

2024-2025 Officers

President	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
1134 Blackthorn Road Louisville, KY 40299	
1st Vice President	
Vicki Lete	396-2713
2nd Vice President	
Sheryl Tapp	558-4350
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Mary Perry	693-3714
Recording Secretary	
Pam Gooch	836-7640
Corresponding Secretary	
Cindy Goldstein	541-2786
KRTA Representative	
Tara Parker	226-0219
Past President/Parliamentarian	
Dale Warren	609-7954
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Ann Marie Hafling	690-3358
Community Liaison	
Donna Wiseman	228-7733
Insurance	
Lue Peabody	767-9328
KRTA Membership	
Sheila Carson-Smith	262-2686
Legislation	
Beth Dowdell	641-5667
JCRTA Membership	
Marilyn Hazard	468-3654
Necrology/ Remembrance	
Sahara Myers	245-0781
Nominating	
Melanie Wood	290-4944
Scholarship	
Myra Fugate	807-8517
Technology	
Ken Draut	592-8049
Trips and Tours	
Martha O'Bryan	426-5394
KRTA/AARP Essay Contest	
Marilyn Puckett	935-7002

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A Message from the President



**Susan R. Thurman
JCRTA President**

Are you already wondering what you're going to do after your former colleagues go back to work, your grandkids go back to school, and summer pool days are over? JCRTA has the answer for you with lots of new fall activities and opportunities!

The KRTA Fall Workshop will be the focus at our next general meeting on Friday, August 23 at 10:00 AM at Wildwood Country Club. This annual event is when we get to hear directly from those who lead efforts at the state level regarding our retirement benefits. Guest speakers will be Gary Harbin, Executive Secretary of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), Dr. Tim Abrams, Executive Director of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA), Dora Moore, TRS Retiree Health Care Counselor, and Dr. Rick Tatum, the newly elected president of KRTA who is a retired Jefferson County administrator. In addition to informative presentations, you will have the opportunity to visit with some of the KRTA partners that offer benefits for retired teachers. Do you need info about dental and vision insurance, legal services, hearing aids, caregiver help, travel excursions, or senior discounts? These and other KRTA partner businesses will be here to answer your questions.

In addition to supporting retired teachers, JCRTA is committed to supporting our community. We have two upcoming volunteer opportunities you won't want to miss! The first is our "Back to School Box Up Bash" that will be held at The Omni Hotel on August 13. United Healthcare and TRS are donating boxes of supplies for teachers in JCPS elementary schools. At the "box up bash" volunteers will help box up and distribute these teacher supplies to the schools. Another fun volunteer opportunity is the Louisville International Film Festival on October 10-11. Volunteers will greet guests and pass out ballots – all while previewing new independent films! Read more about these unique volunteer opportunities in this newsletter.

JCRTA is also offering some exciting new day tours and activities this fall plus some longer trips for 2025! On October 24 we have scheduled a day trip to Castle and Key Distillery in Frankfort, and on November 7 we're hosting a JCRTA Day at the Races at Churchill Downs! These will be fun events with a chance to meet new retirees and socialize with longtime friends. Look for registration info and additional details within this newsletter.

Every fall we collect monetary donations for supplies for students in JCPS schools. Thanks to your generosity, last year's donations were over \$700! Let's see if we can top that amount for 2024! Bring your donation to the meeting on August 23 or donate online at www.jcrta.org.

Make the commitment as a retired teacher to stay informed about your retirement benefits, stay involved in our community, and stay connected with other retired colleagues in 2024-25!

Sincerely,

Susan Reynolds Thurman

From the Desk of the First Vice President

Vicki Lete

Store shelves are full of back to school supplies, teachers are completing professional development requirements, and administrators are interviewing candidates for last minute hires in their buildings. Each fall brings excitement of new beginnings and opportunities. I love this time of year and I love it more now that I am retired! August 1, 2023 marked my first day of retirement after serving 38 years at the middle and high school levels as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. I enjoyed my career as an educator and I had the opportunity to interact with a variety of high quality professionals who cared about children and were willing to do whatever it took to move students forward. When I retired, I worried about how I would fill my time; luckily I found pickleball and JCRTA. Pickleball keeps me active and competitive while JCRTA keeps me connected to education and a variety of outstanding educators.

As we kick off the 2024-25 school year, JCRTA promises to offer exciting programming, volunteer opportunities, and social events throughout the year. If you have not joined JCRTA, please visit our website at jcrtajournal.org; it will be the best \$15 you have ever spent. You can also join KRTA for an additional \$20. Our next JCRTA meeting will be held on August 23, 2024 at 10:00 am at Wildwood Country Club. KRTA will partner with us; we will hear from KRTA state representatives and there will be a KRTA Partner Fair. In addition, we will collect funds for our Annual Back to School Supply Drive. If you are unable to attend the August meeting, please consider making a donation via our website or send a check payable to JCRTA to our treasurer Mary Perry, 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, 40229. I look forward to seeing you on August 23rd!

Welcome New 2nd VP and Essay Contest Chair!

We want to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new 2nd Vice President – Sheryl Tapp. Sheryl is a retired teacher from Wilder Elementary and she is excited to be assuming this new role. She will be taking on the task of coordinating arrangements and planning menus for all our meetings at Wildwood for the next two years. She has worked diligently to make the transition go smoothly. Be sure to say hello to Sheryl at our meetings and let her know if you have any suggestions or requests. Also, let her know how much you appreciate her hard work and willingness to serve on the JCRTA board!

Note you will now send your luncheon reservations to Sheryl’s address as listed below.

Sheryl Tapp, 10637 Wemberly Hill Blvd., Louisville, KY 40241

We also have a new KRTA/AARP Grandparent Essay Contest Chair for the annual grandparent essay contest – Marilyn Puckett. Marilyn was most recently our JCRTA Recording Secretary, and we are pleased she is taking on this new assignment! The grandparent essay contest is open to all JCPS 5th grade students. Cash prizes are available at both the local and state levels. If you know of a 5th grade teacher who wants their class to participate, contact Marilyn at MstearnsPuckett@gmail.com.

JCRTA Membership

Marilyn Hazard

Thank you, for keeping your membership in JCRTA-Retired current which sends the message that you are serious about our professional organization. By being a member it lets you connect with other like-minded people, enjoy activities, and helps to protect our pension. If you know someone who’s not a member share the opportunity with them. If they are not an educator they can be an associate member by paying \$15.00, also. Remember, the cost of membership is \$15.00.

Community Liaison

Donna Wiseman

Again, this year we have been invited to volunteer for the International Film Festival. It will be held on October 10th and October 11th in Louisville at the Muhammed Ali Center and Louisville Slugger Field, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. You can sign up for one day or both days. You will welcome viewers into the screening room, collect tickets at the door, sit down and view the film, when it is finished collect the review sheets as the viewers leave the room and prepare for the next film viewing. Lunch will be provided, and parking will be validated. To volunteer please call Cindy Howard, 502-341-1133, International Film Festival, or email Cindylou2018@gmail.com.

This year Bellarmine moved their basketball game back on their campus and will try new strategies to involve students. Last year there were not enough buses available.

Be sure to keep track of your volunteer hours, I will be collecting them at the first meeting in August. Retired teachers are an asset to the community because they give so much of their time. For those of you who cannot make it to the meeting please email me your volunteer hours. JCRTA is one of the largest local groups and I believe that we have bounced back and are volunteering as much as we did in the past. I just need to get your data. So, bring it to the August meeting or email it to my address.

Do not forget to check out the JCRTA website for more opportunities to volunteer.

KRTA Executive Council Meeting, June 3, 2024

Tara Parker

This report combines 2 sets of minutes from meetings that have taken place since our last newsletter was published.

Membership and Pre-Retirement Chair, Debby Murrell said that letters have gone out to cash members to encourage them to maintain their membership in KRTA. Letters have also been sent to all new retirees to encourage them to join. Debby mentioned that LifeLock and Legal Line are excellent Membership benefits to use in recruitment. Tim Abrams reminded everyone that the numbers for retirement this year will probably be the most that TRS has ever seen.

At the 4/22/24 meeting, it was voted to make Debby an Honorary Member of the KRTA Membership Committee since she is stepping down as Chairperson.

Health & Insurance Chair, Margaret Sims discussed our United Healthcare Medicare Advantage Plan for over 65 noting that we have a policy for both our medical needs and Express Scripts for our pharmaceutical needs. The Express Scripts contract expires this year and we need to get as many of our retirees as possible to sign up for Express Scripts so we can continue to justify its existence. There was some discussion about Express Scripts and how it can help our retirees financially.

At the 4/22/24 meeting, Margaret emphasized the importance of saying “NO” to other Medicare plans advertised by celebrities on television.

Legislative Co-chair Larry Woods, discussed the Herald Leader report that revenue is an issue and it will probably be a struggle to try to get income tax to zero. TRS as well as most other state government agencies depend on that revenue. Larry discussed the School Choice Bill and how to ensure that our retirees are well informed about its potential impact on public education before they vote on the bill. Tim Abrams said that we are going to have a guest speaker from “Protect Our Schools” in August to discuss this bill.

At the 4/22/24 meeting, we were informed that our 2024 Legislative Priorities were successfully accomplished during the last Legislative Session. A draft copy of the KRTA 2025 Legislative Priorities were voted on and approved by the Executive Council. Further discussion included the importance of voting for TRS board members when we receive our ballots from TRS. Our participation will emphasize to legislators and others that we value the importance of keeping our TRS Board structure as it is.

AARP/KRTA Specialist, Ceibert Gilbert, Jr. reminded Local Associations to take pictures as they participate in Food Drives and school Supply Drives this Fall. Tim asked for those pictures to be sent electronically, if possible.

It is important to KRTA and AARP to have these connections.

AARP can present programs for KRTA local meetings. Programs include Fraud Watch, Veterans Issues, Voter Turnout, etc. This will be Ceibert’s last year representing AARP on the KRTA Executive Council.

Executive Director’s Report

2024 Fall Workshops Schedule

(JCRTA is traditionally the first workshop scheduled beginning the last Friday in August.)

- 2024-25 Tentative Events Calendar:
Correction=District President’s meeting is July 8.
(in 2025 and 2026, KRTA will continue the Annual Convention contract with the Holiday Inn East.)
- 2024 Convention Evaluations

Treasurer’s Report

2024-25 Tentative Budget:

Investments are doing well, but we never want to spend more than we have coming in. Our revenue is based on dues from 31,000 members, a few sponsors, AARP, and conference registration. In earlier discussions, Greg mentioned that we only receive about \$9,000 in conference registration fees and usually spend about \$35,000. In a discussion on strategies to balance the budget, suggestions were made such as opting out of receiving printed paper documents, asking corporate partners to pay for ads in the KRTA newspaper, and using revenue from our Collette Travel partnership. Tim will send out suggestions to our committee members prior to the next meeting.

New KRTA Investment Policy

At the 4/22/24 meeting, changes were made to the administration of the Bourgard Committee. In the future, the KRTA Executive Committee, consisting of President, Vice-President, President Elect and Past President, will serve on the committee and be responsible for making changes and recommendations as needed.

The Executive Council went into executive session to discuss the Executive Director’s evaluation. President Gillespie reported that the evaluation comments were all positive, no negatives. Tim returned to the group and thanked them. He said that he has enjoyed working for and with KRTA. (At the 4/22/24 meeting, Tim had announced that he is stepping down from the position of KRTA Executive Director effective January 1, 2025.)

Other Business/Remarks by Outgoing President:

Steve distributed a statement of thanks to the group.

There was discussion about the application process for the Executive Director position. Tim’s last day will be December 31, 2024. The timeline includes:

- Hold Interviews in July, 2024
- Vote on approval of new Executive Director at the August Executive Council meeting
- August 1, 2024 start date for new director in order to have time to co-lead with Mr. Abrams.

The Council formally recognized and thanked Steve Gillespie, our outgoing KRTA president, for a job well done.

Legislative Report

Beth Dowdell

I hope you have been enjoying the summer months and this relaxing time with your family! Hard to believe that we're already half way through July! One thing that I've learned since I retired is that time really does seem to fly faster!

So... since fall will be here before we know it, we need to think about our goals and priorities for the next legislative session. While we did have a good legislative session this year with our main priorities of our pension and insurance need being fully funded, we still need to remain vigilant in continuing to get our 2025 priorities in front of our legislators. Our priorities for 2025 reflect our previous priorities.

2025 KRTA Legislative Priorities

1. Fully fund the Teachers' Retirement System in accordance with the state's pension-contribution statute. (KRS 161.500)
2. Maintain the defined benefit system currently in place for Kentucky's retired, current and future teachers.
3. Fully fund the statutorily required obligation to the TRS Medical Insurance Fund as required by HB540, the 2010 Shared Responsibility Law (KRS 161.550 and 161.420)
4. Maintain the current TRS board structure
5. Oppose any legislation that would result in higher prescription costs for Kentucky's retired teachers.

It is important that we continue to voice our support and concerns to our legislators in Frankfort. You can easily contact your representative by email by going to the KRTA website and clicking on the legislative tab. While the legislative session does not begin until January of 2025, committees will be meeting in the fall which is a good time to make our voices heard! Let's keep working together on behalf of all of us!

Volunteers Needed for Back-to-School Box Up Bash!

Round up your teacher friends and volunteer to help get this school year off to a good start for our colleagues still in the classroom! Representatives from United Healthcare, KRTA, and TRS have invited us to participate in boxing up and distributing teacher supplies for Jefferson County elementary teachers. They are providing all the boxes and supplies – JCRTA will provide the volunteers! On Tuesday, August 13, retired teachers will pack up the supplies at the Omni Hotel downtown, then deliver them to the schools within the next two weeks. The more volunteers we have, the fewer boxes each person will need to deliver!

Note that valet parking is available free of charge for participants and assistance will be provided in loading the boxes into cars. Drinks and snacks will also be provided.

We are asking all volunteers to register for this volunteer opportunity in advance to ensure we have sufficient help. Sign up even if you can only do one part of the process. Just let us know if you can do the packing, the delivery to the schools, or both.

This is sure to be an awesome event filled with good company and a festive atmosphere! The event is open to all JCRTA members, other retired teachers, and friends. It is also the perfect opportunity for new retirees to get involved in JCRTA. Come join us at the Back-to-School Box Up Bash!

What: Back-to-School Box Up Bash!

Who: Approximately 40 JCRTA members, other retired teachers, and friends

When: Tuesday, August 13 at 2 p.m. - pack and/or pick up supply boxes for delivery to schools August 14-23.

Where: The Omni Hotel, 400 S. 2nd Street, Louisville, KY 40202

Why: To support current teachers in JCPS elementary classrooms

How to Register: Email Donna Wiseman at d.wisema4@gmail.com or call 502-228-7733.

Congratulations Retirees!!!

March	May	Amy Biggs	Kenneth Crawford	Marilyn Marshall	David Wallace, Jr.
Gretchen Jurlando	Michelle Cummins	Nathaniel Burney	Roberta Dunn	Melissa McShane	Regina Warren
Tracy Penning	James Lapointe	Julie Burns	Gail Glanz	Caroline Pass	Deanna Williams
Roger Thomas	Jeanette Martin	Charles Burwell, Jr.	Todd Hawkins	Anthony Raque	Charles Wood
Robert Venegar, Sr.	Kara Peers	Lora Caudill	Suzanne Jackson	Anita Schneider	Mark Youngblood
April	June	Larry Childress	Barbara Jette	Marilyn Scholl	
Shelli Medley	Monica Armstrong	Martha Clark	John Krueger, III	Anthony Smith	
Tammy Shelton	Carol Barth	Mary Collins	Tricia Lancaster	Beth Stottman	
Kimberly Wilson	Christina Beam	Carol Cottrell	Susan Lile	Sheilah Trowell	

JCRTA celebrates your retirement by inviting you to attend our upcoming luncheon on Friday, August 23, at a reduced cost of \$10 if you are a first-time attendee. Be sure to send in the special invitation you received in the mail to: Sheryl Tapp, 10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd., Louisville, KY 40241.

Trips & Tours 2024 & 2025

Martha O'Bryan

Come join us for two wonderful DAY trips this Fall.

CASTLE AND KEY

Settle back in your coach for a visit to a small batch bourbon distillery located in a castle.

This distillery was built in 1887 and has 113 acres of beautiful landscape property. It has a rich history, picturesque gardens, and is the birthplace of bourbon hospitality. We will have a late lunch at a local restaurant in Frankfort after our tour. The price of lunch is not included in the cost of the trip.

There are only 24 seats available, so, send your money in immediately so that you can reserve a seat on the bus.

Thursday October 24, 2024

Cost - \$80

Go to JCRTA.org for more information on this trip.

CHURCHILL DOWNS JCRTA DAY AT THE RACES

Get your friends together and enjoy an exciting day at the fall meet at Churchill Downs.

Thursday November 7, 2024.

Cost - \$50 per person- includes admission and lunch.

Go to JCRTA.org for more information about this experience.

CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND CRUISE - 2025

**Bay of Fundy – Nova Scotia - Bar Harbor, Maine
Norwegian Cruise Line**

Sunday thru Monday October 5-12, 2025

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS INCREDIBLE PRICE!

SEND YOUR \$75 deposit today!! \$2559-\$2906 double occupancy. Go to JCRTA.org for further information

JCRTA Newsflash!

(*denotes volunteer opportunity)

**“Back to School Box Up Bash” - Tues, Aug 13,
The Omni Hotel, 2:00 p.m. ***

**JCRTA General Meeting/KRTA Fall Workshop
Fri, Aug 23, 2024 AT 10:00 a.m.**

- Location: Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road, 40291
- Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Lunch reservations due by **Tuesday, August 14, 2024**
- Cash/check donations to be collected by JCPS school supply drive

Louisville International Film Festival - Thur/Fri, Oct 10-11*

Castle and Key Distillery Day Trip - Thur, Oct 24

JCRTA Day at the Races at Churchill Downs - Thur, Nov 7

Next JCRTA General Meeting – Thur, Dec 7

Join JCRTA or renew your annual membership for only \$15!

- Make checks out to JCRTA and mark “Dues” in the memo line
- Send to Mary Perry, 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, KY 40229

JCRTA Scholarships!

Myra Fugate

Each year, the JCRTA awards scholarships to JCPS students who plan to major in education. It is our honor to support bright, young people who are passionate about education and will make a difference in the lives of their students. Adriana Lane from Eastern High School and Emmalee Miller from Butler High School, our 2024 recipients, will be outstanding educators who can shape the future.



Adriana Lane

Adriana is passionate about the underrepresentation of teachers of color and its impact on students. In her words: “Teaching is more than just passing along knowledge; teaching entails serving as a mentor, role model, and champion for each student’s potential. Having the support of that one instructor who looked like me and had complete faith in my talents sparked both my academic and personal progress.” She is determined to be the teacher who offers transformation through representation. With her exceptional high school record of near perfect GPA and excellent test scores, Adriana is on her way to “changing the world, one kid at a time.”



Emmalee Miller

From her earliest school years, Emmalee knew she wanted to be a teacher, but it was not until she began assisting those with disabilities at Johnson Traditional Middle School that she found her passion. “I walked in the classroom and instantly felt at home.” Emmalee is the chapter president of Best Buddies, an organization that partners a student with a disability to one who is without a disability. She is a leader in Educator Rising club which prepares students for a teaching career. Outside of school, she participates in her church’s SHINE ministry, which serves individuals who have special needs. She is well on her way to being the one who shows her students “that they can be anything they set their mind to.”

As products of JCPS, Adriana and Emmalee are accomplished, mature, and focused on their futures. The Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association is proud to be a part of their journeys.



Recent JCRTA scholarship recipient Emmalee Miller met KRTA President Dr. Rick Tatum while serving as a counselor at a summer camp program for children with disabilities in Henryville, IN. It looks like the volunteers had as much fun as the kids!

Insurance Update

Lue Peabody

**2024 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Insurance
Live Healthier, Live Longer!**

There are many programs and services available for retired members through our Medicare Eligible Health Plan (UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage a PPO plan) for members over 65, and Kentucky Employees' Health Plan for members under 65 and not Medicare eligible.

Resources and information are available to you through the following:

- JCRTA www.jcrt.org
- TRS (800-618-1687) www.trs.org
- KTRS (502-231-5802) www.krta.org
- Under 65 - Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, CVS Caremark (TRS: 800-618-1687)
- Over 65 - UnitedHealthCare Group Advantage (PPO) (1-844-518-5877)

- Express Scripts (1-877-866-5834) or www.Express-Scripts.com/pharmacies
- 2024 KRTA Fall Workshop for Jefferson County, Friday, August 23, 10:00 am (registration begins at 9:00 am), at Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Rd.

Please consider watching a one-hour documentary *"The Last Alzheimer's Patient."* Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN's chief medical correspondent, reports on five years of research that investigates lifestyle changes that can potentially delay, prevent, or reverse the onset of Alzheimer's. The program first aired on Sunday, July 7 at 8:00 pm ET on CNN, but is available on the CNN website, streaming and On-Demand.

REMEMBER to say NO! Enrolling in another Medicare Advantage plan will **cost you more money** and will automatically **"TERMINATE"** your TRS MEHP coverage. *You may not be able to re-enroll.*

<i>GENERAL MEETINGS</i>	<i>Wildwood Country Club</i>	<i>BOARD MEETINGS</i>	<i>KRTA Office</i>
Friday, August 23, 2024	10:00 AM	Tuesday, October 8, 2024	10:00 AM
Thursday, December 5, 2024	10:00 AM		

Friday, August 23, 2024

Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road
Limited handicapped parking and golf-cart shuttle is available

Registration: 9:30 A.M.
Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
Lunch Following Meeting

Menu

Grilled Marinated Chicken on a Bed of Mixed Greens, Rolls, and Dessert; Coffee or Tea

Meeting: Friday, August 23, 2024

Please detach this form and return it to:

Name: _____ Telephone No.: _____

School Table Reservation: _____

I am enclosing \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$20 each.

E-mail _____

Sheryl Tapp
10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd
Louisville, KY 40241
(please print address)

**Reservations deadline for a meal is Tuesday, August 14, 2024. Make your check to JCRTA.
No telephone or walk-in reservations will be accepted.**

NEW RETIREES attending a JCRTA meeting for the first time are eligible for a reduced-price luncheon reservation of \$10. To make a reservation, send in your \$10 check along with the special "new retiree invitation" you received in the mail. If you did not receive the "new retiree invitation", please contact Sheryl Tapp (tappshoe@twc.com).