks and hadn't seen those wonderful boxes. I called the corporate offices of Kroger and found out they are not providing them this year. So, we will have to think "**outside-of-the-box**" this year.

I am proposing that we make monetary donations as we did for the food collection in December. You did such a fantastic job sending in money, we were able to collect over \$1,000. Let's do it again for the school supply collection! We will again meet virtually this year because of the rise of the COVID 19 Delta variant. We care about you and want you all to be safe. In light of that fact we will make monetary donations instead of bringing to the meeting individual school supply items, as we have done before. Please make out your checks to JCRTA and put BACK-TO-SCHOOL DONATION in the memo. Send the check to Mary Perry, Treasurer, 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, KY 40229. I am asking that you make every effort to get your donations to Mary by the August 27th meeting. Think about the amount you would normally spend on those school supply items, and send an equal amount or more if you are able. I am proposing that we try to raise \$1,000. How about that for thinking "**outside-of-the-box**?" We have reached out to Portland Elementary, our selected school, to provide a list of items they will need for the coming year. We will make purchases based on those needs. Let's do our best to help Portland Ele have the BEST YEAR EVER!

I hope to see many of your faces on the screen at our virtual annual meeting on August 27th at 10:00 am with smiles, and air "high-fives."

Photos: <https://tinyurl.com/2vjbrkw>

***A Message from the President***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

As I assume this new leadership role, I want to especially thank the leaders within JCRTA who have facilitated our work during the pandemic crisis. Dale Warren, Past President, rose to the occasion in leading JCRTA during the past two years. Sahara Myers, 1st Vice President, continued to inspire us with informative and creative programs during our online meetings. Ken Draut, Technology, made it possible for us to meet and communicate via zoom technology. Marilyn Hazard and Sheila Carson-Smith worked diligently to keep up our JCRTA and KRTA memberships. These leaders, along with our other board members, are constantly working behind the scenes to serve the members of our organization. Their time and talents are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from current and prospective JCRTA members throughout this next year. Please join us for our virtual 2021 KRTA Fall Workshop – you won't want to miss it!

Sincerely,

Susan Reynolds Thurman

**Langsford Learning Center**

**READING INSTRUCTORS NEEDED**

Are you interested in helping kids become confident readers? Langsford Learning Acceleration Center is a locally owned and operated business since 1992 that specializes in reading instruction. They are looking for retired teachers who are passionate about helping students improve their literacy skills in a one-to-one setting. Instructors typically work 15-20 hours per week. Find out more by visiting [WeTeachReading.com](http://WeTeachReading.com) or [Facebook.com WeTeachReading](https://www.facebook.com/WeTeachReading). If interested in becoming an instructor, send a resume to [Teach@WeTeachReading.com](mailto:Teach@WeTeachReading.com) or call 502-473-7000 for more information.

**Trips & Tours for 2021**

*Martha O'Bryan*

Dear Travelers:

I know that you are anxious to get "On the Road" again. Our trip to Vermont in September 2021 is completely booked up. Our next trip will be to Charleston in the Spring of 2022. We have not sent out any information on that trip yet. Go to our web site [www.jcrt.org](http://www.jcrt.org) and look for updates on the trip.

Looking forward to traveling with you again.



Washington, DC trip in 2018

**Highlands Latin School**

**PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE**

Hello,

My name is Shawn Wheatley and I am the principal at Highlands Latin School located in Louisville, KY. I am searching for an experienced AP Physics teacher for 4-5 seniors next year. They are highly motivated students.

The AP Physics class meets at our Spring Meadows Campus **T, W, and Th from 11:30 - 12:40**. The expectation is that the students would take the AP Mechanics portion of the exam. If time and interest permits they could also try to tackle ElectroMagnetism.

We have hired retired teachers for these part-time positions in the past with great success. There would be no faculty meeting, carpool, or other outside of classroom duties.

If you could please forward this email to anyone who may be qualified and interested I would greatly appreciate it. We start school in person on **Tuesday, August 24**.

Respectfully,  
Shawn Wheatley

## KRTA Representative Report

*Rick Tatum*

The last meeting of the KRTA Executive Council was held June 7, 2021 at the KRTA office. The meeting also included a “hybrid” component so that members who could not attend in person could participate VIRTUALLY in the meeting.

Sue Ellen Caldwell chaired the meeting completing her year as service as President of KRTA. Bill Kelley is the new President of KRTA.

The Membership/Pre-Retirement committee co-chairs urged all retired educators in Kentucky to reach out to those we know who are not members of KRTA and encourage them to join our ranks. They encouraged the development of a close link between our retired organizations and the local Boards of Education. This should assist us in gaining more timely access to the names of those educators who will be retiring in our areas.

The membership goal for KRTA for 2021-22 is 32,822. The Membership Committee reminded us of four options that retirees have to join KRTA. Those options are: 1. Mail in the cash form with a \$20.00 check addressed to KRTA; 2. Complete an Automatic Dues Deduction card and return it to KRTA; 3. (NEW) Use the KRTA Website to Join On-Line; 4. You can pay by phone by calling the KRTA Office.

Health and Insurance Committee Members encouraged us to have our members take advantage of the health connections available through TRS. This includes the services of Corielle, which does DNA testing to insure that the medications that your doctor is prescribing for you is appropriate for you. The committee is also studying the long term care policies that are held by several of our members that have developed issues because of excessive rate increases. They will be providing more information about this issue on the KRTA Website.

AARP reported that the Grandparent Essay contest will resume this year and they hope all KRTA District organizations will participate.

All Districts were also encouraged to participate in the School Supplies Drive and the Food Drive this year, as well.

The Council also approved the financial reports, to include the proposed budget, for 2021-22.

Rick Tatum  
KRTA REPRESENTATIVE

## Community Opportunities

*Ken Draut*

### RETIRED TEACHER ADVOCATES FOR TEACH KENTUCKY PROGRAM

We would like to invite you to consider working as a Retired Teacher Advocate (RTA) with Teach Kentucky this coming school year (2021-22). We are a program that works to recruit nationally from elite colleges and universities and bring vivacious, dedicated, smart new teachers to Louisville where they will be enrolled in the University of Louisville (K-12), Spalding University (Special Education), or Asbury University (English as a Second Language) alternative certification MAT program and teaching in JCPS and surrounding districts.

A Retired Teacher Advocate is paired with 1-3 of our new teachers for a full year (if needed) to help provide nurturing support. Often, RTAs and their new teachers work together to set up a classroom, talk about a challenging class or student, help them to gain access to learning materials and curriculum, and enjoy meals together. We think this is a fun and unique pairing and look forward to you building a relationship with a new teacher(s) as they begin to teach in elementary, middle, or high school.

The program is designed for you to visit a new teacher(s) 2-3 times outside of school before school starts to talk about curriculum, classroom setup, etc. In addition, the RTA will observe the new teacher 2-3 times after school starts to provide feedback on lesson presentations. If they are all set up with classroom support, these relationships often morph into a dinner, coffee, or mentoring support role. We provide RTAs with a stipend of \$250 per teacher to cover travel costs and your time. There will be a training session during the summer on the lesson observation framework and expectations of the position.

Please reach out to **Edris Humphrey, TKY’s Program Director**, with any questions. Edris can be reached at (606) 483-0366 or by email [edris@teachkentucky.com](mailto:edris@teachkentucky.com).

**Legislative Update**

*Susan Thurman*

The KRTA Legislative Committee remains committed to working with Kentucky legislators to ensure Kentucky’s retired teachers receive our full pension benefits. Although in-person access to legislators continues to be limited due to the pandemic, retired teachers are encouraged to communicate through emails, texts, and phone calls to share the following KRTA/JCRTA legislative priorities for 2021-2022.

1. **Restore funding to the Medical Trust Fund as required by HB540, the 2010 Shared Responsibility Law.** The Medical Trust Fund covers health insurance for those retired teachers under age 65. It was not funded by the General Assembly this past year as promised in the 2010 law. TRS had to cover the insurance for those under 65 with other funds. Remind legislators to pay their part (10%) and fulfill their responsibility to retired teachers.
2. **The General Assembly must continue to fully fund TRS.** There is currently a \$1 billion surplus in the state budget. Kentucky’s retired teachers deserve to have TRS fully funded as promised.
3. **The General Assembly must maintain the Defined Benefit System for current and future retired teachers.** Defined benefit plans provide the best pension coverage when compared to other retirement systems.
4. **Make no changes to the board of trustee structure of the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System.** TRS investments have outperformed other retirement systems nationwide and our board members include retired teachers. Changing the structure of the board would not be to our benefit. Retired teachers must advocate for TRS to continue managing our investments.

**Congratulations 2021 Retirees!!!**

**April**

SCOT L CARTER  
 PHILIP J DUNNAGAN  
 CYNTHIA A GLASS  
 DEBORAH A HAHN  
 MICHELE F HEIL  
 STACEY E IRVIN  
 NICOLE O SCHECTER  
 PAMELA S SCHMIT  
 HARRIETTE M SEILER  
 JUDITH A STAEUBLE

**May**

KIMBERLY H COOKE  
 SHARON R COSTELLO  
 MELISSA K PAYNE

**June**

STEPHEN K BENNINGFIELD  
 BETH A DOWDELL  
 DOUGLAS M EARLEY  
 ARLENE FULLER  
 BELINDA H HAFELL  
 BANETTA M HAWKINS  
 KAREN L KRUGER  
 WILMA R MADDOX  
 STEPHANIE C MALONE  
 LISA L MCBRIDE  
 MOLLY A RAPP  
 KRISTINA M SCHNARR  
 REBECCA L WALKER  
 ROBYN E WHELAN  
 CHERYL L ZOLDAK

**Community Liaison**

*Ken Draut*

**JCRTA VOLUNTEER OF YEAR CHOSEN AS THE KRTA VOLUNTEER OF YEAR**

The Kentucky Retired Teachers Association representing 40,000 retired teachers in Kentucky has chosen our own Rose Mangino as the 2021 KRTA Volunteer of the Year. State competition is always intense, but Rose's volunteer work is stellar. She was featured in the KRTA Newsletter and awarded a special recognition during the 2021 KRTA Conference. Dale Warren accepted the award for Rose because she was busy volunteering at the airport. He later presented the plaque to her at the airport. Rose is truly a dynamo working full time hours in volunteer positions as a greeter in the Muhammed Ali Airport, Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, Ronald McDonald House, Candy for Caring, and at her church. Congratulations Rose!



**JCRTA Membership**

*Marilyn Hazard, Chair | Michael Jones, Co-Chair*

As we start our new membership year (2021-2022), I want to thank you for sending your \$10.00 membership fee to our treasurer Mary Perry. To share with you how our system works, Mary gives the membership forms to me that's recorded on a spreadsheet. That is why, it is so important that you record as much vital information about yourself. Especially, put your name/address on the membership form, so I can identify you. If your address changes, you should notify Frankfort with your new information.

We are trying to increase our membership in JCRTA by reaching out to KRTA members and teachers who haven't joined. So, if you know of a teacher or friend that hasn't joined JCRTA; please, share the benefits. Also, you can go to our website [www.jcrt.org](http://www.jcrt.org) to download membership forms. I look forward to seeing you at our next luncheon where I will have extra membership forms at my table. Any further questions call me at (502) 468-3654 or Mary Perry at (502) 693-3714.

Again, thank you,  
Marilyn K. Hazard (Chair)

**2021 KRTA VIRTUAL FALL WORKSHOP FOR JCRTA**

*Tim Abrams, KRTA Executive Director*

**AUGUST 27 AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM WEBINAR**

The traditional KRTA Fall Workshop will be held virtually for the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association (JCRTA) on August 27, 2021 at 10:00 AM. KRTA will email invitations to register for this event. If you do not currently receive emails from KRTA, please update your email address with the KRTA office by sending an email to [info@krta.org](mailto:info@krta.org) from the email account you use. Please include your full name in the email.

The Workshop will include:

- 1) A TRS update from Gary Harbin, TRS Executive Secretary, Jane Gilbert, TRS Director of Retiree Health Care, and other TRS staff
- 2) An uplifting message from KRTA President, Dr. Bob Kelley
- 3) Updates from various KRTS vendors
- 4) KRTA Legislative Priorities for 2021-22

**GREAT DOOR PRIZES!!!**

*(Must be present online to win)*