

**Minutes of the
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
June 24, 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. Vicki Lete gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Susan welcomed Bill Routh as the treasurer effective July 1, 2025. Susan thanked everyone for her going-away gifts presented at the general meeting.

Board Members Present: Myra Fugate, Cindy Goldstein, Pam Gooch, Ann Hafling, Vicki Lete, Martha O'Bryan, Tara Parker, Lue Peabody, Mary Perry, Marilyn Puckett, Bill Routh, Sheryl Tapp, Susan Thurman, Donna Wiseman, Melanie Wood.

Members Absent: Sheila Carson-Smith, Ken Draut, Beth Dowdell, Sahara Myers and Dale Warren.

Recording Secretary: Pam Gooch provided copies of the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 25, 2025. 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 reminded everyone that the next meeting will be the KRTA Fall Workshop. Susan Thurman will not be in attendance, so Vicki asked Sheryl Tapp to help with the Invocation and Pledge. The school supplies drive is conducted at this meeting and Susan Thurman has selected Goldsmith Elementary as a school in need. Goldsmith is a Title I school with a high ESL population that needs school supplies. All board members were encouraged to reach out to retired teachers to attend this important meeting. The content shared at this meeting is vital, especially to new retirees.

Treasurer: Mary Perry provided the treasurer's report. The report is reconciled through May 31 so there will be a few last checks through the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2025. Mary reported we are still receiving memberships. Our CD matures in July. The interest helps offset unexpected expenses. The outgoing and ingoing presidents and treasurers will have to go together to the bank to sign off and sign onto the accounts including the CD. Bill will contact the Middletown Post Office to set up a post office box for correspondence. Fifth Third Bank has a convenient location next to the Middletown Post Office. Mary Perry

was thanked for her service to JCRTA. The treasurer's report was approved as printed and will be filed for audit.

2nd Vice President: Sheryl Tapp reported numbers for the last General Meeting luncheon on May 15, 2025, as 104 paid, 8 no shows, 0 walk-ins and 16 guests. The next General Meeting/KRTA Fall Workshop is scheduled for August 22, 2025. The deadline for luncheon reservations is August 13. Vicki Lete reported that the sheet cakes were a problem at the last meeting. A Wildwood server started serving but was pulled off the serving table and Vicki tried to finish serving while trying to clean up the area. Bill Routh suggested Sams as a source for frozen New York cheesecake with strawberry topping. It was decided this will be our dessert for the next meeting. Martha will be responsible for plating the cheesecake.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Goldstein reported that newsletter articles are due July 11, and she will send a reminder email on July 3. Cindy reminded everybody to send their articles directly to her email at cwgoldstein0325@gmail.com.

KRTA Representative: Tara Parker reported minutes from the KRTA Executive Council Meeting on June 9, 2025. The outgoing President, Rick Tatum presented membership information as follows: KRTA Members: 31,692 (potential members 44,391); the goal was 31,390. The 2025-2026 goal will be set by the KRTA Membership Committee at their July meeting. The KRTA database will no longer use TRS ID numbers to safeguard this information. The new KRTA ID will consist of 12 digits comprised by the last four digits of the Social Security number and the 8-digit birth date of members. Martha Sims, Outgoing Health & Insurance Committee Chair reminded everyone about the Social Security Fairness Act and the need to continue to report this to retirees. The out-of-pocket maximum for prescription drugs is now \$2,000 due to the Inflation Reduction Act. Allen Schuler, Legislative Committee co-chair explained that HB 694, which passed during the last legislative session, does not affect retirees. The original HB 540 was a collaboration between all stakeholders to solve Retired Teacher Health Insurance funding. The Health Insurance fund is almost 100% funded (projected 2027). HB 694 changes the language of HB 540 to continue requiring active teachers and school districts to continue paying their 3%. Teacher money would continue to go into the health insurance fund until further notice. District money would be re-directed to go toward the unfunded pension liability, attempting to pay it off sooner. Allen also reminded us of our success on the state level in defeating Amendment 2 for charter schools. President Trump's proposed "Big Beautiful Bill" would set aside \$20 billion to encourage states to support charter schools. We need to always meet, email, and thank our legislators for fully funding the TRS budget and for supporting retired teachers. Tim Abrams, the new AARP Specialist reminded us that we

need to continue to partner on the Grandparent essay and other activities, such as Back-to-School Drive to strengthen our communities. The 2025-2026 Standing Committee co-chairs were presented and approved for the following: **Membership**—Sherry Radford, Mike Caudill and Chrissy Jones, **Health & Insurance**—Sue Ellen Caldwell and Sheila Wilkinson, **Legislative**—Larry Woods and Steve Gillespie

President Rick Tatum closed the meeting by thanking everyone and stated he has enjoyed his time as KRTA President.

Committee and Chairperson Reports:

Audit and Budget: Ann Hafling provided the proposed budget for 2025-2026. She pointed out that we have \$1,000 less in our checking account from the previous year, but we have the CD interest to cover this. We could add the interest into our checking account. Last year we had the extra brunch and membership mailing that resulted in this deficit. She stressed that it is necessary to get approval from the board before going over the budget amount. Bill Routh asked for clarification of procedures. Mary Perry provided her continuing assistance. The budget was put up for approval and a motion for approval was made by Bill Routh and seconded by Tara Parker. The proposed budget was passed. Susan Thurman thanked Ann for her work on the budget.

Community Liaison: Donna Wiseman presented the AARP Volunteer opportunity at the Kentucky State Fair. She shared that CASA called and is always seeking volunteers. The biggest obstacle in getting volunteers is parking and security. Another problem is retirees' reluctance in making a long-term commitment. An event to address these concerns and to support CASA is being planned. Ann suggested we participate in the Mayor's Day of Service as we did in the past. A one-day commitment brings more volunteers such as helping pack unused medical materials through Supplies Overseas (used for United States as well) and Feed the Hungry. Retirees want to participate as a group, be able to sit down and not make a long-term commitment. Ann offered to provide the contact information for Donna. There were people that showed up to volunteer at the school supply drive last summer and these opportunities will help our membership be involved. Donna expressed concern that the number of volunteers is limited. Susan shared that Ken could explain how to set up the ability to have sign-ups to ensure we will have enough coverage.

Insurance: Lue Peabody shared that October is the next KRTA Insurance meeting. The insurance committee is aware there is a letter that has been sent by Humana about coverage negotiations. Medicare Advantage Plans are being denied more and there is a concern. At the April KRTA convention meeting, there were questions, but at that time, they did not know that much about it. We have been told previously that it did not involve our plan, but this is not the case this time. Medicare Advantage plans pay first and then Medicare picks up the remaining 4%. Your Medicare card is being asked for by providers. In

the past, we were always told Not to provide our Medicare card. Lue will inquire about this at the meeting. TRS has a representative, but it is hard to get in touch with him, and calls have not been returned. Lue will include his name and number in the newsletter.

KRTA Membership: Shiela was not in attendance so no report, but Tara's Report covers the needed information

JCRTA Membership: Ken Draut sent in a membership report. For 2025-26, we have approximately 1,300 members compared to 1,304 members last year. He will finalize the membership list by July 15. He proposed that he will continue as interim chair until the end of the year to finalize the database. Lily Mae Perry-Pettus has agreed to assume the role of the JCRTA Membership Chair. Ken will assist with the transition. Ken also provided a list of board members with contact information and asked for our review and any revision.

Legislative: Beth Dowdell sent in a report. She has a KRTA Legislative Committee meeting in July. The 2026 legislative session to begin in January will be determining the biennial budget for the state. She will report to the board the issues and concerns addressed.

Nominating/Elections: Melanie was thanked for her work on nominating. The treasurer is a hard position to fill, and we appreciate Bill's acceptance of the position.

Necrology/Remembrance: no report

Technology: Ken Draut asked Susan to convey to everyone to please review your section on the website. There are two places to check: 1) the main page, 2) the tabs at the top are specific to a topic. Review your area and let him know if changes are needed.

Trips and Tours: Martha O'Bryan reported that the Day at the Downs had a good turnout. Churchill Downs has another senior day in the Fall so another event will be planned. It was recommended that everyone register at the same time so they will sit together. The Washington trip was cancelled due to lack of interest. Plans for Biltmore Estates November 23-26 are still being advertised but does not have enough reservations. The Canada and New England cruise on October 5-12 has 25 reservations. Trips planned for next year are a Pacific coast Norwegian cruise line on October 12-18, 2026, which will include Vancouver, British Columbia, Astoria, Oregon, San Francisco and end in Los Angeles. The cost is between \$2700 and \$2800 including airfare. Martha plans trips that do not conflict with KRTA's Collette travel. New York is another possible trip. Also, the Kentucky Castle in Versailles would include \$25 entrance fee with a tour guide that includes the history, the castle rooms, flower gardens and sustainability garden. The cost for food is \$35 for a total tour cost of \$60. Transportation is not included since a bus would cost \$1,000. Susan suggested we caravan to Versailles to prevent any liability.

Scholarship: Myra reported the scholarship recipients were recognized; one at our May meeting and the other at her school's award ceremony. She will include an article and photos in the newsletter.

KRTA/AARP Essay Contest: Marilyn Puckett has revitalized the Grandparent Essay contest. The recipient read her essay at the last meeting. Marilyn asked for suggestions for next year. Do we want to continue to focus on a small number of schools? We decided we will have a newsletter article to encourage all 5th grade teachers to promote writing around the date for grandparent's day. We can add any JCPS schools but will target the same 6 schools. The personal touch with these schools worked. Wilder Elementary has agreed to continue to participate next year.

Old Business: The board was asked if we want to repeat the *Wake up to New Beginnings* breakfast in October. This targeted new retirees with TRS in attendance along with representatives that provided volunteer opportunities. Beth and Susan are willing to coordinate an event for next year. To improve the number of new members, we will tell those invited to bring cash or check to pay for membership. Also, a specific time for signing up for membership will be scheduled during the event. The board expressed concern about the cost of \$1,500 with only 3 new members joining. The Fall Workshop is a repeat of some of the same information, and we could capitalize on that meeting. Barbara Jacobs could coordinate calls to all new retirees about the Fall Workshop meeting. A JCRTA flyer could be given to new retirees when they retire. KRTA felt it was a good event (they had 10 new members join), but the board decided to table the event for this year.

New Business: No new business

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m. and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary