

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
December 7, 2023**

The General Meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association was held Thursday, December 7, 2023, at Wildwood Country Club.

Guest host Dr. Rick Tatum called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The minutes of the previous meeting on August 25, 2023, were approved as printed. The treasurer's report was approved as printed and filed for audit.

Nominations Chairperson Melanie Wood presented Vicki Lete as the nominee for 1st Vice-President. The motion from the nominating committee was seconded by Debbie Dunn. The motion carried and Vicki was elected.

1st Vice-President Vicki Lete gave a report of the amount of funds collected by JCRTA members for Blessings in a Backpack in 2022. The amount collected was \$1,686.00. Vicki would like to reach a goal of \$2,000 in 2023.

Legislative Chairperson Beth Dowdell provided a handout and gave a brief overview of the 2024 KRTA Legislative Priorities:

- Fund the TRS in accordance with the state's pension-contribution status.
- Maintain the defined benefit system currently in place for Kentucky's retired, current and future teachers.
- Fully fund the statutorily required obligation to the TRS Medical Insurance Fund.
- Maintain the current TRS board structure.
- Oppose any legislation that would result in higher prescription costs for Kentucky's retired teachers.

Sahara Myers (for Myra Fugate, Scholarship Chair) reported on the two \$1000 scholarships from JCRTA that JCPS students are eligible to apply for if they plan to pursue a path in education. The qualifications were noted, and the membership was encouraged to turn in the names of those JCPS Seniors they might know who qualify.

AARP/Grandparent Essay Contest chairperson Cindy Goldstein gave a brief overview of the contest which is open to 5th graders. An email was sent to all elementary Family Resource Center directors in October. An email was sent to every elementary principal in November. The deadline for entries is December 15. The district winner will receive \$50 and a plaque. The winning district essay will be entered into the state competition.

Trips and Tours chairperson Martha O'Bryan reported on 2024 trips. For an overview see the travel link at JCRTA.org. Trips are:

- June 3-11, 2024, to Canada - Quebec, Montreal and Coudres Island. A passport is needed.
- August 24-September 4, 2024, to Japan, with Princess Cruises.
- September 15-21, 2024, to Florida - Amelia Island, St. Augustine and Jacksonville.

Martha reported that the previous trip out West was 17 days long, covering 8 states and 11 national parks.

Community Liaison, Donna Wiseman collected volunteer hours. A Volunteer of the Year will be named for the district. They will also be considered for the KRTA Volunteer of the Year. A List of non-profit groups who need volunteers is available on the JCRTA website.

The Atherton High School Concert Choir, directed by Melinda Cumberledge, was introduced. They performed a delightful selection of holiday music and led the membership in Christmas carols afterward.

Insurance Representative Lue Peabody reported that new insurance cards had been issued in November. Lue reported on an update from Jane Gilbert stating that issues between Baptist Health and United Healthcare have no effect on the TRS healthcare plan because we have a Group PPO Plan. It is still strong. Lue reminded the membership to say "NO" to other Medicare advantage plans as seen on TV. She provided a handout which further explained insurance updates.

KRTA Representative Tara Parker presented highlights of 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 is 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 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 through Colette Travel for KRTA members.
- Betty Hester, longtime Co-Chair of the KRTA membership Committee as well as former Assistant Executive Director for many years, is retiring.

KRTA Membership Chairperson Sheila Carson-Smith had white cards to distribute to those who wished to join KRTA.

Sahara Myers extended an invitation to Master Chorale “Carols of the Season” at Holy Spirit Catholic Church on December 10, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

New retirees in attendance were introduced. Each one gave a brief summary of where they had spent their JCPS career.

1st Vice-President Vicki Lete then led a fast-paced and entertaining activity called “Santa Claus and Reindeer Games” which was enjoyed by all.

After closing remarks and door prize drawings, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Puckett, Recording Secretary

