

SSRTA NEWS

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

All SSRTA Luncheons are the Third Wednesday of the month.

- 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.

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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.

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 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

April Executive Committee Notes will be posted to the website and FB after the Executive Committee Meeting on April 5th.

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 in Mokena: presentation by 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.

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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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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 school 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

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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

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