

The Chalkboard

The Official Newsletter of the ISTA-Retired

Volume 10, Issue 3
October 2022

ISTA-Retired Awards Two Scholarships

ISTA-Retired awarded \$2,500 scholarships to two outstanding graduates in 2022. Family members joined the Retired State Council in July for presentation of the scholarships.

Brendan Day, grandson of ISTA-Retired chapter



1-F member Jennifer Heemer, is a graduate of Winamac Community High School. Following an impressive career in mathematics in high school, Brendan will major in mathematics at Purdue University. Having always been mathematically minded, Brendan believes that pursuing this

area of study will open up many opportunities for him.

Isaac Rogers, son of active member Elizabeth



Rogers of Westview Education Association, is a graduate of Westview Junior-Senior High School. Isaac will attend Ball State University to obtain an undergraduate degree in both marketing and digital media and upon graduation plans to return to his hometown to begin marketing

for local businesses. He dreams of starting his own business one day.

Terry Tafflinger, Scholarship Chair, ISTA-Retired

Helping retired chapters thrive

The past two years have been difficult for retired members to get together to socialize or plan activities because of the COVID pandemic restrictions. There are 26 retired chapters throughout Indiana for ISTA-Retired Life and Annual members. Each chapter has a core leadership of officers dedicated to promoting events and activities that enable retirees to maintain friendships and stimulate interest in their community. The Retired State Council encouraged chapters to maintain contact with members during the pandemic by meeting virtually online through Zoom meetings, but many members were not able to access the meetings on their computers. Now that most retirees have been vaccinated and the mask mandates have been lifted, chapters are looking to re-establish connections with their membership.

The ISTA-Retired Communications Committee has been meeting throughout the pandemic to discuss the needs of chapters and encourage ways for them to connect with their members. Retired chapters now have a 12-month guide ("Building a Stronger Chapter") of suggestions to help chapter officers plan their calendar of programs and activities. The committee also presented communications tools for the chapters to use to reinvigorate chapter growth and involvement at the ISTA Summer Conference in June. Retired communications committee members are Deb Marcum (Hamilton County), Jerry Ervin (St. Joseph County), Fran Riley (Vanderburgh County), Barb Rotramel (Sullivan/Knox), Karen Warble (Blue River), and Al Wolting, Chair (Greater Indianapolis).

From the Chair



Rod Ellcessor, ISTA-Retired State Chair

Much has happened at ISTA since the last edition of the Chalkboard. Changes have occurred in the ISTA Vice-Presidency, and the Treasurer. Doug Taylor assumed the Vice Presidency and Jennifer Loughlin has become the Treasurer. Elections were held at the ISTA-Retired State Council meeting. I was elected for another two-year term and Ginger Calhoun as the

Vice Chair. We had training presented at the Summer Conference for Retired members from our Communications, Legislative, and Membership Committees. The NEA Retired Annual meeting was held on June 28th and 29th. Our own Indiana member and NEA Retired President Sarah Borgman led the proceedings in her very professional style. A report on the meeting is included in this edition. Following the Retired meeting the NEA RA was held and attended by our ISTA-Retired elected members, Sarah Borgman, Ginger Calhoun, Rod Ellcessor, Damon Moore, Roger Sharp, and Terry Tafflinger. The RA lasted four days and was a combination live and virtual event. It was full of technical difficulties trying to provide this event. As well, there is an update on this in the Chalkboard too.

We will be contacting you to help provide our legislators with information regarding an increase in a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA). We have some materials to help in your effort which can be received from the chapter nearest you. As you know, we received a one percent increase in January of this year. However, there was no COLA or 13th check in 2021. This has put us way behind where the cost of living has gone. In fact, for a 2009 or earlier retiree through December 2021 they have lost 27% to inflation. When we add 2022 it will be well over 35% if there is no increase! When you talk to your legislator, tell them your story and how this has impacted you personally. The State is sitting on a great amount of money and needs to pay its retirees a livable pension.

I want to thank you for your membership and the work you have done as a member. I encourage you to connect with the closest chapter or contact me about forming a chapter in your area.



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 Up to 40% on Tickets to Attractions Nationwide

Celebrate a new season with member-only savings from the NEA Discount Tickets Program. Treat yourself to weekend adventures for way less. From watching the latest blockbusters at your local movie theater to cheering on your favorite

sports team live, get up to 40% off discount tickets to experience it all this season. **Shop tickets at www.neamb.com/tickets.**

Members stepped up for retired shoe collection



load of shoes on its way to an Indianapolis site.

At this year's Indiana State Teachers Association Representative Assembly, delegates were asked by ISTA-Retired to bring shoes – any shoes. A multitude of shoes was donated. So many shoes were donated that it took more than one trip to collect the bags of shoes that were given to the organization Changing Footprints. Changing Footprints distributes the shoes to homeless, disaster stricken, or underprivileged people locally, nationally, and internationally. For example, per an agreement with Nike, shoes that are no longer able to be worn are ground up into components and used to make padded recreational flooring and athletic surfaces. Pictured is one

Membership Committee at work

The ISTA-Retired Membership Committee has been hard at work presenting pre-retirement seminars throughout the state to active members age who are 55 or older. Seminars locations included Valparaiso, Indianapolis, Plymouth, Kendallville, Evansville, Sullivan, and Columbus. The committee was fortunate to have the following people share their expertise: attorney Don Evans who spoke about elder law and estate planning; Frank Vargo of Security Benefits addressed the financial concerns of retiring and how important it is to consult with a financial advisor; and Craig Blume, an independent insurance agent, explained the different Medicare plans and supplements available. The final session was presented by a representative of the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS). At the end of each session attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions. Presenters used Power Point slides and distributed handouts and an Elder Law book to each participant. Lunch was provided and seminar attendees were asked to fill out an evaluation. Following are comments shared on the different sessions:

“This presentation gave information that I had not considered. Handouts were helpful. Great! Lots of information to think about.” Elder Law Session/Don Evans

“Informative – explained a lot and was easy to follow. Super good! Like the handout – loads of information.” Navigating Your Investment Journey/Frank Vargo

“Great printed packet! Excellent explanation of how Medicare works. Liked the examples. Very good – told me things I had no clue about. Great speaker – easy to follow and understand.” Medicare 101/Craig Blume

“Very well spoken & very clear. Good breakdown of benefits. Followed slides in handout closely – able to take notes easily. Really helpful! INPRS

Besides getting valuable information and preparing for retirement at each seminar, one lifetime membership to ISTA-Retired was given.

Three of the recipients of free Retired Life memberships



Sheri Spay—Delaware Comm CTA, Mike Wheaton—NEA Mount Vernon, and Lynn Norris—Southwest Sullivan EA.

This fall there are grants available to ISTA-Retired chapters. The grant money may be used to enhance chapter programs to grow membership. Go to the ISTA website, ista-in.org, for more information.

Membership committee members are Ginger Calhoun – Chair, Terry Tafflinger, Jan Hayes, and Michelle Blough.

Around the state – Spring retired Zone meetings plan for future



Zone 1 leaders at Maria’s Family Restaurant in Warsaw, Indiana

Zone 2 leaders at Fair Oaks Restaurant in Fair Oaks, Indiana



Retired chapters offer variety of topics and activities

Vanderburgh County—life after retirement

“There is life after retirement. I am still learning. Follow your dreams and keep putting one foot in front of the other.” Vera Emmons

At the Vanderburgh County spring, member Vera Emmons shared her amazing story of how she transitioned from teaching to talented artist.



Vera is a retired Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation teacher. She was very active in the Evansville Teacher Association (ETA) and loved ETA. Her lifelong dream was to learn to paint. Like many teachers, Vera never had time while still teaching. After retiring, she decided to finally follow her dream and take a painting class. Vera’s first commissioned painting was for a former student.



During the chapter’s business meeting, Vera created a painting that was given away as a door prize. The door prize winner was member Carolyn Patton.

Allen County

Allen County had an enthusiastic presentation at Ziano’s in Fort Wayne, Indiana, by Jessica Henry, director of HUMANE Fort Wayne, about recent changes to what was formerly the SPCA. The newly named organization includes what was the SPCA, Hope for Animals, and the Fort Wayne Pet Food Pantry. Supported 100% by donors and several corporate sponsors, they do whatever it takes to care for homeless pets and those loved by their owners.



They provide adoption services, spay and neuter services, basic wellness, foster care, pet retention in the home, as well as TNR (trap, neuter, and return) of feral cats. Jessica also related that Allen County has the dubious honor as having one of the highest number of puppy mills in the area. HUMANE Fort Wayne will soon launch a capital fund campaign to build a new facility to provide services to a wider population.

Dunes Shores

Dunes Shores met in the spring at the Chili Bowl, Valparaiso, Indiana. After lunch and a brief business meeting members and guests toured the MAAC Foundation-Emergency Services Training Center. This school offers training in three qualifications, with the most reviewed qualifications being Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Endorsement, Mandatory Firefighter and Volunteer Firefighter Police, and their partners train at the K-9 Training at the MAAC Foundation Campus. A state-of-the-art training village is set to be built in Valparaiso.



Photos from Training Center Tour (L-R): training dummy firefighters carry, training dog to help determine injuries, and members' intro to facility the facility.

Wabash Valley



Wabash Valley met in June for a fun time at Lafayette Columbian Park and Loeb Stadium. Members were able to take a train ride around the park with Park Director Neal Dale as the engineer, who pointed out numerous updates and changes. This was followed by a behind the scenes tour of the zoo and finished with a tour of the new Loeb's Baseball Stadium. The retired meeting was held in one of the suites. Lunch followed across the



street at Arni's. A big thank you to Maury Denny, member Jane Denny's husband, for making the enjoyable day possible.

1-F Chapter



1-F chapter members enjoyed lunch at Mad Anthony's Lake City Tap House in Warsaw, Indiana. After the business meeting and lunch, members toured MudLive pottery store that was created to do good. Every product purchased provides clean water to someone in need. After the tour each

member received a handmade bracelet. Pictured is Luke Wright, owner and founder, and the group enjoying lunch at Mad Anthony's.



Retired sessions held at ISTA Summer Conference

At the ISTA Summer Conference in June, ISTA-Retired Statewide Council Chair Rod Ellcessor presented the session “Fraud Protection” detailing the many scams that are preying upon the public - especially the elderly. Fraud starts with your information that is traded and sold through the “Dark Web”. Some of the hottest scams were noted and what you can do to protect yourself. The Communications Committee presentation led by chair Al Wolting focused on “Revitalizing Your Retired Chapter” with handouts of valuable resources. Roger Sharp, legislative committee chair, presented a summary of 2022 legislation and program “In Pursuit of a FAIR and JUST Retirement”. Membership chair Ginger Calhoun informed the attendees of the pre-retirement seminars the membership committee have given throughout the state and a grant available to retired chapters in 2022-2023. The membership session ended with the game “Plinko” emceed by Terry Tafflinger.

Terry Tafflinger starting “Plinko”



Recipe Corner

Hashbrown Breakfast Muffins

1/3 cup Jimmy Dean Turkey Sausage Crumbles
 1 bag pre-shredded Simply Potatoes
 6 eggs (or substitute egg whites)
 3 tbsp butter melted (optional or use olive oil)
 1/8 tsp pepper

1/8 tsp salt (optional)
 1 small can mushroom pieces
 1/2 cup chopped peppers and onions
 1-2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (or your favorite)
 (May add 1/4 tsp garlic powder)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Sauté the peppers, onions, and turkey crumbles for 3-4 minutes then allow to cool. In the Simply Potatoes bag, I add the butter, salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Use your hands or a spoon to mix. In a greased 12 muffin pan, divide the entire package of shredded Simply Potatoes mixture. Bake in oven 12-15 minutes or until lightly brown. Remove from oven and press potatoes into a crust shape. A tart tool or spoon will work.

While potatoes are baking combine beaten eggs, cheese, peppers, onions, and sausage crumbles. Spoon egg mixture evenly into muffin cups. Return to oven and bake 13 - 15 minutes or until set. Serve with fresh fruit or favorite melon. (You can place 4 of muffins in refrigerator to each over next few days or freeze for later.)
 Serving size: 2 muffins. Preparation time: 15 minutes. Cooking time: 35 minutes.

Fran Riley, Evansville, Indiana

We must be involved!

It is fall. Schools are open, football season has started, and our PAC Fundraising is underway.

It is so important all ISTA-Retired members contribute to our NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. We must support the candidates and the issues that help our children and grandchildren, and **US** as retirees.

Can you reach into your pocket and **donate \$25** or more to **help protect Medicare and Social Security?**

To ensure that your \$25 donation goes to NEA, you can send a check written to “The NEA Fund” and mail it directly to: The NEA Fund, P.O. Box 96225, Washington, DC 20077-7510,

Or donate online at:
www.educationvotes.nea.org

Let’s get going! ISTA-Retired, we need you!

2022 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting

“It’s about time for us all to be together!” announced NEA-Retired President Sarah Borgman as ISTA-Retired delegates Ginger Calhoun, Rod Ellcessor, Damon Moore, Roger Sharp, and Terry Tafflinger joined over 300 NEA-Retired members for the two-day NEA-Retired Annual Meeting held June 29-30 in Chicago. Delegates participated in a hybrid format allowing members to attend in-person or virtually this year. Although all NEA-Retired members were encouraged to attend, only elected state delegates could vote in elections.

In her keynote address, President Borgman told delegates that “it’s about time” for state and local associations to take on racial and social justice as top priorities, and “it’s about time to stop the insane murdering of our students and teachers.” Issuing an impassioned plea for stronger gun control, she urged NEA-Retired members to answer the call this November and get active in election efforts to protect our democracy. “It’s about time for all of us to fulfill our promise,” she said.

NEA President Becky Pringle, Vice-President Princess Moss, and Secretary-Treasurer Noel Candelaria repeated these concerns, expressing their joy at being together for the first time in two years as well as their worry about the future and the importance of the upcoming midterm elections.

NEA Center for Advocacy Director Mary Kusler congratulated NEA-Retired members for their work toward repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). She explained that as a direct result of members’ activism during a May 24 Day of Action, the U.S. House of Representatives will soon consider a bill that would repeal the GPO and WEP provisions of the Social Security Act.

Thanks to generosity of NEA-Retired members, the amount of the Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship was increased from \$2500 to \$3500. Scholarships were awarded to five aspiring educators.

Because of the hybrid model, elections for vice president, executive council, and NEA Board of Directors positions took place by mail. Indiana’s delegates then moved on to attend the NEA Representative Assembly July 2-6.



Delegates Roger Sharp and Rod Ellcessor

Looking Ahead

ISTA-RETIRED CALENDAR

Due to concern for the health and safety of members, retired chapters' virtual zoom meetings are listed below. All safety precautions, including social distancing and masks, will be practiced at any in-person meetings.

NOTE: 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.

OCTOBER 2022

- 11 11:30 p.m., Vanderburgh County, ISTA/ETA Building, 701 John St., Evansville, (812) 480-7364.
- 13 10:30 a.m., Wabash Valley, Tippecanoe County Public Library, 627 South St., Lafayette, Program-"How to Keep an Active Mind" by representative from Anthony Rehab and Nursing to give tips on what you can do to keep sharp and help prevent/delay dementia or Alzheimer's, short business meeting will follow with box lunches provided by the speaker, RSVP to jmjones500@aol.com for lunch count.
- 13 11 a.m., 1-F Retired, The Barns (formerly Amish Acres), Agatha Christie play the "Mouse Trap", Lunch before show at Rene's Restaurant, 161 S. Nappanee. After lunch enjoy leisurely stroll around The Barns. Show begins at 2 p.m. Limited tickets include lunch and show for a cost of \$45—RSVP to Ginger Calhoun at (574) 952-6491.

NOVEMBER 2022

- 1 1 p.m., St. Joseph County, St. Joseph County Public Library, 304 S. Main St., check at desk for location, Program-Politics in Education by Sam Centellas from CDFL, RSVP Jerry Ervin, (574) 231-1924 or jrervino07@gmail.com.
- 10 12 p.m., Allen County, Hall's Gas House, 306 E. Superior, 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" by Vincennes University-Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disabilities, (812) 243-0609.

DECEMBER 2022

- 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 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.

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

The Retired Legislative Committee is working to obtain a significant COLA to add to your TRF Pension. We have suffered serious loss in buying power over the last 10 years. Since 2020, we have received fewer dollars in 2021 and 2022 than in each of the previous 10 years! The losses will continue in 2023. Our pensions are underwater and the state Legislature has the power to fix them. Tell your legislator to pass at least a 2% COLA!

Roger Sharp, Legislative Committee Chair, ISTA-Retired

Important Election Dates

Oct. 11, 2022—Voter registration ends. Deadline is the close of business or at midnight to complete and submit application online.

Oct. 12, 2022—First day voter may vote an absentee ballot in circuit county clerk office or satellite office.

Oct. 17, 2022—Deadline by 11:59 pm for circuit court to receive an absentee ballot application requesting the delivery of the ballot by mail.