

**Minutes of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 13, 2026**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association Board of Directors was called to order by JCRTA President Vicki Lete at 10:00 a.m. Susan Thurman led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present: Beth Dowdell, Ken Draut, Kathy Fries, Myra Fugate, Cindy Goldstein, Pam Gooch, Ann Hafling, Vicki Lete, Sahara Myers, Tara Parker, Lue Peabody, Marilyn Puckett, Bill Routh, Sheryl Tapp, Susan Thurman, Dale Warren, Melanie Wood.

Members Absent: Sheila Carson-Smith, Martha O'Bryan, Donna Wiseman,

Recording Secretary: Pam Gooch provided copies of the minutes of the previous meeting held on October 28, 2025. A motion was made by Tara Parker and seconded by Sheryl Tapp to approve the minutes as printed. The motion passed.

Vicki Lete shared a thank-you card from Greg Roush for the Christmas fruit basket we provided the KRTA office staff. Kathy Fries was introduced as the new JCRTA Membership Chairman. Board members in attendance introduced themselves and shared something about their career in education. Vicki received a letter from a JCRTA member that offered to help increase membership. Vicki passed the letter on to Kathy. Vicki asked everyone about a local philanthropy we could help and suggested Supplies Overseas (SOS).

A JCRTA logo polo may be ordered through Vicki for about \$33 and provided by Rob Davis. An order sheet was passed around, and Vicki will text ordering information to those board members not present.

Birthday celebrations were announced for January through March and Vicki gave everyone celebrating a birthday a treat. The board sang Happy Birthday.

1st Vice-President: Susan Thurman reported that she delivered a check for over \$1,000 to Goldsmith Elementary as the recipient of our school supply collection. Beth Dowdell was able to go with her to present the check. We collected \$1,595 at our December meeting for Blessings in a Backpack. Vicki suggested that we invite the recipient to attend our next general meeting. Susan will invite her to attend as our guest. Susan reported that the agenda for the March 12 General Meeting is being planned. She is trying to contact Lindy Casebier from the Kentucky Tourism Arts & Heritage Cabinet as a speaker. He is a former

educator and state legislator. Susan asked for additional topic suggestions for future meetings.

2nd Vice President: Sheryl Tapp reported the numbers for the last General Meeting held on December 4, 2025. There were 113 paid registrations with 7 no shows and 2 walk-ins. We had 3 guests and 5 new retirees.

Sheryl reported that the Event Manager at Wildwood, Reza Abitorabi recently retired. David Shanks is the new Manager. He communicated that the new per person charge for the buffet will be \$29. He also said we will be charged \$1,500 for the use of the building if we do not have a country club member sponsor. Diana Motsch is a member and has vouched for us to host the meeting. There was a question about her being a full member, so the board was asked if anyone knows someone that is a full member. Myra Fugate shared that Virgil Hoffman is a full member and she will contact him if needed. Wildwood now needs 10 days' notice to confirm all future reservations. Bill Routh suggested we obtain a debit/credit card reader to use to pay for meals at the meeting. Vicki and Bill are going to check into this with the bank. Ken Draut confirmed that we will be providing a link on our website for members to register for the meetings. Ken will contact Sheryl with the names of people that register online. For new retirees, KRTA is now reimbursing \$16. The cost for new retirees will also need to be increased. We voted to raise the cost of the luncheon meals to \$29 and for new retirees to \$13. The motion for this increase was made by Sheryl Tapp and Bill Routh seconded and the motion passed. Other possible venues were discussed such as hotels or other country clubs. These possible sites will be discussed at a later meeting since the change cannot be made by the next newsletter publication date.

Treasurer: Bill Routh reported that our account has approximately \$100,000 with \$40,000 in checking and \$60,000 in a CD at Fifth/Third Bank. He will provide a full financial report as soon as he can since his wife's accident has prevented him from doing so today. He stressed that we use the completed reimbursement form to obtain reimbursement for expenditures. Bill shared an opportunity for members to get their taxes completed through AARP called AARP Tax Aid. This is a service provided by volunteers and is not based on need. It was suggested that this be an article for the next newsletter.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Goldstein reported that the newsletter articles are due January 29 and reminders will be sent out on January 22.

KRTA Representative: Tara Parker reported a few highlights from the KRTA Executive Council Meeting held on December 8, 2025. The Financial Audit Report shows no significant change in net investment income. Hank Hensley, Financial Advisor for KRTA,

reported investments are on track and doing well. The Membership Committee reported 31,726 as the membership goal for 2025-2026. Currently, membership is 31,481 and over 800 members lapsed from last year. Membership can be moved to any local association of choice and a state member does not have to be a local member. February 19 is AARP Lobby Day in Frankfort. All are welcome to dress in red and participate. Greg Roush suggested we wait on increasing the KRTA dues until next year. Arthur Green made a motion to present a dues rate increase to the Delegate Assembly at the April 2026 KRTA Annual Convention. Scam emails from KRTA are showing up. KRTA will not ask for money or gift cards.

Parliamentarian: Dale Warren reported the AARP Driver Education course will be offered in an article in the next newsletter. Sites for this course can be at the AARP office or at the KRTA office (both are provided free of charge). He is negotiating a date that will be in the article. Vicki suggested the AARP office be the first choice.

Committee and Chairperson Reports:

Audit and Budget: Ann Hafling reviewed requirements that facilitate her audits. We need the full financial report at each meeting in the future since she does an ongoing review of the budget accounts. Bill Routh cannot write a check until a reimbursement form is submitted. She provided copies of the form for everyone, and they are available on the JCRTA website. Ann clarified how to fill out the reimbursement forms since there were some errors in the financial report presented at the last General Meeting in December. She explained that the funds requested for reimbursement must be taken from the correct budget account. Be sure the correct committee is listed where the money will be taken based on the budget account. If you need reimbursement from multiple budget accounts, the auditors need to have separate forms. We discussed how forms are completed so at the end of the year the audit is easier and accurate. If money is collected, it goes to the treasurer to be deposited and recorded on the financial report. If the treasurer is not at the meeting, money should not be held but given to the president to be taken to the treasurer for timely deposit.

Vicki reminded Bill to write a check for \$50 for the Bourgard Foundation and given to KRTA staff today to meet the KRTA deadline. Ann clarified that we budget for \$100 to the Bourgard Foundation and \$400 for the Kimbler Scholarship Fund. Vicki questioned this donation since points are only earned for a Bourgard Foundation donation of \$50. Ann explained that a board in the past voted to increase the donation to \$100 since we are such a large district and the amount for the Kimbler Scholarship Fund was decided by the board as well. Vicki asked for clarification since JCRTA budgets and awards two \$1,000 scholarships to students in Jefferson County so a scholarship for students out in the state is not needed.

Greg Roush was consulted and he explained the Kimbler Fund goes to 16 technical colleges all over the state including Jefferson Co. There was a motion by Ken Draut and seconded by Melanie Wood to reduce the donation to \$200 for the Kimbler Scholarship Fund. The motion passed.

Community Liaison: Donna Wiseman was not present, but Vicki reported that she is compiling the number of volunteer hours from the forms submitted by members and reviewing them to decide on the nominee for Volunteer of the Year.

The date to remember is March 15, 2025, to meet the district recognition deadline. Donna will be asked to check on volunteer opportunities with SOS and AARP.

Insurance: Lue Peabody reported that everyone should have received their new insurance cards in the mail from Humana. She relayed a message to be sure to keep documentation from United Health Care for a few months in case documentation is needed for past medical services. Reimbursement for Hearing Aids must go through Tru Hearing to be eligible for the hearing aid reimbursement. Hearing Aids bought elsewhere like Costco will not be reimbursed.

KRTA Membership: Sheila Carson-Smith was not present.

JCRTA Membership: Ken Draut (Interim Chair) provided current membership numbers as follows: Last year (2024-25) membership was 1,285; this year (2025-26) 1,205 (56 new members) with the difference being 80 less members. Kathy Fries reported she will be making a membership spreadsheet. She shared possible ways to identify those 80 members and the reasons why they did not renew their membership. She will reach out to the member that wrote the letter about increasing membership to share ideas. Ann noted that lots of people indicate they want to volunteer but say they are not contacted. That is another source of manpower to reach out to potential members. She shared the help received from Barbara Jacobs in contacting retired teachers.

Legislative: Beth Dowdell shared a report of the Legislative Priorities for 2026 and her plan to meet with legislators this year. She shared that lobbyists feel good about the support we can expect from our current legislators. There is only one new legislator in Jefferson County, Gary Clemons. Andy Beshear is asking legislators to budget for teacher raises.

Nominating/Elections: Melanie Wood reminded that 2026 is an even year so we elect 2nd VP, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and KRTA representative. She reminded everyone that committee chairs are appointed by the President and co-chairs must be approved by the President. If committee chairs want to be removed, let Vicki know. Sheryl Tapp and Cindy Goldstein agreed to continue. Pam Gooch and Tara Parker will not continue.

Necrology/Remembrance: The order of the Necrology Program was discussed. It was decided that the speaker will be at the beginning of the meeting. Pennant normally provides the remembrance handout given out at the meeting free of charge. It will be a one-page

paper as was done last year. We do not receive the list of deceased members until February so it will not be ready for the next newsletter printing deadline, so it will be included in the newsletter following the March meeting.

Technology: Ken Draut reported the website will have the lunch reservations link on the home page and information will be listed in the newsletter. He reminded everyone to continue to review the information that appears on the website and advise him of updates. Our website receives on average 1200 hits a year.

Trips and Tours: Martha was not in attendance so Vicki shared that two-day trips to Madison and Churchill Downs are being planned. Ann expressed concern that while Martha is in Florida each winter, trip money is going to two places. When it is mailed to Martha's Louisville address, it is then forwarded to her Florida address through USPS. Ann suggested that she designate someone to collect the money here to be documented and deposited. Vicki will discuss this with Martha. Bill asked about the possibility of having the money mailed directly to the P.O. box.

Scholarship: Myra Fugate reported that she has made contacts with JCPS to communicate scholarship guidelines. She suggested an idea for attracting members to JCRTA with current members contacting known retired teachers to join us. It could be a post card with a personal invitation addressed to the person by name to join us including three or four benefits for joining, i.e., we have a legislative liaison that goes to Frankfort to lobby for you to keep your retirement benefits intact. She feels saying we do charitable work is good but does not typically attract new members

KRTA/AARP Grandparent's Essay Contest: Marilyn Puckett reported on some obstacles she had to overcome to be sure we had an essay winner again this year. The deadline for turning in the name was December 15 and with the inclement weather closures, she was given an extension. Wilder Elementary submitted the winner, Harper Barnett, from Joanie Heitz classroom.

Old Business: none

New Business: Ann Hafling asked if we need to choose the 10 delegates for the KRTA convention at this meeting? Vicki Lete has not received anything in writing. She asked the board members if they want to go to the convention, to send her a text. Vicki will send a text to everyone since 3 members were absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m. A motion was made to adjourn by Tara Parker and seconded by Ken Draut.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary