

**Minutes of the  
General Meeting of the  
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association  
March 7, 2024**

The General Meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association was held on March 7, 2024, at Wildwood Country Club.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by JCRTA President, Susan Thurman who welcomed retirees and guests.

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag were led by Sahara Myers.

The minutes of the previous meeting on December 7, 2023, were provided by Recording Secretary, Marilyn Puckett. A motion to approve the minutes as printed was made by Ima Johns and seconded by Debbie Dunn. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report provided by Mary Perry will be filed for audit.

President Susan Thurman introduced Dr. Amy Lingo, who has been Interim Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville since 2019. Dr. Lingo is an accomplished conference speaker and presenter who has served students of all ages throughout Kentucky. She is an advocate for education in Kentucky. Her favorite experiences were as a classroom teacher. She has published articles and acquired grants totaling \$14 million. Dr. Lingo addressed a variety of topics including current trends in education, teacher recruitment issues, teacher preparation, and the university's partnership with JCPS. A slide presentation gave an overview of the students and who they are. She noted that teaching attracts first generation college students, however, enrollment in teacher preparation programs is down. She also stated that the teacher shortage seems to be getting the attention of the legislature. Dr. Lingo gave a shout out to JCPS for leading the state and the nation in recovering from Covid. Test scores for grades 3-8 showed improvement in Math and Reading.

Beth Dowdell gave a Legislative report. Legislative priorities related to retired teachers this legislative session include:

- To fully fund the TRS in accordance with the state's pension-contribution 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 HB 540, the 2010 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.

Myra Fugate reported that JCRTA awards two (2) \$1000 scholarships to high school seniors who plan to major in education. The deadline for students to submit an application is March 15, 2024.

A Remembrance Celebration for 2023 Deceased Educators was led by Sahara Myers, Ken Draut, Rick Tatum and Patricia Patton. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Titus Exum, former JCRTA President, who passed away early in 2024. A slide presentation with music listed the names of the deceased. A vocal rendition of "My Living Shall Not Be in Vain" was given by Sahara Myers, followed by an inspirational reading on how the value of life is measured, what mattered, and how you will be remembered.

The JCRTA Generosity Recipients for 2023 were King Elementary and Blessings in a Backpack. King Elementary Principal Rhonda Hedges was presented with a check for \$770 to be used for school supplies. Jennifer Lamkin, a Board Member of Blessings in a Backpack received \$1650. Jennifer reported that in the U.S., one in five children suffers from food insecurity. They partner with Champion Foods and Sysco. Blessings in a Backpack, which started in Louisville, is now a national program.

JCRTA President Susan Thurman reported on upcoming events and opportunities. The KRTA Convention will be April 22-23, 2024, at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne.

Upcoming JCRTA Trips and Tours include: Canadian Islands: June 3-11, 2024; Amelia Island, St. Augustine and Jacksonville: Sept 15-21, 2024; Japan: August 24-September 4, 2024. For information go to <https://jcrt.org/travel>.

St. Benedict Center for Early Education has paid and volunteer positions open; call 502-719-7178.

New retirees in attendance were recognized. Each one was given an opportunity to tell where they had worked in their career.

Pam Gooch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President conducted a drawing for door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Puckett, Recording Secretary