

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

The Chalkboard

The Official Newsletter of the ISTA-Retired

Volume 15, Issue 4
August / September 2026

ISTA-Retired Scholarship Award Winner for 2026 received checks at State Council

Emma Stanley, granddaughter of retired member Mary Sutton, is a graduate of Warsaw Community High School. Ever since she was a little girl, her dream has been to become a teacher. She vividly remembers going to her mom's classroom on the weekends and "playing school". She would stand at the white board and teach her little sister. They would laugh, play, and ride their scooters in the hallways. The school was their playground and truly became her happy place. She said that the calling she feels to become a teacher is indescribable. This passion is the reason she is pursuing a degree in elementary education at Franklin College. Teaching is in her blood. Her grandma, grandpa, great aunt, aunt, and mom were or are teachers. She says it is what they do, and they all love it. Her mom and grandma both served as presidents of their Local Associations. Her goal is to become an elementary teacher who creates a supportive, inclusive classroom where all students feel valued and capable of success. She knows firsthand the amount of dedication that goes into being a teacher as well as how energizing the profession can be and the rewards that come with a student grasping a concept. This past year, she was hired as a paraprofessional at Madison Elementary School in Warsaw. Being there solidified her desire to become an elementary teacher. Her principal had these kind words to share about Emma in her recommendation to our Scholarship Committee: "Emma has already shown strong potential as an educator. She brings a calm presence, a genuine interest in helping children learn, and an ability to work as part of



a team – qualities that are essential in teaching. I am confident that Emma will continue to excel in any academic or professional setting, and I believe she will make an excellent teacher one day". Congratulations and the best of luck to you, Emma!

Megan Steinmetz is the daughter of Paul Steinmetz, a member of the NEA North Spencer Association. Megan is a graduate of Heritage Hills High School in Lincoln City and will attend Purdue University to earn her degree in Plant Genetics, Breeding, and Biotechnology. With this degree she plans to become a plant geneticist using her abilities to help farmers, other researchers, and people in third-world countries. Megan credits her father as the one who impacted her future career choice more than anyone else. He introduced her to the world of plants when she was just over five years old.

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From the Chair



Change is everywhere at ISTA-Retired. You will see the new *the Chalkboard* format designed by Brytnie Dickerson, who is a part of the ISTA Communications Department and actively works with our Retired Communications Committee, in the next addition. I told you in the last edition of *the Chalkboard* that Roni Embry and Becky Koerner both retired. I am pleased to announce

that Mamie Morris, mmorris@ista-in.org has been hired to replace Becky and Michael Lovely, mlovely@ista-in.org, has been hired to replace Roni. Please make sure that you send your correspondence about *the Chalkboard* to Mamie.

I recently attended training for members of the LPACs in ISTA. This training was provided by I-Pace, of which I am your Retired representative. The overall goal is to prepare the ISTA membership for the upcoming election in November. Clearly, we need to bring a balance to the Indiana Legislature by breaking the super majority in the House of Representatives. Teacher rights in Indiana have been severely attacked over the last fourteen years including the loss of hours in the last session. When I served you as a UniServ Director my goal was to achieve the best contract by providing members with a respect from the administration. Today, our Active brothers and sister members are facing an entirely different teaching atmosphere from what we experienced. We need a Legislature that respects teacher rights! Related to rights, we are beginning the preparation for lobbying in the next session. We have developed a new palm card to share with legislators and others that shows the loss of buying power from our pension. Our Retired Legislative Committee will be targeting key legislators to “tell our story” About the impact that inflation has made on pension and to distribute the palm cards

Lastly, I want to thank you for your support and membership and hope that you are either a member of one of our 24 chapters or thinking about joining.

Rod



Retired

150 W. Market St., Suite 900
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2875
844-ASK-ISTA
ista-in.org

Rod Ellcessor, State Chair
Jan Hayes, The Chalkboard Editor

Information on ISTA-Retired chapters, officers, meeting locations and activities can be found on the ISTA website, ista-in.org. If you are not a member of a local retired chapter and would like to be, contact 844-ASK-ISTA or Retired Chair Rod Ellcessor at 317-501-9508 for specifics of the chapter nearest you.

Membership

If you know someone who worked in education and has now retired, be sure to invite them to join ISTA-Retired.

Memberships are payable via check, electronic transfer, credit card or plain old hard cash!



Save at the NEA Discount Marketplace

Shop at the NEA Discount Marketplace to find discounts at over 3,500 stores. Plus, get exclusive cash back deals only for NEA members.

Visit online at: neamb.com/products/nea-discount-marketplace for details.

Blue River Chapter



Continue from Page 1 Scholarship recipients

Her dad is an agricultural teacher at Heritage Hills High School, and he brought her to her first crop scouting practice with his high school students. She said that she most likely spent more time playing in the dirt instead of listening to her dad talk about pest management that day but that it was that moment that sparked an interest that stayed with her throughout high school. She is drawn to the Plant Genetics, Breeding, and Biotechnology major because it combines all of her major interests: science, agriculture, and technology. She feels curiosity is one her biggest strengths, and the genetics field allows her to explore that curiosity while doing her best to improve the world around her. Her goal is to develop crops that will make a difference in the lives of farmers and the communities that depend on them. She wants to help the people in third-world countries who struggle with crops growing in their environment or with different diseases that aren't present in the United States. She wants to be a part of the positive change in agriculture. This field she feels is the perfect chance for her to develop her strengths and to make it happen. Best wishes and much luck to you , Megan!

Membership Report- Rensselaer Seminar

John Vtrotsky, INPRS representative speaks to the attendees about benefits of being a member of the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS.) Mr. Vtrotsky works for INPRS in the regional area. The presentation helps our retiring members to prepare for the decisions they will make when they file for retirement. Attending these workshops, presented by the ISTA Retired membership committee, is a service that is paid for from NEA grants.



ISTA Staff Retired Coordinator Report

My name is Michael Lovely and I'm coming on staff at ISTA after 15 years in the classroom. I taught French and Social Studies at Kankakee Valley High School in Jasper County, Northwest Indiana. I come from an education and agriculture background. I'm the fourth generation of family farmer living in Jasper County. I come from a union family. My brother is a laborer with LiUNA local 41 out of Munster. While in the classroom, I served as a building rep, discussion member, discussion chair and vice-president for my local association. I really enjoyed the advocacy work. I was present for the rally at the statehouse in 2019. That was the beginning of my work in advocacy and running for elected office. I ran for state representative during COVID against an incumbent who had never been seriously challenged. While I was unsuccessful, I received more votes than any other challenger before, and during COVID, nonetheless. It was important for me to show myself and my students that we should never give up even though the odds are against us. We will never know if we can win if we never try. I still have students that ask me about running for an office. I hope that someday they may run for office themselves.

I'm glad to serve as the Public Education Advocacy Coordinator for ISTA. I get to work with legislators and advocate for public education. It is the best of everything that I love to do. I'm proud to serve as the staff liaison to ISTA Retired. Please reach out at any time. I have a lot to learn as I begin this new journey, and I look forward to learning from all of you!

Michael Lovely
ISTA Staff Retired Coordinator



Recipe Corner

Jan Hayes' Recipe from the Cookie Challenge

Butterfinger Cookie Bars
 1 c unsalted butter
 2 c packed light brown sugar
 3 large eggs
 2 1/2 c all purpose flour
 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp coarse sea salt
 1 1/2 c crumbled Butterfingers divided (about 12 snack size or full size)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350. Spritz a metal non-stick 13 x 9 pan with baking spray.
2. Melt butter and brown sugar in a medium size saucepan over low heat for 2 mins. until sugar dissolves. Remove the mixing bowl to cool.
3. After the brown sugar mixture has cooled, use an electric mixer to beat in eggs and vanilla until well just fluffy.
4. In a separate bowl whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add to the bowl the wet ingredients, beating until fully moistened. Mix in 1 c of Butterfingers by hand.
5. Pour batter evenly into the pan, and sprinkle 1/2 c of crushed Butterfingers on top.
6. Bake for 25 mins. Test with toothpick, look for moist crumbs, do not over bake.
7. Cool to room temperature on a wire rack.
8. Store leftovers in an airtight container at room temperature

Notes: Snickers or Baby Ruth candy bars could be used instead of Butterfingers. You can use coarse sea salt or table salt. Use dark brown sugar for a stronger molasses flavor.

Hamilton County ISTA-Retired May meeting

Hamilton County ISTA-Retired Chapter held their final meeting and excursion on May 12. We enjoyed lunch at Pies and Pints and then proceeded to the Westfield Washington Historical Society office to hear about Westfield's storied history with the Underground Railroad.

According to the report from the Works Progress Administration, the "Underground Railroad" "The Invisible Road to Freedom Through Indiana," Westfield was responsible for the freedom of more slaves than any other town in northern Indiana. This link will provide more information: <https://www.wwhs.us/UGRR> This presentation was a perfect connection to our first excursion of the year at Roberts Settlement which was a community started in the 1830's by Free People of Color. More information on Roberts Settlement can be found on their website: <https://robertssettlement.org/about/history/>

1-F Retired Teachers Chapter Meetings

The retired educators met April 22, 2026 at the Sleepy Owl Restaurant in Syracuse, IN. After the business meeting and lunch they visited the farm of BettyJo Smith-Roberts to see various ways of safely storing farm fertilizers and chemicals. Mariah Roberts, a TWF (The Watershed Foundation) manager, spoke to the group about water quality and soil health initiatives by working with landowners to find solutions and implement conservative projects.

June 22 the chapter members met at the R.E.M.C. building in Plymouth, IN. After a delicious instant pot prepared meal, members made a 4th of July holiday decoration. The next meeting will be the August 6th show "Anything Goes" at the Wagon Wheel Theater, Warsaw, IN.

1-F Retired Meeting



Membership Report

A pre-retirement seminar was held June 16, 2026 at the eMbers Station and Bistro & Bar in Rensselaer, IN. Thirty seven people attended. The program presenters were Don Evans, attorney, who spoke about estate planning, Craig Blume, insurance specialist who explained Social Security and Medicare options, and John Vetrotsky, INPRS representative. Terry Tafflilinger addressed the audience explaining the many benefits of being an ISTA-Retired member. The winner of the lifetime membership drawing was Tom Sparks. Tom is an eighth grade science teacher at Kankakee Middle School, Wheatfield, IN.



Pre-retirement seminars are available upon request by a UniServ Director or an active local president. For details contact Ginger Calhoun at gingercalhoun2@gmail.com or call 574 952 6491.

Cookies for Scholarships

This year's ISTA Retired Assembly cookie challenge winner was Jan Hayes with her Butterfinger Cookie Bars. The cookie challenge raised \$1,625.00 for the ISTA-Retired scholarships given each year. Another way to support the scholarship is to get your ISTA license plate. The fee of \$25 dollars goes directly to ISTA to help fund the scholarships. If you already have the ISTA license plate, take a picture of yourself with the plate and send it to Deb Marcum, communications committee chair, madcollege@sbcglobal.net **Jan's winning recipe is on page 4.**

IMPORTANT RETIRED AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES:

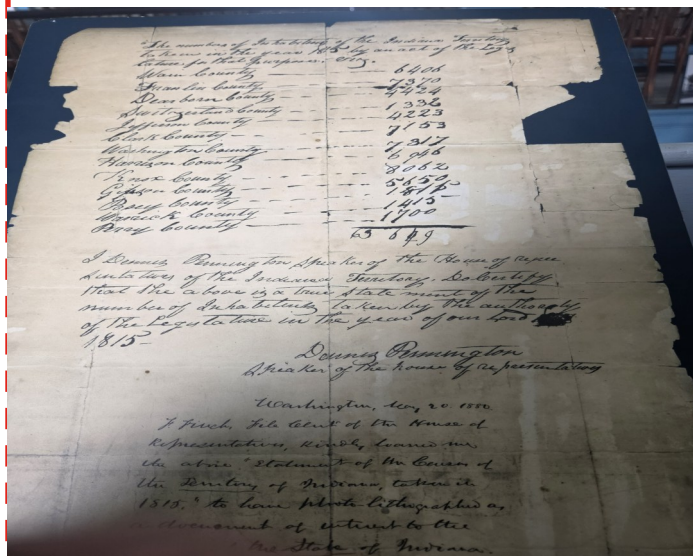
- ⇒ March 1, 2027 — David Hanna Golden Touch Award
- ⇒ April 1, 2027 — ISTA Foundation Retired Scholarships

Applications must be submitted on the ISTA website at ista-in.org/scholarships-awards.

The Falls of the Ohio Retired educators met recently and visited the Governor's Mansion in Corydon, IN.

Governor's mansion with bronze statue of Gov. O'Bannon

Document showing 1880 census of Southern Indiana.



Standing in front of the Indiana 1st Constitution written June 10-29, 1816 standing in the kitchen.



Looking Ahead

ISTA-RETIRED CALENDAR

It is advisable to call the number listed after each chapter to reserve a spot, particularly if the meeting location is at a restaurant. Some REQUIRE a reservation, especially plays and trips. All times local.

August 2026

- 4 11:00 a.m., 1-B Retired, Opportunity Enterprises, 2801 Evans Avenue, Valparaiso, IN. Presentation and tour of Opportunity Enterprises. Lunch meeting at Gelsosomo's Pizzeria, 2605 LaPorte Ave., Valparaiso, IN
- 5 Greater Indianapolis Chapter, Wednesday August 5, at 11:00 a.m. Lincoln Square 2330 North Meridian St, Attorney Samantha DeWester. A talk about the contested and challenged elections in Indiana
- 6 1:00 p.m., ISTA-Retired Elkhart County, Lunch at Judy Briganti's home, 316 Sunset Court, Wakarusa, IN Annual program planning will occur.
- 6 11:00 a.m., 1-F Chapter, American Eatery, 2512 E Center St., Warsaw, IN After lunch we will see the play "Anything Goes" at the Wagon Wheel Theater. Tickets must be paid for in advance. If enough tickets are paid for in advance, the ticket price will be \$35. A minimum of 30 tickets needs to be purchased for that cost. If 30 tickets are not purchased the cost will be \$46 per ticket. If the goal of 30 tickets is met the \$11 difference will be applied to cost of lunch which is \$20. RSVP to Ginger Calhoun or Jan Hayes. Ginger: 574-952-6491 or email gingercalhoun2@gmail.com Jan: 574-292-6624 or email hayesjt2012@gmail.com
- 11 11:00 a.m., CHMT, Dutch Café, 6639 US 31 S, Peru, IN Program: NEA Member Benefits

September 2026

- 1 Posey County, Evansville Museum. Contact Paul Allison at paulallison5876@gmail.com for details.

October 2026

- 7 Greater Indianapolis Chapter at Intech office 6325 Digital Way Building 1, Beau Bayh, 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Joanne Solomom, jsjgsolo@aol.com
- 28 State Council meeting at Intech office 6325 Digital Way Building 1, at 10 a.m.
- 28-29 ISTA Retired Conference at Intech office 6325 Digital Way Building 1, Registration begins August 10th online

December 2026

- 17 Greater Indianapolis Chapter, Beef and Boards, Holiday Inn, RSVP to Joanne Solomon, jsjgsolo@aol.com, Limited to the first 25

***Many programs listed are for entertainment.
Each chapter is also involved in various political, community and educational projects.***