

**Minutes of the  
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 8, 2024**

**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 10:00 a.m. Susan gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**Board Members Present:** Sheila Carson-Smith, Beth Dowdell, Ken Draut, Pam Gooch, Ann Hafling, Vicki Lete, Sahara Myers, Martha O'Bryan, Tara Parker, Lue Peabody, Mary Perry, Marilyn Puckett, Sheryl Tapp, Susan Thurman, Dale Warren, Donna Wiseman, Melanie Wood.

**Members Absent:** Myra Fugate and Cindy Goldstein

**Recording Secretary:** Pam Gooch provided copies of the minutes of the previous meeting on June 18, 2024. A motion was made by Tara Parker and seconded by Ann Hafling to approve the minutes as printed. The motion passed.

**Guest Speaker, Greg Roush:** Mr. Roush spoke to us about Amendment 2. KRTA's main focus is retired teachers, however, it voted as an Association to team with Protect Our Schools Coalition to oppose this amendment. Tom Sheldon is leading this coalition. Mr. Roush shared a handout of the voting language and explained the rationale. In 2021, House Bill 563 was introduced and overturned and in 2022, House Bill 9 passed private charter schools and was overturned because of the constitutional language that public tax money should be for public schools. He shared the implications of funding for public schools. There would be NO guard rails on what the legislature could do if this amendment is passed. Special Education and vulnerable children would not receive the services they need.

Jefferson County in the 1990s enacted KERA to bring equitable funding in the state. With the passage of this amendment, that would be gone. Mr. Roush shared some statistics: 20% of Jefferson County's budget comes from State funding; the budget is based on average daily attendance of children in the public schools; 52% of private schools are in three counties Fayette, Jefferson and Kenton; 54 Kentucky counties do not have private schools; and 90% of Kentucky students attend public schools. He shared ways for everyone to help: Contact Protect our Schools to put a sign in your yard to oppose the amendment. Speak out to groups and provide rationale and statistics on social media.

**Treasurer:** Mary Perry provided copies of the treasurer's report. The 2023/2024 report shows total received is less than total expenses, but our interest earned offsets that amount. The 2024/2025 first quarter report was reviewed. Both reports were approved as printed. Mary informed the Board

that we do have a Tax ID number (#EIN 61-1211188) that has been reactivated. This number can be used for several things if we want to apply. Mary will bring additional information to the next meeting. She suggested the KRTA address be used and not the treasurer's address since treasurers change which would require frequent re-filing. A P.O. Box could be used but that requires a fee. Susan will check to see if using KRTA's address is possible. Mary suggested using a P.O. Box for the treasurer's address instead of a personal address for collecting checks for membership. The P.O. Box would be safer for the delivery of checks. Mary will check into the cost of a P.O. Box. It was asked if this means we will have to file tax returns? Mary answered, "Our income is lower than required to file." With having an active Tax ID and address filed, we will be notified about what is required.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:** Vicki Lete asked for clarification of the amount received for school supplies: Mary will provide the total amount to be given to a school. Vicki asked for suggestions of a school that needs assistance with a high free/reduced lunch classification. For our December meeting, Lincoln Elementary will perform. The Grinch is coming with a treat. Collections will be taken for Blessings in a Backpack. The speaker from Blessings will be asked to attend. Cash, check or credit cards can be used.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Sheryl Tapp reported on General Meeting attendance and expenses from the August 24 meeting. There were 120 prepaid, 4 walk-ins and KRTA/TRS attendees of 12 for a total of 125. The deadline for the next luncheon reservation is November 25. New retirees will be charged a reduced lunch cost of \$10. Sheryl met with Wildwood and prices are increasing. To set up a buffet is less expensive and would be an out-the-door cost of \$25 per person. This does not include a dessert but cookies or a sheet cake will be provided. She provided possible menu items. Susan pointed out the cost has been \$20 for a while so raising it to \$25 is necessary. The holidays are a good time to start this new idea. Coffee will be provided before the meeting. Water pitchers will continue to be on the tables. A motion was made by Sheryl Tapp and seconded by Tara Parker for these changes in the General Meeting luncheon. Barbara Jacobs sends an invitation to new retirees and the wording for the invitation will be reviewed and updated to specify only new retirees pay \$10.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Cindy Goldstein was not in attendance and Susan reported articles are due on October 22. There is a new procedure for submitting newsletter articles. Everyone will only submit their articles to Cindy at [cwgoldstein0325@gmail.com](mailto:cwgoldstein0325@gmail.com).

**KRTA Representative:** Tara Parker reported that on August 19, 2024, the KRTA Executive Council Meeting was held. KRTA investments report was presented by Hank Hensley that showed investments are diversified and earning at a good rate. Tim Abrams, KRTA Executive Director, provided copies of the Retired Teachers Week Proclamation declaring the third week of October to be Kentucky Retired Teachers Appreciation Week. KRTA will celebrate this week October 21-27, 2024. (Ken Draut will send an email to recognize JCRTA retired teachers that week.) Mr. Abrams distributed and discussed the following reports:

**2024-25 Final Budget** with the following three recommendations to balance the budget:

1. The first \$30,000 from Colette Travel will go toward the general fund
2. Begin distributing the KRTA newsletter electronically for those who have email, Members would be allowed to signify if they want paper copies.
3. Begin selling ads for our KRTA newspaper.

In closed session, Greg Roush was named the next Executive Director of KRTA

### **Committee and Chairperson Reports:**

**Wake up to New Beginnings Breakfast Report:** Beth Dowdell provided a written report and was congratulated on her work with new retirees. 150 invitations were sent out and only 10 responded so an email to all retired teachers went out and 60 RSVPs were received with 50 retirees attending. The invited organizations that rely on volunteers provided information about volunteer opportunities. Beth provided a list of what went well and what to improve next time. From this list the following will be implemented immediately:

- Bring petty cash bank to our meetings to provide change especially for May meeting.
- Send one more newsletter to those that did not become a member along with a letter and target those that are new retirees

Membership benefits could be identified and provided to members. A date for the next event was tabled to decide when to hold the next meeting and annually may be a goal going forward since the cost was \$1500. A personal note to someone you know is retiring is something that may help with getting more new retirees.

**KRTA Membership:** Our KRTA membership in Jefferson Co. is 63.7%; out of 5,567 possible members, 3,544 are members. Our member breakdown is 2,649 cards; 895 cash and non-members is 2,023. KRTA received 20 member cards at the Wake Up meeting with 16 identified as new members. JCRTA had 1 new member and 1 online credit card member. KRTA picked up the tab for some attendees.

**JCRTA Membership:** Ken Draut was thanked for acting as interim Membership Chair. He reported as of July 30, 2024, we had 964 members for our 2024-25 year. We launched three campaigns to increase membership. On 10/7/24 we added 215 members for a total of 1,179. A final campaign is to reach out to 220 people who were on our rolls in 2023-24 and did not rejoin this year. It was agreed for Ken to target those people.

**Trips and Tours:** The tour companies are not willing to collect the money for domestic tours since it is not enough profit. The problem is they add \$30 to \$40 dollars to the cost of a trip, and it is still not enough to compensate for labor in handling money. Martha is asking us to reconsider letting the money be run through JCRTA. A waiver was used in the past and could be used again. Rebecca Park, Legal Advisor, advised us that we could proceed with using the waiver. A motion was made to make this change by Donna Wiseman and seconded by Ann Hafling. Also, Martha will add an extra amount to all fees to cover the cost of snacks on the bus.

**Audit and Budget:** Ann Hafling reported the audit will be later this month. She will get some volunteers to conduct the audit.

**Insurance:** Lue Peabody's next Health and Insurance meeting is Monday, October 14, Margaret Sims, state chair, encouraged all members to get DNA testing. We are still under contract with both United Healthcare Medicare Advantage and Express Scripts next year

**Legislative:** Beth Dowdell reported that nothing beyond what Greg Roush reported until her next meeting in November will address the focus for the January legislative session.

**Nominating/Elections:** No report

**Necrology/Remembrance:** No report

**Technology:** No report

**Scholarship:** No report

**KRTA/AARP Essay Contest:** Marilyn Puckett reported new guidelines and awards for this year's contest. The school winner will receive a certificate; the district winner will receive a plaque and \$100 and the state winner will receive \$500. The teacher of the state winner will receive \$500 for school supplies. All teachers participating will be put into a drawing for 2 winners receiving \$250 gift cards. December 15 is the deadline to submit essays. Four schools have confirmed that they will participate, and 2 additional schools are to be contacted by board members. JCRTA included in the budget an award of \$50 for the teacher and \$50 for the winning student. Visit AARP.org for info.

**Community Liaison:** Donna Wiseman thanked everyone for the Back to School supplies drive success. United HealthCare funded the supplies drive. JCRTA coordinated the distribution of the supplies. The schools and teachers were very appreciative. The letter that was included in the supplies box told everyone the supplies were from JCRTA. Getting our name out there is good for more to know about us. A reminder that the International Film Festival is this weekend. If anyone is available, call Cindy Howard (a retired teacher) at (502) 341-1133. The locations for this year's festival are Muhammed Ali Museum and Slugger Museum. Parking in the Muhammed Ali Museum garage will be validated. At the December meeting, forms will be available to fill out to document volunteer hours and nominate a volunteer of the year.

**Old Business:** Meeting dates are confirmed for 2025 as follows:

Board Mtg. Dates 2025

General Mtg. Dates 2025

Tuesday, January 14

Thursday, March 6

Tuesday, March 25

Thursday, May 15

Tuesday, June 24

Friday, August 22

Tuesday, October 7

Thursday, December 4

**New Business:** It was suggested to recognize Tim Abrams for his work with KRTA. We will invite him to our December General Meeting and present him a basket with gifts from us. Greg Roush will be asked about ideas and invited to our meeting as well. Beth will collect the items and basket prior to the meeting, or everyone is asked to bring gift items to the meeting to be added to the basket.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m. and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted

Pam Gooch, Recording Secretary