

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
May 16, 2024**

The General Meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association was held Thursday, May 16, 2024, at Wildwood Country Club.

JCRTA President Susan Thurman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag were led by Debbie Robbins who then performed “The Star- Spangled Banner.”

The minutes of the previous meeting on March 7, 2024, 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 was approved.

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

JCRTA President Susan Thurman introduced guest speaker Debbie Robbins, an accomplished music professional and singer. She has a degree in vocal performance and has worked at Opryland. She has done hundreds of concerts and is a published author. She placed in the top ten of both Miss Kentucky and Miss Tennessee pageants and won the Ms. Senior America title in 2023.

Debbie represents women who have reached the age of elegance and wants to highlight the contributions seniors have made to society. In her presentation she noted that the most productive ages are first, 60-70; second, 70-80; and third, 40-60. She reflected on people who have impacted her life.

Debbie stated that having “True Beauty” is to:

- **B**e yourself
- **E**xercise your mind, body and spirit
- **A**ccentuate the positive
- **U**tilize and discover your gifts and talents
- **T**reat yourself and others with respect
- **Y**ield to the proper timing; remember it’s not always about you.

JCRTA President Susan Thurman recognized outgoing officers and presented the slate of nominations for July 2024 through June 2026. Outgoing officers are 2nd Vice President Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary Marilyn Puckett, and Corresponding Secretary Debbie Dunn. The nominees for July 2024 through June 2026 are 2nd Vice President Sheryl Tapp, Recording Secretary Pam Gooch, Corresponding Secretary Cindy Goldstein and KRTA Representative Tara Parker. A motion to elect the slate of nominees was given by Sheila Carson-Smith and seconded by Mary Perry. The motion passed.

Legislative Chairperson Beth Dowdell reported that the 2024 General Assembly was good for Kentucky retired teachers. Thanks to the KRTA legislative team and the volunteers who helped to make sure our legislators understood and supported the needs of retired teachers. A special thank you to KRTA Executive Director Tim Abrams, and to Deputy Director Greg Roush for their leadership and guidance. The biennial budget fully funded the TRS pension request and fully funded retiree benefit insurance, ensuring that TRS will have been fully funded by the General Assembly for 10 consecutive years. House Bill 1 also contains \$80 million, \$40 million each year of the biennium, to pay down part of the unfunded liability at TRS. KRTA also successfully lobbied to have TRS annuitants who are eligible for Medicare and their dependents exempted from Senate Bill 188, ensuring there will be no changes for our members for our prescription drug program.

Insurance Chairperson Lue Peabody provided a handout with information which called attention to KRTA membership enhancements. She spoke of a personal emergency device which is free for those retirees over 65.

JCRTA President Susan Thurman noted that May is membership month. She called attention to the benefits of being a member of both JCRTA and KRTA. She recognized Sheila Carson-Smith and Marilyn Hazard for their work in membership which resulted in certificates from the KRTA Convention.

Jefferson County received both the “Yes We Did” and the “Top Hat” awards.

KRTA Membership Chairperson Sheila Carson-Smith thanked all who have joined and noted that there are still 3,000 Jefferson County retirees who have not joined.

JCRTA Membership Chairperson Marilyn Hazard had membership forms available and noted that associate members support teachers.

JCRTA President Susan Thurman presented the 2024 JCRTA scholarships, \$1000 each, to Emmalee Miller, Butler Traditional High School and Adriana Lane, Eastern High School.

Emmalee plans to attend IU Southeast and major in Special Education, working with children who have moderate and severe disabilities. She was Miss Senior class and is involved in many other activities. She became interested in education through volunteer work.

Adriana plans to major in Elementary Education at U of L. She is involved in various clubs and activities. She has worked in peer tutoring. She wants to be a role model for students of color and wants to create a more diverse, creative workforce.

Community Liaison, Donna Wiseman, announced that the JCRTA volunteer of the year is Joyce Redd. Joyce's career covered 39 years. She now volunteers with various organizations and events.

Kelsey Miller, with Volunteer Programs for the Kentucky Derby Museum, gave a special presentation. She spoke of various volunteer opportunities for everyone – from being with people to working behind the scenes. See the JCRTA website for more information.

President Susan Thurman reported for Martha O'Bryan that there are a couple of upcoming outings this fall – JCRTA day at the Downs and a trip to The Castle in Frankfort. See the website for more information.

President Susan Thurman introduced 2024 KRTA President Rick Tatum. He brought greetings from the KRTA and is looking forward to trips to the districts around the state this fall.

President Susan Thurman then introduced new retirees and welcomed new attendees. Retirees were given an opportunity to give their names and briefly tell where they spent their careers.

2nd Vice President Pam Gooch conducted a drawing for door prizes.

At the conclusion of business, Debbie Robbins led in singing "My Old Kentucky Home."

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m. and lunch was served.

The next General Meeting of the JCRTA will be the KRTA workshop on Friday, August 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Wildwood Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Puckett, Recording Secretary