

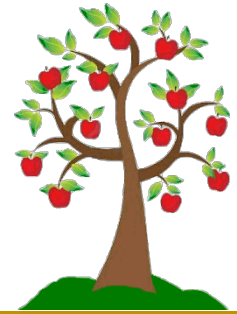


FALL 2019

# Wise Owl News

From The Tree Of Knowledge

## BLACKHAWK UNIT 21 IRTA



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### BLACKHAWK RETIRED TEACHERS MEETINGS

ARE HELD AT THE QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

2525 FOURTH AVENUE ROCK ISLAND

Board meeting 8:15 a.m.

Social hour 9:15 — Business Session 9:45

### SEPTEMBER 11: "WELCOMING NEW RETIREES TO IRTA"

Speakers: Jim Bachman, Roger Hampton, & John Flaherty

Introduction by Annie Robinson

**9:00 am - Annual Breakfast at Oakwood Country Club**

Servers: Gloria Wisley, Virginia Payton & Bobbi Lastrapes

### OCTOBER 9: "IRTA BENEFITS"

Nancy Cramer, AMBA Benefits Representative

Introduction by Gloria Wisley

*Greeters: Gloria Wisley & Jane Schmidt*

*Servers: Kathie Bekel & Debbie Mueller*

### NOVEMBER 13: "APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION SERVICES FOR VETERANS"

"Quad City Veteran", Speaker

Introduction by John Flaherty

### "Information on USO (United Service Organization)"

"USO Rep. from RI Arsenal", Speaker

Introduction by Michael Schmidt

*Annual USO Collection*

### **Annual Unit Memorial Service**

*Greeters: Janet Johnson & Kathy Weston*

*Servers: Kathy McGrath & Jackie Mangold*

**ATTENTION MEMBERS: PLEASE SUPPORT JOHN FLAHERTY WHO IS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT OF THE IRTA. GOOD LUCK JOHN!!**

## PRESIDENT— Annie Robinson

Our last meeting was held in June with the Area 1 Leadership Conference being held in June, also. Everyone attending the conference seemed to enjoy it tremendously. It was well planned and provided us with much needed information. Thanks to Joanne Nelson, Area 1 Representative, and IRTA Representatives and presenters for a job well done. I was also pleased that it was held at the Holiday Inn in Rock Island.

The Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) will host its 2019 Fall Retirement Meeting at 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, in the cafeteria, at Moline High School. This meeting is designed to provide educators close to retirement with information about various benefits available through TRS and to explain the retirement process. The IRTA plans to cover this meeting by disseminating informational materials and extending an invitation to the educators attending to join our association.

The 2019 IRTA Convention will convene on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL. Hopefully, you will decide to attend and support John Flaherty, who is one of our Board members, running for President of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. Also, our 2019 IRTA Convention Unit Honoree is Phil Dennis. Phil is an outstanding member of Blackhawk Unit 21 and has worked tirelessly for the Unit. He is caring, dedicated and committed with excellent leadership qualities. Congratulations to Phil on receiving this great honor.

Many thanks to our awesome, collaborative and innovative Board members who have dedicated their time and energy to make our programs and meetings fulfill the needs of all members in Unit 21. We would not exist without your strong commitment to the values and principles upon which Blackhawk Unit 21 was established. Members, we are always open to your suggestions, so please make them known.

## MEETING PHOTOS



## TREASURER'S REPORT - NANCY MCMANUS

Dues for 2020 are currently being collected as of the September 11 breakfast. Please check your 2019 Blackhawk unit directory for your name, address and telephone number as listed. If there have been changes in this information or in your email address, please notify Nancy McManus (309-794-0490) or Mike Daly (309-721-6005).

Also included is the coding for each individual membership – the key for the letters is found on page 3 of the directory. Reminder that SW means “state dues deduct”: \$2.50 is withheld each month from your TRS pension amount for an annual cost of \$30. If you pay once a year as a state annual member, the cost is \$40. SW yields a savings of \$10.

**Local Blackhawk dues are \$15.00 and must be paid by December 31, 2019** for members to be included in the 2020 directory. Dues may be brought to the September, October, November or December monthly meetings. If you prefer, you may mail dues to:

Nancy McManus at 3620 – 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

Checks are to be made payable to Blackhawk Unit – IRTA. Please include changes in name, address, phone number and email address with check.

If you will be 90 or older in 2020, notify Nancy McManus at 794-0490 of your name and birthdate. At age 90, both local and state memberships will be credited as LIFE, with no further dues collected, **BUT** a birthdate must be sent to the state IRTA office.

## DIRECTORY COMMITTEE

One of the Blackhawk Unit's biggest expenses is the printing and mailing of directories. This becomes even more expensive if the post office cannot deliver your 2020 directory in January because you are spending the winter away from the Quad-Cities. The post office will throw away directories that are undeliverable – so in order for you to receive a directory, we need to pay a postage notice and have another directory printed for you. Each year we have been doing better, but we need your help to improve the situation.

There are three easy options to avoid this:

- If you would like to have the directory mailed to your winter address, please notify us of that address.
- If you would like to have it held by us until you return to your home address and have it mailed at that time, please let us know the date on which you plan to return.
- If you would like to have it held until you return and you will pick it up at a monthly meeting, please let us know that and we will bring your directory to that meeting.

Contact person is Nancy McManus at [nancymcmanus12@mediacombb.net](mailto:nancymcmanus12@mediacombb.net) or 309-794-0490.

**NOTE: The directory committee** will mail only **one** directory to an address that reflects a husband and wife membership unless we are notified of the desire for two directories.

## IRTA FOUNDATION - STEPHEN HAINES

At this time, I have not received the TBK Bank July Balance Sheet Report. This may be due to the fact I have moved & my mail is being forwarded. The ending June balance was \$2,653.64 & unless College for Kids cashed their award check there was no activity. 2019 Bridie for Charity pledges were \$2,193.83 exceeding 2018 pledges of \$2,145.88. Thirty-nine pledges were made representing 43 members (4 husband/wife). This represents 6.3% of the membership. As of 7/19/19 \$872.00 of the amount pledged has been paid. There were 30 contest entries & the unlikely winner was Steve Haines guess of 2049. There were 2091 birdies made. I have decided to donate the winnings back to the foundation. Thank you to all who pledged.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - MICHAEL SCHMIDT

If you are not a country club member, or even if you are, you have the chance to enjoy all the ambience of a club as well as a delicious plated and beautifully served breakfast meal in a gorgeous setting at Oakwood Country Club on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. (It is guaranteed to be better and more impressive than at the previous country club where we used to have the September breakfast.) All that you need to do to attend is to mail \$14.00 by September 1<sup>st</sup> to Virginia Payton at 8815 19<sup>th</sup> Street W., Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

If you know any recent retirees who are not yet Blackhawk Unit members, invite them along. Breakfast is free for them. Just let Virginia (309-787-5932) know who they are and that they'll be attending with you.

At every state IRTA convention a silent auction is held with the proceeds going to the IRTA political action committee. It is the IRTAPAC that is instrumental in lobbying members of the state government on our behalf to protect the benefits that we have. Over the last three biennial conventions our Blackhawk Unit has donated a basket(s) for the auction providing the PAC with over \$1,000.00! As we did two years ago we are going to put together a basket of bottles of wines for the auction. We have the basket, we just need BOTTLES OF WINE. If you have an UNOPENED bottle of wine sitting around in the 'fridge, or basement, or wine cellar that you would like to donate, Mike Schmidt (bullschmidt72@gmail.com) is collecting them. OR, the best way to make a donation is to attend the September Blackhawk breakfast at Oakwood Country Club and bring the bottle(s) along. No Boone's Farm or Thunderbird please!

# **REMINDER: IRTA SEPTEMBER BRUNCH**

DATE: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 □

PLACE: Oakwood Country Club, Coal Valley, Illinois

TIME: 9:00 A.M. □

PROGRAM: Welcoming New Retirees to the IRTA

**PAID RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 2, 2019.**

Please send the form below and a check payable to

**BLACKHAWK UNIT – IRTA to:**

Virginia Payton, 8815 – 19th Street W., Rock Island, Illinois 61201 □ or

Nancy McManus, 3620-33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island 61201.

If you have any questions, call

Virginia Payton at 309-787-5932 or Mike Schmidt at 309-762-4650.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BRUNCH RESERVATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

\*ANNUAL **2020** BLACKHAWK UNIT DUES @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (CHECK ONLY) = \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - JOHN FLAHERTY & ART YOUNG

Things are pretty quiet in Springfield now. The Governor is busy signing bills and legislators are back home trying to get to as many local events as possible.

No one is mentioning that Illinois cannot have a balanced budget or talking about just how big a deficit we will “discover” next summer.

Illinois legalized cannabis and recreational sales will begin in January. More casinos were added and more slot machines in every gaming facility. That money will start coming in shortly. Gasoline taxes went up 19 cents a gallon July 1st and that revenue will be used for projects on roads and bridges.

There is no talk of legislation affecting our pensions or benefits at this time. Our IRTA Legislative Team is working at meeting new legislators and educating them on our pensions. Your help is appreciated anytime that you see any of our local legislators. All of our local people have supported us and be sure to thank them for their support and let them know that you appreciate what they do for their constituents.

The IRTA keeps us informed and they need to have everyone’s current email address. If you change your email, please inform the state IRTA office at 800/728-4782.

Please make sure that you pay your dues for next year and mention to fellow retired educators that the more members that we have the more legislators listen to us.

Governor: JB Pritzker

207 State House, Springfield IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-0244

Email: Governor@illinois.gov

Representative Michael Madigan

300 Capital Bldg., Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-5350

Email: Mmadigan@hds.ilga.gov

Senator Neil Anderson

1523 47th Avenue - Suite 2, Moline, IL 61265

M103-D Capital Building, Springfield, IL 62076

Phone: 309-736-7084 / 217-782-5957

Email: Senatorneilanderson@gmail.com

Senator Tim Bivens

629 N. Galena Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021

M103-A Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62076

Phone: 815-284-0045 / 217-782-0180

Email: Senatorbivens@grics.net

Representative Tony McCombie

9317B IL Rt. 84, Savanna, IL 61704

205A-N Stratton Office Bldg., Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 815-632-7384 / 217-782-3992

Email: McCombie@ilhousegop.gov

Senator Dick Durbin

711 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510

1504 3rd Avenue, Suite 227, Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 202-224-2152 / 309-786-5173

Senator Tammy Duckworth

104 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510

1701 E. Woodfield Rd., Suite 704, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Phone: 202-225-3711 / 847-413-1957

Representative Cheri Bustos

1009 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20510

2401 4th Avenue, Rock Island IL 61201

Phone: 202-225-5905

Phone: 309-786-3406

Representative Mike Halpin

1504 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

242 A-W Stratton Office Bldg., Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 309-558-3612 / 217-782-5970

Email: RepHalpin@gmail.com

## NEW RETIREES - NEW MEMBERS???

This year in Rock Island County there are 52 of our former colleagues who have retired. If you know any of these retirees listed below please take the time to assure them that they are entering a great new beginning. All of them have been sent a letter of invitation to our September breakfast at Oakwood Country Club. If you know any of them, give them a call and ask them to join you and us at the September 11<sup>th</sup> breakfast!

Steven Blair - East Moline	Gaye Dunn - East Moline	Maria Escarza - East Moline	Mary Hume - East Moline
Sue Ickes - East Moline	Ernest Jack - East Moline	Rhonda Johnson - East Moline	Marguerite Miller - East Moline
Sallie Raney - East Moline	Ann Cook - Hampton	Elizabeth Finch - Moline	Lyle Goldensoph - Moline
DeAnn Kerr - Moline	Lanty McGuire - Moline	Mary Nelson - Moline	Lisa Polito - Moline
Allison Ryser - Moline	Todd Slothower - Moline	Kelly Yackle - Riverdale	Mary Paulson - Rock Island
Bernadette Carmack - Rock Island	Donald Palm - Rock Island	Sue Gunther - Rock Island	Sandra Fischer - Rock Island
Angela Loebach - Rock Island	Henry Clash - Rock Island	Jean Mercer - Rock Island	Rod Leatherman - Rock Island
Lisa Atkins - Rock Island	Carolyn Smith-Hensley - RI	Anne Rasmussen - Rock Island	Mary Ellis - Rock Island
Beverly Osborne - Rock Island	Andrea Gilman-Vallejo - RI	Robert Smith - Rock Island	John Frieden - Rock Island
Carolyn Peterman - Rock Island	Camille Carlz - Rock Island	Kimberly Miers - Rock Island	Debra Kane - Rock Island
Mary Kmoch - Rock Island	Kassie Hannah - Rock Island	Melinda Wildermuth - Rock Island	Michael Oberhouse - Rock Island
Angie Aten - Rockridge	Janet Luden - Rockridge	Amy Hunt - Sherrard	Pam Hughes - Sherrard
Deborah Holmes - UT	Rhonda Mellor - UT	Stephen Yount - UT	Roseanne Earnest - Rock Island



**BLACKHAWK UNIT IRTA**  
**3324 37TH AVE. DRIVE**  
**MOLINE IL 61265**

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Permit No. 294

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Wise Owl News**

**Blackhawk IRTA Unit 21 Volume MMXVV, Issue No. 43**

**Editor: Michael J. Daly**

**Committee Members: Ryan Daly, Nancy McManus, Steve Haines, John Henriksen, Annie  
Robinson & Sheree Rogers**

*Send your comments or notify us of any name, address or e-mail changes to  
[wiseowlnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wiseowlnewsletter@gmail.com) Thank you*

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