

# The Chalkboard

The Official Newsletter of the ISTA-Retired

Volume 8, Issue 3  
May/June 2020

## 2020 ISTA-Retired Election Results

COVID-19 has significantly altered how we live and interact. In consideration of the health and safety of our members and following the guidelines of government and other key officials, the 2020 ISTA Representative Assembly (RA) has been rescheduled to a virtual meeting on June 3, and the NEA RA will also be held virtually July 2 – 3.

Election ballots were tallied with the following results:

### 32 ISTA-Retired Delegates to ISTA RA (2020 and 21) –

Judith Ann Briganti	Ginger L. Calhoun	Gerald (Jerry) R. Ervin	Deborah Brogan
Sarah Borgman	Rosemary Moore	Elden J. Wolting	Juan Jose Rodriguez
Roger F. Sharp	Carolyn M. Yates	Mara-Le Quarles	Peggy D. Boyd
Damon P. Moore	Theresa Tafflinger	Craig L. Blume	Donald L. Mann
Sarah E. Ellcessor	Steven L. Tafflinger	Terry R. Brendel	Francis Riley
Kathy A. Parks	Janet L. Hayes	Mary Puntney	Debra Leigh Marcum
Rodney W. Ellcessor	Karen S. Warble	Sara E. Wood-Gibbs	Jack R. Rowe
Duane E. Miller	Barbara Rotramel	James Robert Clauser	Stephen R. Tevebaugh

*Alternates: MaryAnn Elizabeth Pollard, Brenda Weddell (2021), Harriet Klene, Rudolph B. Nichols, Tim Duncan, Robert Barcus.*

### 6 ISTA-Retired Delegates to NEA Retired Annual Meeting & RA (2020 and 2021) –

Sarah Borgman	Damon P. Moore	Kathy A. Parks
Roger F. Sharp	Rodney W. Ellcessor	Ginger L. Calhoun

*Alternates: Theresa Tafflinger, Duane E. Miller, Janet L. Hayes, Rosemary Moore, Carolyn M. Yates, Steven L. Tafflinger, Elden J. Wolting, Gerald (Jerry) R. Ervin, Barbara Rotramel, Terry R. Brendel, Juan Jose Rodriguez, Sara E. Wood-Gibbs, Karen S. Warble, Peggy D. Boyd, Deborah Brogan, Rudolph B. Nichols, Jack R. Rowe.*

### ISTA-Retired Zone 2 Coordinator – August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2023

Janet L. Hayes – Elected by acclamation

### ISTA-Retired Zone 5 Coordinator – August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2023

Roger F. Sharp – Elected by acclamation

## From the Chair



*Rod Ellcessor, ISTA-Retired State Chair*

Every day brings us change and questions during the coronavirus outbreak. The change since our last edition of the Chalkboard has been profound. I hope that you all are staying safe during this time of challenge. As the retired members of our organization, it is up to us to take the lead as we have all dealt with more adversity than many of our

younger members.

We have received the election results from the NEA RA and ISTA RA delegate elections and complete results are included in this issue. The coronavirus has caused multiple changes for all of us, and at ISTA, we have had to also adjust. Following official guidelines, ISTA in-person meetings are discontinued due to the coronavirus, which has meant canceling or revamping many meetings/events. Our March retired zone meetings and April Retired Council meeting were cancelled, as well as retired chapter meetings. The ISTA RA, ISTA Summer Conference and NEA RA are now being held as virtual meetings on June 3, June 11 and July 2 – 3 respectively. The Executive Committee of the Retired Council conducted a successful zoom meeting on April 21, and the next meeting of the full Council, formerly scheduled for July 22, will be determined early in July. Hopefully, retired zone meetings will be held in September.

We will continue our work with several state senators and representatives to fund the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) language in the state statute. The Retired Legislative Committee will be ready for any sessions of the legislature's Pension Management Oversight Committee (PMOC) and meetings of the INPRS (TRF) whenever scheduled. We will keep you up to date as we make advancements.

Finally, I thank you all for your membership in ISTA and your dedication to public education and retirement issues.



Retired

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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!**



## AT&T—A Path to Speed...and Savings!

AT&T has fast speeds of a 4G network (5G now available in many cities). You can sign up new AT&T service, switch from a different carrier or apply the NEA member discount to your existing AT&T account online.

NEA members receive up to a 15 percent discount on monthly cell phone service,\* and 20 percent off select wireless accessories.\*\* Subscribers also get free use of AT&T's 34,000 hotspots across the U.S.! Find all the details at [neamb.com/shopping-discounts/nea-wireless](http://neamb.com/shopping-discounts/nea-wireless).

\*15 percent Monthly Service Charge discount applicable to Qualified Charges.

\*\*Some exclusions apply.



Retired members received legislative updates and strategies at retired lobby day held March 3 in Indianapolis.

## Indiana's Primary Election

Due to efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Indiana's primary election is moved from May 5 to June 2. This change allows us more time to prepare for the election, as well as presents us with an historic opportunity - every Hoosier has access to vote by mail.

### Request Your Absentee Ballot

All registered Hoosier voters now have the option to cast their ballot by mail in the upcoming primary election. Vote by mail is typically only available to Hoosiers who meet certain requirements, but that has been waived for the primary election. Submit a request to vote absentee by mail to your county election board by May 21, either by mail, email, fax or hand-delivery (confirm if your county offices are open).

### Return Your Absentee Ballot

After submitting your application to your county election board, you will receive a ballot in the mail. Be sure to complete and return your mail-in ballot by noon on June 2.

## Legislative Committee at Work



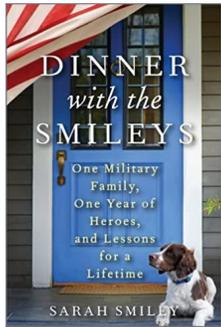
Retired Legislative Committee met with Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) to discuss retiree issues during the 2020 Legislative Session. L-R: Kathy Parks, Roger Sharp, Tom Burns, Senator Leising, Rod Ellcessor, Peggy Boyd and Callie Marksberry.

## Coronavirus & Retirees

The spread of the coronavirus across our country has created a very stressful environment for all Americans and especially older people and those with underlying health conditions who are at heightened risk. The AARP website, [aarp.org](http://aarp.org), is publishing, in both English and Spanish, information on the coronavirus. Daily updates may be found at [aarp.org/coronavirus](http://aarp.org/coronavirus) and [aarp.org/elcoronavirus](http://aarp.org/elcoronavirus) in Spanish. Weekly tele-townhalls with the nation's top public health experts are held so that one may ask questions and hear the latest on health and lifestyle recommendations. Call-in details for these tele-townhalls and transcripts of prior sessions can be also be found at [aarp.org/coronavirus](http://aarp.org/coronavirus).

AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins 3/19/2020

## ***Dinner with the Smileys*** **by Sarah Smiley**



### **Book Review**

This is the true story of one military family: father Dustin who is deployed to Africa for a year on a secret mission; mother Sarah who is left with full responsibility for their three boys — Ford, age 11, Owen age 9, and Lindell age 4. They own an old-fashioned wooden table that Sarah inherited from her family and just before their dad's departure, the kids asked who will sit in Dad's seat when he's gone. It was a spontaneous response on his part that the family would have company in his absence and so the activity of a dinner a week with guests was born.

The family lived in Maine so finding guests was not a problem. They included senators, mayors,

famous athletes, the kids' teachers and principal, the minister, close friends and many newly made friends who came to their rescue when needed like a flooded basement, an angry child turning pre-teen, a scared but funny four-year old, a child who showed potential as a budding artist, food on nights Sarah was so tired, baby-sitting help as she finished her Master's Degree and many other emergencies.

There was more than one hero in this story as those who helped turned up at just the right time. Sarah finds out that she is stronger than she thought she could ever be in caring for her family solo. However, there were many lessons learned for a lifetime by children and adults alike.

*Sarah Borgman, Wakarusa, Indiana*



## **Recipe Corner**

### **OLD-FASHIONED SWEET DUMPLINGS FOR BREAKFAST OR LUNCH**

Sift together 1 cup of flour with 2 teaspoons baking powder with a pinch of salt. Add to this 1 beaten egg with ¼ cup milk. Drop by teaspoonful into boiling water in a large skillet. Cover for about 15 minutes. Dumplings are done when light and fluffy. Drain and serve dumplings with generous portions of butter and light brown sugar. This recipe may be doubled for tripled according to the number of persons served.

This recipe was a hand-me-down from Nancy Lee (Mrs. Thomas Holden) to Mariah J. Holden (Mrs. J.A. Klinger) to B. Louella Klinger (Mrs. Charles W. Busick) to Margueret A. Busick (Mrs. C.T. Price), mother to C. Eugene Price. (For your information Nancy Lee Holden was born 5/9/1810; Mariah J. Holden Klinger was born 8/6/1838; B. Louella Klinger Busick was born 6/5/1873 and Margueret A. Busick Price 10/5/1906.

*C. Eugene Price, East Allen Educators Association  
What's Cooking Teach?, ISTA, 1975*

## Northern Advocacy Conference



Jan Hayes, Ginger Calhoun and Roger Sharp raised \$505 for retired scholarships at the 2020 Northern Advocacy Conference and gained two new Pre-Retired Life members as well!



Members of Hamilton County and Greater Indianapolis retired chapters enjoyed touring Lucas Oil Stadium on March 10. L-R: Bob Yull, Norm Elkins, Roger Sharp, Kathy Sharp, Bob Yull's guest, Madelyn Peregrim, Sue Kiefer, Ed Fredriks, Mara-Le Quarles, Don Heitman, and Sara Heitman.

## Allen County Chapter Features Presentation of Historic Old Fort

The Allen County Chapter met March 12 at Don Hall's Guest House in Fort Wayne. Twenty-one members were present, including Retired Zone 1 Coordinator Jerry Ervin, introduced themselves and shared their favorite pastimes. After a delicious lunch, Dorthy Epple, secretary-treasurer, reported on the meeting in January. Jim Clauser, representative to the retired state council, reported on happenings at the state level. He also reported on FWEA events taking place with active membership.



Dressed in costume of the 1816's, Bob Jones, retired teacher from East Allen County and

Education Liaison/Coordinator of Events for the Old Fort in Fort Wayne, presented a lively and informative talk about the history and activities of the recreated fort. He used personal anecdotes to pepper his presentation with facts and humor. Used shoes were donated for the ISTA-Retired community service project with the non-profit organization Changing Footprints, and money was collected for the scholarship fund. Because of the generosity of the members, each one in attendance received a door prize.

## Looking Ahead ISTA-RETIRED CALENDAR

Due to concern for the health and safety of members, all in-person ISTA meetings and events have been suspended. When ISTA in-person meetings and events resume, they will again be published in the ISTA-Retired Calendar .

### JUNE 2020

- 3 ISTA Virtual Representative Assembly, Delegates only
- 11 ISTA Virtual Summer Conference, Registration by email invitation only

### JULY 2020

- 2-3 NEA Virtual Representative Assembly, Delegates only

### Take a lesson from the pencil

1. You can do great things but only if you allow yourself to be used, often with the help of someone else.
2. You may experience painful “sharpening” from time to time, but you’ll become better afterwards.
3. You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make if you just use your head.
4. The most important part of you will always be what’s inside.
5. Wherever you are, leave your mark.

*(words of wisdom, source unknown)*

## 2020 Legislative Summary

### Top Priorities

- SB 2: Two year hold harmless from I-LEARN scores for schools and teachers.
- SB 319: Removes PGP and externship requirements passed in 2019.
- HB 1002: Permanently decouples test scores from teacher evaluations.

Thanks to the strength and perseverance of ISTA members and advocates, we have achieved two of our three priorities with the passage of SB 2 and SB 319. Along with these bills, we also saw other positive movement this session.

### Other Priorities and Accomplishments

- SB 10: Offers retirees more pension flexibility.
- SB 246: Ensures every school has a contract with a mental health provider or certified staff.
- HB 1283: Makes sure that our preservice teachers get meaningful curriculum in college on how to identify and help students who have experienced trauma.
- HB 1341: Empowers students with disabilities by making diploma and training options more accessible.
- HB 1066: Provides stability to students and schools and reassurances of legal rights for teachers in school districts that reorganize into multiple new districts.

Legislators missed a huge opportunity this session by not addressing teacher pay.