

**Minutes of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 25, 2025**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association Board of Directors was called to order by JCRTA President Susan Thurman at 10:04 a.m. Vicki Lete gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Susan gave an update on the health progress of Lue Peabody's husband. She relayed Lue's request for thoughts and prayers.

Board Members Present: Sheila Carson-Smith, Beth Dowdell, Ken Draut, Myra Fugate, Pam Gooch, Ann Hafling, Vicki Lete, Sahara Myers, Tara Parker, Mary Perry, Marilyn Puckett, Sheryl Tapp, Susan Thurman, Dale Warren and Melanie Wood.

Members Absent: Cindy Goldstein, Martha O'Bryan, Lue Peabody and Donna Wiseman

Recording Secretary: Pam Gooch provided copies of the minutes of the previous meeting on January 14, 2025. A motion was made by Ken Draut and seconded by Mary Perry to approve the minutes as printed. The motion passed.

Treasurer: Mary Perry provided the treasurer's report. We are running Trips and Tours through Miscellaneous on the report until the new budget. The scholarships funds will be allocated soon. June 30 is when Mary will roll off the board and she is preparing for the transition. Her address will be used until a Post Office Box is purchased. She had to order checks and used the KRTA office address. The new treasurer will need to cover the address with the new address using white labels. Ann asked that all requests for reimbursement be submitted by June 1 so the audit can occur in June. The treasurer's report was approved as printed and will be filed for audit.

1st Vice-President: Vicki Lete reported that Kenwood Elementary has been contacted to find out what school supplies need to be purchased with the donated funds. Our members have pledged to donate school supplies so we need to be clear about how the funds can be used. Our next meeting is Thursday, May 15, and the speaker is David Thurmond, retired JCPS educator from YPAS to speak on "Movement and Music for the Senior Brain."

2nd Vice President: Sheryl Tapp gave a report for the last General Meeting held on March 6, 2025, as follows: 100 paid registrations, 13 no shows. 2 walk-ins and 1 new retiree registered but did not attend. JCRTA paid for 5 Guests. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 15 with a buffet menu of Chicken Alfredo and sheet cakes for dessert. The deadline for registrations is May 10. We discussed that 4 or more guests could reserve seats at a table. The May meeting will have 4 months of new retirees so more new retirees may attend. Vicki Lete asked about trend data for the attendance for each meeting which can be found in the minutes for each meeting. A suggestion was made to call up tables to get in line for the buffet, so people do not have to wait in line for an extended amount of time. Numbered tables or groups of tables sent at a time were suggested. Guests for our next meeting will be the speaker, scholarship recipients with 3 guests for each winner, AARP Grandparent Essay contest recipient and 5 guests and an AARP representative, Mary Beth Dixon, will come to present an all-call for volunteers to help at the Kentucky State Fair.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Goldstein was not able to attend because of health. She needs newsletter articles emailed to her by Thursday, April 3. Do not send to Pennant.

KRTA Representative: Tara Parker had no report since a meeting is not scheduled until the convention.

Committee and Chairperson Reports:

Nominating/Elections: Susan welcomed Melanie Wood's return. Melanie presented that this is an odd year and the need to elect officers for President, 1st Vice President and Treasurer. The nominations are President, Vicki Lete, 1st Vice President, Susan Thurman, and Treasurer, Mary Perry. Mary Perry declined due to family responsibilities, so we are asking for help in finding someone for Treasurer. Melanie asked for approval of the nominations of Vicki and Susan. A motion to approve the nominations was made by Ken Draut and seconded by Dale Warren. The nominations passed.

Audit and Budget: Ann Hafling asked everyone to look at the budget and let her know by email if an increase is needed. The membership increase (1,300) will increase our income by a small amount. She noted that an increase in one line will have to decrease someone else's funding. Vicki Lete asked that funding for the General Meetings be increased to \$600 for speaker fees and expenses. Susan asked that we include funds for the Wake-up to New Beginnings Membership Breakfast for next year. The cost created a deficit in membership funding. She noted that it was a huge service to new members and a way to target new retirees. The pre-retirement workshops were powerful in attracting members but was eliminated because of COVID. Ways to reach new retirees was discussed. Dale Warren shared that other retired teachers' organizations such as JCTA-retired have animosity

toward JCRTA and do not want to partner with us. It was suggested to develop a working relationship with the new JCPS superintendent to open lines of communication. The KRTA convention offers a membership workshop that provides ideas to increase membership.

Community Liaison: Donna Wiseman was out of town but asked Susan to share that our Volunteer of the Year is Joan Alvey.

Insurance: No report

KRTA Membership: Sheila Carson-Smith reported that she continues to try to increase membership. She reported the current membership 3,590 which is 65.8% participation, and she asked for ideas to increase membership.

JCRTA Membership: Ken Draut, interim Membership Chair, reported we had 950 members in the fall. We spent \$3,000 on mailings and received 350 more members so we are now at 1,300 members. This compares to membership two years ago. He suggested a separate membership mail-out that says it is time to renew and the option to renew electronically since the form gets lost when included in the Newsletter mailing. The postage would be 36 cents and consulting with Pennant, the estimate would be a cost of \$1,200. Ken presented a mailing handout that could be sent out along with a newsletter article and form. Additional information was requested on the form, i.e., last school or level and subject taught with year retired. Ken asked for feedback about the timing to send this additional mailing. It could either be sent before or after the newsletter article reminder. An Email blast to remind everyone to renew membership with an attachment of the renewal form would also be used. It was suggested that we target only the retirees that did not send in their renewal with this additional mailing. Another suggestion was made to provide a lifetime membership opportunity for an amount of \$150 or \$200. A higher amount would be needed since most people live longer than this amount would cover. This suggestion will be tabled for next year. Ken was thanked for his work as the interim membership chairperson.

Legislative: Beth provided a report of the legislative session that ended March 17, 2025. She reported there has been no new legislation that has a negative impact on retired teachers. Beth and Mary Perry went to Frankfort to meet with legislators. She encouraged everyone to keep up your contact with your legislators.

Necrology/Remembrance: Sahara Myers was thanked for the beautiful Necrology Remembrance Program at the last meeting. Sahara reported that the poem was AI generated. ChatGPT can create documents when you tell it what you want it to say. It was decided that a remembrance booklet was not necessary since it is an additional expense. We will only provide a paper copy of the names of the deceased members at the Remembrance Program.

Technology: Ken Draut reported that our JCRTA.org website has a wealth of information. He asked everyone to check to see if anything needs to be updated.

Trips and Tours: Martha O'Bryan was not in attendance. She provided a report. The Washington trip had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. Refunds will be provided. The date for Day at the Downs is set for Friday, June 6. The next newsletter will provide details.

Scholarship: Myra Fugate reported she has many applicants for scholarships to review to select our recipients. She will not have the names until the next newsletter article for June. She will communicate whether the recipients will be at the May meeting.

KRTA/AARP Essay Contest: Marilyn Puckett has our winner: Gwendolyn Legleiter from Wilder Elementary. The student, grandparent(s), parents, and teacher will be our guest at the May meeting. This year we added \$50 for the teacher along with the \$50 for the student.

Old Business: The KRTA Convention is April 21-22 at Holiday Inn Hurstbourne. We will wait until the new treasurer is elected to decide on the P.O. Box.

New Business: Melanie Wood reported the constitution language needs to be reviewed regarding nominations. There is a two-year minimum of how long someone must be a member before being considered for serving on the board. Should we amend that language in the constitution? A periodic review of the constitution is currently in place. We will review the language at an upcoming meeting.

Susan Thurman reported that Julie Tallent asked to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting about opportunities to become a volunteer at the Speed Art Museum.

The next JCRTA board meeting is Tuesday, June 24, 2025. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Sheryl Tapp and seconded by Sahara Myers. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m. and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary