

**Minutes of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 14, 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 10:05 a.m. She thanked everyone for their support during the passing of her mother. Vicki Lete gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present: Beth Dowdell, Ken Draut, Myra Fugate, Pam Gooch, Vicki Lete, Sahara Myers, Mary Perry, Marilyn Puckett, Sheryl Tapp, Susan Thurman, Dale Warren.

Zoom Meeting Attendees: Ann Hafling, Martha O'Bryan, Tara Parker and Lue Peabody.

Members Absent: Sheila Carson-Smith, Cindy Goldstein, Donna Wiseman, Melanie Wood

Recording Secretary: Pam Gooch provided copies of the minutes of the previous board meeting on October 8, 2024. A motion was made by Tara Parker and seconded by Mary Perry to approve the minutes as printed. The motion passed.

1st Vice-President: Vicki Lete reported the Back-to-School Supplies fundraiser collected \$1,037. She worked with Marco Munoz, from JCPS, to select Kenwood Elementary as our recipient. Jameelah Henderson is a new principal, and she will be contacted to find out how they plan to use the funds. The Blessings in a Backpack fundraiser collected \$1,583 and the check will be mailed to Kim Holsclaw since she attended our December meeting to share how the money will be used. The March General Meeting's planned program will include Emily Kirkpatrick-Haag, National Council of Teachers of English, as our speaker. The topic is to be determined through discussions with her. The board suggested possible topics as the history, evolution and growth of NCTE; English as a Second Language impact and volunteering opportunities; support to English teachers; and the impact of Artificial Intelligence and tools available. Greg Roush will be introduced and asked to talk about the new Social Security Act along with Beth Dowdell. Sahara Myers shared the Necrology/Remembrance portion would include our remembrance candle and a list of deceased members being displayed. The list will be provided from the KRTA office. The booklet will be printed by Pennant.

Vicki shared possible speakers for May: Jill Jones, retired Brown Forman VP, author, and leader in our community; Blake Hazelton, Career Educator, Vidya Ravichandran GlowTouch, LLC or Lindy Casebier, Retired Teacher and now with Parks and Tourism.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Perry provided the treasurer's report. The first six months was listed. She explained that \$769 under miscellaneous was money collected for trips and tours (\$669) and \$100 petty cash for the General Meeting. She felt petty cash is not needed, but she will have change available if needed. Under JCRTA Membership, we spent \$1,499.97 for the Membership Brunch resulting in a deficit. Ken's membership project to increase membership was the cost of mailings. Since Mary will be rolling off the board as treasurer, she needs to use the addressed envelopes. Also, since a small quantity of checks will need to be ordered for the remainder of her term, she will order those without the address. She will use mailing labels on those. Mary checked on the cost of a P.O. Box which would be approximately \$200 a year depending on location and size. A medium box should be large enough. She suggested we wait until we have a new person in July to get a P.O. Box that is convenient to him/her. Pam Gooch suggested we also use the P.O. Box address to collect the luncheon checks instead of a personal address. Using the KRTA address or the P.O. Box address for our Tax ID will also need to be decided. The treasurer's report was approved as printed and will be filed for audit.

2nd Vice President: Sheryl reported there were 126 paid reservations with 17 new retirees and 6 guests at our last General Meeting on December 5, 2024. She received good positive feedback about the buffet lunch. The buffet line went very smoothly and will open at noon at the conclusion of our meeting. Our next General Meeting will be Thursday, March 6, 2025, with the menu as lasagna with vegetable and roll. The reservations deadline will be Tuesday, February 11. She requested that the invitation to new retirees specifically state to make checks payable to JCRTA since many were made payable to her personally.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy was not able to attend the meeting due to health. The newsletter articles deadline date is Thursday, January 23. The article is only sent to Cindy, and she will send the completed copy to Pennant for printing.

KRTA Representative: Tara shared the highlights of the December 9, 2024, KRTA Executive Council Board meeting. The Financial Audit Report was shared by Julia Meredith, Monroe Shine. She shared that all financials are in good order. She noted that membership dues do not cover spending, but investments earnings keep us in good shape. She noted that we may need to consider a future dues increase. Greg Roush as the new Executive Director communicated his transition plan including adding a part-time position to handle Membership Services, answer the phones and perform other office duties. He does not plan any major changes this first year, but he will assess KRTA needs, which may include a future dues increase. From the Health & Insurance Committee, reach out to Know Your RX Coalition if a formularies drug has changed this year. There are now 3 categories that

require pre-authorizations for retirees over 65: physical therapy, speech and chiropractic services.

Committee and Chairperson Reports:

Audit and Budget: Ann reminded everyone to turn in bills as soon as possible. The Audit report will be at the May meeting.

Community Liaison: No Report. Donna was not in attendance.

Insurance: No report. Lue let us know that her husband's health is improving.

KRTA Membership: No Report. Sheila was not in attendance.

JCRTA Membership: Ken Draut, acting as the temporary chair, provided a report on Membership. We had 964 members for our new 2024-25 Membership Roll. After his membership project, we now have 1,317 members so the cost for the mailings was offset with the new members. He suggested that separate mailings for membership renewals with a return envelope be sent each year. Including this with the newsletter is resulting in people overlooking the need to renew. He is asking KRTA to include a box on their membership cards so a checkmark will indicate that the retiree wants to join the local district. These names will be sent a mailing with information about being a member of JCRTA. Ken will contact Greg Roush to add a checkbox to the KRTA cards to indicate interest in joining the local district. He also suggested that we limit the amount of time to continue to resend additional requests to join. After a year and a half with no interest in joining, it is a waste of money to continue contacting them. We will continue to put in our newsletter about joining both KRTA and JCRTA, but the new retirees are the ones we want to target.

Legislative: Beth Dowdell provided a report. The Social Security Administration is evaluating how to implement the passing of the Fairness Act, WEP/GPO. The new legislative session is beginning in Frankfort this month. Beth plans to go several times to meet with Jefferson County representatives. If anyone is interested in joining her, please let her know. The KRTA Legislative Priorities have not changed and focus on fully funding the Teachers' Retirement System and maintaining the defined benefit system currently in place for Kentucky's retired, current and future teachers.

Nominating/Elections: Melanie Wood was not in attendance. She plans to be back in April. If you know of someone that may be interested in joining the Board, there are three members that must roll off the Board after two terms. Let Susan or Melanie know their names.

Necrology/Remembrance: Sahara reported above about the March meeting program.

Technology: Check the website for any needed updates.

Trips and Tours: Martha O'Bryan reminded everyone about the 2 upcoming bus trips to Biltmore and Washington, DC. She reported only 10 people have signed up for Washington.

The newsletter will hopefully generate more attendees. The trip to New England and Canada is being well received. Day trips will be evaluated, and she reminded us that transportation will not be provided because of the prohibited costs. Churchill Downs will be repeated for this year.

Scholarship: Myra Fugate reported that the JCPS Digital newsletter was used last year with positive results. The scholarship portal is a new avenue we plan to use. She will approach the universities to see if they want to communicate our scholarship to incoming students. Vicki Lete will provide a contact for JCPS Career Technology (CTE) programs. The May meeting is when these scholarships are presented.

KRTA/AARP Essay Contest: Marilyn Puckett reported the attempts she has made to generate interest in the Grandparents Essay Contest. She narrowed her focus to 6 schools: Medora, Wilder, Lincoln, Norton, King and Goldsmith Elementaries 5th grade teachers. After Thanksgiving, she mailed the guidelines and the deadlines and her contact information. Not one essay was submitted. The school deadline was December 15; the county deadline is January 31 and the district deadline is March 1. She will continue to see if an essay can be generated from Jefferson County. Vicki Lete suggested we ask Kenwood Elementary if they may also be interested.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: The KRTA Convention is Monday, April 21—Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at Holiday Inn Hurstbourne. If you are willing to be a delegate, your membership is free, and you are required to be present on both days. Susan needs to know your interest with an RSVP as soon as possible so she can supply the names to KRTA. Districts are again asked to provide a \$50 door prize.

AARP asked us to partner with them at the Kentucky State Fair. They need some volunteers to be at their booth. We do not need to be there all the days of the fair, but possibly a 2-hour shift. Susan will get additional information for us for our next meeting, such as: Would it include free fair admission and parking?

Our next JCRTA General Meeting is Thursday, March 6, 2025, and JCRTA Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. A motion was made by Mary Perry and seconded by Pam Gooch. Lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary