

# SSRTA NEWS

January 2024

## Our Next Luncheon on Wednesday March 20th.

Location TBD - Ideas??

## Luncheon Dates for Spring 2024

All SSRTA Luncheons are the Third Wednesday of the month.

- March 20th
- April 17th
- May 15th
- June 19th

## Luncheon Dates for Fall 2024

All SSRTA Luncheons are the Third Wednesday of the month.

- September 18th
- October 16th
- November 20th
- December 11th or 18th

## Birthdays for January 2024

- 1st - Tina Chlopecki
- 1st - Dorothy Owens
- 1st - Rita Robertson
- 5th - Laura Creighton
- 7th - Len Davia
- 7th - Norma Teeter
- 12th - David Hamblin
- 18th - Joan Kryszinski
- 19th - Jack Wayne
- 23rd - Cynthia McRoberts
- 25th - Carolyn Consetino
- 26th - Robert Nerius

## January 2024 News and Views

Welcome to 2024 SSRTA Friends!

Were the holidays full of good times and good memories? I sure hope so, because you deserve fun and happiness. I'm definitely not a fan of snow and cold weather, and maybe you aren't either ... but this tune might ameliorate the harshness.

[https://youtu.be/GP5\\_dJUd3BY?si=UnFw-48Lgh-ieC2w](https://youtu.be/GP5_dJUd3BY?si=UnFw-48Lgh-ieC2w)

If you have a January birthday but don't see your name in the list above, or the date is wrong, it's because of our records. We don't like omissions or errors, so please send us your birthday / corrected birthday. Thanks.

We had a fun time at the December meeting/party/raffle extravaganza at Wiley's in Homewood. Our raffle magician, Debi Marturano, once again

## Photos for the SSRTA Website and FB

*If you took any pictures at the Luncheons in 2023 and would like to share, please email them to Tony for posting to the SSRTA website and the SSRTA FB page. Thanks!!*

## Members Note!

*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.*

waved her wand and created lovely baskets of gifts from members' donations. Money collected from the raffle was sent to South Suburban PADS. Check our website (created by Tony Marturano) or Facebook page (managed wonderfully by Liz Miller) for holiday party photos and other information.

Remember that there is no meeting/luncheon in January and February. We will meet on March 20th, but our location is still to be determined. Our speaker will be Doug Strand from IRTA. Reserve the date on your calendar ASAP.

Reminder: The cost for our luncheons/programs will be increasing to \$25.00 starting with the March, 2024 gathering.

Please consider becoming involved in planning our programs. The variety of passions our membership has should make it possible to have an interesting spectrum of programs. Contact Larry Schwarberg at pfherrlls@yahoo.com if you feel called to this role. Other committee chairperson opportunities also exist.

If you didn't see this ...

### *A Message from IRTA Executive Director Jessica Hoselton*

*"I am excited and honored to join the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) as its next Executive Director. I am thankful to the IRTA Board of Directors for this incredible leadership opportunity. Filling the shoes of Jim Bachman, whose leadership shaped the IRTA's reputation of a powerful advocate on behalf of retired educators, will not be easy. I am grateful for Jim's guidance during our transition period, and I am eager to build upon Jim's legacy. I am confident that with the ongoing input, participation and support of the IRTA Board of Directors, members and staff, the*

*IRTA will enjoy a bright and successful future.*

*My professional experience includes working for professional trade associations in positions focused on legislative representation, PAC fundraising, and grassroots mobilization. Most recently, I provided direct lobbying services while simultaneously serving as the Executive Director for two statewide construction industry trade associations. In this role, I maintained a wide range of responsibilities including lobbying, coalition building, budgeting, board and committee management and member recruitment and retention. I believe success is maintained by working collaboratively with association leadership, members, staff and industry leaders.*

*IRTA provides its members with invaluable services including legislative representation on important policies introduced by the Illinois General Assembly, legal representation to fight against laws that diminish pension benefits, and a strong Political Action Committee to aid in the election of candidates who are supportive of IRTA's position on legislative issues that are important to retired educators. In addition, the IRTA Foundation provides financial aid to retired teachers, grants to public school educators and scholarships to students aspiring to become teachers. I am proud to be a part of an association that maintains a sense of community for retired educators and places great focus on positively impacting the lives of others. I look forward to working alongside the IRTA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and members to continue the important work of the association.*

*I recognize that I have a lot to learn in my new role. I am committed to investing the time and attention that it will take to understand the IRTA culture, its policies and procedures and work toward elevating IRTA's presence as a powerful advocate on behalf of the Illinois retired teacher community. I look forward to meeting all of you in the months ahead and developing lasting relationships. In closing, I along with the IRTA staff, remain focused on providing members with personalized service and assisting you with any questions regarding your IRTA member benefits, pension benefits, or other concerns you may have. We are happy to hear from you and encourage you to reach out to us at any time."*



**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** from IRTA Good Dog eNews

- A. Legislators return to Springfield for the 103rd General Assembly on January 16.
- B. The March 19th Primary Election Ballot will be certified in January.
- C. January 19 is the deadline for House and Senate LRB requests, and the LRB blackout period begins.
- D. February 9 is the deadline for introduction of House and Senate bills, and the LRB amendment requests begin.
- E. February 21 is the date for the Governor’s State of the State Address.

Enjoy your New Year’s Day celebrations with family and friends.

Best wishes for a prosperous New Year,

Larry

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