

**Minutes of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 7, 2020**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. via a virtual meeting. The format for the meeting was introduced by Ken Draut who served as moderator and laid the groundwork for how the meeting was to proceed. President Dale Warren welcomed board members and Sahara Myers gave the invocation and led the pledge.

Board Members Present: Dale Warren, Sahara Myers, Melanie Wood, Sheila Carson-Smith, Ruth Boone, Ken Draut, Ann Hafling, Lue Peabody, Mary Perry, Marilyn Puckett, Marilyn Hazard, Linda Ratti, Rick Tatum, Donna Seaford, Martha O'Bryan, Susan Thurman

Board Members Absent: Laura Marquess, Maritza Cassidy, Bonnie Wantland, Doris Carter

Recording Secretary: Minutes of the January 2020 JCRTA Board of Directors meeting were submitted by Susan Thurman (serving in an interim capacity) and approved by the board.

Treasurer: **Mary Perry** – Mary Perry reported that the University Club is now closed and will likely be unable to honor the May 16 date for our next general meeting. The board recommended and approved the CANCELLATION of the May 16 General Meeting due to concerns of the corona virus. Mary presented the financial report for December 2019 - March 2020. Linda Ratti mentioned that her invoices (\$2,066) for newsletter mailings did not match the financial report (\$2495.94). Mary explained this discrepancy was because the printing costs for the remembrance programs had been included with the newsletter printing costs. She suggested moving the program printing costs to the remembrance committee. This move was unanimously approved by the board.

1st Vice President Report: **Sahara Myers** – Sahara suggested rescheduling the guest speaker (folk artist and author Steve Flaherty) for the May meeting to another general meeting date - possibly the November 28 meeting. Discussion ensued about changing the November meeting date to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holidays.

- Melanie Wood moved to change the date and Dale Warren seconded.
- Lue Peabody proposed moving the meeting to Saturday, December 5.
- Donna Seaford suggested checking the UL/UK football and basketball schedules to avoid additional conflicts.
- Sahara Myers mentioned that it was difficult to get students to perform on Saturdays. (Students typically provide music/entertainment at our end-of-the-year general meetings.)
- Dale Warren noted that we may not need to schedule students at this time.
- Lue Peabody suggested changing to a weekday in order to include student performers.
- Marilyn Puckett stated that attendance does not seem to be impacted by the day of the week selected for general meetings.
- Marilyn Hazard suggested keeping December 5 as the new date.
- Melanie Wood made a motion for a roll call vote.
- This motion was seconded by Linda Ratti.

Results of the roll call:

All 16 JCRTA board members present voted to move the upcoming JCRTA General Meeting to Saturday, December 5. Dale Warren will contact the University Club about the change in dates. Sahara Myers will schedule the entertainment (not students). Marilyn Hazard suggested bringing back the guest soloist (Michael Bolden) from the March 2020 meeting. Dale praised Sahara for her past program selections.

2nd Vice President Report: **Marilyn Puckett** - Marilyn reported the attendance for the December 4, 2019 General Meeting. 66 people turned in paid reservations and there was 1 walk-in. There were 8 no-shows among those members who had registered. Among the new retirees there were 6 reservations, 1 walk-in and 1 no-show. 3 guests had lunch and an additional 3 members attended the meeting only.

Corresponding Secretary Report: **Linda Ratti** – Linda reported that the cost of the previous newsletter was \$2066. This included \$321 for stuffing, \$524 for mailing and \$1221 for designing and printing. Pennant is still open for business and working from home during the pandemic. New articles for the next newsletter are due **Tuesday, April 14**. Linda has worked to ensure that all JCRTA newsletter issues have been archived with KRTA. This is Linda's final board meeting as she is rotating off the board. Linda expressed joy in serving JCRTA over the years. Susan Thurman conveyed gratitude and thanked Linda for her dedicated service, professionalism and collegiality.

KRTA Representative Report: Melanie Wood – Due to the cancellation of the May 16 General Meeting, Melanie recommended that the election of new officers be moved to the August 28 General Meeting. Melanie also suggested that the next newsletter include information about the election of new officers in August. She stated that new committee members can be appointed at the present time; elections are only needed for designated elected positions on the board. Dale Warren expressed concerns about how long the health crisis will impact our meetings and elections. Several board members made suggestions regarding the election of officers and how best to disseminate election information to JCRTA members.

- Linda Ratti recommended sending an additional 1 page newsletter this summer to explain recent decisions regarding cancelled meetings, rescheduled dates and election information.
- Marilyn Hazard, Mary Perry and Sheila Carson-Smith requested that both JCRTA and KRTA membership recruitment forms be included in the next newsletter as it is time for membership dues to be renewed.
- Ken Draut clarified that we are continuing the April newsletter but adding a newsletter prior to the August meeting.
- Rick Tatum and Lue Peabody supported posting the names of the newly nominated officers on the JCRTA website.
- Sahara Myers mentioned the possibility of adding a link for providing information about nominated officers.
- Rick Tatum emphasized that new board members in elected positions cannot start without elections.
- Melanie Wood noted that many nominated board members are just changing positions and can therefore still participate in board meetings.
- Sheila Carson-Smith inquired as to the possibility of including election information and ballots on the August JCRTA luncheon reservation.
- Lue Peabody and Dale Warren supported this recommendation.
- Melanie Wood stated that the plan of including ballots in the newsletter would work according to KRTA election guidelines. The decision was made to use the newsletter for voting for new officers in August.
- Marilyn Puckett asked for clarification as to whether or not she would be the one responsible for tallying the votes. The decision was made that Marilyn would count the election votes.
- Sahara Myers asked whether there would be digital voting, mail-in votes or both. The decision was made that there would be mail-in ballots only.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS:

KRTA/AARP: Donna Seaford – There was no grandparent essay winner this spring.

Community Liaison: Vacant/Ken Draut (contact) – Ken shared that the Mayor's Week of Service scheduled for April has been CANCELLED. Ken reported a total number of 28,200 volunteer hours were submitted by 130 JCRTA members. The Volunteer of the Year will be announced in an upcoming newsletter.

Technology: Ken Draut: Ken asked that board members review the website tab by tab. He also reminded board members that a free email blast is available once per month.

Audit/Budget: Ann Hafling: No report.

KRTA Membership: Sheila Carson-Smith - Sheila reported that JCRTA membership increased this year making us eligible for awards from KRTA. JCRTA/KRTA plans for the Louisville Bats baseball game is ON HOLD at the present time. Sheila suggested that JCRTA board members carry business cards to pass out to retirees who might become potential members.

Legislative: Susan Thurman/Melanie Wood – Melanie reported the Kentucky Senate attempted to make major changes regarding teacher pensions at the very end of the spring legislative session. There was a historic number of phone calls and emails from teachers objecting to the Senate's actions. The legislature eventually decided to use last year's budget and to fully fund pensions for the upcoming year. However, if revenue comes in under 5%, the budget may change in the second year of the biennium. Susan thanked Ken Draut for helping with email blasts to JCRTA members enlisting their help in contacting state legislators. Melanie recommended reading the Lexington Herald Leader for more in-depth reporting on legislative issues. Melanie also shared that Tim Abrams (KRTA) and Gary Harbin (TRS) are planning a webinar for retired teachers to share information on health care benefits for retired teachers.

Insurance: Lue Peabody – No report.

JCRTA Membership: Marilyn Hazard/Doris Carter – Marilyn reported 4 new memberships were received at the March 10 General Meeting. We now have a total membership of 1844. Recent members Chris Deely and Laura Watson have expressed interest in volunteering for JCRTA and possibly serving in leadership positions. Marilyn requested that extra JCRTA newsletters be kept at KRTA so that they are available for potential new members. Rick Tatum noted that Pennant prints 50 extra copies each time. Linda Ratti suggested that Dale Warren pick up the extra copies and deliver them to KRTA. It was also noted that the newsletters are available on the JCRTA website.

Necrology: Donna Seaford - No report.

Remembrance: Laura Marquess – The board has been informed that Laura is stepping down from this position.

Nominating: Melanie Wood, Dale Warren and Rick Tatum worked together as a nominating committee and presented a slate of new officers for consideration.

Nominations for Elected Officers:

2nd Vice President - Pam Gooch
Recording Secretary - Marilyn Puckett
Corresponding Secretary - Debbie Dunn
KRTA Representative - Rick Tatum

Proposed Committee Chairpersons:

Nominating - Melanie Wood
Necrology - Donna Seaford
Remembrance - Vacant/TBD
Scholarship - Vacant/TBD

Lue Peabody and Marilyn Hazard recommended Chris Deely be considered for one of the vacant positions. Marilyn emphasized that the board needs to better utilize new members who volunteer.

Trips and Tours: Ruth Boone/ Martha O'Bryan – Ruth and Martha provided updates on trips that have been impacted by the corona virus.

- The trip to Charleston, South Carolina has been CANCELLED for May 17-22.
- The day trip to the Kentucky Horse Park set for June 2 has been CANCELLED.
- The Eastern Europe/Black Sea trip scheduled for August 9-22 is ON HOLD.
- At this time, the trip to Vermont is still scheduled for September 20-26.

Trips and Tours Treasurer: Bonnie Wantland - No report.

Scholarship: Maritza Cassidy - Maritza is no longer serving in this position so a new board member will need to be appointed. Rick Tatum and Lue Peabody reported that there was no scholarship recipient for this spring.

Old Business – Melanie Wood noted that the JCRTA Constitution and Bylaws have been updated and approved. Once the health crisis improves, updating officer job descriptions will need to be addressed. Lue Peabody and Rick Tatum volunteered to help Melanie in this effort.

New Business – Discussion was held throughout the meeting about the various impacts on JCRTA due to the corona virus. Many events on the JCRTA and KRTA calendar will need to be cancelled and/or rescheduled. A summary is listed below.

- **April 2020: Mayor's Week of Service** - CANCELLED
- **April 20-21: KRTA Conference** - CANCELLED
- **May 16: JCRTA General Meeting** - CANCELLED
- **May 17-22: Charleston, SC Trip** - CANCELLED
- **June 2: Kentucky Horse Park Day Trip** - CANCELLED
- **July 2020: Louisville Bats Game** - ON HOLD
- **August 9-22: Vermont Trip** - ON HOLD
- **August 28: JCRTA General Meeting** - Decision will be made regarding cancellation at the July 14 Board of Directors meeting
- **November 28: JCRTA General Meeting** - CHANGED TO DECEMBER 5, 2020

It was noted that our University Club Membership was previously sponsored through Betsy Holton. Due to Betsy's recent passing, Dale Warren has volunteered to become a member in order for JCRTA to continue to be able to hold meetings at the University Club.

Rick Tatum thanked Ken Draut for setting up this virtual meeting.

Ken Draut offered to provide additional tech support for those board members wanting to learn more about Zoom and GoToMeeting.

The next JCRTA Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14**.

President Dale Warren adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Susan Thurman