

### 2021-2022 Officers

<b>President</b>	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
1134 Blackthorn Road	
Louisville, KY 40299	
<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 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</b>	
VACANT	
<b>Nominating</b>	
Melanie Wood	290-4944
<b>Remembrance</b>	
Tara Parker	226-0219
<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>	
Jill Ginsburg	939-6219



**Susan R. Thurman**  
JCRTA President

### *A Message from the President*

Spring is typically a time of renewal and new beginnings. Although winter may continue for a while longer, we certainly look forward to renewing and building our future at JCRTA this spring! There are several opportunities for new beginnings around this time of year. Find a new way and/or renew your commitment to participate in both KRTA and JCRTA!

Our next JCRTA general meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 10**. We had great attendance and a great time at our last meeting in December. It was nice to reconnect with former colleagues and friends for a lovely holiday program and lunch. During our March meeting we will take time to remember those retired teachers who passed away during the past year. Help honor their teaching legacies by attending this meeting. Look for registration information inside this newsletter.

On **April 25-26**, KRTA is hosting their annual convention here in Louisville at the **Holiday Inn Hurstbourne**. What a wonderful way to renew your interest in our retired teacher organization, meet other retired teachers from around the state, and learn more about our organization and how KRTA helps retired teachers. The program will also include a fun fashion show highlighting the past 100 years in education. Registration information will be available soon from KRTA, so mark your calendars now!

We welcome four new members to our JCRTA board of directors as they begin their roles in 2022. **Donna Wiseman** is our new **Community Liaison**. Donna's role is to plan volunteer opportunities for JCRTA members and keep track of all volunteer hours for the year. **Beth Dowdell** is assuming the position of **Legislative Liaison**. Beth will help us stay informed about what's going on in Frankfort and she can help you connect with your state legislators. **Myra Fugate** is beginning her role as **Scholarship** chairperson. Myra will chair a team to collect applications and select one JCPS senior majoring in education to receive a JCRTA scholarship for \$1000. **Jill Ginsburg** is our **KRTA/AARP Grandparent Essay Contest** chair. Jill is responsible for conducting this essay contest and selecting the winning essay from our district. Our new board chairs may need some assistance from time to time. Volunteering for short-term tasks is an easy way to get more involved with our organization.

Renew your interest and involvement with JCRTA this spring. Begin today!

Sincerely,

Susan Reynolds Thurman

### JCRTA Newsflash!



- **JCRTA General Meeting and Luncheon: Tuesday, March 10 at Wildwood Country Club**, 5000 Bardstown Road, 40291 (The program includes a brief remembrance ceremony honoring the past legacies of recently deceased retired teachers.)
- **Reservations for General Meeting (cost \$20.00) due by Tuesday, March 1.** (Make checks out to JCRTA and mail to Pam Gooch, 13804 High Trail Court, Louisville, KY 40299) Masks are strongly encouraged.
- **KRTA Convention – April 25-26 at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne**

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

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

I have been thinking a lot about the idea of **LEGACY**. This word is used quite often when someone of note has died. One by one, famous people have left this life with descriptors like, the greatest, the funniest, the youngest, the first, the best known, the former, the only or the original. I like many of you have been saddened to hear of the passing of some such notables as Sidney Poitier, Betty White, Bob Saget, Meatloaf, Andre Leon Talley, just to name a few. All you have to do is GOOGLE “celebrity deaths in 2022” and depending on what link you select; you might get upwards of 44 names. “It is with great sorrow...” “Our hearts are broken...” “I am so sorry to bring the news...” the announcement might begin, followed by the person’s note-worthy achievements. These accomplishments are usually referred to as the person’s LEGACY.

In thinking about it, it occurred to me a person doesn’t really have to be rich or famous to have a legacy. A legacy is much more than what a person has done in public, it’s how one has chosen to live this life.

One’s legacy is the impact that they have made on the lives of other people. It’s the story of a person’s life reflected in those who have been touched by that individual. A person begins leaving a legacy when they live a purpose driven life.

Teachers leave legacies, Teachers touch lives. The students may not remember our names nor we their’s but we leave a little bit of ourselves with every child we encounter. We care for them, we push them, we encourage them, and sometimes we even have to punish them. But our ultimate purpose is to pour into our students the tools that they will need to live a fulfilled and successful life so that they too can leave a legacy for those who follow them.



At our next in-person meeting we will feature Steve Flairty, a retired Kentucky educator who served 20 years in Clark County and eight in Fayette County. Steve is also the author of seven books. Six of which highlight Kentucky citizens and the stories that make them unsung heroes. His presentation will shine a light on

unselfish people who are leaving a legacy of compassion and joy to their communities. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to hear about some of these inspirational people.

Lastly, I am humbled and so excited to let you know that the Jefferson County Retired Teachers have contributed over \$1,605.00 toward our efforts for Blessings in a Backpack. We received an email from Kim Holsclaw, Managing Director of the Louisville Chapter, which included the following quote. “It means so much to us that retired teachers believe in our mission. Your generosity is truly changing the lives of the kids we serve.” Blessings to you all and many thanks.

Hope to see you at our next in-person meeting on March 10, 2022 at the Wildwood Country Club.

**Trips & Tours for 2022**

*Martha O’Bryan*

**TRIP TO CHARLESTON**

**May 16-21, 2022**

Platinum Travel is sponsoring a trip to Charleston. It will be with Diamond Tours. It is the same identical trip as JCRTA put together in 2020. The trip to Charleston will be May 16-21, 2022. The cost of the trip is \$754. Please go on line to [www.jcрта.org](http://www.jcрта.org). You will find all of the information and forms that need to be filled out and returned to Russ Dunlap at Platinum Travel. Please don’t delay if you are interested in the trip. There are only 48 seats on the bus.

For further information please contact me.

Martha O’Bryan • 502-426-5394

[Tennisbridgemom@gmail.com](mailto:Tennisbridgemom@gmail.com)



## KRTA Representative Report

*Rick Tatum*

The last meeting of the KRTA Executive Board was held December 6, 2021. It was held in person at the KRTA Office with a Zoom link for those who could not attend in person.

Gregg Roush was introduced as the new Deputy Executive Director and would assume that position once Janie Caslowe retires at the end of 2021. Janie was recognized for her service to KRTA in her role as Deputy Executive Director.

The Board received a Financial Audit Report from Monroe Shine representative Julia Meredith. She outlined the results of all of our financials and explained how well our investments and other funds had done for KRTA.

We then heard reports from the various Board Committees. The first report from the Membership Committee reflected that our KRTA membership had reached 63% of its potential membership. The membership goal for 2021-22 is 32,822. We currently have 31,848 members. We were also reminded that members can now join online or by phone by calling the KRTA office. Personal contact was encouraged.

The Health and Insurance Committee representatives were encouraging all retirees to get your COVID vaccination, if you had not already done so. We were reminded to complete our Annual Wellness Visits each year and that retired teachers could receive rewards for doing so. The Renew Rewards number is 1-888-219-4602. We were also reminded to pass on to our members that once they reach 65, you do not have to re-enroll in a health plan again.

The TRS MEHP Advantage Plan has a \$150 annual deductible and a \$1,200 annual out of pocket cost.

The Legislative Committee informed us that the 2022 Legislative session begins Jan 4, 2022. The first bills receiving priority are the Redistricting Bill and the bill moving the filing deadline. Jefferson County will have several new Legislators in 2022. If you have not been receiving the legislative text messages from KRTA, contact Tim at the office and he can help you with that. Our JCRTA Legislative Committee Chairman has the 4 priorities for the 2022 legislative session.

There was some discussion about the possibility of having breakout sessions at our Annual Convention in the areas of Membership, Health/Insurance, and Legislative.

Cecil Gilbert, Jr. who is the AARP/KRTA Specialist gave a report on the Grandparent Essay Contest. That contest will be held again this year. He also reported that there are 443,390 AARP members in Kentucky. KRTA provided with a grant from AARP will send out a survey about how KRTA can best meet members' needs in the years to come. It will be sent by email and mailed to members without an email address.

The Board also reviewed the Treasurer's report, dates for 2022 District Workshops, and approved the dates of April 25-April 26, 2022 for the 2022 Annual KRTA Convention at the Holiday Inn on Hurstbourne Lane.

## KRTA Members Support Western KY Tornado Victims

In December 2021, powerful tornadoes ripped through western Kentucky towns and counties leaving a path of horrific and widespread damage. Many of us viewed the devastation from our television and computer screens wondering how we could help. KRTA Executive Director Tim Abrams urged KRTA members to make donations through the **Bourgard Foundation** to specifically assist those retired teachers most impacted by the tornadoes. KRTA members responded by generously donating a whopping \$36,000 to assist with tornado relief efforts!

KRTA determined that 16 retired teachers had homes so damaged they were completely uninhabitable. The decision was made to distribute \$1000 checks to each of those retired teachers. In addition, \$20,000 was donated to the Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund set up through the state of Kentucky to provide ongoing assistance for tornado victims.

Did you know the origin of the Bourgard Foundation started in 1928 with a \$10,000 bequest from the will of Caroline Bourgard of Jefferson County to establish an endowment fund for "aged, infirmed, and destitute teachers?" Since that time, the endowment fund has changed names and investment managers several times, grown in capacity, and evolved into a benevolence program in which retired teachers support other retired teachers who need assistance due to financial hardship. Donations to the Bourgard Foundation are encouraged and accepted throughout the year via KRTA. Thank you to those KRTA and JCRTA members who contributed to the Bourgard Foundation to support our retired teachers in western Kentucky in the aftermath of such deadly tornadoes.

**Congratulations 2021 Retirees!!!**

**October**

JULIA O BAUSCHER  
 CHERYL J BEN DAVID  
 MARIA M CARRICO  
 JOHN D COLLOPY  
 RITA A CRON HINES  
 SHARON D EUGENE  
 KATHY L FLEMING  
 DIANA L FRENCH  
 TERESA L GAMBLE  
 MELISSA M KIDWELL  
 JANET S LANHAM  
 MAURA E MURPHY  
 LISA G PUCSETTI  
 MARILYN E SWOPE  
 CHARISE Y TAYLOR  
 LAURA M THOMAS  
 URSULA Q WADE  
 DAVID L WALKER

**November**

YVONNE E BEST-FOSTER  
 KEVIN T FOWLER  
 LINDA J GARDONE  
 REBECCA L LEACHMAN-ANSARI  
 SHELLEY A MASSA  
 HOLLY MCCULLOUGH  
 KELLY A NORMAN  
 MARGO S SMITH  
 CASSANDRA G WOODS

**December**

MARY L COLSTON-WISE  
 SUSAN K MURRAY  
 APRIL ST JOHN  
 LUCIAN YATES III

*We celebrate your retirement by inviting you to be our guest for lunch on Thursday, March 10, 2022. Be sure to send in your special invitation to Pam Gooch, 13804 High Trail Court, Louisville, KY 40299.*

**Insurance Update**

*Lue Peabody*

**2022 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Insurance**

Documents and resources are posted on the JCRTA website's home page - <https://jcrt.org>. A 2022 Insurance Update; a *Kentucky Retired Teachers Association Fact Sheet* contains information about retirement benefits, and partners; and *The Health Care Benefits Resource Guides* a one-page summary about the Medicare Eligible Health Plan (MEHP) and Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP) benefits, program components and who to contact.

Based on recommendations by Express Scripts and Know Your Rx Coalition (KYRx), the formulary of approved medications covered under the TRS Medicare Eligible Health Plan (MEHP) is changing for 2022. Effective January 1, the list of covered drugs will change to a Medicare-approved high-performance formulary. This means some medications you currently take or will take in the future, may not be covered by the MEHP prescription plan. Most retirees will not see a significant change. To find out if a drug is covered or to ask other general questions, call Express Scripts Medicare Customer: 1-877-866-5834 or your Rx Coalition: 1-855-218-5979.

**Remember:** If you are enrolled in **MEHP** you cannot enroll in another Medicare Advantage plan or another Medicare Part D prescription drug plan without terminating you MEHP coverage. Retirees may think they are enrolling **only** in a dental and vision plan they have seen advertised in a television commercial. Most of the time this coverage is part of a Medicare Advantage plan that the **TRS MEHP** if you enroll. For additional information or if you have questions please call **TRS:** 800-618-1687, 502-848-8500.

**Did you know?** United Health Care offers its members a free yearly HouseCalls visit with a licensed medical staff, and if eligible a **FREE** \$50 gift card. Many of our members have participated in this program yearly and have continued to receive this gift card following their visit. To find out more about this program and your eligibility, call 866-447-7868.

**Community Liaison**

*Donna Wiseman*

**Community Service**

Volunteering has been challenging this year, but teachers help where help is needed. The focus of service has shifted to supporting people and organizations in a new way. For example, running errands for elderly, helping with church administration, supporting performing arts administration, distribution of goods, organizing voter registration, coaching students at home, and many more. Teachers creatively serving when help is needed. Thanks for all that you do!

**Legislative Report**

*Beth Dowdell*

Hello to all JCRTA members! I am Beth Dowdell, your Legislative Representative for this year. I recently retired after 21 years, teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in JCPS. I had a previous career in Human Resources before I became a teacher and have always had an interest in employment and benefit related issues. I am now ready to turn that interest into action for our retired teachers of JCPS!

We have some good news to report! This legislative session is responsible for recommending the state budget for the upcoming year. The proposed budget, which has passed the House, supports 2 of our legislative priorities. It fully funds the TRS pension and fully funds the Medical Insurance Fund at TRS in accordance with the Shared Responsibility Plan HB540 that passed in 2010. It also contains 479 million dollars to clear the outstanding obligations that the teacher pension system owes to retiring educators for their sick leave and cost -of -living adjustments.

It is important that we thank the members of the House that supported this budget bill. You will find the names and contact information of our state House representatives for Jefferson County listed below. All representatives may be reached by phone at (502) 564-8100.

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
28	Charles Miller	Charles.Miller@lrc.kygov
29	Kevin Bratcher	Kevin.Bratcher@lrc.kygov
30	Tom Burch	Tom.Burch@lrc.kygov
31	Josie Raymond	Josie.Raymond@lrc.kygov
32	Tina Bojanowski	Tina.Bojanowski@lrc.kygov
33	Jason Nemes	Jason.Nemes@lrc.kygov
34	Mary Lou Marzian	MaryLou.Marzian@lrc.kygov
35	Lisa Willner	Lisa.Willner@lrc.kygov
36	Jerry T. Miller	JerryT.Miller@lrc.kygov
37	Jeffrey Donahue	Jeffrey.Donahue@lrc.kygov
38	McKenzie Cantrell	McKenzie.Cantrell@lrc.kygov
40	Nima Kulkarni	Nima.Kulkarni@lrc.kygov
41	Attica Scott	Attica.Scott@lrc.kygov
43	Pamela Stevenson	Pamela.Stevenson@lrc.kygov
44	Joni Jenkins	Joni.Jenkins@lrc.kygov
46	Al Gentry	Al.Gentry@lrc.kygov
48	Ken Fleming	Ken.Fleming@lrc.gov

We should also contact our state Senators and request their support of the budget bill when it is voted on by the Senate. Here are the names of those members. They may also be reached at (502) 564-8100.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
Julie Raque Adams	JulieRaque.Adams@lrc.kygov
Karen Berg	Karen.Berg@lrc.kygov
Denice Harper Angel	DeniceHarper.Angel@lrc.kygov
Morgan McGarvey	MorganMcGarvey@lrc.kygov
Gerald Neal	Gerald.Neal@lrc.kygov
Michael Nemes	Michael.Nemes@lrc.kygov
Dennis Parrot	Dennis.Parrot@lrc.kygov
David Yates	David.Yates@lrc.kygov

Thanks so much for your support with these efforts. We really can make a difference when we work together!

**From the Desk of the Second Vice President**

*Pam Gooch*

Do you miss your teaching colleagues? Why not invite them to join you at the next JCRTA General Meeting. If you have 3 or more retirees attending from your school, you can reserve half a table or a full table with 8 retirees. On the meeting form below, you can indicate your school's name at "School Table Reservation." In addition to staying up-to-date about your retirement, you will be able to reconnect with people that will always be part of your school family.

**JCRTA Membership**

*Marilyn Hazard*

I pray that everyone and their family has been kept safe. I thank all, JCRTA members (along with Associate members) for supporting our JCRTA membership. The membership dues are \$10.00 and sent to our treasurer Mary Perry at 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40229-5430. Remember the main purpose of our membership is to protect our pension, improve retirement benefits, keep membership informed, and to enrich the welfare of retired teachers. Along with this comes several activities such as attending our lunch meetings, travel opportunities, a chance to volunteer, and giving a scholarship to a High School Student majoring in education. To help increase our membership; please, tell any retired teacher about the benefits of joining JCRTA. I look forward to seeing you at the next general lunch meeting in March.

Thank you

<i>GENERAL MEETINGS</i>	<i>Wildwood Country Club</i>	<i>BOARD MEETINGS</i>	<i>KRTA Office</i>
Thursday, March 10, 2022	10:00 AM	Tuesday, March 29, 2022	10:00 AM
Thursday, May 19, 2022	10:00 AM	Tuesday, June 28, 2022	10:00 AM
Friday, August 26, 2022	10:00 AM	Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022	10:00 AM
Tuesday, December 6, 2022	10:00 AM		

*Registration 30 minutes prior to meeting.*

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road

Registration: 9:30 A.M.

Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Limited handicapped parking and golf-cart shuttle is available

**Menu**

Garden Tossed Salad; KY HOT BROWN, Rolls and butter; Coffee, Tea, Soda; DESSERT

**Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2022**

*Please detach this form and return it to:*

**Pam Gooch**

**13804 High Trail Court**

**Louisville, KY 40299**



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations deadline for a meal is Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Make your check to JCRTA.**

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