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The Chalkboard

The Official Newsletter of the ISTA-Retired

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February/March 2021

The Retired Legislative Committee Needs You

The 2020 elections have come and gone in Indiana with you as ISTA-Retired advocates working to elect friends of public education. Your retired legislative committee was working along with you writing postcards, phone banking, etc. and now we have a new focus: lobbying state legislators. ISTA-Retired is participating in briefings for retired members to impact the coming session — when the budget will be written and laws passed. Join the briefings and make the most of the early weeks of

2021 to urge action to benefit our active colleagues and secure our cost-of-living adjustment, even during COVID-19.

Please go online to the ISTA website, ista-in.org, in the next few days to find out how you can join the army of advocates lobbying without traveling to Indianapolis to make a difference for Indiana's students and active members as well as retired educators. Your voice matters in this campaign and our shared future.

How to Contact Your Legislator

Call Your Legislator

Contact the House and Senate by phone at 800-382-9841 (House) and 800-382-9467 (Senate).

- The switchboard will direct you to the legislative assistant of your legislator.
- Leave a message that specifies the bill(s) and your position and ask your legislator to call you back.
- Don't be discouraged if you do not receive a call back. The number of contacts made on a particular bill are tracked by their assistants. That helps them understand what bills have community concern.

What to Say

- Identify yourself by name.
- Explain why you are calling: "I am calling to support/oppose HB ___/SB ___."
- Be polite and concise. Developing one or two brief talking points will focus the content of your message. Too much information may confuse your message.
- Ask your legislator his/her position on this issue. Don't assume that your legislator has prior knowledge of your issue. Be calm and respectful, and be prepared to educate, using local examples to accentuate your point. If the legislator requires further information, provide it as soon as possible.
- Thank your legislator or the person who took your message for their time and consideration.

IMPORTANT RETIRED AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION DEADLINES:

⇒ March 1, 2021 — David Hannah Golden Touch Award

⇒ April 1, 2021 — ISTA Foundation Retired Scholarships

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

From the Chair



Rod Ellcessor, ISTA-Retired State Chair

President Biden has named Dr. Miguel Cardona as the U.S. Secretary of Education nominee. Dr. Cardona has vast public education experience serving as an elementary teacher, principal, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning for the city of Meriden, Connecticut, and the Commissioner of Education for Connecticut. In his introduction Dr.

Cardona gave us a vision of dedication to public educators, public school children and public education.

President Biden has goals of providing two free years of community college or other training programs and cutting student loan obligations garnered by the younger members of our Association. And, best of all, Biden's wife, Dr. Jill Biden, has been a teacher for over 30 years.

The Retired Legislative Committee members are working toward a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase during this year's legislative session. Because of COVID-19, everything is virtual this year during the session. Therefore, we have been calling on all retirees to contact their legislators to explain that we have not had an increase in our pensions since 2009! Each of the chapter presidents and members of the State Council have received information to share with our members. If you are not a member of a chapter, please consider joining to get involved as we write postcards, emails and notes to our representatives in the governing bodies. I want to thank the chapter members who worked hard in the November election for our I-PACE endorsed candidates. Retired members were responsible for writing over 14,000 postcards. I am proud to represent you all as we continue to carry ISTA's goal of making public education in Indiana the best in the USA.



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

The NEA Discount Marketplace enables members to **earn cash back** when they shop and save on brand-name merchandise from over 2,500 top retailers and online stores. Check out the member-exclusive deals at neamb.com/marketplace.

If you don't find the retailer you looking for, simply search by entering the store name in the search box on the NEA Discount Marketplace page.

Retired Life Dues Reduction

ISTA/NEA offers the ability for members to purchase a pre-retired life subscription while they are still teaching. Over the years, many educators have taken advantage of the opportunity to get their life membership as a pre-retired life subscription and have enjoyed the continued benefits of NEA and ISTA membership after they retired. Unfortunately, many teachers do not take advantage of getting their retired life membership until they retire. Also, in the past few years, many districts have been hit with higher medical insurance costs and low salary increases. As a result, the number of pre-retired life subscriptions has declined dramatically.

Concerned about the low numbers of new pre-retired life subscriptions, the ISTA-Retired Statewide District Council voted to offer a special retired life dues reduction. For a limited time, the ISTA/NEA retired life dues have been reduced to the lower one-time cost of \$340. This is a savings of \$300! The Retired Communications Committee

Racial and Social Justice

In an era when we see so much racial unrest and social injustice abound, it comes as no surprise that NEA and ISTA have taken the lead to put an end to such practices and to attempt to educate our own members on these issues. Education and training are powerful. As advocates for change, it is our desire as educators and leaders to engage and mobilize educators and activists in the fight for racial, social and economic justice in public education.

Receiving an education is a civil right and any student who does not feel safe coming to school is being denied their civil right. We need to dismantle systems of oppression that prevent students from acquiring a great public education because of race, gender, sexual orientation, culture or nationality. As educators, whether active or retired, it is our responsibility to help meet the needs of all. To say this is just a movement whose time will pass is to deny racial and social justice to those in need, our students and their communities.

has developed flyers and postcards to inform active members of this special offer. These announcements were distributed in the fall and the results have shown a positive response in new pre-retired life subscribers. It is hoped that our retired members will encourage active members to take advantage of this offer and get their ISTA/NEA pre-retired life subscription while they are still working. When they retire, their membership in ISTA/NEA will continue uninterrupted as a retired life member. This offer is available for the 2020 – 21 membership year and has been extended through the 2021 – 22 membership year. For more information, interested ISTA members can go online to the ISTA website, ista-in.org/retired, or call the ISTA Member Resource Center at 844-ASK-ISTA (275-4782).



NEA and ISTA have developed activities to help support the Black Lives Matter, Ending School to Prison Pipeline and Creating Safe Schools. All these programs and means of support can be found on nea.org. Perhaps your retired chapter would like to educate your members and or support these programs in some manner. ISTA can provide you with specific training upon request.

NEA and ISTA also support community work with its allies in coming together to support those who are most frequently harassed and bullied. We support LGBTQ youth, protect America's Dreamers, support curriculums that include ethnic studies and help stop the use of offensive mascots.

As educators, we all need to examine personal prejudices and to support our unions' programs to rid our America of racial and social injustices.

Sarah Borgman, Wakarusa, Indiana

Retired Membership Committee

Members of the Retired Membership Committee are planning to present virtual presentations between April and June to targeted areas in the state. Committee members and speakers will present the benefits of belonging to ISTA-Retired. Because of COVID-19, the balance of the 2019 – 20 NEA membership grant remains available for

membership expenditures this year. Annual retired members as well as active members were reminded by mail to take advantage of the lifetime reduced dues.

*Ginger Calhoun, Chair
Retired Membership Committee*



Recipe Corner

HAM LOAF

(GREAT AT ANY HOLIDAY/FAMILY OCCASION)

Have butcher shop grind and mix together 1½ lbs. of ham and 1 lb. of lean pork.

FILLER — In a large bowl, mix 1½ cups of cracker crumbs, 2 or 3 eggs, 1¼ cups of milk, and add celery seed, sage & dill weed seed to taste.

Squish meat and filler ingredients together and form 2 or more loaves. Place in baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for 1½ hours.

GLAZE — Mix at least 3 tablespoons brown sugar, 4 teaspoons mustard, and 10 tablespoons crushed pineapple.

Baste loaves with glaze during the last 30 minutes of baking.

Dennis Keithley, Lowell, Indiana

CRANBERRY SALAD

4 cups hot water

½ -1 lb. cranberries, clean and add to 4 cups of hot water. Cook until berries pop open. Run berries through colander. Place berries on low heat.

Add 1 cup sugar, 2 small boxes or 1 large box cherry jello, stir until dissolved.

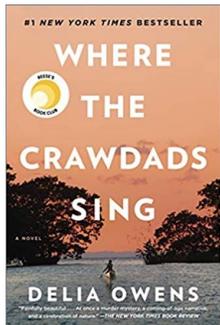
Add 10 large marshmallows or 2 cups miniatures.

Let melt a little. Pour into 9" x 13" glass baking dish. Chill.

Serves 12-15. This is a good holiday salad.

*Jane Daugherty
Northwestern CEA*

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens



Book Review

It's been awhile since I've read a book that captured my attention right from the start and kept it till the last page! This one does. Kya, the Marsh Girl, is different to say the least and rumors have surrounded her family for years. An abusive husband/father causes Kya's mom to abandon the family. The older children leave too, leaving one brother who also soon leaves. Surprise, the father eventually leaves Kya, too, to fend on her own at a very young age. Her love for nature is what sustains her. One day a young boy reaches out to her as school is no place for her with all the teasing and tormenting.

Eventually he teaches Kya how to read and continues to encourage her to keep up her artwork of nature's wonders. They fall in love, but he sees the great divide in their social lives so eventually he leaves her to get a college education. Kya is devastated. She then is wooed by the most popular boy in the area, but when he is found dead at the base of a fire tower, she becomes the suspect. She is tried but found innocent. The longtime friend returns, woos her again and they marry. It is not till the last pages the reader has all the answers to missing pieces along the way. I highly recommend this book!

Sarah Borgman, Wakarusa, Indiana

NEA Fund for Children and Public Education

The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education is vital for ensuring that our members' voices are heard when it comes to electing friends of public education at the national level. No member dues dollars can be used in the political arena. Only voluntary donations can be used which are critical in the fight for our public education members and their students. This past election cycle, these donations were used in many ways, one of which was to educate members on the political platforms of the candidates. For more information go to - neafund.org.

New Scam-Reporting Website

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has launched a new website designed to make it easier for people to report potential frauds to federal authorities and get quick advice on what to do.

The new site, ReportFraud.ftc.gov, has a feature that prompts those reporting a fraud to the "next steps" that will offer specific guidance based on the kind of scam reported. It went online in October 2020, the same month the FTC issued its report to Congress on the scams that ensnared people 60 or older in 2019.

According to the FTC, romance scams were by far the costliest to older Americans, causing nearly \$84 million in financial losses last year. These scams usually begin with a social media contact and eventually lead to a deceitful request for money.

Social Security Pay Bump

Small Increase for most beneficiaries in 2021.

How Much Will My Check Increase?

What an average Social Security check will be in 2021.

- **Retired Worker:** \$1,543 (+\$20 from 2020)
- **Retired Couple:** \$2,596 (+\$33)
- **Widow or Widower:** \$1,453 (+\$19)
- **Widow with two kids:** \$3,001 (+\$39)
- **Disabled worker:** \$1,277 (+\$16)
- **Disabled worker with spouse, kids:** \$2,224 (+\$29)
- **Supplemental Security Income for Individual:** \$709 (+\$11)

Source: Social Security Administration

ISTA-RETIRED ZONE 3 COORDINATOR AND ZONE 6 COORDINATOR ELECTION PROCEDURES

Below are the three-year term election procedures for the Zone 3 Coordinator and Zone 6 Coordinator effective 8/1/2021 — 7/31/2024. 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 3 Coordinator and Zone 6 Coordinator (terms stated above and below).
2. Only ISTA-Retired members residing in Zone 3 and Zone 6, who have retired from their education positions and whose membership forms have been processed by ISTA by December 2020, are eligible for nomination of the open positions listed above at their respective March 2021 meetings.
3. The **Retired Petition for Nominations** and the **Election Procedures for 8/2/2021 — 7/31/2024 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 ET, February 15, 2021, or hand-delivered no later than 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, 2021**, 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 3 and Zone 6 meetings in March 2021.
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 3 Coordinator and Zone 6 Coordinator **shall be conducted at the respective Zone 3 and Zone 6 meetings in March 2021.** 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 2021 Zone 3 meeting and Zone 6 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 3 and Zone 6 Coordinator elections to be conducted at their respective March 2021 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 shall be counted.
9. The ballots shall be impounded by ISTA for two (2) years.

(ELECTION PROCEDURES CONTINUED)

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, 2021**.
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 3 Coordinator and Zone 6 Coordinator Candidates 2021 – 24

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

- ISTA-Retired Zone 3 Coordinator
- ISTA-Retired Zone 6 Coordinator

NOTE: Only ISTA-Retired members residing in selected zone are eligible to participate.

Candidate Information (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 ET February 15, 2021, 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

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: To participate in the virtual meetings, members must email the chapter contact listed below and request to participate. They will then receive an email invitation with a link and instructions for joining the Zoom meeting. All times local.

FEBRUARY 2021

16 10 a.m., St. Joe County, Virtual (Zoom) Meeting, Program - Report on Legislation, Email chapter contact Jerry Ervin, jrervin007@gmail.com, your request to participate, (574) 231-1924

MARCH 2021

9 5 p.m., Hamilton County, Virtual (Zoom) Meeting, Email chapter contact Roger Sharp, rsharp2921@aol.com, your request to participate, (317) 877-6000

APRIL 2021

- 1 11 a.m., 1-F Retired, lunch on your own at Mad Anthony's Restaurant, 113 E. Center St., Warsaw. (Masks and Social Distancing will be observed.), (574) 892-6491
- 5 12 p.m., Posey County, Trinity United Church of Christ, Hans Schmitz "Agriculture Is Changing in Posey County and Why", (Tentative) (Masks and Social Distancing will be observed.), (812) 401-6423
- 7 11 a.m., Greater Indianapolis, Virtual (Zoom) Meeting, Nominations for officers for 2021-2023: Vice President, Board Member at Large, Program - George Srour of Building Tomorrow-non-profit organization bringing access to inclusive, transformative education to children in East Africa, Email chapter contact Al Wolting, alwolting@hotmail.com, your request to participate, (317) 456-4036
- 9 10:30 a.m., Wabash Valley Chapter, Virtual (Zoom) Meeting, Email chapter contact Jeanna Jones, jmjones500@aol.com, your request to participate, 765-447-4390
- 15 2 p.m., Lake County, Virtual (Zoom) Meeting, Email chapter contact Dennis Keithley, dkiu@aol.com, your request to participate, (219) 794-4672
- 20 10 a.m., St. Joe County, Virtual (Zoom) meeting, Program – Legislative Wrap-Up, Email chapter contact Jerry Ervin, jrervin007@gmail.com, your request to participate, (574) 231-1924

You have a story to tell!

In retirement, you continue to shine with hidden talents, hobbies and contributions to your communities. Please share with **everyone**.

Send your stories to: **Jan Hayes, The Chalkboard Editor, 8240 N 700 E, Hamlet, IN 46532, hayesjt2012@gmail.com.**