



AARTA

Reader

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

2013 Unit Honoree



Meg Safarik has been chosen by the AARTA Board as our 2013 honoree of the year. She will be recognized at the IRTA Convention in October. Those of us who work with Meg on

the board know that she is much more than our treasurer.

Meg designed and manages our wonderful website. She keeps all of our members "in the loop" with informative emails and sends *The Reader* by email as well. You are certain to see Meg and her camera at our lunches where she takes most of the pictures you see in the newsletter. She works with Arlene Hawks on programs and decorations. She works with Sue Fitzsimons on membership files, and is a proofreader for *The Reader*.

As you can see, Meg is an important part of AARTA and well deserving of this honor. We are indeed fortunate to have her on our board!

Join AARTA for 2014!
Watch for membership forms in the mail or find one on our website.
Invite a friend to join.

President's Message

Summer ends and a new school year starts, and we all, as retired educators, have a little tinge of remembrance of the start of a new school year. As we opened our classrooms to a whole set of new, mostly eager, faces, we felt the excitement of the coming autumn and seasons beyond that would be planned and filled with new learning experiences. We pulled out our tried and proven "bag of tricks" along with carefully planned learning situations designed to give the best learning environment we could provide for those under our care. Now that we are all retired, we sit on the sidelines as a new, young, energetic force takes charge and experiences some of the same feelings that we did through the years as the first day approached.



AARTA is a group of vibrant, retired teachers, and we will be having a group of newly retired faces at our first meeting on October 1. We can offer to them friendship, opportunities for service, interesting and informative programs, reduced rate memberships at the Vaughn Center, and many other "learning experiences" as it relates to pension reform in Springfield, etc. We, as an organization, present ourselves as a caring, sharing, social, and intelligent community that has fun and serves and learns together. We welcome our new retirees as well as all of our returning members to another interesting and informative year.

Our hearts are saddened and grieved by the loss of members this past year and summer. We are left with positive and insightful memories that our colleagues and friends have left on our hearts. For each of our deceased members, we have made a donation in their honor to the Community Foundation. Our group cares deeply about one another, and offers our friendship and love to all who need care or sympathy.

I, as president, hope to greet all of our members, current and new, at our Oct. 1 meeting, 12:00 noon, at the Gaslight Manor.

Ron Nickerson, President, AARTA



News from ASK . . .

To refresh your memory, ASK stands for "AARTA Supporting Kids." It's an initiative we began last year in an attempt to keep AARTA visible in the community and assist our children by fulfilling some of their school supply needs.

We want to send out a huge "thank you" to everyone who so generously donated school supplies in February and April. Many children at McCleery School in District 129 and Hermes School in District 131 were thrilled to receive them! We were overwhelmed with your response and send you our deepest appreciation.

We will begin this school year by collecting supplies for Louise White School in Batavia, District 101. Their needs are:

- **Post It Notes**
- **Glue Sticks**
- **Pencils**

Please bring your donations to our October meeting. There will be a box to collect them, and then they will be delivered to Louise White School.

Thank you so much for all you do for the children!

Pam Colwell and Yvonne Hollingsworth, Chairmen



AARTA Scholarship

Alondra Santiago is the winner of the AARTA 2013 scholarship. She is a graduate of East Aurora High School and will be attending Waubensee Community College where she will be studying to become a nutritionist. We hope to have Alondra at our October lunch.

As of September 1, we had \$5,511.00 in our scholarship fund which is administered by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. This means that we are more than half way to becoming an endowment fund!

Each year \$1500 of our dues goes in this fund to be used for our annual scholarship. In addition, money raised by our 50/50 raffles is donated in memory of our deceased members. Individuals may make contributions to the fund as well.

More information about our scholarship will be available at our lunch meetings and can be found on our website.



It is a pleasure to introduce myself. My name is Alondra Santiago. I am proud to say I am the recipient of the Aurora Area Retired Teacher's Association Scholarship. I was born in Mexico City, Mexico and moved to the United States when I was eight years old. My dream began my freshmen year. It has been to study nutrition and become a nutritionist. I'd love to help my family, others, and myself to live a healthier lifestyle. My days usually consist of working, working out, spending time with my family, listening to music, or hanging out with my friends.

Receiving the Aurora Area Retired Teacher's Association Scholarship really is so meaningful to me. It definitely helps my life. I had received a five-hundred dollar scholarship already but I was honestly not expecting to receive another one. I was extremely happy and grateful when I read the e-mail. It reminded me of what I did to receive these scholarships. I'm really fortunate my hard work has been paying off. Thankfully, this scholarship will truly help me this upcoming fall. It's a great way to start my college career. This motivates me even more and helps me out mentally and most importantly financially as well.

The AARTA is a great organization to help out college students. This association shows how caring, noble, and responsible they are by working for retired teachers in Kane County. They are clearly dedicated to what they do. This just makes me feel even more grateful and honored to receive this scholarship. I am truly looking forward to meeting the members of this amazing organization and showing my honest gratitude towards who have help me become one step closer to my dream.

Sincerely,
Alondra Santiago

2013 Blanket Donors

Yvonne Hollingsworth
 Jan Essex
 Mary Kirner
 Sandy Young
 Mary Jane McFee
 Pat Patterson
 Sue Darby
 Joann Verdeyen
 Beth Pettit-Conover
 Margie Hardy
 Carol Hatcher
 Pauline Thomas-Brown
 Clare Toynton
 Lynn Harrison
 Martha Womack
 Ann Luker
 Kendra Nohl
 Veronica Radowicz
 Lesley Beary
 Barb Zillgitt



Warm Fuzzies

In June, Val Petkus, Martha Womack, Ann Luker and Barb Zillgitt delivered 61 blankets to Jennings Terrace, Countryside Care Centre, Aurora Rehab Center, Batavia Rehab Center and McAuley Manor. People loved them!

We will be collecting lap blankets for area senior centers again this year.

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 at our meeting in June.**



Jeanette Munos (left) and Gale McGill happily accept our blankets at McAuley Manor in Aurora.



Leeann and Kerri at Countryside Care Centre were thrilled by the generosity of AARTA members.



Kendra Nohl



Margie Hardy with bags of blankets



Grace Hines, former District 129 teacher and longtime AARTA member with her new blanket



The happy Cub fan who received Kendra's blanket at Jennings Terrace

Thank you so much [for] the donation of the beautiful lap blankets and throw blankets. The variety of patterns, types and prints are perfect for the different personalities of our residents.

We appreciate the material, time and talent your members gave to the project.

Thank you for thinking of Jennings Terrace residents!

Warm regards,

Diane Beukelman

Director of Development

This is a beautiful gift for our residents.
 Our deepest appreciation for your generous donation.
 The residents will enjoy!
 Countryside Care Centre

Thanks again for the beautiful blankets. They are always very much appreciated! I couldn't even get around the corner to put them in the laundry room and they were gone. It was like Christmas to them. Thank everyone for me for donating them to Batavia Rehab.
 Dana Olivo

HEALTH NOTES from FAY WILSON



Keep Blocking the Sun

Autumn is back! AARTA is back! Welcome everyone! Here's hoping all of you had an enjoyable summer taking advantage of the clear skies and bright sunshine whenever you could. I know I did. However, after receiving a basal cell cancer diagnosis on my face, twice in two years, I have adjusted my beauty (TEE HEE!) and fashion routines. This "Health Tips" article is an attempt to affect a change in your beauty and fashion routines as well. Remember the sun's rays are ever present EVERY day of the year! We must protect ourselves, rain or shine, all the time. Did you know the sun's rays penetrate car windows?

Medical experts report the incidence of skin cancer, even the deadliest kind, melanoma, is going up. 3.5 million cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed this year. Wearing sunscreen and proper clothing are two good ways to help prevent it.

Dr. Ronald May, M.D., a dermatologist and spokesperson for the Skin Cancer Foundation, offers some important advice. Please consider the following smart tips:

- Select a sunscreen with a SPF of at least 30. SPF 15 is no longer good enough. If you have a family history of skin cancer go for a SPF 50 or even 70.
- Choose a "broad spectrum" sunscreen because it provides protection against both UVA (wrinkle and cancer causing) and UVB (burning rays). If there is no broad-spectrum mention, check the ingredients for zinc or avobenzone, the only two that provide top-notch UVA coverage.
- Experts recommend applying two coats of sunscreen on exposed areas. For your face, apply a pea-size drop to each cheek, your forehead and your chin, then rub in. Repeat!
- Don't forget your nose. People apply sunscreen to their faces, but skip their noses. Other neglected areas are the feet, hair parts, ears and the back of the hands.
- A sun protection plan should start with avoidance. Wear hats and protective clothing (tightly woven fabrics).

It is never too late to begin safe habits. Keep in mind the sun's rays are with us during our fall and winter sports. Snow is a great reflector! The skin's ability to repair itself decreases as we age, so our risk for skin cancer is increasing. Be diligent following these guidelines. If we don't start taking care of our "natural good looks" now, then when? I am looking forward to seeing all you good-looking retirees soon!

Sources: Mayo Clinic Health Letter, July 2013
Health, article by Beth Janes, July 2013

In Remembrance

Yvonne McElroy, January 13, 1921 - September 4, 2012, retired from the Geneva school district after teaching in several Illinois school districts. In 1984, she received the Kane County Educator of the Year award and was recognized as a Governor's Master Teacher.

Norma Jean Bowers, September 28, 1929 - June 14, 2013, taught music in Batavia for over thirty years.

Marti Berg, April 8, 1947 - June 27, 2013, taught in Illinois schools for 35 years. She retired from Dist. 131 in 2005. After retirement, she worked with future teachers at Aurora University and Olivet Nazarene University.

LaRee Jacobson, December 6, 1931 - June 27, 2013, taught in North Aurora (District 129) for 35 years. She and her husband, Roger, performed together throughout the state with their act "Homegrown Histories."

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.

The IRTA is looking for a Region 5 director from AARTA. We have a person willing to be a co-director; now we need to find someone to help her! Contact Ron Nickerson, 630-466-9846 with your offer to help.

Minutes from Our Last General Meeting

June 4, 2013

Important Insurance Information!

The Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) met in August to discuss program funding and plan design. The Department of Central Management Services (DCMS) announced that TRIP Medicare primary retirees would be required to enroll in a state-sponsored Medicare Advantage Plan.

The goal of DCMS is to have a contract in place by October 1, 2013. Anyone who has Medicare as his or her primary coverage will have one or more of the following options:

- Medicare Advantage Plan
- HMO
- Nationwide PPO
- Medicare Supplement

At this time, members who have one or more dependents on their coverage who do not have Medicare as their primary coverage will not be required to change to one of the new Medicare plan options.

Once the contracts are in place, DCMS will schedule informational seminars regarding the new health plan options. The locations and times of the seminars will be posted on the IRTA website.

Check the website (www.irtaonline.org) often for this important information.

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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.

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

If your e-mail address has changed, e-mail us at aurorartdtchrs@hotmail.com so we can update our files.

Maureen Granger, substituting for Ron Nickerson, called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of *God Bless America*, Maureen told us that our scholarship winner will be announced at the October meeting. Money raised from the 50/50 raffle today will be sent to the scholarship fund in memory of Bev King and Barb Morrow. Jim Toynton introduced Carolyn Benson Dietz, a member visiting us from Florida. Jan Oncken from the Aurora Area Literacy Project invited people to join her in sharing books with children.

The minutes from our April meeting, which were in *The Reader*, were accepted as printed. Meg Safarik reported that we have \$5848.00 in our checking account. Jerry Lubshina thanked members for contacting their legislators about pension issues. Yvonne Hollingsworth reminded members to encourage nonmembers to join AARTA.

Arlene Hawks is making plans for an October trip to Drury Lane Oakbrook to see *Hello, Dolly*. The date will be emailed to members. Arlene is now the director of SciTech and is in need of volunteers to help with the 400 students who arrive daily. She also reminded us to sign up for Paramount tickets.

Dick Schindel reminded us of the AARTA T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, etc. that were for sale. Both the Cubs and Sox games are sold out, but \$5.00 tickets are still available for the Cougars game on August 12.

Meg alerted us to a computer virus: "Postal Service" with a subject of "Delivery status notification." Do not open it!

Barb Zillgitt thanked the members who contributed to our Warm Fuzzies project. Blankets will be going to Jennings Terrace, McAuley Manor, Aurora Rehabilitation and Living Center, and the Batavia Rehabilitation and Living Center.

Marlin Mittag introduced Joann Kramer and Chris Gluck from the IRTA who told us about benefits available to members. They also discussed MASA, Medical Air Services Association, which pays for emergency transportation, vehicle return, ambulance fees, etc.

Arlene introduced Lynn Arevelo of B-I-S-I Chicago Dance Co. who entertained us with Hawaiian and Polynesian dances. Lynn will be choreographing *The Sound of Music* which Arlene will be directing. It is scheduled for July 19-21.

Fay Wilson reminded us to use 30+ sunscreen every day and to ward off West Nile virus by using bug spray.

The 50/50 was won by Bob Nelson. \$173 will be going to the scholarship fund.

Meg asked that you let her know if your email address changes so that you don't miss any of our announcements.

Sue Fitzsimons reminded us that she will be glad to come to your house to help you arrange to get and use VoterVoice on your computer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Zillgitt
Secretary pro tem

Board Highlights

September 3

- ◆ The AARTA Board voted to change its meeting place to SciTech.
- ◆ Six board members will represent AARTA at the IRTA convention in October.
- ◆ Fifty-four new retirees will be invited to attend our October lunch.

Happy Birthday!



September

Anne M. Paul	2
Joanne Hughes	3
Geraldine Nikula	4
Ernie Poochigan	5
Larry Solomon	5
Gayle Robinson	6
Margie Engberg	7
Mary Ann White	8
Dorothy Ellis	9
Carolyn Kerkla	16
Mary Cassidy	17
Judy Rhoads	17
Judy Bianchetta	18
Randy Cue	18
Ray Libner	18
Dotti Matson	20
Allene Champen	21
Martha Womack	21
Sandy Young	22
Susan Davis	23
Ron Nickerson	25
Lesley Beary	26
Arlene Flynn	27
Dot Sullivan	27
Carol Hatcher	28

October

Mark Ruby	2
Mary Malone	3
Faith Jones	6
Debbie Philipchuck	6
Jim Toynton	10
Marilyn Ruby	14
Concetta Baltz	22
Pam Erschen	22
Katherine A. Jackson	22
Wendy Balog	28
Dale Hultgren	28
Martha Egeland	29
Ann Lawrence	29
Joan Thompson	30

November

Kendra Nohl	1
Identa Austin	2
Anna Sanford	3
Barbara Worthington	4
Maureen Granger	6
Joann Morr	6
Candy Rady	7
Sandy Bauer Lay	8
Alison King	10
Joanne Cryer	11
Jo Rydland	11
Kay Flodstrom	12
Pauline Scharf	14
Richard Fisher	15
Gloria Jones	16
Mariam Bailey	19
Rosa Jackson	26
LaVerne Taylor	30

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



Ye olde editor really enjoys editing and formatting *The Reader* — sealing, labeling, stamping and mailing not so much.

We are looking for one to three people who would be willing to do this in the comfort of their own homes. Depending on the number of people involved, it would take one to three hours of your time in November, January, March and May — September has already been done for this year.

If you can help the AARTA in this way, please contact Barb Zillgitt (630-896-2451 or barbzillgitt@earthlink.net).

- AARTA members and friends are
- invited to go to Drury Lane Theatre
- Oakbrook Terrace on Thursday,
- November 21, to see *Hello Dolly*.
- We will meet at the theater for lunch
- and the show — all this for only
- \$45.00. You will have your
- choice of roast pork, tilapia, or
- a vegetarian meal.
- Reservations and money are
- due by October 1. You may make your reservations at our lunch,
- or mail them to Arlene Hawks, at 930 Garfield Ave., Aurora 60506.
- Questions? Contact Arlene at 630-896-600.



June Lunch



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, Pam 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 SciTech, 18 W. Benton, Aurora, IL.

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



Where: Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora
When: Tuesday, October 1, 12:00
Price: \$15.00
Reservation due date: Friday, September 20, 2013

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 Fays Lane, Sugar Grove, IL 60554**

Number of reservations _____	Number of VEGETARIAN MEALS _____
Name _____	\$15.00
Name _____	\$ _____
Total \$ _____	

October Lunch Program



Discover your connections at our next general meeting on October 1 when we will be renewing friendships and welcoming many new retirees to AARTA.

You won't want to miss our fun program,

Skeletoni Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Bones.

Nominees for 2014-15 officers will be presented as well.

Make your reservations today using the form ---
on the back of this page.



MENU

Caesar Salad
Bread/Butter
Greek Chicken
Roasted Potatoes
Mixed Veggies
Cheesecake w/Fruit
topping
Coffee/Tea
Cash Bar