



AARTA

Reader

January 2013

Aurora Area Retired Teachers' Association

Over 50 years of working for retired teachers in Kane County to . . .

- * use our influence for the passage of favorable legislation in Springfield, Illinois and Washington, D. C.
- * improve our communication channels for more effective member participation
- * keep our membership informed of current Teachers' Retirement System changes

CONCERNING PENSIONS

On Wednesday night, January 2, many retired and active teachers met in the East Aurora Arlene Hawks Auditorium at the invitation of the Northern Illinois Jobs With Justice Coalition led by John Laesch; and State Representatives Linda Chapa LaVia and Elaine Nekritz (sponsor of the Pension Bill). The purpose was to get input from the teachers on HB 6255 and SB 1673.

Many pointed out that the State of Illinois has a revenue crisis rather than pension crisis. Possible solutions presented to the Representatives were:

1. Replace the flat tax in Illinois with a graduated income tax (the burden on taxpayers would be fairer)
2. Close several loopholes on corporations.
3. Place a transaction tax on investments in the Commodities Exchange. A \$1.00 tax on each transaction on the buyer and the seller. It was stated that this would raise \$6 billion for the state of Illinois.

Most urged rejection of any pension bill that places the burden on retirees and active teachers.

President's Message



I am always amazed at the depth and breadth of the members in AARTA! Although I sometimes wonder why I should be amazed. I am fully aware that a successful career in education requires strength, intelligence, caring attitudes, creative abilities, and all the other attributes we in education have had to develop over our careers.

These are the skills our members bring to our organization, and a major goal of AARTA is to help channel those skills for use in our community. Just since the start of our year in October, we have been presented with many opportunities for service. At our December luncheon, we had representatives from Kiwanis and CASA. These organizations do important work in the community and always are in need of volunteers to provide much needed services.

At present our board is working on a project to reach out to schools and provide vital supplies for the needs of the children. At our February luncheon, we will be presented with another opportunity for service from the Aurora Area Literacy project. Our Warm Fuzzies project is an ongoing outreach that has provided blankets to area agencies over the years.

There are certainly others, but we hope our members will become involved in some way to use those tremendous talents that we all possess. Looking forward to greeting each of you at our next meeting on February 5!

Ron Nickerson





Warm Fuzzies

This is the ninth year that we will be making lap blankets for area senior centers. In the last two years alone, we have given away over 100 items. Please join us in this important community outreach program.

Blankets:

- **may be made of any washable material**
- **may be tied, knitted, crocheted or quilted**
- **should be approximately 30-36 inches wide and 36-48 inches long**
- **will be collected and distributed June 4, 2013**

Directions for tied fleece blankets will be available at each of our luncheon meetings.

Bill Spence, who has been an active and influential member of AARTA for many years, has resigned from his position as our public relations person. We are looking for another member to take on this responsibility. We do many exciting things and like to let people know about us. Contact Ron Nickerson (630-466-9846) if you are able to help in this way.

There will be more about Bill and his many contributions to AARTA and IRTA in the next edition of *The Reader*.

*Join IRTA for just
\$2.00 a month.*

*Contact the IRTA at
www.irtaonline.org.*

By joining IRTA you are able to connect with VoterVoice which keeps you informed of legislative issues and allows you to easily contact your legislators.



A.S.K.

(AARTA Supporting Kids)

Please join us in an exciting new community outreach program that is being sponsored by AARTA.

At our February lunch, we will be collecting items for students at McCleery School in West Aurora, District 129. The teachers would like boxes of **24 Crayola Crayons** for the primary students and **sharpened #2 pencils** for the intermediate students. These are available at Target and other stores.

We are planning to collect supplies for a school in East Aurora at our April lunch and other area school districts in the future.

We hope you will be able to help us in make a positive difference for students in our area and introduce AARTA to active teachers and the community.



Scholarship Fund

At its January meeting, the AARTA Board voted to raise the amount of our yearly scholarship to \$1500 and to contribute an additional \$1500 to our scholarship endowment fund. As of January 1, we had \$4,285 in our endowment fund. This extra donation will bring us much closer to our goal of \$10,000.

Individual tax-deductible donations may be made to our fund at any time. This is a wonderful way to recognize and honor fellow retirees. Community Foundation envelopes are available on the information table at each of our lunch meetings. You may also go to the foundation website (CommunityFoundationFRV.org) to find a donation form to print out or to make a donation online.

REMINDER:

At our last luncheon meeting we were presented with an opportunity to form a group membership at the Vaughn Center. This offers a greatly reduced cost for the activities at the Center. This opportunity is available to members as well as family and friends of members. We need 21 to sign up to make this a go. At present we have only 12 signed up. This is open to all even if you currently belong to the Vaughn Center. Please contact Ron Nickerson if you have any questions. (ronnickerson@mchsi.com, 630-466-9846)

HEALTH NOTES from FAY WILSON

My New Year's Resolutions for 2013

May flowers always line your path and sunshine light your day. May songbirds serenade your every step along the way. May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that's always blue. And may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.

-Old Irish Blessing

After reading this Irish Blessing I knew what my 2013 New Year's resolutions would be. Include them with yours.

1. Be THANKFUL for who I am. I am a person retired from a life in education. The job involved countless things. I want to believe I contributed to many young people's lives. I want to believe I provided some knowledge, some interest and personal attention, and some cheer. With all things considered, it was a beautiful life!
2. Be THANKFUL for what I have. I have miraculous family members, friends, volunteer opportunities, political action freedoms, doctors, and a vibrant faith and home church. I am blessed to give and receive love all the time. With all things considered, IT IS a beautiful life!
3. Be THANKFUL for the beauty in every day and/or put beauty in every day. There is beauty in waking up with the earth at daybreak (then snuggle back to sleep, retiree), our flag snapping in the breeze, a phone call to or from someone, a new pair of shoes, that special, coveted sweet treat, kind words to a neighbor, just a single flower, hearing a pretty melody, or in seeing a stranger out walking his/her dog. Almost anything and everything can offer beauty even in the smallest way. I like quotes from authors, politicians, newspaper headline stories, 60 Minutes TV Programs, poets, and the Bible, to name a few. My favorite quotes are about hope, laughter and anything positive in the world. One quote that comes to mind is found in Philippians 4:8, from the Bible: "...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely...think about such things." With all things considered, we can create our own beautiful day!
4. Be THANKFUL for my ability to follow these resolutions. Physicians and scientific studies report that people with positive, beautiful outlooks on life are in better physical and emotional shape.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

P.S. My fellow AARTA Resolution Makers, "...sometimes life squeezes out the best of us." (Charlie Rose, 60 Minutes segment January 6, 2013). May we let it be so!

In Remembrance

Jim Pittman, June 5, 1930 -

December 2, 2012, was a teacher and coach in West Aurora for over 34 years.

Janice Vernol, December 18,

2012 was a kindergarten teacher in Hinsdale and Aurora.

Susan Paddock, September 9,

1949 - January 2, 2013, taught science at Jefferson Middle School in Aurora until her retirement in 2006.

Wilma Fitzpatrick, September

16, 1937- January 7, 2013, was a speech teacher in West Aurora for forty years.

If you know of the death of anyone who has ever been a member of AARTA, please contact Barb Zillgitt (barbzillgitt@earthlink.net or 630-896-2451).

AARTA remembers each of these members with a \$15 donation to the IRTA Foundation and with contributions to our scholarship fund with the Community Foundation.

Grasp your opportunities, no matter how poor your health; nothing is worse for your health than boredom.

Mignon McLaughlin



It's not too late to get a flu shot!

Happy Birthday!



January

Lorna Morrison	1
Margaret Hardy	2
Frank Babich	4
Elizabeth Moore	5
Fay Wilson	11
Marilyn Hagler	14
Mary Jane McFee	16
Peggy Hawse	19
Gloria Goodin	25
M. C. Byrd	28
Laurel Haase	28
Dick Paul	29

February

Jean O'Brien	2
Gloria Byrd	5
Beverly King	6
Florence Johnson	22
Al Johnson	23
Anne Langan	23
Angie McGehee	23
Jerry Lubshina	24
Wilma Wolfe	25
Lloyd Gannegan	27
Linda Porter	27

March

Margaret Nickerson	1
Mary Jaeger	5
Sue Darby	9
James R. Morris	9
Velda Fisher	12
Ann Luker	12
Bobbi O'Meara	13
Charlene Haley	19
Linda Rohr	21
Shirley McNight	22
Bill Wallbaum	23
Kathy Hanson	24
Kathy DeTolve	24
Patricia Hogan	29

If you would like to have your birthday listed in The Reader, send your information to aurorartdtchrs@hotmail.com or contact Barb Zillgitt at 630-896-2451.

Chicago Wolves vs. Milwaukee

(AHL Hockey League)

WHEN: Saturday, March 9, 2013

WHERE: All State Arena, Rosemont

GAME TIME: 7:00 p.m.

COST: \$35/person (School bus to keep cost low)

DEPARTURE TIME: 5:00 p.m. East High Lot Door #15

PROMOTION: Everyone gets a Wolves Hat; pools and prizes on bus

REFRESHMENTS: Bring own drinks (alcohol allowed)



SPONSORED BY: **Dick's Mini Donuts, LLC**

**Deadline - Monday, February 18, 2013*

WOLVES vs. Milwaukee

Name _____ # Tickets _____

Phone # _____ Amount Paid _____

Send checks payable to: Dick Schindel, 784 Morningside, Aurora, IL 60505

Any questions 630-921-1307

Deadline is Monday, February 18, 2013

Information about the Cubs and Sox baseball trips will be in the next newsletter.



Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average which means, you have met your New Year's resolution. *Jay Leno*

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions! *Joey Adams*

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. *Anonymous*

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas. *Anonymous*



Drury Lane



Lunch dates for 2013

- February 5
- April 2
- June 4
- October 1
- December 3

Remember —
Our lunch meetings
begin at 12:00 noon.



Get a Ride — Give a Ride

If you need a ride to the AARTA lunches, we may be able to help you. Call Meg Safarik, 630-896-7274, who may be able to match you with a driver.

If you are able to provide a ride for someone or would be willing to coordinate rides, let Meg know. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



December Lunch





Go-to People

If you need to contact someone from the AARTA to share information or solve a problem, here are the people that can help:

Change of address: Sue Fitzsimons, 630.896.7419

Change of email address: Meg Safarik, 630.896.7274

Legislation: Jerry Lubshina, 630.896.0029, or Linda Allison, 630.355.0690

Lunch reservations: Ann Luker, 630.466.4705, or Joanne Hughes, 630.292.4416

Membership questions: Sue Fitzsimons, 630.896.7419

For a **membership form**, contact Sue or go to our website:

www.auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org

Missing Readers: email: Meg Safarik, 630.896.7274; US mail: Barb Zillgitt, 630-896-2451.

Newsletter items, Warm Fuzzies, scholarship fund: Barb Zillgitt, 630.896.2451; barbzillgitt@earthlink.net

Programs: Arlene Hawks, 630.986.6001; Dick Schindel, 630.898.1307

You may also contact us by email at aurorartdtchrs@hotmail.com.

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Every time you buy something or recycle ink cartridges at **Office Depot**, anywhere in the country, you can help lower printing costs for AARTA. Since August, we have saved over \$120 in printing costs by using coupons and our reward cards.

Just let the clerk know our account number which is listed above. We will get money back—and it's all legal.

Thank you for your help.

Minutes from Our Last General Meeting

AARTA Luncheon Meeting, December 4, 2012

Gaslite Manor

President Ron Nickerson welcomed us and the meeting began at approximately 11:30 A.M. We said the Pledge of Allegiance, sang “God Bless America.” and Arlene Hawks gave the “Thought for the Day.”

Hayden Hawes from the Fox Valley Park District spoke about a reduced rate group membership opportunity at the Vaughn Center. He was available after the meeting to take questions and issue forms. Maureen Granger talked about Kiwanis and what this organization does. Arlene introduced Deb from CASA who spoke about this group. These are both wonderful areas of service for our membership.

Our December program was the Batavia High School Chamber Singers, and we all enjoyed a delightful program by them.

Ron asked for a volunteer to be a scholarship winner liaison. Maureen Granger volunteered to be that person — thank you Maureen! It was reported that we have close to 400 members and \$8017 in our treasury. Half of our raffle proceeds goes to the Community Foundation.

Jerry Lubshina reported on the pension crisis and that we should all keep vigilant about it. Sue Fitzsimons offered to help anyone with VoterVoice.

Pam Colwell and Yvonne Hollingsworth introduced eight new members. Arlene Hawks asked members if they would prefer to attend either *Sunset Boulevard* or *Oliver* at Drury Lane. A majority preferred *Sunset Boulevard* playing January 24 - March 24. Arlene gave a “plug” for Aurora’s Paramount productions. Dick Schindel reported that we will sponsor a June 10th Sox game and a June 27th Cubs game with the possibility of a Wolves hockey game. Sue Fitzsimons said that December 31 is the deadline for names in the directory.

Sue would like to know whether members would prefer to get the *Reader* through e-mail or “snail” mail. Ron reported the recent sad news of Jim Pittman’s death. Meg Safarik gave a plug for our website. We concluded with the 50/50 raffle.

Respectfully submitted.

Margaret Nickerson, Secretary



Visit our website and make it one of your favorites!

www.auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org



AARTA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President: *Ron Nickerson*

Secretary: *Margaret Nickerson*

Treasurer: *Meg Safarik*

Immediate Past President: *Maureen Granger*

Foundation Services & Welfare: *Kirk Harding*

Health Information & Protective Services:
Fay Wilson

Legislative: *Linda Allison, Jerry Lubshina*

Member Benefits: *Marlin Mittag*

Membership: *Sue Fitzsimons, Tom Griffith*

Newsletter: *Barb Zillgitt*

Program: *Arlene Hawks, Dick Schindel*

Public Relations:

Retirement Education: *Yvonne Hollingsworth,
Pamela Colwell*

Sunshine: *Dorothy Ellis*

Directory: *Dennis Erford, Tom Griffith*

Reservations: *Ann Luker, Joanne Hughes*

Scholarship Liaison: *Maureen Granger*

Board meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November at Jennings Terrace, 275 S. LaSalle, Aurora.

General luncheon meetings are at 12:00 on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, October and December at Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora.

Newsletter items are due by noon on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November. Send them to barbzillgitt@earthlink.net.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Program: **Sweet Decorating — Cupcake Style**

Where: **Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora**

When: **Tuesday, February 5, 12:00**

Price: **\$15.00**

Reservation due date: **Friday, January 25**



Last name that begins with the letter A through L -

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Joanne Hughes, 243 S. Randall Road, Aurora, IL 60506**

Last name that begins with M through Z -

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Ann Luker, 1978 Fay's Lane, Sugar Grove, IL 60554**

Number of reservations _____

Number of VEGETARIAN MEALS _____

Name _____

\$15.00

Name _____

\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Sweet Decorating — Cupcake Style



Bring your sweet tooth — and a guest — to our lunch on February 5. We will be learning about creating and decorating an American favorite — the yummy cupcake — from “Mr. Cakery” of The Cakery in North Aurora. Also remember to bring boxes of 24 Crayola Crayons and pre-sharpened #2 yellow pencils for McCleery School.
(See article about A.S.K. inside)

Menu

Salad w/assorted dressings
Rolls/Butter
Chicken Alfredo
Broccoli
CUPCAKES!