



SUMMER 2022

Wise Owl News

from the Tree of Knowledge



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION
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 IL

Board Meeting 8:15 AM
Social Hour 9:15 AM
Business Session 9:45 AM

JUNE 8: 'IL Central Management Services'

Gail Lumb, CMS Benefits Representative
Introduction by John Flaherty
Greeters: Virginia Payton and Stephen Haines
Servers: Ann Block and Mary Ellis

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please join us for the Blackhawk IRTA Breakfast!

Mark 9:00 AM on September 14, 2022 at Oakwood Country Club on your calendar. We will welcome new retirees to IRTA.

THANK YOU!

SEPTEMBER 14: 'Welcoming New Retirees to IRTA'

Jim Bachman, Bill Funkhouser, John Flaherty, Doug Strand and Mike Schmidt
Introduction by Joe Vermeire
Greeters: Virginia Shaffer, Nancy Licko, Virginia Payton and Bobbi Lastrapes

Reminder: There are NO General Membership Meetings scheduled for July and August

Table with 3 columns: Newsletter, Articles Due, Mailing Date. Rows for Fall and Winter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JOE VERMEIRE

Summer 2022 Issue and Blackhawk Unit IRTA's meeting numbers are slowly growing to pre-COVID attendance as members are feeling safer, and the meetings are *fun!* (I put in the "*fun*" part). March's meeting had TRS' Director of Outreach Rich Frankenfeld (Augustana brother!) coming to assure us that even during these tumultuous times, our investments continue to be vigilantly *funded*. Program Director Vice President Scott Turnipseed had April's headliner, Nancy Cramer, AMBA Benefits Representative, traveling from Springfield to highlight all the *fundamental* benefits available to us through our membership in IRTA. May's meeting was *funny* with Blackhawk English Professor Bob White performing/presenting "Dr. Suess...WHO?".

IRTA Past State President John Flaherty continues to keep us up-to-date on our IRTA's January 24th lawsuit against Illinois' under*funding* of the Retired Teachers Healthcare Benefits. Yes, your IRTA is fighting for your current and future benefits (see www.irtaonline.org for details).

Wednesday, June 8th at 9:45 AM (put it on your calendar ... no reason for you to forget!), VP Turnipseed has Gail Lumb, our Representative of the Illinois Central Management Services, coming to give us a *functional* talk on its overwatch of TRAIL and the plethora of other group benefits that we retirees *fund* with our dollars, time and career efforts. Blackhawk Unit IRTA *Foundation* Director Mike Daly will be available to help you fill out the Birdies for Charity form for our annual *fundraiser* ...get pledge cards in!

As usual, July and August are free from Blackhawk Unit IRTA meetings, but September 14th will find us back at Oakwood Country Club with our "Welcoming New Retirees Breakfast." and a new, exciting year to follow. (No more *fun* words ...just fun!).

So, if you haven't already noticed, we would like to have as many of our members join us for our monthly General Membership meetings as possible. Get vaccinated, boosted, and bring a friend. Your retired friends and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you. And maybe volunteer to help out with a committee; a little work helps move the whole group. What the heck! An educational program, great coffee, scrumptious donuts, congenial fellowship and more. All for just \$15 a year! You can't beat it! And, if you go to retirement parties for new retirees, ask them to join us.

God's Blessings, Joe

IRTA 2022 AREA 1 CONFERENCE

The Association is excited to announce our 2022 Area Conferences. All state members are invited to register and attend their respective area meetings. All presentations will be taped and available on the IRTA website. Mark your calendars and join the **ZOOM** meeting live! Additional registration information has been e-mailed. **The IRTA Area 1 Conference meeting is June 7 at 9:30 AM** (better get on at 9:00 AM – technology is a wonder, you know!). And you can stay in your pajamas!

Some of us will be meeting together at the Moline Public Library on 41st Street at 9:00 AM to help each other technologically, educationally, and coffee and donut-ly ... and just because it's more *fun* ... oops, there goes that word again! The Platinum Conference Room has room for twenty participants or so. Pajamas not an option.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As of May 11, 2022 Blackhawk Unit 21 IRTA has 655 members. All snow-birds should now have received their Blackhawk Unit 21 IRTA 2022 Directory. If you have not received yours, contact either Michael Daly or Nancy McManus. Since the Spring newsletter was published, Pamela Young and Les Truelsen have died.

We will begin collecting **2023 dues of \$15.00** when we take reservations for the September 14 breakfast at Oakwood Country Club. **Dues must be paid by December 31, 2022 to insure inclusion in the 2023 Directory.** Dues may be paid at any of the monthly unit meetings or, if you prefer, a check may be mailed to the Blackhawk Unit Treasurer: Nancy McManus, 3620 – 33rd Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois 61201. Make your check payable to **Blackhawk Unit – IRTA.**

REMINDER: Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) and Blackhawk Unit 21 IRTA are two related, **but separate** organizations. Dues fee options for each organization are listed below:

IRTA (Send your check to IRTA. Questions can be answered at 1-800-728-4782)

Life Membership: \$400 – one-time payment

Associate Life: \$125 – one-time payment

Dues-Deduction Member: \$2.50 deducted monthly from pension (\$30 yearly)

Annual Member: \$40

Annual Recurring Member/Associate: [contact www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org)

5-years Member: \$125

BLACKHAWK UNIT 21 IRTA (Send your check to the Unit Treasurer or pay at monthly meeting)

Life Membership: \$200 – one-time payment

Associate Life: \$200 – one-time payment

Annual Member: \$15

Associate Annual: \$15

Retired Teachers Association members who reach their 90th birthday are entitled to complimentary LIFE Memberships in both organizations. If you are turning 90 this year, or are already 90, contact Nancy McManus at 309-794-0490.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Below is a preliminary list of Rock Island County 2022 Educator Retirees. If you have contact information (home address, phone number and/or email addresses) for any of these former colleagues, please email Mike Schmidt at: bullschmidt72@gmail.com so that September breakfast invitations can be sent to them.

2022 Rock Island County Educator Retirees

BHASED: Eric Gettes

EAST MOLINE: Theresa Majchrzak and Danielle Wallarab

MOLINE: Chris Brasel, Suzanne Dell, Cynthia Hanft, Lorri Larson, Sarah Leslein,
Lisa Mitchell, Annette Sirek Jones and David Strafford

RIVERDALE: Darla Gelande and Jenny Marmion

ROCK ISLAND-MILAN: Leigh Bowman, Lisa Lack, Sue Magerkurth,
Suzanne Rakestraw, Thomas Sigel, Dennis Weiss and Pam Winstein

SILVIS: David Mumma

UNITED TOWNSHIP: Doug Greer, Scott Kave, Sharon Krack, Larry Shimmin and
Carie Walker

NOMINATIONS – LYNNE BRANDENBURG

Blackhawk Unit 21 Nominations Committee is in the preliminary stages of drafting a unit officers ballot to be presented in October 2022 and voted on in December 2022. The slate of officers for the 2023-2024 term includes President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, contact Lynne Brandenburg by phone: (309) 786-4169 or by email: brandenburglynn139@gmail.com

The following committees work with unit officers and the board: Legislation, Finance, Name Tags, Member Benefits, Membership, Information Services, By-Laws, Public Relations, Programs, Cheer/Benevolence, Newsletter/Directory, Hospitality, Necrology, History/Archives and Nominations and they are also looking for volunteers. If you are interested in participating, contact current president Joe Vermeire by phone: (309) 269-2631 or by email: joevermeire1@gmail.com The President and Committee Chairpersons make the assignments to the committees.

In April 2022, the Blackhawk Unit was named an IRTA Unit of Distinction. Currently, we have five Blackhawk Unit members who are actively involved at both the state and local levels. Your participation would be greatly appreciated by the members of the Blackhawk Unit. Your talents will support efforts to safeguard state pension and insurance programs for the Illinois Retired Teachers and our local community projects.

ARE YOU OUR NEXT PRESENTER???



Do you have a talent or know someone who wants to share their talent? Did you see or hear someone present a program that you think could be beneficial for our group? The Blackhawk IRTA Board has authorized a speaker stipend for those who provide our group with a presentation at one of our monthly meetings. We are currently setting up programs for the 2023 calendar year. If you know someone, please find out if they are interested in presenting to our group and email their contact information to Scott Turnipseed: wsturnip@gmail.com.

Attend our Blackhawk Unit #21 General Meetings for social comradery, state and local updates, and for professional and student entertainment programs.

REGION 8 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NEEDED

The State IRTA is looking for a State Legislative Committee member from our Region 8 area. The IRTA Legislative Committee reviews legislation and recommends a position to the IRTA Board of Directors. Committee members also meet with Legislators to discuss IRTA issues. If you are interested in serving on this committee or have questions, you may contact John Flaherty or Joe Vermeire. Thank you for your consideration. It's political season!

BLACKHAWK IRTA FOUNDATION REPORT

Blackhawk Unit 21 members have **two** chances to win "Birdies For Charity" by guessing the correct total number of birdies in the John Deere Classic, June 29 - July 3, 2022. The Grand Prize is a 2-year lease on 2022 Lexus RX350, courtesy of Smart Lexus of the Quad Cities. The Blackhawk Unit IRTA Foundation will also award a check for \$50.00 to the closest guess by a member.

Funds raised by this event provide grants to local non-profit community organizations and high school districts for programs that promote student achievement. Below is a "Birdies For Charity" pledge form. Please mail the completed form and a check made out to: "Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation", to Michael J. Daly, Executive Director, 3324 37th Avenue Drive, Moline, IL 61265 by June 10, 2022.

BIRDIES for CHARITY FORM

Blackhawk IRTA
 CHARITY SOLICITED FOR
 1747
 BIRD NUMBER

I pledge and promise to donate:
 \$ _____ one-time flat donation.
 Please attach payment. **Make checks payable to Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation.**

\$ _____
extra donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund
Donations to the BFC Bonus Fund (if you) help provide the insurance of \$8 match for all participating charities.

GUESS THE BIRDIES & WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2022 LEXUS RX350!
 I guess that _____ birdies will be made.
 Only 1 grand prize will be awarded. Void where prohibited by law.

| BIRDIES SCORED (YEAR) | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| 2,142 (2013) | 1,982 (2016) | 2,091 (2019) | |
| 2,040 (2014) | 1,918 (2017) | N/A (2020) | |
| 1,990 (2015) | 2,355 (2018) | 1,905 (2021) | |

PLEDGE INFORMATION (please print)

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY / STATE _____
 ZIP _____
 PHONE OR EMAIL _____

OFFICIAL PLEDGE FORM

Chip in for your chance to win

When you chip in to help area charities, you could win! But your favorite charity will be the *real* winner. That's because participating charities receive **100% of the donations** pledged to them in 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 and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at **15623 Coaltown Rd., East Moline, IL 61244.**

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 AS YOUR RECEIPT

I pledge \$ _____ one-time donation
 I guessed _____ birdies would be made
 Payment was included with pledge

YES \$ _____ NO

CASH CHECK NO. _____

Please make checks payable to
QUAD CITIES GOLF CLASSIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



GRAND PRIZE:
2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2022 LEXUS RX350



One lucky supporter of the **LEXUS** John Deere Classic's Birdies for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a **2022 Lexus RX350**, courtesy of Smart 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 **June 10, 2022**.
- Rules are available at www.birdiesforcharity.com.
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Pledges submitted after the JDC may be applied the following year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – JOHN FLAHERTY

First, our IRTA lawsuit over the funding of our Health Insurance Fund continues. It will not be argued for at least six months. We filed suit because we believe that the current budget vastly underfunds what is needed. There should be no short-term problems with our health insurance. Your IRTA will keep you notified as things progress.

We are in election season. With our primary election coming up on June 28th, get ready for even more commercials and election mailers. This could be the most expensive Governor’s race ever. Governor Pritzker is worth about \$3.7 billion. On the Republican side we have Richard Irvin who is funded by Ken Griffin. Griffin is the richest man in Illinois and has a net worth estimated at over \$26 billion. Darren Bailey has the support of Richard Uihlein, who is estimated to be worth about \$4 billion. Once the primary is over, campaign spending will ramp up. Estimates are that over \$200 million will be spent for a job that pays \$177,412. If each candidate donated one-half of their campaign fund to a local food bank, we could solve a lot of problems in our state.

IRTA will let primary winners know they can request IRTA’s endorsement for their office. Each person needs to fill out a form, answer questions on their stance on pensions and benefits, and return the questionnaire to IRTA’s office. Our Political Action Committee (PAC) will review each candidate’s questionnaire, their voting record (if the candidate has held office), feedback from local IRTA units, and input from IRTA Executive Director Jim Bachman, lobbyist Andrew Bodewes, and Legislative Coordinator Courtney Hayes.

If you do not already contribute to the IRTA PAC Fund, please consider signing up for a \$1/month deduction from your TRS pension. This money is needed to support candidates that will vote to protect our pensions and benefits. Just go to our IRTA website Irtaonline.org, click on “PAC” at the top of the page and look for “Donate”. If your pensions are worth the 3 cents a day that it will cost you, [take the time to donate today!](#)

Thank you for belonging to Blackhawk Unit 21!

John Flaherty
Past President, Illinois Retired Teachers Association

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|--|--|
| <p>Governor: JB Pritzker 207 State House, Springfield IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-6380 Email: Governor@illinois.gov</p> | <p>US 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</p> |
| <p>Representative Emanuel Chris Welch (Dist. 7) 300 Capital Building., Springfield, IL 62706 10055 W. Roosevelt Rd., Suite E, Westchester IL 60154 Phone: 708-450-1104 / 708-450-1000 Email: repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com</p> | <p>US Senator Tammy Duckworth 104 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington DC 20515 1701 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste. 704, Schaumburg, IL 60173 Phone: 202-225-3711 / 847-413-1957</p> |
| <p>State Senator Neil Anderson (Dist. 36) M103-D Capital Building, Springfield, IL 62706 1523 47th Avenue - Suite 2, Moline, IL 61265 Phone: 217-782-5957 / 309-736-7084 Email: Senatorneilanderson@gmail.com</p> | <p>US Representative Cheri Bustos (Dist. 17) 1009 Longworth House Office, Washington DC 20515 2401 4th Avenue, Rock Island IL 61201 Phone: 202-225-5905 / 309-786-3406</p> |
| <p>State Senator Brian Stewart (Dist. 45) 105-C Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706 50 W. Douglas St., Suite 1001, Freeport IL 61032 Phone: 217-782-0180 / 815-284-0045 Email: Senatorbrianstewart@gmail.com</p> | <p>State Representative Mike Halpin (Dist. 72) 242 A-W Stratton Office Bldg., Springfield, IL 62706 1504 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201 Phone: 217-782-5970 / 309-558-3612 Email: RepHalpin@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>State Representative Tony McCombie (Dist. 71) 205 A-N Stratton Office Bldg., Springfield, IL 62706 9317B Illinois Rt. 84, Savanna, IL 61704 Phone: 217-782-3992 / 815-632-7384 Email: McCombie@ilhousegop.gov</p> | |



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Wise Owl News

Blackhawk IRTA Unit 21 Volume MMXXII, Issue No. 54

Editor: Michael J. Daly

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Joe Vermeire & Scott Turnipseed

Send your comments or notify us of any name, address or email changes to:

wiseowlnewsletter@gmail.com

Thank you

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