

**Minutes of the  
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 24, 2024**

**Call to Order:** The meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association Board of Directors was called to order by JCRTA President Susan Thurman at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed all in attendance, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of former JCRTA President Titus Exum.

**Board Members Present:** Sheila Carson-Smith, Beth Dowdell, Ken Draut, Debbie Dunn, Pam Gooch, Ann Hafling, Vicki Lete, Sahara Myers, Lue Peabody, Mary Perry, Marilyn Puckett, Susan Thurman, Dale Warren.

**Members Absent:** Myra Fugate, Cindy Goldstein, Marilyn Hazard, Martha O'Bryan, Tara Parker, Donna Wiseman, Melanie Wood.

**Recording Secretary:** Marilyn Puckett provided copies of the minutes of the previous meeting on October 10, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mary Perry and seconded by Ann Hafling. The minutes were approved.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:** Vicki Lete reported that the game at the General Meeting in December was fast paced and fun. The Atherton High School choir was well received. Some suggestions were made regarding the placement of the choir so that they could be seen better. There was discussion regarding how checks are made out for donations. Every check is a transaction. Ken Draut will check out Venmo. Vicki will contact King Elementary who will be the recipient of \$770 from the August 2023 collection for school supplies. She will also ask a representative from Blessings in a Backpack to attend the General Meeting in March. A check for \$1,603.34 will be presented which was the total of donations made in December. The guest speaker at the General Meeting on March 7, 2024, will be Dr. Amy Lingo. She will discuss trends in teacher education and how the University of Louisville and JCPS are partnering.

**Treasurer:** Mary Perry provided copies of the treasurer's report. She is checking on a fee being charged on the savings account. Checks will be written to the Beauregard and N.O. Kimbler funds. The treasurer's report was approved as printed and will be filed for audit.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:** Pam Gooch reported there were 113 registrations for the December 7, 2023, General Meeting. There were 16 no-shows, and 3 walk-ins. The next General Meeting will be on Thursday, March 7, 2024. The deadline for registration will be Tuesday, February 27. There will be a new "light lunch" menu.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Debbie Dunn reported that the deadline date for the next newsletter will be Friday, January 26. Future deadlines will be April 4, July 11 and October 22.

**KRTA Representative:** Tara Parker sent a report from the KRTA Executive Council Meeting on December 4, 2023.

- The annual independent auditors report for KRTA was given. Overall expenses were similar to last year's. Net and assets increased slightly.
- A representative of KASA (Kentucky Association of School Administrators) presented recommendations from the Coalition to Sustain the Education Profession. The number one priority is to increase teacher compensation. The Coalition was comprised of 150 business, community, and education leaders including 30 teachers. Their goal is to seek statewide policy to ensure that the teaching profession will be a coveted role in society today. Their findings included the top three reasons for teacher job dissatisfaction which are pay, student behavior, and time allocation.
- The Kentucky teacher turnover rate is 20.4% while nationwide the turnover rate is 3.8%.
- The KRTA history has been updated. The information is available on the KRTA website.
- Dates have been set for the KRTA fall workshops. Jefferson County will kick off the workshops on Friday, August 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- The KRTA Annual Convention is scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne in Louisville on Monday April 22-Tuesday, April 23, 2024.
- KRTA will be promoting trips for KRTA members through Collette Travels.
- Betty Hester, longtime Co-Chair of the KRTA Membership Committee as well as former Assistant Executive Director for many years, is retiring.

### **Committee and Chairperson Reports:**

**Audit and Budget:** No report.

**Community Liaison:** Donna Wiseman sent a report that the JCRTA Volunteer of the Year is Joyce Childress Redd.

**Insurance:** No report. Lue Peabody encouraged members to call TRS with questions or issues.

**KRTA Membership:** No report.

**JCRTA Membership:** No report.

**Legislative:** Beth Dowdell reported that lobbyists and volunteers will be in Frankfort during the current session of the Kentucky Legislature, meeting with our representatives to emphasize our priorities and to ask for their support. KRTA members are encouraged to contact their representatives as well. Beth noted that we are fortunate to have Tim Abrams and Greg Roush to represent us. Our KRTA Legislative Priorities are:

- To fully fund the Teachers Retirement System in accordance with the state's pension statute.
- To maintain the Defined Benefit system currently in place for Kentucky's retired, current, and future teachers.

- To fully fund the statutorily required obligation to the TRS Medical Insurance Fund as required by the Shared Responsibility Law.
- To maintain the current TRS Board structure.
- To oppose any legislation that would result in higher prescription costs for Kentucky's retired teachers.

**Nominating/Elections:** No report.

**Necrology/Remembrance:** Sahara Myers will lead the Remembrance Service during the General Meeting on March 7, 2024. Programs will be provided, names will be projected on a screen, and other poems and readings will be included.

**Technology:** Ken Draut continues to keep information on the web site updated and encourages members of the board to review the site periodically.

**Trips and Tours:** Martha O'Bryan sent a list of upcoming trips in 2024:

- The Canadian Island Trip, June 3-11. PASSPORT REQUIRED.
- Amelia Island, St. Augustine and Jacksonville, September 15-21.
- Japan, August 22-September 4. PASSPORT REQUIRED.

**Scholarship:** It was reported for Myra Fugate that she hopes to have the names of candidates for scholarships at the March meeting of the Board.

**KRTA/AARP Essay Contest:** It was reported for Cindy Goldstein that there has been a lack of interest in participating in the contest.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** There are opportunities for retired teachers at Meyzeek Middle and Engelhard Elementary, 1 hour per day, 2-4 teachers are needed. Contact Theresa Thompson @502-893-3900, Ext. 279.

The KRTA Convention will be Monday, April 21- Tuesday, April 22. Ten delegates are needed. Registration and meals are free for delegates, presidents, past-presidents and state council members. Mary Perry will take care of the door prize. Bring items to the next board meeting to assemble a care package for Dr. Rick Tatum who will be KRTA president next year. Participants are needed for KRTA Game Shows at the convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Puckett, Recording Secretary

