

SSRTA NEWS

March 2024

Our Next Luncheon on Wednesday - March 20th.

Location:

Flossmoor Station
1035 Sterling Avenue
Flossmoor, IL 60422

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 March 2024

- 3rd - Neil Bedeker*
- 4th - Thomas Krynski*
- 7th - Judith Meyer*
- 8th - William Hudson*
- 10th - Susan Carter*
- 14th - Keith Reifel*
- 20th - Bernadette Zivich*
- 25th - Susan Durczak*
- 27th - Larry Schwarberg*

Belated February Birthday

- 19th - Jody Wayne*

March 2024 News and Views

We're less than a month away from the official start of spring, and Daylight Saving Time resumes on March 10. I'm definitely ready for it. After playing for a month in Florida and Ecuador, I returned to a temperature of 72° on February 27 which then plummeted to 22° with a windchill factor of 7°. NOT GOOD! Maybe this tune by Frank Sinatra will help us prepare for spring's arrival on March 19.

<https://youtu.be/nkDmOJ-MqBk?si=CJbnMvfS6Z0JFnXA>.

By now you should be used to my giving the newsletter a little humor, so here are this month's offerings.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption. ... and ...

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.

Me, sobbing: "I can't see you anymore ... I'm not going to let you hurt me again."

My Trainer: "It was just one sit-up."

If your birthday is in March, but you don't see your name listed above, it's because we have no record of it. Please send your birthday to us so we can celebrate you too.

We are still looking for a person/persons to be our Program Planner/Co-Planners and to fill other committee chairs. Please contact Larry Schwarberg at (pfherrlls@yahoo.com) if you are interested. It doesn't require a lot of energy or time. We'd appreciate your help greatly.

The next officers' meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 6, at noon at Flossmoor Station. Every SSRTA member is welcome to attend, but only officers vote on any motions. The secretary will have minutes to share; the treasurer will update us on our fiscal situation; our membership chairperson will give us a report on our current membership; and the vice-president and president will have reports to share.

The next SSRTA meeting will be held on March 20 at Flossmoor Station on Stirling street in Flossmoor. The meeting starts at noon. There will be a limited menu of items from which to choose. Remember, the cost of the luncheon is going to \$25.00 at this meeting. The decision on a program is still in progress.

If you have not yet paid the 2024 SSRTA dues, you can do that at the March meeting.

This is the report from our IRTA Area Rep Marge Sucansky about IRTA Executive Director Jessica Hoselton's first ZOOM meeting.

“At Jessica's first Monthly Brief Zoom about 70 people participated. The guest speaker was Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski who spoke about WEP/GPO. If you weren't able to participate this time, watch for the future events. In March the guest will be Andrew Bodewes, IRTA's lobbyist; in April Speaker of the House Chris Welch will be the guest; in May Darren LaHood will be the guest; in September a staff person from the Illinois Attorney General's Office will talk about scams perpetrated on seniors. If you have any suggestions for future guests, let Jessica know. Nathan has started FOIA searches of prospective retirees. Only about 200 districts did not reply.

Did you see the Voter Voice email about Governor Pritzker's address? If you are not signed up for Voter Voice, go to the IRTA website and register to get important information. If you want a copy of the information, let me know.

Jessica is working to open up lines of communication with CMS.

It is important to encourage your members to sign up for the \$1 a month PAC donation. This is an election year, and we need to make our name known to candidates. Because of attrition, the amount in the PAC fund is low. We were successful in the last cycle in supporting candidates who are friends to retired teachers. If you need information about how to sign up, let me know.”

Here is the latest legislative news from IRTA.

The General Assembly re-convened on Tuesday, February 20th. Legislation is beginning to move through the process, as bills slowly get assigned to committees. Expect action to remain slow and even some committees will be cancelled, as members realize some legislation isn't quite ready for prime time. The deadline to introduce new legislation was on February 9th.

The biggest item to watch for is the budget. Governor Pritzker is scheduled to deliver his budget proposal in conjunction with his State of the State to the General Assembly on Wednesday, February 21. The Governor's Office of Management and Budget issued a report in November projecting the state could face a budget deficit next year of \$891 million, assuming revenue trends remain stable, and the state continues making all of its required payments into its rainy-day fund and pension funds.

Rep. Amy Elik (R-Alton) and Rep. Dan Ugaste (R-Geneva) have been selected to join House Republican Leader Tony McCombie's (R-Savanna) leadership team.

2024 Key Session Deadlines:

February 9: Deadline: Introduction of House & Senate Bills; LRB Amendment Requests Begin

February 21: Governor's State of the State/Budget Address

March 10: Deadline: Senate Bills Out of Senate Committee

March 19: Primary Election

