

SSRTA NEWS

2nd Edition - April 2023

Our Next Luncheon on April 19th.

Aurelio's Mokena at **Noon**

Luncheon Dates for Spring 2023

All SSRTA Luncheons are the Third Wednesday of the month.

- March 15th
- April 19th
- May 17th
- June 21st

Luncheon Dates for Fall 2023

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- September 20th
- October 18th
- November 15th
- December 13th

Birthdays for April 2023

- April 4th - Suzanne Lunak
- April 9th - Frank Rago
- April 16th - Thomas O'Keefe
- April 20th - Bill Gillespie
- April 21st - Thomas Harrington
- April 21st - Patricia Moore
- April 28th - Elizabeth Troutman
- April 29th - Madeline Gloss
- April 30th - Billie Sue Darr Doman

President's Notes ...

Welcome to month four of 2023, Ladies and Gentlemen. Today as I worked in the yard, it not only looked and felt like spring but it also SMELLED like spring — if that's possible. Although we had a relatively easy winter we're all ready to wear flip-flops/sandals and shorts. First, let's change those "stick trees" into leafy trees.

How about starting with a couple bits of light humor gleaned from various sources.

Sign at the electric company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time.

However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."

Senior Pearl of Wisdom: If you find yourself feeling useless, remember it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, and four presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

Our March program was a delightful interaction between our U of I Extension Services presenter Mike Stachowski and members in attendance, not a mere lecture with a slide show.

Our April meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19 at Aurelio's in Mokena starting at **Noon**. There will be an AMBA presentation by Dorothy Walton who will give us some updates on MASA and other

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Photos for the SSRTA Website and FB
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If you took any pictures at the Luncheons in 2022 and would like to share, please email them to Tony for posting to the SSRTA website and the SSRTA FB page. Thanks!!

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Members Note!
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This is OUR SSRTA Newsletter - it belongs to all the members of the South Suburban Retired Teachers Association. If there is something you wish to add to make our retirement more fun, more enjoyable or more engaging, please send a note describing your idea to Larry Schwarberg - SSRTA President - at his email address (found on the last page of this Newsletter).

Any Suggestions you may have concerning anything we do - or don't do - in SSRTA, please share them with us.

insurance information. Information about making a reservation will appear in an upcoming e-mail. Remember, make your reservation reply to me, Larry Schwarberg, not Tony.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5 at noon at Aurelio's in Mokena, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena. (708) 478-0022. You don't have to be an officer to attend the meeting, but only officers vote on motions.

Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting of April 2023

SSRTA April Executive Board Meeting

April 5, 2023, Aurelios, Mokena

Members present: Martha R, Larry S, Tony M, Terry G

Called to order at 12:30 by Larry Schwarburg. Secretary's report to follow.

Treasurer's Report: \$5204.72 balance after \$500 from holiday luncheon fundraiser to be donated to Anew, formerly South Suburban Woman's Shelter. Moved to accept, Tony, second, Terry

Vice president report: Newsletter sent electronically. Shall we have a second newsletter? Yes, and include information from board meetings. Tony will continue writing newsletter and distributing it. Old Plank Road Bank will send financial information to Larry.

Legislative report: Larry reports from IRTA. Hoping to repeal SSWEP and GPO rules which reduce the size of pensions by offsetting Social Security and TRS pensions. Available to us is "Tax counseling for elderly (60+)" at this number. 800 906 9887. A call to this number gets information on places with volunteer tax advisors with limited availability in Chicago (224-889-1404) and South Holland (taxnetworkinfo@gmail.com), although other localities may have Will Co. locations, depending on zip code.

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Members Note Two

This is OUR SSRTA Newsletter - it belongs to all the members of the South Suburban Retired Teachers Association. Please send us any suggestions you have for locations for our future SSRTA Luncheons or suggestions for topics or something else you'd like to see here every month.

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Old Business: No complaints about earlier starting time. Affirm contribution to Anew.

New Business: \$200 donation to U of Illinois Extension for March presentation. Larry moved, Tony second.

Approved \$300 for HFK presents "Burnham's Chicago" presentation in May. Location still to be determined.

Accessing Aetna Medicare Reimbursement forms information will be provided in the next newsletter. Some medical expenses are not paid directly, but may be reimbursed under the new insurance provider when requested. Tony will write this up. Tony moved to adjourn at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted
Terry Gillespie

Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting of March 2023

SSRTA Board Meeting March 2023

Present: Larry Schwarberg, Tony Marturano, Martha Rago, Terry Gillespie Meeting called to order 12:09. Minutes of last meeting presented in brief.

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$5210.22, after subtracting \$500 holiday contribution to Anew, formerly South Suburban Family Shelter. Move to donate by Martha, seconded by Tony. Move to approve treasurer's report by Tony, seconded by Terry.

Legislative Report: Larry will send Tony items for newsletter.

Legislature met for three weeks in February on budget and appropriations. Illinois has 17 billion to the good, credit rating has been upgraded and pension funds have been added to. Pensions are a priority in this administration.

Ex-President's report: Website (SSRTAunit19.com) registration has been updated for next two years.

Newsletters were sent in January and February. All IRTA members are invited to a Cubs vs Cardinals at Wrigley Field on May 8, 2023. More information on the IRTA

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website (irta@irtaonline.org). Members may want to consider our presence on social media. We have a Facebook account. Shall we expand to other places? President's Report: Question, does IRTA have guideline for by-laws? We need to find out.

Request to change meeting time to noon. Larry requested email addresses for all current members.

Extension presenter for March may not be available and may have to be rescheduled for April. The AMBA representative will fill in as needed.

HFK Entertainment will be invited to make a presentation for the May meeting. Our first pick is "Burnham's Chicago", if available. Otherwise we will request a food topic from their offerings.

There is a need for a program chair. Places to meet with lunch were discussed. Dining on the Green does not provide food but has facilities for a caterer. We are considering sites for April, perhaps Aurelio's in New Lenox. The March meeting will be at Flossmoor Station at noon on March 15, 2023.

Meeting adjourned 1:40 pm, moved by Tony and seconded by Martha. Respectfully submitted, Terry Gillespie

Spring meeting dates and programs:

March 15: Flossmoor Station: U of I Extension program about spring preparation of your garden(s)

April 19: Aurelio's Mokena: speaker from AMBA

May 17: Location TBD: program titled

"Burnham's Chicago" by HFK Presents
online at www.historiesforkids.com

June 21: Location TBD: Just conversation

Fall meeting dates:

Sept. 20, Oct. 19, Nov. 15, and Dec. 13

You have already received three checks in 2023 with your COLA increase.

If you would like to find out what you're paying for the new insurance, you can go to the TRS website. You can always check on what's happening

by logging in to IRTAonline.org or by calling (217) 523-8488.

IRTA Legislative Update 3/1/2023

Last Friday, March 31st, was the Senate Third Reading deadline. Both chambers will return to Springfield next week.

IDPH Distributing 60k Air Purifiers to Illinois Schools

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is distributing more than 60,000 HEPA purifiers to Illinois schools as part of a nearly \$30 million program alongside the Illinois State Board of Education.

The funding for the program was provided through the American Rescue Plan Act. IDPH estimates 3,000 schools will be eligible for the program, covering nearly 70 percent of the state (excluding Chicago, which receives its own grant.)

“There is nothing more important to me than keeping Illinoisans safe and healthy—especially when it comes to our youth,” Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in statement. “We know that our children need to stay healthy and study in classrooms that are well-ventilated in order to thrive and succeed. Thanks to this \$30 million investment, schoolchildren will experience cleaner air—preventing illness and absenteeism, while improving our children’s ability to think and learn.”

VoterVoice is a very useful advocacy tool and resource that allows members to reach their lawmakers. The Illinois Retired Teachers Association encourages all members to register for emails and text messages from VoterVoice so that we can stay proactive on various issues.

To register please go to the member’s only section at www.irtaonline.org. Once logged in, click on the **VoterVoice** tab and enter your information. For any questions or if you are needing assistance with registering please contact our Government Affairs/Grassroots Coordinator, Courtney Hayes at 800-728-4782.

Remember to follow your SSRTA on the SSRTA Facebook page or at ssrtaunit19.com.

Respectfully,
Larry Schwarberg
SSRTA President

SSRTA Newsletter published
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