

2022-2023 Officers

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Corresponding Secretary Debbie Dunn	541-1865
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Community Liaison Donna Wiseman	228-7733
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Legislation Beth Dowdell	641-5667
JCRTA Membership Marilyn Hazard	499-2716
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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

Are you growing weary of cold, gray, wintry days? Do you miss being with former educators and keeping up to date about issues involving retirement? Would you like to meet some new friends or get more involved in your community? Are you looking for something new to do now that you're retired? Are you interested in just going out to lunch?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, I highly recommend you come see what JCRTA and KRTA have to offer this spring! For me, JCRTA and KRTA have provided opportunities to do all the things listed above. I have connected with former colleagues, met new friends, found volunteer opportunities, and kept abreast of pension and education issues – often while enjoying a lunch or dinner out!

Our next JCRTA General Meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 10:00 AM at Wildwood Country Club. Dr. Rita Greer, former JCPS educator and administrator, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Greer's talk will feature highlights from her new book, *Teacher Journeys: Memories, Reflections, and Lessons from 20Th-Century African-American Educators*. In addition, there will be a brief remembrance ceremony to honor and celebrate those retired JCPS educators who passed away in 2022.

In April, we're looking forward to the KRTA Convention on April 17-18 at the Holiday Inn East on Hurstbourne Lane. The convention is open to all members and features guest speakers, entertainment, updates on legislative, pension, and healthcare, as well as dinner on Monday, April 17 and lunch on Tuesday, April 18. The total cost for the convention is only \$37! Registration is through KRTA. Watch for registration details in the upcoming issue of the KRTA Newsletter.

I hope you will consider becoming more involved with our organization. We are a dedicated group of retired educators keeping active, involved, and trying to make a difference while having fun - just like YOU!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan R. Thurman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Reynolds Thurman

From the Desk of the First Vice President

Sahara A. Myers, 1st Vice President

Happy New Year! I hope all is well with you and yours. For many of us, a new year gives us new opportunities for new experiences. Many of us make promises to ourselves to make healthy lifestyle changes such as eating better, exercising more or getting more rest.

I, like many others, have decided to make some changes in my life. One huge and significant change was I have resigned from my position as choir director at my church. You should have seen the blank stares when I announced I was “retiring”. While others have retired from similar positions, music and choir directing is in my DNA. Even my mother said, “Are you sure?” “Yes...yes I am!” There comes a time when you just know when something has come to an end. Like, I knew in my heart when it was time to retire from teaching public school. I was at peace with my decision. Just like now. Even though directing choirs has been something that I have done since I was 13 years old, I’m pretty confident that this was the right time to move on to another adventure. As I stated in my letter to the pastor, “... Healthy growth in plants requires a changing of the soil. At this time, I feel that I have taken the music ministry as far as I can lead it and it is now time for a changing of the “soil”...” I will continue to support the music department as a whole, but I needed to be relieved of the weekly responsibilities. Feels GOOD! My new motto for a new year is, “FREE in ‘23”. As it says in Ecclesiastes 3:1 “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens:”

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our next general meeting which will be March 9, 2023 at the Wildwood Country Club located at 5000 Bardstown Rd. Our special guest will be Dr. Rita G. Greer, Ed.D. Dr Greer is a retired educator and administrator of the Jefferson County Public Schools. In addition to her work in JCPS, she has also created and implemented several teacher recruitment and training initiatives for supporting teacher certification as well as serving as the Director of the Leadership Education Doctoral Program and Advanced Graduate Education Programs at Spaulding University. While technically retired, Dr Greer has not stopped being an advocate for teachers, scholars and community leaders.

Dr Greer will be joined by a panel of retired teachers who were featured in her book, *Teacher Journeys: Memories, Reflections and Lessons from 20th Century African-American Teachers*. Please join us as they will consider “Our next journey: Building a new generation of teachers”. The panel of educators will share the highlights of

their journeys as well as engage the audience in a discussion of where we are today and how we can recruit and retain a new generation of teachers. Ideas, experiences and insights will be shared among the participants. You won’t want to miss this unique opportunity.

Finally, I will have a display of the Thank You notes from the students of J.B. Atkinson Elementary School. With your very generous gifts, we were able to purchase t-shirts for every student at the school. My heart was strangely warmed by the knowledge that we were able to provide this gift. To top it all off, they got their shirts on the last day of school before the Christmas break! JCRTA, you are awesome!

Congratulations 2022 Retirees!!!

October

DARRYL L BARRICKMAN

TERRI L BLAIR

MICHELLE E COLE-VESELS

DELANIE D CONDOR

DANIEL A CULL

VIRGINIA A DEVER

SHERRY L DODGE

CHERYL L EDWARDS

GARY A FISHER

LEAH L FULKERSON

BOBBIE D GLASS

STEPHEN D GRAHAM

MARIA J HUTCHENS

NANCY L JOHNSON

MARY B MATTINGLY

TERI M MEDLEY

CHRIS C RENNER

ERNEST L SMITH JR

We celebrate your retirement by inviting you to be our guest for lunch on Thursday, March 9, 2023. Be sure to send in your special invitation to Pam Gooch, 13804 High Trail Court, Louisville, KY 40299.

Trips & Tours for 2023

Martha O'Bryan

**Chicago, Illinois
May 1-5, 2023**

Join us for a wonderful trip to the "windy city." Travel by motor coach for 4 nights with lodging and 8 meals. Visits will be to the Museum of Science and History, the John Hancock Observatory, the Navy Pier, the Field Museum of Natural History and the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

Go to **JCRTA.org** for more information and tour forms needed for the trip. Cost is \$598.00.

**Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard & Plymouth
June 11-17, 2023**

Join us for a 7 day 6-night trip to Cape Cod traveling by motor coach. Our itinerary includes the following sites of Plymouth, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis, Sandwich, Provincetown and Chatham. 6 dinner meals and 4 breakfasts are included.

Go to **JCRTA.org** for more information and tour forms needed for the trip. Cost is \$703.00.

**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.

Community Liaison

Donna Wiseman

Volunteer Hours

What is a Volunteer? A Volunteer is a person who has the spirit of service. JCRTA has that spirit, and our membership has served 8,188 volunteer hours throughout the community in multiple areas of need. When I read through the volunteer sheets all 12 of the listed areas have been covered. Educators continue to serve. On behalf of the community Thank You.

Opportunities to Serve

Our website has a list as well as a description of, and all the contact information you will need to find a someone who needs help.

Updates Regarding JCRTA Member Benefits

- Effective January 1, 2023: Prescriptions are no longer covered if filled at a KROGER PHARMACY. To continue to receive coverage, you must TRANSFER your medications to another pharmacy within network. To view a list of network pharmacies online, login or register at express-scripts.com, click "Prescriptions", and select "Find a Pharmacy." Call the pharmacy selected to ask how to transfer your prescriptions.
- Effective January 1, 2023: UnitedHealthcare will offer Lifeline Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) at NO COST to participants who wish to utilize this service. PERS is a system that allows users to summon assistance when needed via a pendant or wristband device. Once help is requested, a Trained Care Specialist will assist in providing whatever services are needed. Devices are both cellular and landline compatible. Call 1-855-595-8485 for more information or go to Philips.com/uhcgroup.
- Silver Sneakers has been replaced with a new fitness program - RENEW ACTIVE. Members should have received a card with registration information in the mail. For additional info, call 1-844-518-5877.

Legislative Report

Beth Dowdell

I hope that you enjoyed the holidays and were able to share that special time with your family and friends.

The legislature has returned for the Spring Session and it currently appears as though there are no new bills being discussed that would affect our membership yet we still should remember our legislative priorities for 2023. The first is that we need to remind our legislators that there should be no changes to the governing of our Board of Trustees. We would find those changes to be unacceptable. We also need to follow HB 451, a bill that may affect the cost of prescription drugs for our members. We will be paying close attention to this and will keep our membership informed as to its status. The legislature has returned for the Spring Session

and it currently appears as though there are no bills being discussed that would affect our membership.

We were very fortunate that during the 2022 legislative session the state approved the biennial budget to include funding for our pension and for contributions to our health insurance plan. We should remember to thank out state legislators for their votes.

As always, we should show our support for current educators by paying attention to issues that affect them such as the calculation and usage of sick days. There are several bills that could affect current educators that remain in committee. We will keep our membership informed with any new updates as they become available.

JCRTA Membership

Marilyn Hazard

Thank you, for keeping your membership current for this membership year. Remember, if you know of any retired teacher that isn't a member of JCRTA; please, share the benefits of our organization. The cost of membership is \$10.00 a year. No more! No less!

Thank You For The Donations!

Tara Parker

As you may have already read in the KRTA Representative Report, over **\$92,000** was received by the KRTA Office in support of our members across the state who were affected by the floods and tornadoes last year. Our JCRTA member donations were part of that \$92,000. Thank you so much for your kindness and contributions to this very worthwhile cause.

JCRTA Newsflash!

- **Tuesday, February 28, 2023 – Reservations due** for March 9th JCRTA General Meeting. Mail checks to: Pam Gooch, 13804 High Trail Court, Louisville, KY 40299
- **Thursday, March 9, 2023 – JCRTA General Meeting:** 10:00 AM at Wildwood Country Club
- **Monday/Tuesday, April 17-18, 2023 – KRTA Convention** at Holiday Inn East on Hurstbourne Lane; see upcoming KRTA Newsletter for registration information.

To sign up for KRTA text alerts:

1. **Open your texting application, just like you would normally do to send a text message.**
2. **In the “To” field, enter 1-833-526-4752.**
3. **In the “Message” field, enter KYPENSION.**
4. **Hit SEND.**

Note: You do NOT need to sign up again if you currently receive text alerts from KRTA.



KRTA Executive Council Meeting, December 5, 2022

Tara Parker

The KRTA 2021-22 Financial Audit Report from Monroe Shine showed our investments to be down due to the stock market decline in 2022. Dues collected barely cover expenses and will need to be reconsidered in the near future. In addition, travel is back to normal after a couple years of no travel due to Covid.

Committee Reports:

Membership Chair, Debby Murrell, reminded the executive council that our cut off date for membership is January 16, 2023. No new retirees are added and no deceased names are removed from the membership list until after that date. As of the meeting date (December 5), total membership is 31,579. Our original goal for 2022 was 31,122.

Health and Insurance Chair, Margaret Sims, reminded the council that as of January 1, 2023, TRS member 65 and older will not be able to get prescriptions filled by Kroger. Express Scripts mailed out a list of at least three pharmacies in their area where members can have prescriptions filled instead. TRS members should have received a letter explaining PERS, an emergency response system that will be free for member 65 and older. Silver Sneakers will be replaced by a new exercise program called Renew Active. Members should have received their Code and information about how to participate.

Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Larry Woods, reminded the group that the most important thing we need to do is become familiar with our new legislators. There were several changes throughout the state during our last election.

AARP/KRTA Specialist, Cebert Gilbert, reported that AARP is donating \$1 million to support the Eastern Kentucky flooding efforts. Grandparent essays are due December 15 at the local level.

Tim Abrams shared 2023 Fall Workshop tentative dates. Some districts are considering having a breakfast meal instead of lunch because of increased costs of banquet meals.

Tim reminded the group that our 2023 KRTA Convention will be April 17 & 18th, 2023 at the Hurstbourne Holiday Inn, Louisville. Room rates will be \$119 plus tax and the Code needed to register is HGZ.

The Federal Government rate will again be used for our 2023 mileage reimbursement.

The Nominations Committee presented names for the appointment of state officers. It is the Eastern District's year to submit a name for Vice President.

There was discussion that the N.O. Kimbler scholarship fund is depleted. We need more local RTA's to contribute to this fund.

UPDATES:

The KRTA Office has gotten several notes of gratitude from those members who received support from donations to the fund for tornado and flood relief. KRTA gave over \$92,000 in support of our members affected by these disasters. Checks from the Bourgard fund were dispersed after determination of need. Names are kept confidential.

Tim reported that the Bourgard and Kimbler funds have been reported jointly in past budgets, but will begin being reported separately. Meeting adjourned.

Insurance Update

Lue Peabody

2022 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Insurance

Through the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), you are enrolled in a Medicare Eligible Health Plan (MEHP). This is a Medicare Advantage Plan through United Healthcare (provides additional coverage for Medicare Part A and B), and Express Scripts (provides additional coverage for Medicare Part D). PLUS, this plan gives you access to many other programs and services.

What you need to know: Express Scripts is our contact for drug coverage. Through mail order, they supply generic medications for 90-day or longer at a very low cost. For medications that are short term, there is an extensive list of pharmacies e.g., Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, and many more options. For more information or to access a list of pharmacies closest to you, call customer service 1-877-866-5834 or www.Express-Scripts.com/pharmacies. (sign in on the web-site to access).

We have a NEW fitness program through United Healthcare - Renew Active®! Benefits include:

- A free gym membership with access to a nationwide network of gyms and fitness locations.

- On-demand workout videos and live streaming fitness classes.
- Social activities at local health and wellness classes and events.
- An online Fitbit Community (no Fitbit device is needed).
- An online brain health program from AARP – Staying Sharp.

You need a confirmation code to access this program. The code starts with a letter followed by 9 digits. If you have not received this code in the mail:

- Sign-in to <https://retiree.uhc.com/trs>
- Select Health & Wellness in the upper right-hand corner
- Select Renew Active

If you cannot sign in or have questions, please call 1-844-518-5877.

For TRS News & Information – 800-618-1687, 502-848-8500, <https://trs.ky.gov> and visit our website <https://jcrt.org>.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Wildwood Country Club

Thursday, March 9, 2023	10:00 AM
Thursday, May 18, 2023	10:00 AM
Friday, August 25, 2023	10:00 AM
Thursday, December 7, 2023	10:00 AM

BOARD MEETINGS

KRTA Office

Tuesday, March 28, 2023	10:00 AM
Tuesday, June 20, 2023	10:00 AM
Tuesday, October 10, 2023	10:00 AM

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

Thursday, March 9, 2023

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

Salad, Hot Brown, Vegetable, Rolls and butter; Coffee, Tea, Soda; DESSERT

Meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2023

Please detach this form and return it to:

Pam Gooch

13804 High Trail Court

Louisville, KY 40299

(please print address)



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, February 28, 2023. Make your check to JCRTA.

No telephone or walk-in reservations will be accepted.



"A life that touches others goes on forever"

In Remembrance

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Margit Abrams	Phyllis Drake	Norma Jefferson	Edith Sammons
James Adams	Karen Eaves	Timothy Johnson	Marilyn Schechter
Rosalind Anderson	Judith Edelen	Anita Jonason	Marlene Schmitz
Julianne Ash	Geraldine Estelle	Robbie Kane	Patricia Seale
Elizabeth Atcher	Ann Faurest	Elizabeth Katzman	Martha Sheeran
Donna Baechle	Sandra Ferrell	Harry Ketzner	Valerie Sikkenga
Julia Barker	Mary Fields	Daniel Kimbro	Robert Silliman
Eva Barney-James	Harriet Firkins	Ruth King	Charles Simpson
Marion Berge	Virginia Forman	Grace Kleinschmidt	Barbara Smith
Mary Bisig	Barbara Franklin	Mae Knight	Robert Spears
Ann Black	Ivan Frazier	William Kruetzman Jr	William Spiegelhalter
Michael Bolden	Wilford Fridy	Barbara Lacy	Judith Staeuble
Juanita Booker	Linda Fulkerson	Margaret Lee	Louise Stevenson
John Boone	Arlene Fuller	Gail Levy	Charles Summers
Alice Brandon	Billy Furnish	Maralyn Lewis	Janice Surratt
Patricia Bricking	Susan Geraldts	Marguerite Logan	Brenda Swafford
Patsy Brisbon	Everidora Gilchriest	Bobbie Lombard	Steve Thomas
Maria Brown	Judith Gilpin	Clay Lykins	Dena Thurmond
Ottmar Brownfield Jr	Frances Gorham	Margaret Lyon	Sara Trabue
Sally Bunnell	Joyce Graves	Margaret Manke	Katie Turpin
Edward Calbert	Gertrude Gray	Beth Mann	Marcella Watson
Brenda Carter	Mary Grider	Elsie Martin	Charles Weathers Jr
Edna Caudill	William Griffith	Anne McMahan	Ladochye Webster
James Caudill	Fred Gross	Elizabeth Metzmeier	Jeanette Westerfield
Nell Cecil	Carol Hall	Jayne Miller	Bonnie Whitaker
George Clark	Fern Halsell	Winifred Miller	Robert White
Paul Clubb	Donald Hamilton	John Morton III	James White Jr
Lorraine Coleman	Mary Hanson	Howard Oakes	Donald Williams Jr
Claudia Coleman-Grady	Harry Hardin	Grace Palmer	Mary Wings
Erma Colyer	Michael Hartigan	Karen Phillips	Carol Wittreich
Gwendolyn Cork	Charles Henry	Patsy Price	Marcia Wrigley
Velma Cox	Robert Hester	Marcia Provette	Jenelda Yurt
Betty Cruce	Mae Hipps	James Reuther	Joyce Zimpelmann
Lisa Darst	Paul Hulsman	Stephen Riggs	Antoinette Zuercher
Chantal Disney	Howard Hunter III	Joseph Rosenbaum	
Faith Dixon	Willie Jackson	Bonnie Rosenblatt	
G Dabler	Charles Jarrett	Joan Ryan	