

### 2024-2025 Officers

<b>President</b>	
Susan Thurman	386-2555
1134 Blackthorn Road	
Louisville, KY 40299	
<b>1st Vice President</b>	
Vicki Lete	396-2713
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	
Sheryl Tapp	558-4350
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Mary Perry	693-3714
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	
Pam Gooch	836-7640
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	
Cindy Goldstein	541-2786
<b>KRTA Representative</b>	
Tara Parker	226-0219
<b>Past President/Parliamentarian</b>	
Dale Warren	609-7954
<b>Audit and Budget</b>	
Ann Marie Hafling	690-3358
<b>Community Liaison</b>	
Donna Wiseman	228-7733
<b>Insurance</b>	
Lue Peabody	767-9328
<b>KRTA Membership</b>	
Sheila Carson-Smith	262-2686
<b>Legislation</b>	
Beth Dowdell	641-5667
<b>JCRTA Membership</b>	
Ken Draut (interim)	592-8049
<b>Necrology/ Remembrance</b>	
Sahara Myers	245-0781
<b>Nominating</b>	
Melanie Wood	290-4944
<b>Scholarship</b>	
Myra Fugate	807-8517
<b>Technology</b>	
Ken Draut	592-8049
<b>Trips and Tours</b>	
Martha O'Bryan	426-5394
<b>KRTA/AARP Essay Contest</b>	
Marilyn Puckett	935-7002



**Susan R. Thurman**  
**JCRTA President**

### *A Message from the President*

Typically, we think of spring as being a time for renewal when words like “new,” “fresh,” and “energizing” come to mind. New baby animals, fresh blooms, and energy-filled activities are all familiar features of the season. And we have new, fresh, energizing plans for JCRTA this spring as well!

First, I want to invite you to our upcoming general meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Wildwood Country Club where we will have a chance to get both our minds and bodies reenergized after a long winter of sitting around. David Thurmond, a retired teacher from YPAS and a current dance instructor with the Louisville Ballet, will present a program on

Music and Movement for the Senior Brain. David will share research-based information on the benefits of music and demonstrate some easy, low-impact movements that will keep us moving and grooving throughout the summer and beyond!

Spring is also a time to renew your membership with JCRTA! We count on each of you to renew your membership and encourage other retirees to join JCRTA so we can continue to support retired teachers by maintaining our pension and healthcare benefits. Our membership fee is very affordable – only \$15 annually. In addition, we offer quarterly newsletters, quarterly meetings and luncheons, volunteer activities, trips, and other social events for our members. Joining JCRTA is a great way to stay informed and get involved!

Lastly, this is also a time for new leadership within JCRTA. In accordance with our by-laws, elected officers can only serve two consecutive two-year terms. Therefore, I will be stepping down as president. First vice-president Vicki Lete will be stepping up as the new nominee for president. Mary Perry is also moving on from her position as treasurer. We owe both Mary and Vicki a huge thank you for their time, talents, and commitment to JCRTA.

It has been my privilege to serve and support retired teachers in Jefferson County over the past four years. During these years we have bounced back from covid lockdowns, increased our on-line presence, continued traditions like our newsletters and general meetings, and started some new volunteer and social activities. When I first became a JCRTA member, I had three goals in mind – stay involved in educational issues, reconnect with former colleagues, and make new friendships. Fortunately, JCRTA has given me the opportunity to accomplish all of that and more! Now, it's time for a new president with fresh ideas. I hope to continue to have a presence on the board as I provide support and assistance to the new president as well as our membership. I will be forever grateful for the service opportunities I've had as president, our awesome team of JCRTA board members, and the wonderful retirees I've met along the way.

Sincerely,

*Susan R. Thurman*

Susan Reynolds Thurman

## From the Desk of the First Vice President

*Vicki Lete*

April came in with a roar! Hopefully, everyone survived the severe weather we endured in early April; April showers and storms will bring May flowers. The Louisville area looks beautiful this time of year and Derby events have begun. This is my favorite time of the year as we celebrate the greatest two minutes in sports. May marks our last meeting of the 2024-25 school year; please grab a friend and bring him/her to our next meeting on May 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Wildwood Country Club. In March, we had a record breaking 100 in attendance; we had previously averaged 75 to 90 over the past few years. There are many JCPS retirees in the Louisville area and the Board is working diligently to connect retirees to JCRTA.

Our May meeting will feature former founding Director of Dance at the JCPS Youth Performing Arts School, David Thurmond. Mr. Thurmond brings a wealth of experience including serving as a pre-school teacher, Director of Education at the Kentucky Center for the Arts, founding Director of Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts, founding Director of Oldham County Arts Center, Director of Sacred Heart School for the

Arts, and Director of Strategic Planning and Government Relations at the Kentucky Department of Education. In addition, Mr. Thurmond served as the former Deputy Secretary for Education, Arts and Humanities. Mr. Thurmond's journey began as a lead singer in his high school rock band, the Ravens. He then became a lead dancer at the Louisville Ballet and transitioned to teaching, coaching and choreography. Mr. Thurmond received his Bachelor's degree from Bellarmine University and M. Ed. from the University of Louisville. He is also a graduate from Leadership Louisville and Leadership Louisville Bingham Fellows.

Mr. Thurmond will present Music and Movement for the Senior Brain at our May meeting! His hands on demonstration will clearly show the benefits of dance and movement in the senior years. Since we have all retired, his presentation will be relevant and promises to be lively and uplifting. Everyone will leave with a greater appreciation of movement and hopefully inspire us all to stay fit and active. I cannot wait to hear from Mr. Thurmond and I look forward to seeing you on May 15, 2024!



Louisville entrepreneur and baker Elizabeth Kizito brought her famous Kizito Cookies to our JCRTA March meeting. What a treat!



JCRTA board members are all smiles after meeting Elizabeth and enjoying her Kizito Cookies!



Mother-daughter duo Sahara Myers and Brittany Nevitt performed a memorable rendition of "For Good" from the musical *Wicked*, as part of our March remembrance ceremony.

## Trips & Tours for 2025

*Martha O'Bryan*

### Day at the Downs on Friday, June 6, 2025

Get your friends together and enjoy a relaxing day at the SPRING meet at Churchill Downs. We'll meet on MILLIONAIRES ROW located on the 4th floor of the Clubhouse.

You will have access to an outdoor covered viewing area for a great view of the races. Included is a 3 hour chef's table buffet with soft beverages. Millionaires Row is fully equipped with everything you need to enjoy race day including cash bars, waited cocktail service, mutuel teller windows, ATMs and conveniently located restrooms. A complementary Race Day Program will be provided along with FREE PARKING. Golf carts will be available to transport guests from parking lots to the gates. The tables on the 4th floor feature round tables of 8.

**Cost is \$45 per person. Call now because availability is limited. 502-636-4450 ask for Ian #4801. Mention JCRTA.**

Pay with your credit card. It is suggested that your group make reservations at the same time in order to be seated together and combine tickets on the same card.

**Churchill Downs, 700 Central Ave.**

**Gates open at 11:30 AM. First race at 12:45.**

**See you at the races!**

**\*Note- No Transportation provided.**

**Canada and New England Cruise  
Sunday-Monday, October 5 - 12, 2025  
\$2,559-\$2,906, Final payment due May 7, 2025**

Join your fellow teachers on a fun cruise up the New England coast to Canada. We will depart from New York City and make the following stops: Newport, Rhode Island, Portland, and Bar Harbor, Maine, Halifax in Nova Scotia, and St. John Bay and the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick. Lobster and great fall cruising weather are in the works. **PASSPORT REQUIRED.**

Cruise Line: Norwegian Cruise Line

**SIGN UP NOW! DON'T MISS THE BOAT!**

**Asheville and Biltmore Estate, North Carolina  
November 23 - 26, 2025  
\$615 Double Occupancy, Final payment due  
9/16/2025**

Visit the Blue Ridge Mountain area of beautiful Asheville, North Carolina and the Biltmore Estate. A motorcoach will take us on this 4 day trip with 3 nights in Asheville. 6 meals will be provided along with a tour of Asheville and the Biltmore Estate. Travel will take us along the Blue Ridge Parkway with stops at the Folk Art Center and Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center. The Biltmore will be aglow with beautiful Christmas decorations. You don't want to miss this Christmas event.

For more information on any of these trips go to JCRTA.org or contact Martha O'Bryan tennisbridgemom@gmail.com or 502-426-5394.

## JCRTA Newsflash!

**JCRTA GENERAL MEETING/LUNCHEON - THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 AT 10:00 a.m.**

- Location: Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road, 40291
- Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.
- Lunch reservations due by **Saturday, May 10, 2025**
- Make your check out to JCRTA for \$25 and mail to Sheryl Tapp, 10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd., Louisville, KY 40241

**Need to pay your \$15 JCRTA dues?** Make checks out to JCRTA, mark dues in the memo line, and mail to Mary Perry, 640 Circle Valley Drive, Louisville, KY 40229. To pay by credit card, go to [www.jcrt.org](http://www.jcrt.org).

**JCRTA Day at Churchill Downs Millionaire's Row- Friday, June 6, 2025** - For reservation information go to [www.jcrt.org](http://www.jcrt.org) or call Martha O'Bryan at 502-426-5394 or email [tennisbridgemom@gmail.com](mailto:tennisbridgemom@gmail.com). Note that a lunch buffet is included.

**Next JCRTA General Meeting - Friday, August 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** KRTA and TRS, along with our partner organizations and sponsors, will provide updates on pension, healthcare, and membership benefits.





## Insurance Update

*Lue Peabody*

### 2025 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Insurance

#### Our Resources for Improved Health

*The KnowYourRx Coalition is an essential piece of our Personalized Medicine program to help ensure the medications we are taking work for us.*

#### Personalized Medicine works.

- Helps avoid taking ineffective medications that could be fatal.
- Saves money for retirees and their insurance provider.
- Uses DNA testing to help doctors make treatment decisions.
- Results help make sure medications are beneficial from the start.
- Avoids trial and error process without DNA information.

#### *Journal of Personalized Medicine Peer-Reviewed Results*

- 66% had genetic risks detected in a current medication
- 14.9% reduction in inpatient visits
- 6.8% reduction in in emergency room visits
- \$37 million savings in direct medical charges over 32 months

#### How to Sign Up

**MEHP** - Contact Coriell at 888-454-9024 or [www.coriell.com/trs](http://www.coriell.com/trs) to request a **FREE** DNA kit.

**KEHP**- Discuss with your doctor whether a DNA test is a medical necessity **OR** Retirees on KEHP can contact Coriell and use HRA to pay the \$360 cost.

**Reminder: KEHP LivingWell Promise Incentive:** Earn up to \$480 a year (\$40 a month) in premium discounts in 2026 by completing **the health assessment process by July 1, 2025**. For questions or more information, <http://mycastlight.com/mybenefits> or contact Castlight at 800-681-6758.

## Community Liasion

*Donna Wiseman*

I am proud to announce our JCRTA Volunteer of the Year, **Joan Alvey**. After twenty seven years of teaching and counseling she retired from Faidale High School and has spent the last few years volunteering in the community and with family. Joan has amassed a large amount of volunteer hours. She has spent time volunteering as a Bell Ringer with the Salvation Army, the Community Ministries of St. Matthews, Blessings in a Back Pack, a volunteer substitute teacher, Norton Hospital patient welcomer and more. Joan rounded up friends to volunteer as well. Joan says "if you are bored at home, get out and volunteer! Helping others is fun and connects you with so many others!" Joan was nominated by two of our members who recognized the service and sacrifice she has given. Congratulations and thanks to Joan Alvey.

New Volunteer Opportunity: Sandra McGuire shared with me the H.U.G. Help Us Grow, Reading Program, it is virtual volunteering that takes about 1 hour per week. The goal is to provide tutoring and support to help all students achieve a 4th grade reading level. For more information go to <http://www.hugreadingprogram.org>

Members remember to record your volunteer hours and turn them into me before Dec. 31, 2025.

## JCRTA Membership

*Ken Draut*

### IT'S RENEWAL TIME FOR THE 2025-26 YEAR

Thanks for supporting JCRTA last year; we look forward to a new year! JCRTA and KRTA are the only state organizations dedicated 100% to supporting retired Kentucky teachers. All administrators and teachers are welcome.

The Membership Enrollment Form is in this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail it back with a check or use our Credit Card by visiting [www.jcrt.org](http://www.jcrt.org) and clicking on the Membership by Credit Card Option on the homepage.

Last year, we had 1,300 members. Please keep our organization strong by rejoining today for only \$15. If you know of a newly retired teacher, talk to them about JCRTA and its benefits such as Quarterly Meetings, Travel Opportunities, Volunteer Work, and regular Communications keeping members updated on pension and health benefits. JCRTA is the first line of advocacy for issues arising for retired teachers.

If you need any help or have questions, give me a call or drop me an email: Ken Draut, Interim Membership Lead, 502-592-8049 or [kendraut@bellsouth.net](mailto:kendraut@bellsouth.net)

Act today and return your membership enrollment form.

## **Legislative Report**

*Beth Dowdell*

Spring is finally here! I hope you've been able to enjoy some sunshine as the days have grown longer and warmer. The 2025 Kentucky legislative session ended 3/17/25. Legislators returned to Frankfort on 3/27/25 for the veto override period in which they could vote to override any veto by the Governor. The good news is that there has been no legislation this session that has a negative impact on retired teachers!

There are some bills that the KRTA legislative team is monitoring.

### **HB 694 A Bill Relating to What Happens When the Health Insurance Fund is Fully Funded**

**HB 694** passed with a floor amendment and SCR 154 was filed. The Senate Concurrent Resolution related to HB694 creates a task force of all stakeholders to research and discuss what happens to the health insurance fund when it is fully funded in 2027.

Status – Passed House 2/26/25, Passed Senate 3/12, Delivered to Governor 3/13/25, Governor vetoed 3/25/25, veto overridden 3/27/25.

**KRTA is monitoring.**

### **HB 638 An Act Relating to the Teacher Retirement System**

This is a housekeeping bill to clean up statutes currently written. It was filed for TRS and does no harm to retired teachers.

Status – Sent to State Government Committee 2/26/25

**KRTA fully supports.**

### **HB 441 An Act Relating to Reemployment after Retirement in TRS**

This bill would increase the percentage of retired members an employer (district) can employ from 3 to 10%.

Status – Passed House 2/26/25, Posted for Passage for Concurrence in the Senate 3/12/25.

**KRTA supports.**

### **HB 413 An Act Relating to Prescription Drugs**

This is an act to establish cost sharing requirements for prescription drugs, requires rebates to be passed

through, establish confidentiality requirements, provides that compliance with prescription drug cost sharing and rebates requirements shall not be in violation of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act.

Status - Sent to Banking and Insurance Committee 2/12/25.

**KRTA is monitoring.**

### **HB 146 Taxation of Retirement Distributions**

This bill would increase the retirement distribution exclusion from 31,100 to 41,100 for taxable years beginning on or after 1/1/26.

Status - Introduced to Appropriations and Revenue 2/4/25.

**KRTA fully supports.**

### **SB 12 An Act Relating to Prescription Drugs**

An act relating to cost sharing requirements for prescription drugs, requires rebates to be passed through, establish confidentiality requirements for rebate information, create a new section of KRS to provide the actual amount of rebates received.

Status – Sent to Banking and Insurances Committee, 1/9/25.

**KRTA will continue to monitor this bill.**

### **WEP/GPO (Social Security Fairness Act)**

Some members have received their backpay and increased amounts. Our understanding is that adjustments and changes are happening according to birth months. Contact your local Social Security office if you have questions regarding your personal situation.

While we had a good legislative session this year, the biennium budget will be decided next session. It is important that all our legislators have our appreciation for their past support and continue to understand our priorities as retired teachers. You can help by contacting your legislators regularly. We can make a difference when we work together!

## Congratulations Retirees!!!

November/ December 2024	January/February 2025	
Eduardo Arencibia-Pino	Kelly Armstrong	Lisa Hines
Diane Belt	Karen Atkinson	Ellen Hinkle
Donna Gondzur	Ellen Bahm	Helen Hord
Julie Hilton	Dawn Barber	Tina June
Steven Jordan	Cabrina Bosco	Julie Kader
Teri Knight	Robert Chmielewski	Amy McClain
Jane Meredith	Laura Conway	Janet Parrish
Carmen Moreno	Tammy Dawson	Mark Peters
Heather Orman	Teresa Devenuto	Deanna Sexton
Lisa Turner	Sheryl Duff	Michael Shoulders
Heather Waters	Mary Elder	Abraham Solano
Jannetta White	Mary Faulhaber	Kris Tatro
	Marcela Hibdon	Melinda Walters
		William Wright

JCRTA celebrates your retirement by inviting you to attend our upcoming luncheon on Thursday, May 15, at a reduced cost of \$10 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS	Wildwood Country Club	BOARD MEETINGS	KRTA Office
Friday, August 22, 2025	10:00 AM	Tuesday, June 24, 2025	10:00 AM
Thursday, December 4, 2025	10:00 AM	Tuesday, October 7, 2025	10:00 AM

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
 Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road  
 Limited handicapped parking and golf-cart shuttle is available

Registration: 9:30 A.M.  
 Meeting: 10:00 A.M.  
 Lunch Following Meeting

## Menu

*Buffet, Chicken Alfredo, Salad Bar, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee & Tea*

**JCRTA Luncheon Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025**

*Please detach this form and return it to:*

**Sheryl Tapp**  
**10637 Wemberley Hill Blvd**  
**Louisville, KY 40241**



Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

School Table Reservation (4 or more guests): \_\_\_\_\_

New Retiree: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at \$25 each. **Make your check to JCRTA.**

My E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation/payment deadline for a meal is Saturday, May 10, 2025. 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 \$10. To make a reservation, send in your \$10 check along with the special "new retiree invitation" you received in the mail. If you did not receive the "new retiree invitation", please contact Sheryl Tapp (tappshoe@twc.com).