

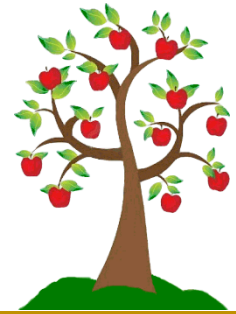
SUMMER 2020



Wise Owl News

From The Tree Of Knowledge

BLACKHAWK UNIT 21 IRTA



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meeting Dates	1
President's Note	2
Nomination Committee	2
Treasurer Report	3
Area 1 Rep. Report	3
Membership Committee	4
IRTA Foundation	4
Birdies for Charity	5,6
Legislative Report	7



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

JUNE 10: "DR. SEUSS AND FRIENDS"

Dr. Bob White, Retired Professor, Black Hawk College

Introduction by Doug Strand

Greeters: Ralph Walters & Darla Walters

Servers: Jan French & Karen Anderson

SEPTEMBER 9: "WELCOMING NEW RETIREES TO IRTA"

Speakers: Jim Bachman, John Flaherty, Doug Strand, and Mike Schmidt

Introduction by Annie Robinson

Greeters: Gloria Wisley, Virginia Payton & Bobbi Lastrapes

9:00 AM - Annual Breakfast at Oakwood Country Club

PLEASE STAY SAFE AND FOLLOW THE RULES WITH STAYING HOME, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEARING MASKS WHEN OUT IN PUBLIC. WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

Newsletter Dates for 2020

Newsletter	Articles Due	Mailing Date
Fall	8/19/20	8/26/20
Winter	11/18/20	11/25/20

PRESIDENT— ANNIE ROBINSON

Spring is here, and unfortunately, so is the COVID-19 virus. In a few weeks, spring will make its exit, but the COVID-19 virus will hang around a few more days to spread itself and try to infect us. However, as it hangs around causing turmoil, we can still see and enjoy beautiful flowers in bloom with trees filled with beautiful green leaves and birds and squirrels enjoying it all.

Changed! You might agree that our world will never be the same again. It has probably been changed forever. Life on earth, as we remember it, will no longer exist. What do we do now? Once we understand the deadly effects of the COVID-19 virus, we will have to make some lifestyle changes. Presently, we are staying home, social distancing, and wearing masks and gloves in order to flatten the curve of the virus and stop its spread.

Blackhawk Unit 21 – Rock Island County Teachers will have to make changes also. The Board will meet via Zoom to discuss means and ways to cope with the COVID -19 virus and how to keep our members safe during the spread of this virus. I challenge members to step up to the plate and share information with the Board that can be beneficial to everyone. As retired teachers you still have great minds and you can use those minds to help make Unit 21 a more safe and responsible group during this crisis. Our last meeting was held in February. I sincerely hope that everyone is still healthy. I miss all of you very much. Please stay safe and know that we will eventually get through this. You will be informed of any changes made by the Board during this crisis.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

To all members of our Unit: Many of you have asked how you could get more involved with our Black-Hawk Unit 21. Is it time for you to step up to the plate and find out more...?? (new or longtime members???) Veteran members would be willing to help you.

You would get to know and work with many more members. We have one of the largest functioning Units in the State of Illinois, with Excellent leadership at both local and state levels who are all volunteers!! You can do this too!!

Please contact one of our Committee Members for more information: Michael Daly, Regina Nelson, Janet Jo Lockhart Johnson, Steve Haines, Pat Stoltz or our chair Lynne Brandenburg.

Thanks so much!

Step out and let us hear from YOU!!!!

TREASURER'S REPORT - NANCY MCMANUS

All "snow-birds" should now have received their 2020 directories, either at their winter addresses or their local addresses. If you do not have your 2020 directory, contact Michael Daly or Nancy McManus.

As of May 15, 2020 the Blackhawk Unit of IRTA has 676 members. Since February 12 Julie Dailey and Vanessa Newkirk have renewed their memberships and three members have died – Jean Downing , Mary Ellen Strupp and Carroll Hultgren.

We will begin collecting **2021 dues of \$15.00** when we take reservations for the September 9 breakfast at Oakwood Country Club. **Dues must be paid by December 31, 2020** to insure inclusion in the 2021 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 – 33rd Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

Checks should be made payable to Blackhawk Unit – IRTA.

Please check the 2020 Blackhawk Unit directory for your name, address and telephone number as listed in our records. If there have been changes in this or in your email address, please notify Nancy McManus (309-794-0490) or Mike Daly (309-721-6005).

Members who have reached their 90th birthday are entitled to complimentary LIFE memberships in both the state and local IRTA organizations. If you are turning 90 this year or are already 90, contact Nancy McManus.

AREA 1 REPRESENTATIVE - JO ANNE NELSON

Hello, fellow retirees! Hopefully, in June we will be able to get together to see and visit with old friends and meet some new ones. This pandemic has certainly put a wrench into social gatherings!

Speaking of changes caused by the pandemic, the IRTA Foundation Executive Board had to change the due date for the IRTA Teacher Grant applications to October 1st. This was changed from June 1st to October 1st since teachers weren't in session and were dealing with remote teaching. Another program that is part of the IRTA Foundation, that we should emphasize at this time of possible financial distress, is our program of financial assistance to retired teachers. No one in Area 1 is currently making use of this program. I don't know whether we have no one in need of if our members are not being informed. Below is more information.

The IRTA Foundation provides financial assistance to retired educators who are living in times of acute financial stress. Assistance can be a one-time expense, such as a water heater or help with real estate taxes, or it can be a monthly stipend to help with daily living expenses. If you or anyone you know is having difficulties meeting financial obligations, please submit a form to Illinois Retired Teachers Association, 828 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62704 for consideration. The form is available to download at irtaonline.org/index.php/foundation/programs or contact IRTA at 1-800-728-4782. Please share this information with your friends that may find this information of value.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - MIKE SCHMIDT

Tentative Notice due to Coronavirus Situation
Decision to continue with Breakfast or to Cancel
will be made in August, 2020.

OUR ANNUAL BRUNCH

In just a few short months it will be September. Instead of looking forward to lunching in the school cafeteria, why not look forward to brunching with us retirees at the Oakwood Country Club on September 9th? That's the club near Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley.

Featured at this year's September Brunch will be IRTA executive director Jim Bachman who will bring us up to date on actions taken by this year's legislature which definitely affect us retirees. Also scheduled to attend is the IRTA state president John Flaherty who will gladly share his vision for our great organization.

Further details to follow in the August newsletter, depending on coronavirus guidelines from the State of Illinois and the "wisdom" of the Blackhawk Unit Board members. If the decision is made to continue with the breakfast, reservation forms for the breakfast and dues renewal forms will be in the August newsletter.

IRTA FOUNDATION - MICHAEL DALY

Blackhawk Unit 21 Members have two chances to win with the final Birdies For Charity total for the John Deere Classic Golf Tournament this July, and also \$50.00 as the closest gesser of the group.

Members can take home the grand prize, a 2 year lease on a 2020 Lexus NX. Birdies For Charity is the Blackhawk Unit Foundation 's chief source of revenue funding seventeen \$150 grants in 2019. In order for the Foundation to continue its work the members need to participate in this fundraiser.

Entries must be received by Michael Daly by July 5th to be eligible to win the unit contest. Mike will collect them at the June 10th meeting or they may be mailed to: Blackhawk IRTA Unit 21 Foundation Michael Daly, 3324 37th Avenue Drive Moline, IL 61265

GOOD LUCK and THANK YOU to those that have already submitted their entries.

The Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund continues the bonus promise

The Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund was established to support the continuing efforts of the John Deere Classic, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, to provide bonus dollars to participating charities. To qualify, charities must be publicly supported and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. All charitable contributions must come from a designated donor, and must not be part of a capital campaign. The Birdies for Charity program is intended to support charitable organizations, services, operations and programs. It is not intended to be used for endowment or brick and mortar charitable purposes.

As before, the tournament will provide a bonus to all participating charities. This year, all charities will be guaranteed a 5% bonus on amounts up to their per year pledge total, or \$100,000, which ever is greater. Additional bonus dollars will be based on tournament revenues. The Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund is the source of these bonus dollars. This fund is supported with dollars from tournament revenues, individual donors, and corporations. These dollars will be distributed annually, and are distributed not to compete with, but to enhance the benefits for the over 500 charities that participate in the program. So, if you are not already participating, this is the year to hop on board.



Chip in for your charity

OFFICIAL PLEDGE CARD 2020



JOHN DEERE
CLASSIC

JULY 6-12, 2020

Sponsored by:



JOHN DEERE

Grand Prize Sponsor:



SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES

Media Sponsors:



Dispatch-Argus
ocOnline.com



BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

15623 Coaltown Rd, East Moline, Illinois 61244
(309) 752-4653 or 1-800-336-4655
www.birdiesforcharity.com

BLACKHAWK IRISH

1747

I pledge and promise to donate:

\$_____ one-time flat donation.

Please attach payment. Checks payable to Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation.

OR

\$_____ for every birdie made during the John Deere Classic.

\$_____

extra donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund

(Amount to the Birdies Bonus Fund will be 50% less of each extra pledge donation)

GUESS THE BIRDIES & WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2020 LEXUS NX!

I guess that _____ birdies will be made.

Only 1 grand prize will be awarded. Void where prohibited by law.

BIRDIES SCORED (YEAR)

2,160 (2011)	2,040 (2014)	1,918 (2017)
2,113 (2012)	1,990 (2015)	2,355 (2018)
2,142 (2013)	1,982 (2016)	2,091 (2019)

PLEDGE INFORMATION (Please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE (AREA) _____

Chip in for your chance to win

When you chip in to help area charities, you can win some great prizes. But your favorite charity will be the real winner. That's because participating charities receive every single penny of the donations from this program, plus a bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund which is a guaranteed 5% match.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Simply make a one-time flat donation OR pledge one cent or more per birdie after the tournament. You'll be mailed a notice of your pledge amount due.

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA Tour Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday. A grand prize will be given to one person who guesses the correct number. In case of ties, winners will be randomly selected.

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

Your pledge is based on actual number of birdies scored.

I pledge \$_____ one-time donation
OR \$_____ per birdie

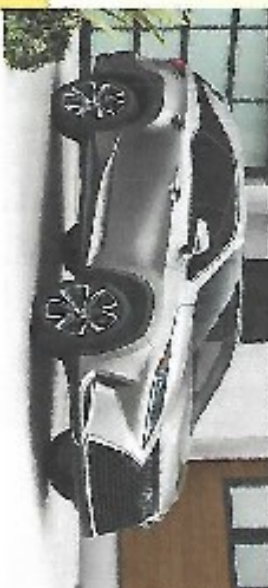
If 2,000 birdies are made, my total pledge would be:

1c = \$20 3c = \$60 5c = \$100
2c = \$40 4c = \$80 10c = \$200

I guessed _____ birdies we did be "rare"



GRAND PRIZE: 2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2020 LEXUS NX



One lucky supporter of the John Deere Classic's 3rd annual John Deere Classic Charitable program will win a 2 year lease on a 2020 Lexus NX, courtesy of Sport Lexus of the Quad Cities. Other prizes awarded by random drawing.

CONTEST RULES

- Only 1 grand prize awarded. Ties and other prizes determined by random drawing.
- All guesses must be on an official pledge card and received at the tournament office by July 10, 2020.
- Rules are available at: www.birdiesforcharity.com.
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Pledge submitted after the JDC may be applied the following year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - JOHN FLAHERTY

I am writing this before our legislature meets, so pardon any errors in my predictions.

Governor Pritzker has called the Illinois Houser and Senate and asked them to meet next week. They are scheduled to meet May 20-24th. The Senate will meet in their chambers and the House will probably meet at the Bank of Springfield Conference Center.

Mike Madigan sent an email to the House members and stated that the session will be limited to seven topics: The COVID-19 pandemic or other disasters; The State budget and its implementation; Economic recovery, infrastructure projects, and funding there of; The explanation, arguments for or against, and the form for constitutional amendments as required under the Illinois Constitution Amendment Act; Laws or authority scheduled to be repealed prior to June 1, 2021; The 2020 General Election and the State Board of Elections; and lastly The hospital assessment program.

Our IRTA staff are watching closely and attempting to find out how the budget will fund our pensions and insurance benefits.

Revenue is down substantially for this fiscal year that ends June 30th. The state's backlog on paying bills is growing and there will be a substantial deficit this year. The biggest problem will be to predict revenue for next year. Your guess is probably as good as the one they will use.

You will receive more information as soon as a budget is introduced. Your IRTA staff will keep us informed. The staff are working from home but we can still meet online and the IRTA Committees now meet with Zoom since we have decided not to have people travel or attempt to meet in-person.

Remember that what is happening in our lives is new to all of us. A world-wide pandemic and a huge blow to our economy are things that we cannot control and none of us have experienced before in our lifetimes. Everybody stay safe.

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



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. 46

Editor: Michael J. Daly

Committee Members: Ryan Daly, Nancy McManus, Virginia Shaffer, Annie Robinson & Sheree Rogers

Send your comments or notify us of any name, address or e-mail changes to

BlackhawkRT@mediacombb.net Thank you

Printing made possible by an agreement with Tammy Muerhoff at the Regional Office of Education