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The Chalkboard

The Official Newsletter of the ISTA-Retired

Volume 11, Issue 1

November/December 2022

Legislative Update-Where we have been and are going

Social Security has just announced that your pension will be increased by 8.7% for 2023. Last year's increase was 6.1%. The Federal Government recognizes that increases in pensions are important to help retirees survive inflation. Indiana's legislators have chosen to ignore fiscal responsibilities for retirees unlike Congress. Indiana's Legislature has supplied a single (1%) one percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) since 2009, while inflation has grown 35%. Yes, we did receive a 13th check some of those years. Of course, the 13th check is a conceptual misnomer and, in fact, just a stipend of \$250 to \$450 dollars depending on the number of years you taught. As well, the stipend must be reappropriated each year by the legislature. The 2020 legislature appropriated a one percent COLA increase in the biennium budget but delayed implementation until January of this year. The consequences of the delay resulted in no increase in 2021. Several important legislators have told the Retired Legislative Committee that there will be no pension increase in 2023, either COLA or 13th check. Roger Sharp, legislative committee chair and Rod Ellcessor, state council chair, both attend the Indiana Public

Retirement System (INPRS) quarterly board meetings. INPRS wealth has grown substantially in the last four years. INPRS has no authority to authorize an increase, despite their financial solvency. The Indiana State budget surplus has grown to 7.1 billion dollars. The state has authorized that 2.5 billion dollars be used from the surplus to help pay down the Pre-96 unfunded liability, which was caused by the state borrowing money from the Pre-96 fund years ago.

We need all retired members to tell their legislator how the lack of a COLA or 13th check has affected you. Your Retired legislative team has been meeting with legislators pleading our case. We will be lobbying this long session to come and will call on members to contact their legislator to tell your story about the loss of buying power. It is not necessary to explain the complicated financial process when you meet with your legislator, just tell your story and how it has impacted your life. Your Retired Legislative Committee includes Roger Sharp, chair, Tom Burns, Rod Ellcessor, Callie Marksberry, Rosemary Moore, Donnie Watkins, and Steve Wilson.

2023 David Hanna Golden Touch Award

The annual David Hanna Golden Touch Award named in memory of David Hanna, a former longtime ISTA board member, NEA delegate and ISTA-Retired local and state activist, recognizes the outstanding contributions of ISTA-Retired members who have continued to demonstrate leadership in both the Association and the community as a member of ISTA-Retired.

Nominations for the 2023 award are due by March 1 and may be made by any ISTA member, local, or district council. The criteria include active participation in ISTA/NEA-Retired, service to local retired chapters, supporting public education, and volunteerism in the community. The nominations must be submitted online at the ISTA website (ista-in.org) and include supportive examples of the nominee's service.

Continued page four

From the Chair



Rod Ellcessor, ISTA-Retired State Chair

Our Association has a long history since that Christmas Day in 1854 when we first organized. We have all stood on the shoulders of a countless number of Association leaders as we have progressed. I am saddened to note that recently one of our Retired ISTA leaders, Mike Zulich, has passed away. Mike was a former Vice-President and Treasurer of ISTA. Mike

was a quiet leader who loved life and had an “intelligent” sense of humor. Mike also served as the ISTA Board liaison to the Retired Council while an Active member. He was a member of our Dunes Shore Chapter and a past Retired State Council member. He was a friend to all and will be missed.

Your Retired Legislative Committee is once again, making plans to lobby the state legislature to press for an increase in our retirement compensation. INPRS value has grown to 45 billion dollars! Yet, our retirees have received only a one percent increase in their COLA since 2009. In 2018 the state created a system call the Supplemental Reserve Account (SRA) which was supposed to be a better way to pay a COLA. Unfortunately, either purposely or through neglect, the SRA does not have an adequate permanent funding source to pay a COLA more often than about 3.5 years. We have been told not to expect any increase in the rest of this biennium, which means no increase in 2023. Your Retired Legislative team is not content to accept no increase. To give you an example of lost buying power, if you retired on or before 2009, your pension has lost 35% in value! Stay tuned and expect us to contact you for help.

Finally, I want to remind you to read our newsletter, *The Chalkboard*, we have stories in the last edition that focused on the activities of our chapters. Our chapters visit museums and events in their areas and keep our members up to date on what is happening in ISTA. If you are not a chapter member, please consider joining one of the 26 chapters throughout the state.

Thanks for your membership and years of education experience serving the citizens and children of Indiana.



Retired

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

Rod Ellcessor, State Chair
Corey Kern, Statewide Coordinator
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!



NEA Discount Marketplace—Exclusive Offers for Members

The NEA Discount Marketplace, powered by Rakuten, enables members to earn Cash Back when they shop and save on brand-name merchandise from over 3,500 top retailers and online stores. Check out the member-exclusive deals at neamb.com/marketplace.

2023 Retired Scholarships

All current ISTA members are eligible to nominate their children, stepchildren, grandchildren and/or step-grandchildren for ISTA Foundation Retired Scholarships. The ISTA-Retired Statewide District Council raises additional funds to increase the ISTA Foundation grant of \$700 and will award two \$2,500 retired scholarships in 2023. Retired scholarship applications are to be completed online at the ISTA website, ista-in.org/scholarships-awards, between Feb. 1 and April 1, 2023. The nomination form may be found by following these steps:

- Click “Our Profession” tab at the top of webpage.
- Select “Scholarships and Awards” from the drop-down list.
- Scroll down and select “Apply for ISTA Foundation Retired Scholarship.”
- Fill out the nomination form completely and hit the “Submit” button. Note: All applications for retired scholarships must be submitted online.

To qualify, nominees must have a minimum “C” average and must have graduated December 2022 or will graduate in May/June 2023 from a public high school. Recipients must continue their education during the fall of 2023 in a two or four-year accredited college or university, or participate in a formal accredited training program such as an apprenticeship, trade school, cosmetology, etc. The applicant does not have to reside in the same geographical area as the member in order to qualify, so out-of-state nominees are eligible.

Direct questions regarding the retired scholarship to Terry Tafflinger at terrytafflinger@gmail.com.

Around the state

1-F Retired



Members of 1-F Retired chapter met Oct. 13 at Renee’s Restaurant in Nappanee for lunch and the play “Mouse Trap” based on the book by

Agatha Christie. Later everyone had time to wander the grounds at The Barns (formerly Amish Acres). Good food and fellowship made for a very enjoyable day.

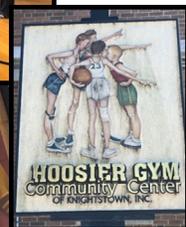


ISTA-Retired Zone 2 Coordinator Jan Hayes and Statewide District Council Vice Chair Ginger Calhoun with ISTA President Keith Gambill supported active members on behalf of retired at the Oregon Davis Classroom Teachers Association (ODCTA) picnic held Oct. 24, 2022. ODCTA is at the mediation stage of contract negotiations.

Blue River



On Sept. 12 members of Blue River chapter visited the gym in Knightstown, Indiana, where the well-known movie “Hoosiers” was filmed.



2023 David Hanna Golden Touch Award—cont'd from page one

Supportive examples of the nominee's service may include flyers, promotional materials, newsletters, news clippings, pictures, photos or reference letters. All members are encouraged to nominate someone in the ISTA -Retired family who has demonstrated continued support of the Association and public education.

For further information contact the chair of the retired Golden Touch Award Committee, Jon Brice at bricejon8@gmail.com.

November 14-November 19 American Education Week 2022

The concept of a free or public education for all American children is not a new one. Its roots lie with our Founding Fathers, when Thomas Jefferson proposed a system of decentralized education in Virginia. American Education Week presents all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. Each day of the week-long celebration is an observance of how each member of the community can contribute to making public schools great.

- Monday, November 14: Kickoff Day
- Tuesday, November 15: Parents Day
- Wednesday, November 16: Education Support Day Professionals Day
- Thursday, November 17: Educator for a Day
- Friday, November 18: Substitute Educators Day

The first observance of American Education occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a co-sponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

Fall Zone Meetings

Zone 1

Retired chapter representatives met Oct. 18 for the Zone 1 meeting at Maria's Family Restaurant in Warsaw. Chapter updates and calendar information were shared. We were saddened to learn that Anne Spann and Phyllis Bush, president and vice-president respectively of the Allen County chapter, passed away suddenly in the past few months. Those members will be meeting soon to select new leadership. The St. Joseph County chapter is in the process of selecting new leadership as well. Other items of discussion were legislative candidates and lobbying priorities for the '23 session. Reports were given from the membership committee and the active chapter liaisons. A large number of shoes were collected to be taken to Indianapolis.

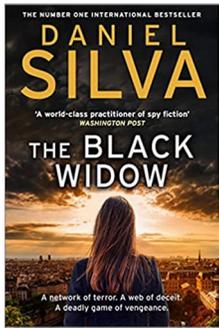
Michelle Blough, Zone 1 Coordinator

Zone 2

Fifteen members gathered for the fall Zone 2 meeting on Sept. 29, 2022, at the Farmhouse Restaurant, Fair Oaks, Indiana. Representatives of Wabash Valley, 1-B Retired, Dunes Shore, and Lake County chapters attended as well as Ginger Calhoun, Retired State Council Vice Chair. Issues discussed were legislative, COLA, the newly created grant for retired chapters, meetings, etc. The group was given an update about the retired seminars given throughout the state. A silent auction for I-PACE raised \$160.00 thanks to the generosity of those who brought items for the auction and to those who bought them.

Jan Hayes, Zone 2 Coordinator

The Black Widow by Daniel Silva



Book Review

A No. 1 New York Times book, *The Black Widow* is full of intrigue! The main character Gabriel Allon, the art restorer, is set to become the next chief of Israel's secret intelligence service, but events happen that cause him to return the field. Gabriel Allon is not just an art restorer, he's also a spy and an

assassin. ISIS has bombed the Marais district of Paris killing the well-known head of the Weinberg Center. The French government wants the person eliminated before he strikes again. This book is a "spellbinding international thriller".

Jan Hayes, Hamlet, Indiana

Membership Committee Retired Seminar



The Retired Membership Committee presented a retirement seminar on Oct. 15, 2022, at the Shadeland office in Indianapolis for ISTA members. Featured speakers were Don Evans, attorney and counselor at law, Frank Vargo, Security Benefit representative, Craig Blume, insurance consultant, and

Jeremy Haggard, INPRS representative. Craig Blume was not able to attend in-person this session, but he prepared a 42 -minute video explaining Medicare options. Two more seminars are tentatively planned for next year. Seminar attendees were provided elder law books and the link to the Medicare video. Six members joined ISTA-Retired that day. At each seminar there is also a drawing from completed membership forms for a free lifetime membership to ISTA-Retired. The lucky winner at this seminar was Susan Lazzell, Franklin Comm. TA.



Don Evans - Elder Law and estate planning program



Frank Vargo - Financial Concerns of Retirement



Attendee Susan Lazzell presented retired life membership by Rod Ellcessor, retired council chair.



Craig Blume - Medicare (via video)



Jeremy Haggard - INPRS

ISTA-RETIRED ZONE 2 COORDINATOR AND ZONE 5 COORDINATOR ELECTION PROCEDURES

Below are the three-year term election procedures for the Zone 2 Coordinator and Zone 5 Coordinator effective 8/1/2023-7/31/2026. These procedures have been developed by the ISTA-Retired Executive Committee and approved by the ISTA-Retired District Council.

The guidelines are as follows:

NOMINATION RULES

1. There will be a period of open nominations of candidates for Zone 2 Coordinator and Zone 5 Coordinator (terms stated above and below).
2. Only ISTA-Retired members residing in Zone 2 and Zone 5 who have retired from their education positions and whose membership forms have been processed by ISTA by December 2022 are eligible for nomination of the open positions listed above at their respective March 2023 meetings.
3. The **Retired Petition for Nominations** and the **Election Procedures for 8/2/2023-7/31/2026 term** will be printed in the November/December and February/March issues of the retired newsletter, *The Chalkboard*, and posted on the retired page of the ISTA website.
4. Nomination petition forms printed in the November/December and February/March issues of the retired newsletter, *The Chalkboard*, may be cut out or copied from *The Chalkboard*. The form must be signed by the nominee. ISTA will verify your membership ID number. Nominees may list three qualifications and any such statements must be six words.
5. The petition of nomination must be returned to the Office of ISTA-Retired, Attn: ISTA-Retired Candidate Nomination, 150 W. Market St., Suite 900, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2875, and must be postmarked on or before **midnight, February 15, 2023, or hand-delivered no later than February 15, 2023, 4:30 p.m. ET to the office of ISTA-Retired.**
6. Persons whose nominations are received by the Office of ISTA-Retired, as stipulated above, shall constitute the properly certified nominees.

CAMPAIGN RULES

1. Following the close of the nominations on **February 15, 2023**, the names of all candidates and three listed qualifications will be printed and provided for the elections by eligible chapter representatives at the respective Zone 2 and Zone 5 meetings in March 2023.
2. No dues money—local, district, state or national—may be used to promote the candidacy of an individual or groups of individuals running for office.

ELECTION RULES

1. The election for Zone 2 Coordinator and Zone 5 Coordinator **shall be conducted at the respective Zone 2 and Zone 5 meetings in March 2023.** The election rules will also be posted on the ISTA website and included in the November/December and February/March ISTA-Retired newsletter, *The Chalkboard*.
2. Each of the Zone Chapter's four officers or four designated chapter representatives in attendance at the March 2023 Zone 2 meeting and Zone 5 meeting shall be the voting members. In Zone Coordinator elections, the retired chapter officers or designated chapter representatives attending the March Zone meeting are only eligible to vote for candidates in the zone where they reside as retired members.
3. Ballots will be provided by the office of ISTA-Retired for the Zone 2 and Zone 5 Coordinator elections to be conducted at their respective March 2023 meetings.
4. The names will be placed on the ballot in the order determined by drawing from a common receptacle by the designated retired staff with appropriate witnesses.
5. Each ballot shall contain a list of the properly certificated candidates. No other information about candidates may be legally included on the ballot.
6. Each eligible chapter representative may vote for one Zone Coordinator candidate for their respective zone. Any ballot on which more votes appear than the total allowed shall not be counted.
7. **An officer of the state council or designee will provide all Zone ballots, a written report of the election results and the official registration document with names and addresses of the eligible voting chapter members for each Zone to the office of ISTA-Retired, Attn: ISTA-Retired Zone Coordinator Election, 150 West Market Street, Suite 900, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2875, within five days of the Zone election.**
8. Only those official ballots meeting shall be counted.

(ELECTION PROCEDURES CONTINUED)

9. The ballots shall be impounded by ISTA for two (2) years.

CHALLENGE RULES

1. Any challenge to these rules or any activity or result governed by them shall be submitted in writing to the chair of the ISTA-Retired Statewide District Council, in care of the Indiana State Teachers Association, 150 W. Market St., Suite 900, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2875, by **March 16, 2023**.
2. If necessary, the ISTA-Retired Statewide District Council Executive Committee will meet as soon as possible after receiving such challenge to review and act upon any submitted challenges. Any executive committee member who is a candidate for a position involved in a challenge shall be ineligible to participate as an executive committee member in the pertinent deliberations.
3. The chair of the ISTA-Retired Statewide District Council will notify the appropriate party of the action of the executive committee.

RETIRED PETITION FOR NOMINATION

Retired Election for Zone 2 Coordinator and Zone 5 Coordinator Candidates 2023-2026

I hereby declare my eligibility and candidacy for (select one):

- ISTA-Retired Zone 2 Coordinator
- ISTA-Retired Zone 5 Coordinator

NOTE: Only ISTA-Retired members residing in Zone 2 and Zone 5 are eligible to participate.

Candidate Information (This information is required.)

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

ISTA ID#: _____ Local Chapter: _____

Home Mailing Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (*circle one*) home cell _____

Home email: _____

You may list three Association activities. Each statement must be **six words or fewer**.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SEND TO: Office of ISTA-Retired
 ATTN: ISTA-RETIRED ZONE COORDINATOR CANDIDATE NOMINATION
 150 W. Market St., Suite 900
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

 Signature of Nominee _____
 Date

Must be post-marked on or before midnight February 15, 2023, or hand-delivered by 4:30 p.m. ET on the same date. Please write "ISTA-RETIRED CANDIDATE NOMINATION" on your envelope.

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. All safety precautions, including social distancing and masks, will be practiced at any in-person meetings.

NOVEMBER 2022

- 9 11:30 a.m., Hamilton County, Boathouse Kitchen & Swan Dive Restaurant in Cicero (Morse Reservoir), meeting and lunch followed by dessert and shopping at Mercantile 37, (317) 877-6000.
- 10 12 p.m., Allen County, Hall's Gas House, 306 E. Superior, Fort Wayne, Program-Update on Fast Rail by Geoff Paddock, (260) 436-2326.
- 10 11 a.m., Blue River, Sophea Asian Restaurant, 2508 25th St., Columbus, Program-Tour Bakalar Air Museum, 4742 Ray Boll Blvd., Columbus, (812) 593-4546.
- 10 11 a.m., 1-F Retired, Tour of Toy Wonders, Inc. (a family owned and operated business that produces handcrafted wooden toys that harken back to Christmas past), 1152 S 100 W, Silver Lake, Lunch follows at Silver Lake Inn, 105 E. Main St., Silver Lake, RSVP to Ginger Calhoun at (574) 952-6491.
- 16 11:30 a.m., Sullivan-Knox County, Chicago Pizza, 529 Main St., Vincennes, Program-"Generations: Your Health and Happiness" through Vincennes University-Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disabilities, (812) 243-0609.
- 17 12 p.m., Elkhart County, Midwest Museum of American Art Noon Time Talk, 429 S. main St., Elkhart, Bring eyeglasses to donate to the Lion's Club, chapter member, John Preheim and longtime volunteer in eyeglass distribution, will collect the glasses (Readers and prescription glasses are needed. Sunglasses are not needed.), interested members will go to lunch after the program, (574) 333-7383.

DECEMBER 2022

- 5 4:30 p.m., Elkhart County, chapter members will attend and provide refreshments/door prizes for the meeting with ETA building representatives at North Side Middle School, interested members will go to dinner after the meeting, (574) 333-7383.
- 5 12 p.m., Posey County, Mt. Vernon United Church of Christ, Program-Linda Willis will share her trip to Tanzania, (812) 401-6423.
- 6 11:30 a.m., Vanderburgh County, Holiday Celebration, carry-in with BBQ, ISTA/ETA Building, 701 John Street, Evansville, (812) 480-7364.
- 6 10 a.m., 1-B Retired, Urschel Laboratories Facility Tour, 1200 Cutting Edge Dr., Chesterton, Lunch meeting following tour at AJ's Pizza Co., 3050 Matson St., Chesterton, (219) 241-5463.
- 7 11 a.m., Greater Indianapolis, ISTA Shadeland office, 6910 N. Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, Program-Songs of Christmas Past by Vanessa Burkhardt, lunch-Catering by Valentine (cost-\$16), RSVP lunch reservations by Nov. 30 to Marti Daily, (317) 872-8257 or m-daily@comcast.net.
- 10 TBD, 1-B Retired Bonus Holiday Outing in December, South Shore Brass Band Christmas Concert, Christ Lutheran Church, 26510 Campbell St., Valparaiso, Dinner at Pesto's Restaurant before concert (no meeting) at 3123 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso, contact Terry Tafflinger - (219) 241-5463 or terrytafflinger@gmail.com for time.
- 13 11 a.m., CHMT, Gabriel's Pancake House, 101 N Broadway St, Peru, Christmas Program-Local School Choir, 765-469-2298

JANUARY 2023

- 12 12 p.m., Allen County, Zianos Italian Eatery, 702 E. Dupont Rd, Ft. Wayne, Program-Community Harvest Food Bank-Roy Nevil, (260) 436-2326.
- 25 11:30 a.m., Lake County, meeting at Harry O's Restaurant, 13226 Wicker Ave., Cedar Lake (at US 41), (219) 794-4672.

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