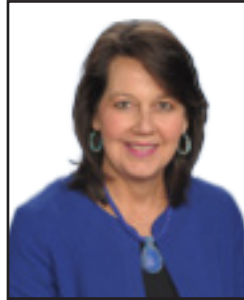


2026-2027 Officers

President	
Vicki Lete	396-2713
1016 Falcon Court	
New Albany, IN 47150	
Email: vicki.lete@yahoo.com	
1st Vice President	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
2nd Vice President	
Sheryl Tapp	558-4350
Treasurer	
Currently Open	
Recording Secretary	
Pam Gooch	836-7640
Corresponding Secretary	
Cindy Goldstein	541-2786
KRTA Representative	
Tara Parker	226-0219
Past President	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
Parliamentarian	
Dale Warren	609-7954
Audit and Budget	
Ann Marie Hafling	690-3358
Community Liaison	
Donna Wiseman	228-7733
Insurance	
Lue Peabody	767-9328
KRTA Membership	
Sheila Carson-Smith	262-2686
Legislation	
Beth Dowdell	641-5667
JCRTA Membership	
Kathy Fries	262-5325
Necrology/ Remembrance	
Sahara Myers	245-0781
Nominating	
Melanie Wood	290-4944
Scholarship	
Myra Fugate	807-8517
Technology	
Ken Draut	592-8049
Trips and Tours	
Currently Open	
KRTA/AARP Essay Contest	
Marilyn Puckett	935-7002

A Message from the President



Vicki Lete
JCRTA President

Spring as sprung! Hopefully, you have had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful weather before the summer heat wave hits. It was great seeing so many at our last general meeting. Our upcoming meeting on May 14, 2026 at Audubon County Club should be special. We are excited to begin a new adventure in our new meeting location. Audubon Country Club is located at 3265 Robin Road. The venue is beautiful and will give us room to expand as we grow membership in the future. Our guest speaker will be former JCPS teacher and current Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Casey Casebier, the Lions Foundation will address local needs, our KRTA/AARP Grandparent's Essay winner will be honored, we will announce our JCRTA Volunteer of the Year awardee and we will celebrate our two one-thousand-dollar scholarship winners. In addition, Sheryl Tapp has secured several special door prizes that will be the envy of all. You do not want to miss this meeting as we kick off summer.

May is the meeting we focus on membership. Please remember to renew your membership via the form in the back of this newsletter or on line at jcrta.org. Technology Chair Ken Draut has made it possible to renew both your membership and make reservations for our luncheons on line. It is very easy, and you will receive instant confirmation on your purchase. If each member can recruit a friend who is a non-member, we can obtain over 2,000 members. If you have any questions about membership in JCRTA, please contact JCRTA Membership Chair Kathy Fries. KRTA Membership Chair Shelia Carson-Smith can field questions about KRTA memberships. At our May meeting, Shelia will announce several special awards we received at the KRTA Convention this past April!

Exciting changes are happening with JCRTA Travel. We are partnering with KRTA to offer several trips through Collette Travel including a trip to New York City in December 2026. Our next local event is JCRTA Day at Churchill Downs on June 4, 2026 where gates open at 4 p.m. The first race starts at 5 p.m. and the last race is at 8:23 p.m. For a mere \$50, you will be seated on Millionaires' Row, receive a buffet dinner, program, and free parking. For those needing assistance, golf car shuttles will take you from the parking lot to the gate. Grab a friend and call Churchill Downs at 502-636-4450, extension 7008. Jake will help with your reservation and take payment via credit card. Please let Jake know you are with JCRTA so you will be seated with our group. This day is also designated Churchill Downs Teacher Appreciation Day and Twilight Thursday which means there will be bands for entertainment and \$2 adult beverages.

I look forward to seeing you on May 14, 2026 at Audubon Country Club. If you have any questions about our upcoming meeting, travel or volunteer opportunities, feel free to contact me at 502-396-2713.

Vicki Lete

From the Desk of the First Vice President

Susan Thurman

Are you ready to get out of the house after staying in way too long this winter? Then, join us for our upcoming JCRTA General Meeting on May 14 and discover some of the exciting, informative, and interesting possibilities to visit this summer that are right in our own back yard!

Lindy Casebier, Secretary of Kentucky’s Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, will be our featured guest speaker. As a former JCPS music educator and state legislator, Lindy now leads this vital Cabinet which includes the Kentucky departments of Tourism, Parks, Fish and Wildlife Resources, and

the Performing Arts, the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, the Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Horse Park, and the Governor’s School for the Arts – just to name a few! Lindy will share his own career journey, discuss the wide range of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, elaborate on the importance of tourism and the arts in Kentucky, and highlight some of the places around the Commonwealth that are unique and close-by destinations. Bring your summer itinerary and prepare to plan your next Kentucky adventure!

Legislative Update

Beth Dowdell

Flowers are blooming and the weather is warmer. Spring is finally here! There’s so much going on with Easter, Mothers’ Day, graduations and of course, the Kentucky Derby! I hope you and your family are enjoying the spring weather. Don’t you think Louisville is just beautiful this time of year?

Biennium Budget Update

Everything in Frankfort right now is about the budget. As of 3/18, the Senate passed its version of the budget (HB500) with a unanimous 38 – 0 vote. The bill was then sent back to the House of Representatives. The House did not agree with the Senate version, so the budget will now go to a conference committee where final decisions will be made. The legislature needs to complete this process by April 1, 2026 to allow for the Governor’s veto period. As of the date of this publication, no final decisions have been made.

The Senate’s version of the budget is positive for retired teachers. It fully funds both the pension system and retiree health insurance. It also includes favorable language regarding under 65 health coverage (KEHP). The budget calls for an actuarial review covering 2023 – 2028 and states that current funding levels are sufficient for the

2027 and 2028 plan years.

KRTA will continue to monitor the process closely and will let you know if anything changes that will impact retirees.

Social Security Spousal Benefit

You may be eligible for the Social Security Spousal Benefit. There are two types of possible adjustments:

1. You may be eligible for up to 50% of your spouse’s benefits if your benefit is lower than 50% of your spouse’s benefits.

Real-Life Example: JCRTA Member John worked full-time as a teacher. On the side, he earned enough from summer jobs to qualify for a Social Security Benefit of \$5,000 a year. His wife worked in the private sector, and her Social Security benefits are \$40,000 a year.

Since John earns less than 50% of his wife’s Social Security benefits, he applied and was approved for \$20,000 in benefits per year. The spouse’s benefit is not reduced and John’s \$5,000 a year is added to an additional \$15,000 a year, making his benefit \$20,000.

Legislative Update cont.

Beth Dowdell

2. Even if you didn't earn enough quarters for any Social Security payment, you may be eligible for up to 50% of your spouse's Social Security payment.

Real-Life Example: JCRTA member Linda worked full-time as a teacher but didn't earn money outside of teaching. Her Social Security Payment is \$0. Her husband, a lawyer, receives \$38,000 in Social Security benefits. Linda applied and was approved to start receiving an annual payment of \$19,000. Her husband's amount is not reduced.

3. If your spouse dies, you are eligible to receive your spouse's benefit if the spouse's benefit is higher than your benefit.

There are a number of special rules that apply but JCRTA encourages you, if you fit the above descriptions, to contact the Social Security Office to see if you're eligible for the Spousal Benefit.

You can go online at www.ssa.gov or call 800-772-1213 or contact our Louisville Social Security Office, 10503 Timberwood Circle, Louisville, KY 40223. The local number is 888-280-5851.

Thank you to Ken Draut, JCRTA Technology Advisor, for bringing this issue to our attention.

We will continue to pursue the same Legislative Priorities for 2026 as last year. They are:

1. Fully fund the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) in accordance with the states pension contribution statute.

2. Maintain the defined benefit system currently in place for Kentucky's retired, current, and future teachers.

3. Fully fund the statutorily required obligation to the TRS Medical Insurance Fund as required by the Shared Responsibility Law.

4. Maintain the current TRS board structure.

5. Oppose any legislation that would result in higher prescription costs for Kentucky teachers.

The Legislative Session will begin in February, 2026. I will accompany the KRTA delegation to Frankfort to meet with our legislators frequently this session. It is important that we make sure that all legislators, including those new to Frankfort, know what our priorities are and why it is beneficial to the state for our priorities to be met. This is especially important as 2026 is a biennium budget year.

You can help us by contacting your state representative and offering your support of our priorities as a constituent. KRTA has valuable resources on its website at KRTA.org. You can find email addresses and other contact information. You can also sign up for text alerts so that you are quickly notified if and when any type of action by our members is requested. KRTA also posts frequent updates of any activity going on in Frankfort that could affect our membership.

Working together can really make a difference for the retired teachers of Kentucky!



Donna Benton, former JCPS educator and current author addresses JCRTA attendees at March General Meeting.



Board member Sahara Myers leads a Remembrance Ceremony at March General Meeting.

Insurance Update

Lue Peabody

2026 Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) Insurance

EARN REWARDS YOU CAN REDEEM!

Medicare Eligible Health Plan (MEHP) – your Humana Medicare Advantage Plan

- Remember to go to MyHumana.com to activate your account, or download and register on the MyHumana app.
- Once you have a MyHumana account, you can use the same information to log in to Go365.com. Log in to see eligible activities you can complete to earn rewards and how to track your actions.
- Participate in the in-home assessment with Signify Health to receive a \$50 gift card.
- Questions about your Humana coverage, call the TRS dedicated Humana line 866-307-2494.

Kentucky Eligible Health Plan (KEHP)

- Reminder: KEHP LivingWell Promise Incentive: Earn up to \$480 a year (\$40 a month) in premium discounts in 2027 by completing the health assessment process by July 1, 2026. Earn up to \$200 in rewards for well-being activities. For more information go to <http://mycastlight.com/mybenefits>, or contact Castlight at 800-681-6758.
- SmartShopper can help you save money and earn rewards on routine medical care by selecting locations that have more cost-effective options on certain procedures. More information at KEHP.ky.gov or call 866-832-2436.



JCRTA Newsflash!

Dates to Remember:

- May 14, 2026**
General Meeting at Audubon Country Club - 10:00 am
- June 4, 2026**
JCRTA Day at Churchill Downs, Gates open at 4:00 pm
- August 28, 2026**
General Meeting at Audubon Country Club - 10:00 am
- December 10, 2026**
General Meeting at Audubon Country Club - 10:00 am

2025-2027 JCRTA President Initiatives:

1. Branding – Create a strong JCRTA image to include our mission, values, identity, messaging, story, experience and presence in the community.
2. Increase JCRTA membership by 200 over 2 years; we currently have approximately 1,300 members.
3. Designate a local philanthropy in Jefferson County to support through volunteerism and contributions.

Community Liaison

Donna Wiseman

The Louisville Downtown Lions Club is seeking volunteers to help with a program they are involved with called “KidSight.” They go to pre-schools in Jefferson County and screen kids from 6 months to 5 years old for vision problems. During the screening, kids look into Vision Device, which measures and alerts parents/teachers/doctors of vision problems before the child can articulate issues. “KidSight” brings their own staff to school but they need a couple of volunteers to collaborate with them and the kids. Retired teachers would be perfect to assist.

Here is a website where you can read about the program. <https://www.lionskidsightusa.org>. If you are interested in volunteering please call Mark Fietsch at 502 439 4134, or you can email Mark at vfietsch@yahoo.com.

Additional information and scholarship forms can be found at jcrta.org or by contacting Myra Fugate 502-807-8517 or fugatemyra@gmail.com.

JCRTA Day at Churchill Downs

Thursday, June 4, 2026 \$50 per person

Gates Open: 4:00 p.m. First Race: 5:00 p.m.

Join fellow JCRTA members for a fun filled day at Churchill Downs! We have reserved eight tables of eight on Millionaires Row; only 32 of 64 seats are still available, so reserve your seat today. With your admission, you will receive a buffet dinner, race day program, and free parking. If needed, golf carts will be available in all parking areas to transport you to the entry gate. Between races, losing tickets will be placed in a drawing for raffle prizes from JCRTA. This day is also Churchill Downs Teacher Appreciation Day and Twilight Thursday, which means there will be live entertainment and a variety of food trucks in the Paddock Plaza.

To reserve your ticket, call 502-636-4450, extension 7008 and ask for Jake. Please let him know you are with JCRTA and want to be seated with our group. If you have anyone attending with you, please purchase your tickets with one credit card to ensure you will be seated at the same table. All JCRTA members can bring a non-JCRTA member at the same cost.

If you have any questions, please contact JCRTA President Vicki Lete at 502-396-2713.

Congratulations Retirees!!!

January	Michael Hood	Gayle Stengl	February
Lisa Azinger	Heather Ingram	Debra Terry	Nikole Cline
Lori Balakos	Bridget Karem	Kathryn Vangilder	Rebecca Donahoe
Amy Boldin	Kenneth Martin	Jennifer Weaver	Valentena Gibbons
Mary Carrico	Stella Mensah	Kenneth Whalen	Stephanie Hatfield
Nicole Clark	Sarah Miller	Laura Wilcoxson	Nkem Okorie
Michael Corus	Laura Morris	Chris Wolfe	Ronald Olson
Helen Crawford	Tina Radford	Eric Wright	Dana Sanders
Leona Debord Martin	Deborah Roberts	Gina Ziegler	Madge Southerland
Brandy Durm	Tammy Ronau		Patricia Waddell
Sheryl Hamilton	Janet Rumohr		March
Shannon Hoard	Kellie Scott		Krista Campisano

JCRTA celebrates your retirement by inviting you to attend our upcoming luncheon on Thursday May 14, 2026 at a reduced cost of \$13 if you are a new retiree. Be sure to send in the special invitation you received in the mail to: Sheryl Tapp, 10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd., Louisville, KY 40241.

JCRTA Membership*Kathy Fries***IT'S RENEWAL TIME FOR
YOUR 2026-27 YEAR**

Thank you for being one of the 1,217 JCRTA members for this year! We look forward to providing you with more opportunities to connect with your fellow retirees socially and gain meaningful information about your pension, insurance and other legislative updates. JCRTA and KRTA are the only state organizations dedicated solely to your retired Kentucky cohort. All teachers and administrators are welcome!

The Membership enrollment form is on page 7 and you are given two options to renew your \$15 yearly membership. Fill out the form and mail with a check or use the credit card option by visiting www.jcrta.org and clicking on the Membership by Credit Card option. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Secure your membership now by taking a moment to continue your support

for this strong organization that works to support you!

Jefferson County currently has 5,200 retirees. If you know someone who is among the 76% who are not yet a member please consider inviting them to join and maybe bring them to a general meeting and luncheon or invite them on one of our many sponsored trips. Membership goals for the next year include an increase of at least 200 members within this group and we are asking you to help strengthen our leadership within the Jefferson County community.

If you need any help or have questions, give me a call or drop me an email:

Kathy Fries, JCRTA Membership Chair, 502 262-5325 or kafries54@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you at the next general meeting and luncheon!

THANKS FOR BEING A MEMBER LAST YEAR**JCRTA MEMBERSHIP 2026-2027**WEBSITE: JCRTA.org

All Retired JCPS Administrators and Teachers Welcome

Join the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association for only \$15 a year

Membership runs from July 1 to June 30

BENEFITS

Hosting Quarterly Luncheon Meetings
Advertising Travel Opportunities
Posting Volunteer and Paid Work Opportunities
Awarding Annual JCPS Student Scholarships

PURPOSES

Protecting Your Pension
Supporting Retirement Benefits Legislation
Advocating for You and Retirement Issues
Enriching the Welfare of Retired Teachers

TWO OPTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. FILL OUT THE FORM ON PAGE 8 AND MAIL IT IN WITH YOUR CHECK.
2. CREDIT CARD OPTION – GO TO OUR WEBSITE: jcrta.org
and click on the Credit Card Option on the Home Page.

**Reservation and Payment
ONLINE
Go to JCRTA.org and sign up**

**Reservation and Payment
by Mail
Detach Form and Mail to:
Sheryl Tapp, 10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd, Louisville, KY 40241**

LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

Name (please print): _____ Telephone No.: _____

New Retiree: _____

I am enclosing \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$29 per person.

**Reservation/payment deadline for a meal is May 4, 2026.
No telephone or walk-in reservations will be accepted.**

NEW RETIREES attending a JCRTA meeting for the first time are eligible for a reduced-price luncheon reservation of \$13. To make a reservation, send in your \$13 check along with the special “new retiree invitation” you receive in the mail. If you did not receive the “new retiree invitation”, please contact Sheryl Tapp (502) 558-4350.



General Meeting Lunch Reservations

Please join us at our next general meeting on May 14, 2026 at Audubon County Club; please note the change in venue. We are excited to partner with Audubon Country Club for all future JCRTA meetings. Our new space is gorgeous and meets all of our needs. Along with informative speakers and socialization, a buffet lunch is available for purchase for those that wish to participate.

Reservation deadline for a meal is May 4, 2026. Please go online to register or cut the registration form out and mail to the address listed along with your check payable to JCRTA. (New retirees pay special attention to the note at the bottom of the form). We hope to see you there!

GENERAL MEETINGS
Thursday, May 14, 2026
Friday, August 28, 2026
Thursday, December 10, 2026

NEW LOCATION FOR ALL MEETINGS:
Audubon Country Club
3265 Robin Road (Off Preston Highway)
Louisville, KY 40213

Buffet Menu: Airline Chicken-Fingerling, Vegetables, Salad and Dessert

JCRTA May, 14 2026
Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am
Lunch following meeting



Presorted Standard U.S. Postage PAID Louisville, KY Permit No. 809
--

7800 Leaders Lane
 Louisville, KY 40291

2026-2027 JCRTA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Make your **\$15** check payable to JCRTA

Credit Card Option: If you'd like to join using a Credit Card, visit www.jcrta.org and follow the directions.

JCRTA
 Vicki Lete
 P.O. Box 43250
 Louisville, KY 40253

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____