

**Minutes of the  
General Meeting of the  
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association (JCRTA)  
August 23, 2024**

The General Meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association/KRTA Fall Workshop was held on Friday, August 23, 2024, at Wildwood Country Club.

The meeting was called to order by JCRTA President, Susan Thurman, at 10:04 a.m. Vicki Lete, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Susan introduced the KRTA representatives and partners. Tim Abrams was recognized for his service to KRTA.

Susan introduced Dr. Rick Tatum in his new role as KRTA President. Dr. Tatum gave an overview of the teaching profession and shared words of wisdom: “Your wallet is empty, but your heart is full from the students you taught and nurtured. We need to speak up on the issues that impact teachers.” His 4 goals during this year are 1) **Increase KRTA/JCRTA membership**. JCRTA is hosting an event for new retirees: Wake up to New Beginnings Brunch on Wednesday, September 25, that will be a more thorough overview of the benefits of JCRTA and to promote membership. He asked everyone to encourage retired teachers to attend. He reminded all retirees to join the campaign of “Each one Reach one” encouraging all retired teachers to recruit one or two retirees to join. 2) **Develop a positive relationship with your legislators** and communicate our views. 3) **Take a leadership role in KRTA/JCRTA**. 4) **Serve your community** in volunteer efforts. He announced that Greg Roush has been selected as the new KRTA Executive Director starting in January.

Gary Harbin, TRS Executive Secretary, gave a TRS update. He noted that many Kentucky students won Olympic medals this year. It is a testament to Kentucky teachers and how they make an impact on their students. The TRS pension plan makes \$6.1 billion more than other pension plans. TRS pays out \$211.3 million in retirement annuity benefits and 17.1 million in medical benefits which impacts Kentucky’s economy. The average retirement age is 58 years with 29 years of service. There are 43 retirees that are over 100 years old. He recognized the Board of Trustees, and how the continuity of the Board makes a difference in keeping our pension plan safe. He encouraged everyone to vote for the representatives on the Board. TRS’s administrative costs are the lowest in the country. TRS’s pension plan is 58% funded and medical plan is 71% funded. The slides he used in his report are available on the KRTA website for your reference and to share.

Greg Roush spoke about the benefits of being a KRTA member. Each of the vendors spoke briefly about what they offer to retired teachers.

Tim Abrams, KRTA Executive Director, gave a KRTA update and emphasized that growth in membership numbers keeps us strong as we advocate for retired teachers. The KRTA office's main thing is the main thing--to benefit Kentucky Retired Teachers. These are **KRTA's 2025 Legislative Priorities:**

I. Fully fund the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) in accordance with the state's pension-contribution statute (KRS 161.500)

II. Maintain the defined benefit system currently in place for Kentucky's retired, current and future teachers. Since teachers are ineligible for Social Security benefits, payouts from TRS are the only income Kentucky Retired teachers receive.

III. Fully fund the statutorily required obligation to the TRS Medical Insurance Fund as required by HB 540, the 2010 Shared Responsibility Law (KRS 161.550 and 161.420).

IV. Maintain the current TRS Board structure with TRS members directly electing the majority of its board members.

V. Oppose any legislation that would result in higher prescription costs for Kentucky's retired teachers.

The KRTA Board voted that we Oppose Amendment 2 by voting NO to this amendment and communicating how it will negatively impact education in Kentucky. It would give lawmakers more authority to fund non-public education. Language in the Amendment states: "enabling the General Assembly" Translation: giving lawmakers broad new authority they previously didn't have;"notwithstanding" Translation: in exception to, despite, regardless of what's in the constitution. He encouraged everyone to visit [KRTA.org](http://KRTA.org) to see the complete rationale.

Susan Thurman, JCRTA President, led the remainder of the meeting. The minutes of the previous General Meeting on May 16, 2024, were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Ann Marie Hafling and seconded by Sheila Carson-Smith. The treasurer's report and the 2025 budget were approved as printed.

Martha O'Bryan, Trips and Tours, recognized Ruth Boone as the former committee chair. She then gave an overview of upcoming trips and directed everyone to check out the [JCRTA.org](http://JCRTA.org) website for details. She also asked for suggestions for trips for next year.

Donna Wiseman, Community Liaison, thanked those members that helped in the Back-to-School Box Up Bash that provided school supplies for teachers. United Health Care provided the supplies, and the Omni Hotel provided the room, snacks and valet parking. She shared additional volunteer opportunities and encouraged everyone to check out the JCRTA.org website. She reminded everyone to keep track of volunteer hours for the year.

Vicki Lete shared our annual school supply drive and 3 ways to donate this year are 1) place a check in the envelope on your table 2) take an envelope addressed to Mary Perry to mail your donation to her or 3) go to the JCRTA.org website and donate online. She shared how last year's donations were used for King Elementary's student incentive program.

Sheila Carson-Smith shared the KRTA membership awards received at the convention in April. She encouraged everyone to join KRTA for only \$20 a year. Susan Thurman shared that JCRTA membership is \$15 and can be given to Mary Perry. Susan Thurman reminded everyone how valuable the quarterly JCRTA newsletter is in keeping members up to date.

New retirees were recognized, and door prizes were given out. The next General Meeting of the JCRTA will be on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Wildwood Country Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary