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The Chalkboard

The Official Newsletter of the ISTA-Retired

Volume 7, Issue 2
February/March 2019

2019 Scholarships Available for ISTA Members

ISTA members are eligible to nominate children, step-children, grandchildren and/or step-grandchildren for a \$2,500 ISTA Foundation District Scholarship if the graduate meets the requirements listed below. With the ISTA Foundation grant of \$700, the retired council also raises funds to increase the amount of retired scholarships. Therefore, two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded in 2019.

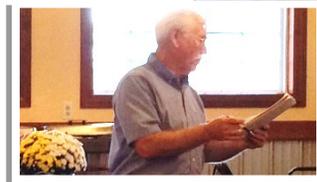
The scholarship nomination form is available at the ISTA website at ista-in.org/scholarships-awards. The nomination must be submitted by April 1, 2019 by a **current member of ISTA**. To qualify the nominee must have a minimum "C" average in high school and have graduated in December 2018 or will graduate in May/June 2019 from public high school. Recipients must continue their education during the fall of 2019 in a two or four-year accredited college or university, or continue in an accredited training program such as an apprenticeship, or be enrolled in a trade school, cosmetology, etc. The nominee does not have to reside in the same geographical area as the parent or grandparent to qualify, so out-of-state children, step-children, grandchildren, and/or step grand-children are eligible also.

The **deadline** for submission is April 1. Completed nomination forms can be sent to your local ISTA-Retired chapter president or to a local UniServ Director who will forward the form to the ISTA-Retired Scholarship Chair or Becky Koerner in the ISTA building in Indianapolis. Any questions may be directed to the scholarship chair via email or phone number listed below. Please leave a voicemail, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Diana Singleton, Chair
dmsingle@gmail.com / 765-463-2210

Posey County Chapter Observes World War I Remembrance

Retired member Jerry King gave a presentation on World War I at the October meeting of the Posey County retired chapter. He emphasized the impact the war had on



Posey County, detailing the role Posey County men played during the war and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The 100th anniversary of armistice signing, which ended the fighting, was on Nov. 11, 2018.

From the Chair



Rod Ellcessor, ISTA-Retired State Chair

The holiday season has quickly ended and now we are faced with the legislative session. This year is the long session and the biennium budget year. The legislature is faced with a budgetary shortfall created by the claimed necessity to fund FSSA. We are told there is limited money available for other programs.

Last year's legislature passed a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) bill, which was supposed to create a process to achieve a COLA. After extensive investigation and discussion by our Retired Legislative Committee with Indiana Public Retirement System representatives and legislators, the new COLA statute could not collect enough revenue to pay a COLA in 10 years! Therefore, we once again are challenged with convincing legislators of our COLA needs. As of the writing of this article HB 1139, a "13th Check" bill, has been filed by Rep. Woody Burton. We also expect a COLA bill to be filed by Sen. David Niezgodski. We will keep you updated on the status of both bills. Make sure you visit the ISTA website at ista-in.org to check the status of all education and retirement bills.

We have scheduled a Retired Lobbying day on Feb. 19 at the ISTA Center beginning at 10:30 a.m. ET with a briefing. We will have more information posted on the ISTA website about registration, and your chapter presidents will keep you updated. I encourage you to continue to contact your legislator and tell your story about how nine years of not receiving a COLA has affected your life.

ISTA-Retired has grown to over 5,100 members and we continue to add delegates to the ISTA Representative Assembly (RA). Last year we had 32 ISTA RA delegates. This year's RA will be held on April 27 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Conference Center Noblesville Indianapolis. We will be electing a new ISTA president and vice president.

We also are in the process of potentially lowering the life retired dues. The ISTA Board will be acting on this proposal at their Jan. 25 meeting. We will update you on what happens. I want to thank you for your membership in ISTA-Retired. Together we all make a difference.



Retired

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

Rod Ellcessor, State Chair
Craig L. Blume, 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!



Save over 50% on hotel stays with NEA vacations

With great travel discounts from NEA Vacation, you can enjoy more for less on family vacations and dream getaways. You will also earn NEA Travel Dollars that you can apply to future travel costs. Visit neamb.com for details.

Legislative Update

The 2019 General Assembly convened Jan. 3. The ISTA-Retired Legislative Committee, chaired by Roger Sharp, met in December with government relations staff to discuss bills of interest and plan strategy.

ISTA's 2019 legislative priorities include ways to:

- Improve teacher compensation and to advance the teaching profession
- Restore collective bargaining
- Secure retirees' future with a true cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retired educators until the new pre-funded mechanism, enacted in 2018 takes effect
- Strengthen school safety
- Balance teacher evaluations
- Hold charters and virtual school accountable
- Implement trauma informed approaches
- Eliminate barriers to dual-credit licensing
- Improve staff trainings

Representatives from the ISTA-Retired Legislative Committee met with Sen. Greg Walker, author of the 2018 Senate Enrolled Act 373, Creation of the Pension Supplemental Allowance Reserve Account (SRA) in December. SEA 373 ensured that teacher retirement remained a defined benefit. The main concern remains that the funding mechanism for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is not sufficient to adequately fund a COLA any time soon. The legislative committee will continue to monitor this and other bills during the session.

ISTA-Retired has scheduled a lobby day for Feb. 19 (10:30 a.m.—3 p.m. ET). The legislative briefing will begin at 10:30 a.m. on the fourth floor of the ISTA building. A hot lunch will be provided.

Roni Embry
ISTA Public Education Advocacy

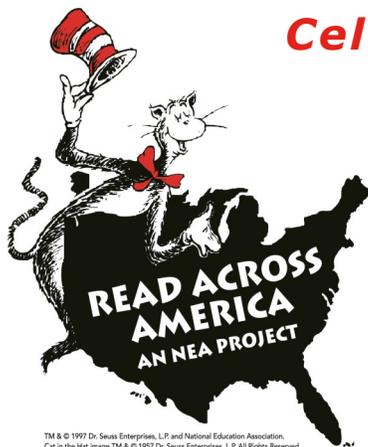
Lake County Chapter Member Shares Successful Trip Itinerary to Maui, Hawaii (departing Dec. 26—returning Jan. 3)

Downloading the app for the guide book Maui Revealed, The Ultimate Guidebook (with an extra cost for real time updates), and using AARP Expedia Travel discounts for hotel and car rental, three friends and I departed for the island of Maui on Dec. 26. Our Delta flight was five hours from Chicago to Seattle with a layover before proceeding on the second leg of our trip for six and a half hours to Maui, arriving at sunset.

We landed at Kahului, which hosts Maui's main airport, and took a one-hour shuttle to the Aston Maui Kaanapali Villas (astonmauikaanapalivillas.com) in West Maui. It was better to reserve Roberts Hawaii Airport Shuttle and then pick-up a reserved rental car two days after our arrival. Free shuttle service was provided to the car rental. Our room was a studio garden view with one king bed, one sofa bed, fully equipped kitchen, daily maid service and beach towels. Bordered by a mile of continuous beaches, the villas included many amenities. A bar and grill on premises between the pool and beach was available for breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a free trolley to shopping, food and drink at Whaler's Village. It was also a 15-minute drive to Plantation Golf Course where a professional event was hosted the first week of January.



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www.nea.org/readacross



Celebrate NEA's Read Across America

NEA's Read Across America has promoted and celebrated reading on March 2 for over 20 years. The Cat in the Hat is a familiar figure in many school programs. But, did you know that your retired chapter can also participate in local reading programs? Contact local association officers to see if they would like your retired chapter to help in organizing events associated with Read Across America. Some school districts will welcome retirees as volunteers to listen to students read. Check with your local library to see if they would let your chapter promote reading events at the library once a month. Each month can focus on a different reading theme. Your chapter can also have book drives to collect books for use in school libraries or to donate to children's wings of local hospitals. Who's in charge of doing this? Talk about it at a chapter meeting and see if there are any volunteers who are interested and go from there.

Al Wolting, Brownsburg, Indiana



Recipe Corner

EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-----|---|
| 2 | medium eggplants (1 1/2 pounds total), cut into 1/4-inch rounds | 1/2 | cup grated Parmesan or Pecorino Romano (2 ounces), divided |
| | coarse salt and pepper | 1 | cup all-purpose flour |
| 2 | cans (28 ounces each) whole peeled tomatoes, pureed | 3 | large eggs, lightly beaten |
| 3 | cloves garlic, smashed and peeled | 1 | cup vegetable oil |
| 1 1/2 | cups plain dried breadcrumbs | 1 | pound of fresh mozzarella, thinly sliced |

In a colander, toss eggplant with 2 teaspoons salt. Let stand 30 minutes. Arrange slices in a single layer on a dish towel and roll up tightly to extract excess water. Meanwhile, in a medium pot bring tomatoes and garlic to a boil, reduce heat and cook at a rapid simmer until thickened, 30 minutes.

In shallow dish combine breadcrumbs and 1/4 cup Parmesan; season with salt and pepper. Put flour and eggs in two more shallow dishes. Coat eggplant in flour, shaking off excess. Dip in egg, letting excess drip off. Coat with breadcrumbs.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large straight-sided skillet, heat oil over medium-high (a few breadcrumbs should sizzle when added). In batches, fry eggplant until golden brown and tender, 2-3 minutes per side. Drain on paper-towel lined baking sheet.

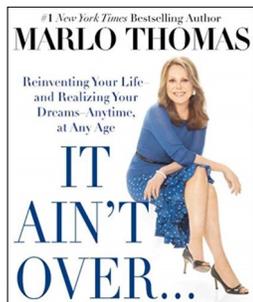
Spread 2 cups tomato sauce in a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Top with half the eggplant, overlapping slices slightly, 2 cups sauce, and half mozzarella. Repeat with remaining eggplant, sauce, and mozzarella, then sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup Parmesan. Bake until sauce is bubbling and cheese is golden, about 30 minutes. Let cool 15 minutes before serving

Servings: 8

Prep: 50 minutes

Total Time: 2 hours

It Ain't Over... Till It's Over: Reinventing Your Life - and Realizing Your Dreams - Anytime, at Any Age by Marlo Thomas



Book Review

This book is made up of several vignettes about women who have reinvented their lives and began realizing their dreams—anytime, at any age. The book is divided into parts labeled *Moments of Truth, Family Ties, Adventures, To Her Own Drummer, Mothers of Invention, Dreamers, Escape, Body Works, Relentless, The Spirit Moved Her, BIZ WIZ and Giving Back*. It won't take much imagination for you to see some of the directions women have taken by reading these titles, and they all did it at a later period in their lives.

If you've ever tried to make a life change, you know how difficult it is to make a drastic switch, step out in faith and figure out a way to have finances for it as well as to continue to care for your family while doing it. This book will introduce you to sixty women who did just that. Some launched a business, some traveled, some went back to school to get a degree and some even escaped danger.

This book is truly inspiring and challenging even though you might not be thinking of making a life change yourself. By reading it, you may find information to help someone else.

Sarah Borgman, Wakarusa, Indiana

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Feb. 8—9 | Southern Advocacy Conference French Lick Conference Center, French Lick |
| Feb. 19 | ISTA-Retired Lobbying Day ISTA, 150 W. Market St., 4th Floor, Indianapolis |
| Feb. 22—23 | Northern Advocacy Conference Holiday Inn, Lafayette |
| March 1—2 | Good Teaching Conference Noblesville Parks & Recreation & Ivy Tech, Noblesville |
| March 14—18 | NEA Summit and Retired Meeting Denver, Colo. |
| April 6 | Outreach to Teach (<i>Register to Volunteer at ista-in.org/O2T</i>) Redkey Elementary School, 500 W. Main St., Redkey |
| April 27 | ISTA Representative Assembly (32 retired delegates) Embassy Suites by Hilton, 13700 Conference Center, Noblesville |

NEA-Retired Grant Funds Cadre Assisting Retired Chapter Organization and Development

The ISTA-Retired Membership Committee met and identified a training cadre to carry out the goals of our NEA-Retired grant. The cadre will focus on the southern part of the state to establish two new chapters with trainings in April and reactivate two chapters with trainings in June and July. We are looking to find previously active ISTA members or soon to be retired members to help establish the new chapters or reactivate the chapters in Dubois, Gibson, Pike, Daviess, Greene, Martin, Dearborn, Franklin, Ripley, Johnson, Morgan, Brown and Monroe counties. If you live in or know someone who lives in one of the counties and is interested in organizing and taking a leadership position, please contact Ginger Calhoun at glc74@embarqmail.com or call 574-892-6491.

Annual and life retired members in the counties will receive an invitation to the training. The letter will have the location and directions to the training. A complete packet of all necessary documents to establish or reactivate a chapter will be distributed. The at-large and area zone coordinator along with cadre members will be available to assist throughout the process.

| <u>Zone Coordinator</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Kathy Parks | Dubois, Gibson, Pike | April 9 | 11:30 a.m. |
| Kathy Parks | Daviess, Greene, Martin | April 10 | 11 a.m. |
| Karen Warble | Dearborn, Franklin, Ripley | June 12 | 11:30 a.m. |
| Roger Sharp | Johnson, Morgan | July 24 | 11 a.m. |
| Roger Sharp | Brown, Monroe | To Be Determined | |

At-Large Coordinator – Al Wolting. Cadre members – Ginger Calhoun, Rod Ellcessor, Jan Hayes, Terry Tafflinger and Steve Tafflinger.

Ginger Calhoun, Membership Committee Chair

Maui trip itinerary (cont'd from page 3)



During our visit, we participated in a 25-mile bike ride down the mountain with Maui Easy Riders (mauieasyriders.com). This memorable ride started on the other side of the island and consisted of a group of six people, plus the lead guide and trailing van. We also enjoyed a five-hour snorkeling trip and whale watching through the Pacific Whale Foundation (pacificwhale.org). Lahaina is the town for shopping and dining, so it is very crowded when passenger ships are in port. We found parking expensive in Lahaina, so Uber was better for short trips.



Dennis and his new island friend

Most departing non-direct flights leave the island at 11 p.m. arriving in the Midwest in the late afternoon of the following day. Visiting Maui this winter was a wonderful way to ring in 2019.

Dennis Keithley, Lowell, Indiana

Retired Member Establishes Fellowship Grant for Harrison County Active Teacher Members

Juan Rodriguez, ISTA-Retired representative to the ISTA Minority Affairs Committee and member of the ISTA-Retired State Council, and his wife Rudee have established the Juan J. and Rudee Rodriguez Teacher Travel Fellowship Fund to provide grants to active teachers in the Harrison County school district who may travel to countries outside the U.S. to enhance their teaching materials. Marjie Vertrees, a \$3,000 recipient of this fellowship grant, traveled to Australia where she was able to bring back knowledge and cultural artifacts to use in her classroom. Vertrees said that every day she brings up something about where she went, or what she saw. She has shown many pictures to her students. It was overwhelming to her that she was granted this money from people she had never met. In addition, her class became pen pals with the Tinkers, a couple from Australia whom the Vertreeses had met six years before while on a trip to Paris. Through these correspondences, her students learned much about Australia via books and materials sent to them by the Tinkers. The two couples were able to meet in Australia during the trip. Vertrees said that she could not express how wonderful a place it was to visit whose residents were amazing. She stated that it is important for students to know that there is more to the world than Harrison County or Louisville.



Norm and Judi Tinker (left) with Marjie and Ian Vertrees in Australia

Eligible applicants for this grant must be certified educators teaching full time in a Harrison County public school and must be a member of ISTA with at least three years of teaching experience. The grant money may be used for transportation, lodging and meals as well as to purchase artifacts and teaching materials to use in the classroom. The intent of the fund is to enable teachers to explore and experience other cultures with a strong preference given to inland Latin American, Asian, or non-Western European areas. ISTA-Retired wishes to thank Juan and his wife for their generosity in establishing this fund.

You have a story to tell!

Think of all those things that happened in the classroom when you were teaching. Share some unforgettable memories with **everyone**. Send your stories to: **Jan Hayes, The Chalkboard Editor, 8240 N 700 E, Hamlet, IN 46532, hayesjt2012@gmail.com**

2019 ISTA-Retired Elections Underway

In February you will receive election ballots for the following ISTA-Retired positions: ISTA Board member, ISTA Governance and Minority Affairs Standing Committee members, Zone 1 and Zone 4 Coordinators and Alternate Delegates to the ISTA RA.

Your voice is important. Be sure to cast your vote!

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.

FEBRUARY 2019

- 6 11 a.m., 1-B Retired, St. Paul Catholic Church, 1855 Harrison Road, Valparaiso, Presentation and demonstration about the history of the three organs used at St. Paul Church, Music Director Dr. Stephen Schurr, 12:30 p.m. Lunch and Meeting at Pesto's Italian Restaurant, 3123 Calumet Valparaiso, 219-464-9466
- 12 11 a.m., CHMT, Legislative Review, Heidi Miller, Dutch Café, 765-469-2298
- 19 10:30 a.m., Blue River-East Central-Falls of the Ohio-Greater Indianapolis, ISTA, 150 W. Market St., 4th Floor, Indianapolis—Retired Lobby Day
- 19 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph County, Southfield Village, South Bend, "Elder Care Issues" presentation by Real Services/Protective Service, Lunch cost - \$10, RSVP to Jerry Ervin 574-231-1924 or jervin007@gmail.com by Feb. 12, 2019
- 20 1 p.m., Warrick County, Touring Warrick County Museum then easting at a local restaurant after the tour, 812-853-2136
- 26 11:30 a.m., Vanderburgh County, ISTA/NEA Building, tour at Evansville African American Museum, 579 Garvin St., Evansville, 812-598-1418
8 a.m., Elkhart County, "Discussion Maker—Legislators", local will be represented at each Goshen Chamber of Commerce Third House meeting, contact Judy Briganti for details by cell/text at 574-304-1062 or email jabriganti@aol.com, home phone 574-862-1575. Meetings held at Goshen Chamber of Commerce, 232 South Main St., Goshen

MARCH 2019

- 12 Time-TBA, Hamilton County, Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, 317-877-6000
- 13 10:30 a.m., 1-B Retired, Aftermath Cidery & Winery, 15 Washington St., Valparaiso, 12 p.m. Lunch and Meeting at Olga's Place, 22 Washington St., Valparaiso, 219-464-9466
- 14 12 p.m., Allen County, Salvatori's, 10337 Illinois Road, Ft. Wayne, Zone 1 Coordinator Jerry Ervin will present program on woodworking, 260-602-7174
- 19 10 a.m., East Central, "Read Across America" and "What Middletown Reads", genealogy presentation, Muncie Carnegie Library, 301 E. Jackson St., Muncie, 765-748-9801
- 19 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph County, Southfield Village, "Scams and Cheats" program presented by Better Business Bureau, Lunch cost—\$10, RSVP to Jerry Ervin 574-231-1924 or email jrervin007@gmail.com by March 12, 2019
- 21 11:30 a.m., 1-F Retired, REMC building, 11299 12th Road, Plymouth, Woodcarving demonstration, Jerry Ervin, Zone 1 Coordinator and St. Joseph County Chapter President (accomplished woodcarver who has produced amazing pieces), Lunch provided-cost\$10, RSVP by March 6 to Ginger Calhoun 574-952-6491 or Jan Hayes 574-292-6624
- 21 11:30 a.m., Sullivan County, Acorn Grill, 218 1/2 Section St., Sullivan (parking at back of the laundromat), Topic—"Seeing an Art Program First Hand", Shayla Fish, Sullivan High School art teacher, will provide a first hand look at the art program offered to students, Trip to Sullivan High School planned after the meal and business meeting, 812-243-0609

April 2019

- 1 11 a.m., Blue River, Columbus Pump House, 138 Lindsay St., Columbus, Program-Gardening by Jack, 812-593-4546
- 1 12 p.m., Posey County, Trinity Church of Christ, Susan Draper to speak about the CASA Program, 812-401-6423
- 3 Time-TBA, Greater Indianapolis, Dawson's on Main Street, 1464 Main St., Speedway, Program-Indy Car Expert Donald Davidson, Lunch-order off menu, 317-257-4737
- 10 5:30 p.m., CHMT, Local ISTA President's Review, Richard's, Kokomo, 765-469-2298
- 11 10:30 a.m., Wabash Valley, Tippecanoe County Public Library, 627 South St., Lafayette, "The Latest in Technology" by Mark McQuinn of Best Buy (Back by popular demand, we have invited Mark for another update of the newest electronics. Intrigued by Mark's wealth of knowledge, we asked him back to share his expertise. This should prove to be a very informative and interesting presentation.) Short meeting follows at library before lunch at DT Kirby's 644 Main St., Lafayette, 765-447-4390
- 11 2 p.m., Elkhart County, "Discovering Joy on a Table Top" at the home of Jim and Mary Rasp, 3994 E. Jackson Blvd., Elkhart, Optional-Bring your own favorite beverage, snack and table game, 574-862-1575
- 16 10 a.m., Falls of the Ohio, Zimmerman's Art Glass, 300 E. Chestnut, Corydon, Lunch at 12 p.m.-Fredrick's Café, 400 N. Capitol, Corydon, 502-636-3257
- 16 11:30 a.m., East Central, Kennedy Public Library, McGalliard Ave., Muncie, Program-"Elder Law, Updates on Wills, End of Life Documentation, etc.", Attorney Leslie Mathewson, ISTA Attorney Referral Program, 748-765-9801
- 16 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph County, Southfield Village, South Bend, "Safety Issues for Elders", Lunch cost-\$10, RSVP to Jerry Ervin 574-231-1924 or email jrervin007@gmail.com by April 9, 2019
- 17 9:30 a.m., Warrick County, Touring the Toyota Plant, Meet at 9:30 a.m., 812-853-2136
- 18 11:30 a.m., Lake County, Innsbrook Country Club, 6701 Taft St., Merrillville, Topic-Guest speaker-Elder Law Attorney, 219-794-4672
- 23 11:30 a.m., Vanderburgh County, Angelo's Italian Restaurant, 305 Main St., Tour following at Reitz Home Museum, 112 Chestnut St., Evansville, 812-598-1418

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