



## IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

### From the Co-President Jean Hoffman

Hopefully by the time this is published we are not only out of the deepfreeze, but the latest surge of Covid-19 is bottoming out. With that, I hope you have all had a good winter, have stayed well, and are ready to enjoy the return of spring or your return to Iowa after wintering in a warm place.



**Co-President:**  
**Jean Hoffman**  
1460 470th Ave.,  
Estherville, IA 51334  
Cell 712-209-1780  
E-mail:  
[42teacher@gmail.com](mailto:42teacher@gmail.com)

The PH Balance Scholarship committee has been meeting to discuss the application process and we are also working with AMBA and Velocity to have a new page added to our website that is dedicated to the scholarship. Applicants or IRSPA members will be able to download an application, we will have a running list of winners, and we are planning to have an online donation button. Concerns brought up at the state meeting are on the agenda for our April retreat and board meeting. The next scholarship will come from District 3, it will be awarded to a senior graduating in May of 2023. The winner will be announced at the State Meeting and Convention in October of 2022. We will be looking for two IRSPA members from District 3 who would like to serve on the selection committee. If interested please contact the scholarship committee by sending an email to [phbalance2021@gmail.com](mailto:phbalance2021@gmail.com).

Barb Songer and Anita Fagen Miller have decided to step down as district coordinators after many years of dedicated service. IRSPA thanks you for your service and wishes you well in your next chapter of life.

We have two new district coordinators who are answering the call of our motto of Proud To Serve. From District 1 Judy Jepsen has answered the call to serve and from District 2 Judge Brown is stepping up to serve as a coordinator. We warmly welcome Judy Jepsen and Judge Brown to the IRSPA board.

Judy hails from Kiron and is a member of the Crawford County unit. She taught K-12 TAG, K-5 enrichment, and 5th grade language arts. For the past 15 years she has been

subbing in all areas. Judy's interest in IRSPA has a long history. Her mother was a founding member of the Crawford County unit. Seeing how much her mother enjoyed being a member greatly influenced Judy's decision to also serve. She has been a member of the Crawford County IRSPA for fifteen years and served as president. Judy is married, has a son and daughter, ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Judy feels blessed.

Judge Brown is from the Fort Dodge area. He has lived in Iowa for the past 45 years and taught at Fort Dodge Senior high school and Iowa Central Community College. He also was a consultant for the Iowa Department of Education working in school integration and multicultural education from 1991-1998. Judge has been retired since 2007 and became a member of the Iowa Retired School Personnel. Judge served as a member of NEA, ISEA and Fort Dodge Education during the years he was active as a teacher. He has three stepsons and has been widowed for three years. He has served as a member of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and the Judicial District (2B) Nomination Committee. Judge has volunteered at Friendship Haven Retirement center for the past fifteen years.

Welcome aboard Judy and Judge. Thank you for your willingness to carry out Dr. Percy Andrus' motto "To serve, not to be served."

Wishing you health and joy,  
Jean Hoffman  
Proud to be Serving



*Welcome Spring!*



## **ESTHERVILLE Area Retired School Personnel Association (EARSPA) & IOWA GREAT LAKES Area Unit**

The EARSPA unit from Estherville has continued to meet via Zoom throughout the winter. We are looking forward to meeting in person starting in March and meeting with our new members.

On April 21, 2022, the Estherville unit and Iowa Great Lakes unit will hold a joint meeting in Spirit Lake at the Senior Citizen Center at 10:00 AM. Paul Strid, our AMBA benefits representative, will be present to explain the benefits provided by AMBA to IRSPA members. This meeting will be open to all area members and any retired school person that are interested in the benefits of IRSPA.

From Jean Hoffman



## **Webster County Retired School Personnel**

### **August 30th**

Webster County IRSPA held their first meeting on August 30, 2021 at the First Presbyterian Church. Cheri Maehl, President, welcomed everyone back.

We had 8 new guests join us. President Maehl introduced the Board. A proposed change was made in Article 7 regarding member fees. The change was in the wording of removal of exact dollar amount. It will now read 'Dues will include a combination of local and State dues.'

Our request for donations had a very good response. We received \$1,744 which we divided into four areas for this year's budget.

After the meal, Mike Zahm provided the program for us, with folklore songs he had written and some stories for us to enjoy.

Paul Strid, AMBA Senior Benefits Advisor, talked about the benefits available and asked anyone interested to contact him.

President Maehl informed us that last year, we had 113 members, and this year, we currently have 106.

### **Other items of interest were:**

- School supplies were sent to Feelhaver Elementary School.
- Our President this year is Cheri Maehl and our Vice President is Sheryl Griffith.
- Scholarship money was \$2,140 with \$175 more taken in today, so we will be able to give two \$1,000 scholarships this year.
- Please turn in any volunteer hours to Becky Nelson

Reilly. The next meeting is October 4th at Friendship Haven and it will include our Memorial Service.

- Eight members of the Book Committee met in September to level, label and count the new and gently used books we have collected for nearly two years! We have over 2,000 books in tubs ready to donate this Christmas. On a non-covid year, we distribute about 1000 books at Community Christmas and Kemna Tree of Hope events, as well as give books to the children at the Domestic and Sexual Assault Outreach Center.

### **October 4th**

The October meeting was held on October 4th at Friendship Haven. We had 55 members in attendance. We had 8 new members, with 2 guests, who joined at the end of the meeting.

President Maehl called for a vote on the change in wording on the dues as presented last month. All voted aye to accept the change. There will be 4 members attending the State meeting this week. One of our members, Larry Mitchell, received the prestigious McCowen Award at the State Music Convention. It is awarded to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to high school music. It is only awarded by nomination from other music directors.

Our Memorial Service was held with the obituaries being read by Cheri Maehl and Judge Brown and candles were lighted by Sheryl Griffith. The 13 members memorialized were: Margaret Field, Andrea Hanson, JoAnn Lee, Teresa Gross, Merv Haugen, Norma Olson, Pat Milefchik, John Mallaro, Diane Flaherty, Jonathon Vessey, Ron Berckhan, Mary Maly and Arnold Clausen.

### **November 1st**

The District 2 Webster County Retired School Personnel met at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on November 1st.

Pastor John Jahnke said a prayer before the luncheon. A thank you was given to the committee who prepared the food.

President Cheri Maehl reported that we had two more new members last month, bringing our total membership to 115. She also gave some information on IPERS.

We raised \$210 last month for the Lord's cupboard and 125 grocery items. We will also be doing this at our December meeting.

We will need a Vice President and Secretary starting July 1st.

Scholarship winners for 2020-21 were Jaydan Raleigh and McKayla Smith.

We will be accepting memorial tributes for members who have passed away. The money will be added to the Schoolhouse Fund at the Fort Museum.

Becky Nelson Reilly reported on volunteer hours. Barb Schultz, chairman of school supplies, indicated we need



markers, crayons, toilet paper rolls, pencils and stickers.

Linda Whiting gave a program on becoming an author and told her story of how she got started writing books.

Our next meeting will be December 6th at Trinity United Methodist Church.

### December 6th

We met at Trinity United Methodist Church on December 6th.

Member Leslie Reetz introduced Fort Dodge Senior High Choir Director Matt Drees and eight of the All-State singers (pictured right) who sang Christmas carols at our luncheon. The voices and harmonies were spectacular.

Grace was said before the meal. Cheri Maehl indicated there was a sign up sheet on each table, if you want the newsletter electronically, you should sign up.

May Helvik has volunteered to be the secretary starting July 1st. Thank you, May. We still need a Vice President and 2 callers.

Please be sure to turn your volunteer hours in to Becky Nelson Reilly.



School Supplies Chairperson Barb Schulze (pictured left) displays just a fraction of the toilet paper, paper towel and wrapping paper tubes members have collected for her. Typically, our group gives markers, crayons, pencils, folders and paper to a Webster county school each year. This year, one teacher requested

the unusual tube collection. The tubes are used for MakerSpace (STEM) activities and art projects. Tubes can be purchased on the internet, but it was felt we could collect them.

Barb Lynn said thank you to the members who helped to distribute the remaining membership booklets.

Judge Brown talked about IPERS investment, elder abuse, prescription drug cost, and various other items.

The book committee started in 2007-08 with 14 members. We currently have 2,000 books ready to go. We normally give 250 books to DSOC or Kemna Ray of Hope. We also gave books to Share What You Wear.

There will be no meeting in January or February. The next meeting will be March 7th at Friendship Haven. The speaker will be Shelly Bottorf from The Fine Arts Association.

All Webster County Articles  
Submitted by Bonnie Rhodes



## HARDEN COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Harden County Area Retired School Personnel meets at Edgewood in Iowa Falls. The ladies of Edgewood are so gracious in serving us. In December, we were welcomed with punch and many tasty hors d'oeuvres. They also served a delicious ham dinner with raisin sauce.



Carol Humphrey of Eldon (pictured above) presented the program "Sing a Song of Christmas." She sang several songs and told interesting facts about many of them. She also involved the members in singing some favorites. She was accompanied by Lois Nasse.

The meeting was called to order by Jill Fisher. Roll call was answered by 15 members and 1 guest. Our project for December was a donation to the scholarship fund. We were able to award three scholarships this past year.

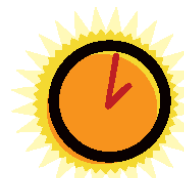
Maurice Gaulke gave a report on the state convention. In the highlights, he reported that over 130,000 retirees are receiving IPERS benefits that are over two million dollars.

We did not meet in January or February. Hopefully, March will be a time of talking about the volunteer hours that members contributed over their break.

We would welcome feedback on Community Projects that other units are doing. We are also looking for ideas to help us increase our membership. We are trying to contact new retirees as well as making contact with members who aren't active to see if we can be of assistance.

I enjoy all the reports from other units in the newsletter, and I would love to hear more from each group.

MaryLou Kirkdorffer, secretary



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME  
BEGINS**  
**MARCH 18**





## BLACK HAWK RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Black Hawk Retired School Personnel Association resumed in-person meetings in May. We now hold our meetings and have lunch at the Lifestyle Inn in Cedar Falls. We average 18 people in attendance each meeting. We have had a change in officers. After 20 years as our secretary, Saul Austin has retired from this position. After 12 years as our treasurer, Alice Walther-Ellis has retired from this position. We honored both Saul and Alice at our October meeting and presented each with gift certificates to their favorite restaurants.



On the left, Shelia Bullock, co-president, and on the right, Alice Walther-Ellis, retiring treasurer.



On the left, Jane Brown, co-president, and on the right, Saul Austin, retiring secretary.

by Jane Brown



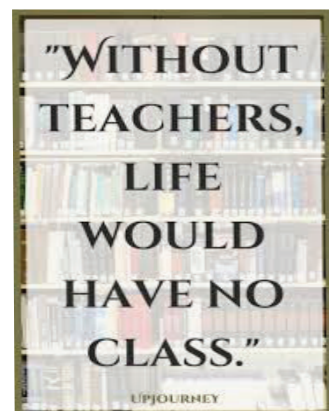
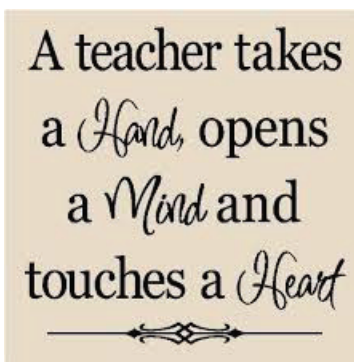
## BLACK HAWK RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION



### TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022

The meeting will be held at the Grout/Iowa Veterans Museum, 503 South St., Waterloo, IA 50701. The Black Hawk Unit is hosting. The Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum honors the service and sacrifice of all Iowa veterans from the Civil War to present. Step into their stories through traditional exhibits, interactive activities and an electronic Wall of Honor. The Museum consists of over 35 interactive exhibits. The interviews collected via the "Voices of Iowa Oral History Project" total over 1,500. Museum is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. <https://www.groutmuseumdistrict.org/about/> One of the sessions will be a tour of the museum.

by George Holland





## District 4

## DALLAS COUNTY AREA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Even though our last meeting for 2021 was in November, members of Dallas County Area Retired School Personnel have been active. At that meeting members could donate money or food for the Blessing Boxes in our area. The generous people in our group made a significant difference in helping those in need before Christmas.

Since we wouldn't be meeting before Christmas, we also collected money or toys for Toys for Tots. Member Linda Andorf, who with her husband, (pictured below)



heads up the local Toys for Tots drive reported that Toys for Tots provided toys and gifts to almost 300 local children ages 0-14. They are grateful for a very generous community.

To show our appreciation to those staff members still on the front lines, we voted to award a staff member in each of the 4 buildings in Perry with \$20 in Perry Bucks in honor of National Education Week. Rob Reinhart, TAG teacher from the elementary school, was very enthusiastic when he was presented with his award. He said this was the only thing he had won besides the chance to be first to get his COVID shot and this was definitely better!

Several of members provided salads for the Community Christmas dinner, as well as helping to serve the actual meal. There were over 300 meals provided on-site, as takeout, or delivered to homes. In addition, meals were delivered to the Police Station, the ambulance service, and the Lutheran Home staff.

We are looking forward to spring when we can reconnect with each other and continue plans for hosting the District 4 meeting to be held in Perry in May.

by Susan Leslie

## District 4

## COUNCIL BLUFFS AREA CHAPTER OF IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The Council Bluffs Area Chapter of the Iowa Retired School Personnel met November 17, 2021, at the Council Bluffs Country Club. The program was presented by "Witness", a women's quartet composed of Kay Tucker, Tiffany Arrick, Carol Miller, and Kathy Kennedy. They entertained us with a variety of songs. We added two new members, Mike Skipton and Larry Johnson, both Lewis Central retirees. Sue Griswold shared her memories of teachers who influenced her to become a teacher. Bev Fletcher was named to a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of new officers.

Following this meeting, the group began its winter recess. Meetings will resume on March 16th when the program "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" will be presented by Gere' Stevens. The upcoming meeting on April 20, 2022, will be a Support the Future program with a Craft Fair being held for our Scholarship Fund. We then begin our summer recess until September.



(above)

Witness members who presented the November program are Tiffany Arrick, Carol Miller, Kathy Kennedy, and Kay Tucket. Carol and Kathy are retired teachers.



Mike Skipton and Larry Johnson became our newest members at the November meeting.

by Sue Griswold,  
Secretary

*"Life's most persistent  
and urgent question is,  
'What are you doing for others?'"  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr. ~*

# It's News to Me...

By Toni Hood

- Please note the district meeting schedules. The host units work very hard to provide good food, interesting programs, and congenial social opportunities. It's a day to renew old friendships and meet new people!

- There are many photo ops at the district meetings. Anybody can submit a fun photo (with caption) for the June newsletter.

- Greg Samorajski, IPERS CEO, reported that IPERS' 29.6% investment return was the second highest in IPERS history. IPERS was created in 1953, and today 1 in 10 Iowans receive benefits.

- More than 300,000 Iowans rely on IPERS' benefits. The average IPERS retiree is 64 years old, receives a monthly benefit of \$1,524, and has 23 years of service.

- Thank you to all the units who contribute articles. Your articles provide other units with volunteer activity, program, and membership ideas. We can all learn from each other.

- If your unit provides local scholarships, please consider submitting a short bio and picture of your recipients. Some units invite the recipients to their meeting, and this can be expanded to serve as the program.

- If your unit wants some recruiting tips, contact Barb Bielenberg at [bielenberg46@yahoo.com](mailto:bielenberg46@yahoo.com). If everybody recruited one new member, our state membership would double.

- Many members commented about the colorful December issue. If you no longer want a paper copy, you can see the color issues on our IRSPA website. You can contact me or Robert Swanson to make that change. Our contact information is in this newsletter.

- "My Account" is your IPERS retirement toolkit. "My Account" gives you access to your individual retirement benefits information. It can allow you to: view your benefit payment history, change your tax withholdings, change your direct deposit information, and view your income tax verification information. You can set up your "My Account" by calling 800-622-3849.



## DAVIS COUNTY Retired School Personnel

Davis County Retired School Personnel met on December 7, 2021 at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church meeting room with 11 members present. Members brought items to be donated to The Lord's Cupboard. (pictured right)



Our program was presented by Davis County High School Instrumental Music Department under the direction of Jeff Cook (pictured below). Students performing were Kier Price, Alexis Perry, McKinley Boyd, Jolee Reed, Cheyenne Yoder, and Eric Bollman. They entertained us with several Christmas numbers.



The Davis County Unit is busy making plans for our District Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at The Bloomfield Christian Church, 107 N. Davis St., Bloomfield, IA.

by Bonnie Shively

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others."  
~ Mahatma Gandhi ~*

[www.irspa.org](http://www.irspa.org)

**Check it out!**

**We encourage membership renewal!**



# District 6

## JOHNSON COUNTY JCRSP

The exciting news for Johnson County is we are hosting the District Meeting on May 19. Please mark the date on your calendar. The plan is to meet at the new Marriott Garden Hotel located across from Kinnick Stadium. Details are still pending.

With our 26% covid positivity rates, we are still meeting virtually. It was decided at our Executive Board meeting that for January and February it is still best to meet online because of our weather and health concerns.

Linda Miller, state officer, made a visit to one of our two in-person meetings. We celebrated December with a sing along arranged by Mary Mascher and the West High Chorus and their very accomplished leader, David Haas. We had such a good time, we decided to try to meet together, again in March. Thanks, Linda, for your support and direction for the District Meeting.

Our virtual programming has drawn the regular 20 to 25 people. Considering we have 174 paying members, we hope to do better when we meet in person, again. We shall overcome Omicron, which is a serious no joke air borne virus.

Take care, stay healthy and wear an n95 or kn95 mask. I am just getting over covid and it's no fun!



**Entertainment enjoyed by Mary Mascher and John Hieronymus at Marriott Garden Hotel (pictured above) along with another table of JCRSP members (below).**



**Members Linda Miller and Nancy Porter enjoying each others company by being together at Marriott Garden Hotel.**



Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Porter,  
JCRSP President



**(above) Johnson County December entertainment the West High Singers at Marriott Garden Hotel.  
(below) 35 members enjoying the entertainment.**



*Continued ~*

“  
Teaching is the one  
profession that creates  
all other professions.

UNKNOWN





## JEFFERSON COUNTY UNIT



The Jefferson County Unit is back in action. Our group is smaller than before Covid shut us down and moved us out of the Sunnybrook Assisted Living Building as a meeting site. However, we have now started gathering at the Isaac Walton Club just outside of Fairfield for our luncheon meetings, (pictured above) where the food is great and a wall of windows provides a beautiful view of their lake.

At our October 2021 meeting, Diane Goudy, (pictured left) one of our newest members, introduced our



guest speaker, Deb Roe, (pictured right) who wrote the book Willow Tree. It was a book she had written 40 years ago and had wanted to get it printed for her family. However, Di-

ane had encouraged her to shoot higher—and get it published for a wider audience. In the book, Deb Roe used the names of her grandchildren and one of them, at the age of 10, was the illustrator of the book, which gave it a beautiful touch. Each member at the meeting got a copy of the book, which we read together.

In December, we usually have a music program. However, this year we did something different. All of us shared stories about memorable Christmases from our past. Marilyn Fenton remembered the first Christmas they had electricity on the farm where she grew up and how exciting that was. That was definitely a reminder of how much we take for granted today.

In January, Treasurer Jane Rowe gave a presentation over the African Violet Foundation, a local charity. The foundation provides emergency supplies and cash to people in need in Jefferson and Van Buren counties. At Christmas they give gifts to students in the Fairfield,

Pekin, and Van Buren middle and high schools who have recently suffered traumatic events, who have made significant life-style changes to improve their lives, or who suffer financial hardships. In addition, the foundation has special one-time projects, such as providing the faculty of Fairfield High School and Middle School shirts in memory of Teacher Nohema Graber, who was murdered this fall by two students.

The Jefferson County Unit had been trying to decide on a good place to donate some of our funds, and the members decided that the African Violet Foundation was it.

By Michele Weber, secretary

*"Only a life lived in the service to other is worth living."*

*~ Albert Einstein ~*

## AMBA SHARES TIPS...

### Tips for A Successful Recovery After a Tooth Extraction

Thanks to advances in anesthetics, tools, and procedures, having a tooth pulled is less stressful and painful than ever. Still, the success of the procedure largely depends on taking care of your mouth afterwards. We give you the steps you need to know.

Your association and AMBA can help keep your mouth healthy with a Dental Plan that's right for you. Sign up now at [www.AMBAdentalvision.com](http://www.AMBAdentalvision.com) or call 866-979-0497.

<https://blog.amba.info/lost-a-tooth-learn-these-tips-for-recovery-after-a-tooth-extraction/>

- True or False: You should avoid rinsing your mouth right away after having a tooth pulled.
- True! Rinsing can dislodge the clot that's forming and affect the time it takes to heal.

Learn more ways to ensure the recovery after a tooth extraction with our article "Tips for a Successful Recovery After a Tooth Extraction"

### You'll Love Our Recipe for Waffle Heart Sandwiches

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than with an innovative recipe with a food that everyone loves? Our Waffle Heart Sandwiches are a sweet savory treat that are easy to make and delicious to eat!

<https://blog.amba.info/youll-%e2%99%a5%ef%b8%8f-our-recipe-for-heart-shaped-waffle-sandwiches/>

If the way to man's heart is through his stomach, then our Waffle Heart Sandwich is sure to be a hit. Get the recipe here!



## Why is My Vision Cloudy?

Cloudy vision can range from a mild fog to a dense layer that covers your entire view. Cloudy vision doesn't happen on its own; it's a symptom of another condition. Find out what could be causing your vision condition and what you can do about it.

Your association and AMBA have an excellent Vision Plan that can help you keep your eyes safe with low copays and extensive coverage. Sign up now at [www.AMBAdentalvision.com](http://www.AMBAdentalvision.com) or call 866-979-0497.

<https://blog.amba.info/why-is-my-vision-cloudy-the-common-causes-may-surprise-you/>

Cloudy vision can seem like a minor annoyance, but it could be a symptom of a bigger issue, such as cataracts, age-related macular degeneration, or Fuchs' Dystrophy. We tell you what you need to know and when to see your eye doctor.

Annual check-ups are an important step to keep your eyes healthy. Our Vision Plan covers annual check-ups and has thousands of in-network doctors. Sign up now at [www.AMBAdentalvision.com](http://www.AMBAdentalvision.com) or call 866-979-0497.

## Who Created the Saying 'Beauty Is in the Eye of the Beholder'?

It's one of the most universally celebrated phrases about the nature of love and appreciation. But who created the quote? The answer may surprise you!

<https://blog.amba.info/who-created-the-saying-beauty-is-in-the-eye-of-the-beholder/>

Philosophers and writers have all debated whether beauty is subjective or objective. But it wasn't Plato, Chaucer, or Shakespeare who coined the phrase "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder". So who was it? read on and find out!

## This Valentine's, Get in Shape with Heart Health Exercises

Keeping the heart healthy takes more than one type of exercise. We give you the tips for the best aerobic, strength-training and flexibility exercises to keep your heart strong and healthy for years to come!

<https://blog.amba.info/this-valentines-get-in-shape-with-heart-health-exercises/>

Is it a Stretch to Say Flexibility Exercises Benefit Your Heart?

Although stretching and flexibility workouts don't directly contribute to heart health, they do benefit musculoskeletal health. Flexibility and balancing exercises enable you to stay flexible and free from joint pain, cramping and other muscular issues. Get great tips for the best exercises - as well as ideas for strength training and aerobic exercises - here.

## February is National Cancer Prevention Awareness Month

While there is no certain way to prevent cancer, you can lower your risks through healthy lifestyle choices, getting recommended cancer screenings, and vaccinating against certain viruses. Get the info you need here.

Doing things to help prevent cancer is important - so is being prepared for a cancer diagnosis. A Cancer Plan from your association and AMBA can help. The plan will pay you a lump sum upon initial diagnosis. Sign up now at [www.amba-review.com](http://www.amba-review.com) or call 866-615-4063.

<https://blog.amba.info/february-is-national-cancer-prevention-awareness-month/>

More than 40% of all diagnosed cancers and nearly 50% of all cancer-related deaths in the United States can be attributed to preventable causes. Since February is National Cancer Prevention Awareness Month, learn what you can do to lower your risk.

Your association and AMBA have a Cancer Plan that will pay you a lump sum upon initial diagnosis. The money is yours, to be spent however you like. You can also add a Heart/Stroke rider to the plan. Sign up at [www.amba-review.com](http://www.amba-review.com) or speak with a skilled representative at 866-615-4063.

## Unlock the Perfect Valentine's Gift with AMBA Passport

Sure, no gift is too extravagant for your loved one on Valentine's Day. But AMBA Passport can help you save big bucks on the best gifts - including 1-800-FLOWERS, jewelry, dining, and more.

Get started by visiting [www.myAMBAdiscounts.com](http://www.myAMBAdiscounts.com). Open your FREE account using your secret activation code: <https://blog.amba.info/unlock-the-perfect-valentines-gift-with-amba-passport/>

Shoot an arrow through your loved one's heart without leaving a hole in your wallet. AMBA Passport can help you unlock big discounts - as much as 30%! - on great gifts like flowers, dining and jewelry.

Open your FREE account now. Visit [www.myAMBAdiscounts.com](http://www.myAMBAdiscounts.com) and use your secret activation code: <https://blog.amba.info/unlock-the-perfect-valentines-gift-with-amba-passport/>

## 28 Ways to Make February Fun and Festive

Got the February blues? From day trips to at-home hobbies, we've got 28 great ideas for the next 28 days!

<https://blog.amba.info/28-ways-to-make-february-fun-and-festive/>

Did you know February 9th is National Pizza Day? What better day to make some homemade pizza? This, and 27 other suggestions in our "28 Ways to Make February Fun and Festive" can help you make the most out of the shortest month. **That's amore!**

## **IRSPA CONTACTS**

### **President/Past President:**

George Holland,  
16992 Middle Road, Dubuque, IA 52002  
(563) 582-2663 or (563) 581-8737 Cell  
[dutchboygwh@gmail.com](mailto:dutchboygwh@gmail.com)

### **President Elect/ President:**

Jean Hoffman  
1460 470th Ave., Estherville, IA 51334  
(712) 209-1780 - [42teacher@gmail.com](mailto:42teacher@gmail.com)

### **Vice President:**

Jeanne Handeland  
4181 230th St., Wallingford, IA 51365  
(712) 260-0943 - [jhandy@rvtc.net](mailto:jhandy@rvtc.net)

### **Secretary/Historian**

Mary Jo O'Connell  
1700 Avoca Street, Dubuque, IA 52201  
(563) 557-1451 - [moconnell12@msn.com](mailto:moconnell12@msn.com)

### **Treasurer:**

Robert Swanson,  
3221 Cheyenne Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51104  
(712) 252-1446 - [rmswanson1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanson1936@gmail.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

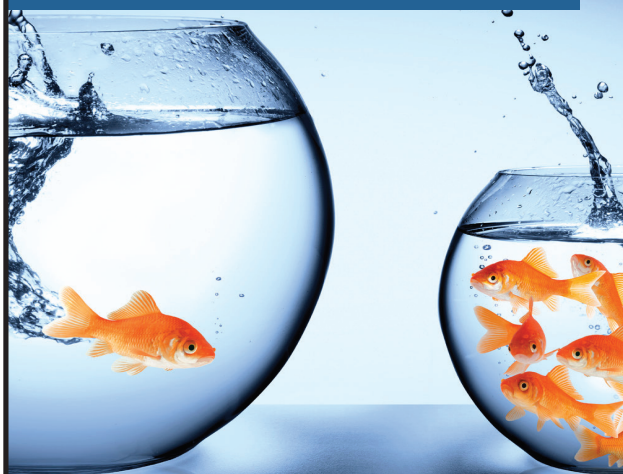
Toni Hood  
1006 6th Ave. N., Humboldt, IA 50548  
515-332-5819 Home; 515-269-3823 Cell  
[tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com)

*District Meetings are scheduled  
see below... it will be fun to get  
back into having meetings and  
being together again!*

**Barring any future issues with the pandemic,  
we plan to hold our District Meetings in 2022.**

- District 1   **May 5**   Cherokee Unit, Cherokee
- District 2   **May 4**   Boone County Unit, Boone
- District 3   **May 3**   Black Hawk Unit, Waterloo
- District 4   **May 17**   Dallas County Unit, Perry
- District 5   **May 18**   Davis County Unit, Bloomfield
- District 6   **May 19**   Johnson County Unit, Iowa City

## **OUTGROWN YOUR BENEFITS?**



## **TIME TO EXPAND YOUR COVERAGE.**

As your life changes, consider some of these  
benefits and discounts from **IRSPA & AMBA**:

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Long Term Care & Home Health Care Insurance
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- Cancer, Heart & Stroke, and Accident Insurances
- Medicare Solutions
- Final Expenses Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance
- Annuity
- Start Hearing, Inc.
- Hospital Stay Coverage
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more

Learn More: **1-877-556-4582**

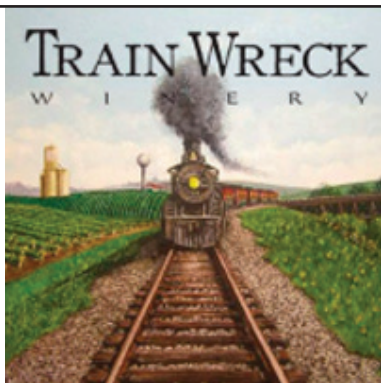
**[myambabenefits.info/irspa](http://myambabenefits.info/irspa)**

IRSPA - Iowa Retired School Personnel Association



BENEFITS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH  
**AMBA**  
ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS



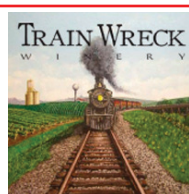


Train Wreck Winery is owned by Dallas Clark former Hawkeye All-American and NFL All-Pro tight end.

Open since December 20, 2011, Train Wreck is a small winery dedicated to producing quality wines served in a fun atmosphere. They make a variety of wines, from sweet to dry; red, white and blush. You are invited to stop by, try our wines and relax in our beautifully restored depot. The Train Wreck Winery is located in Algona, Iowa. Stop in and see the beautifully repurposed depot, learn the story of the train wreck and enjoy their many wonderful wines.

<http://www.trainwreckwinery.com>

(515) 395-3376



The Train Wreck Winery in Algona, Iowa, will offer a 10% discount on bottled wine when you show your IRSPA membership card or the ad from the IRSPA Newsletter. In-store only.

## Honoring a 30% Discount on Rooms for IRSPA Members.

Show them this advertisement or your IRSPA Membership Card.

Known as one of the Finest Historic Boutique Hotels in the World, the Hotel Pattee is a destination unto itself. The property boasts 40 individually decorated and themed guest room, a state of the art bowling center, a full service dining room and lounge, and its own dedicated library. Additional services include the Full Service Copper Door Spa along with many other Amenities.

Contact:  
Event and Sales Department  
515.465.3511  
Hotel Pattee  
1112 Willis Ave.  
Perry, IA 50220  
sales@hotelpattee.com  
www.hotelpattee.com



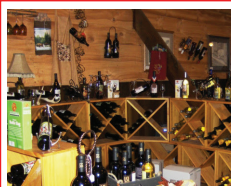
## Little Swan Lake Winery



Little Swan Lake Winery is a family owned and operated business located 1-1/2 miles north of the small town of Superior in Northwest Iowa. In May of 2002 our doors opened to the public. The tasting room, our remodeled 1920's barn, features 35 different wines all produced on site, a selection of gourmet cheeses, and buffalo meat from our own herd which roams nearby. Our vineyard consists of two acres of northern cold hardy grapes. The gift shop features clothing and wine related items. We are dedicated to producing the finest and most enjoyable wines and invite you to spend an hour or an afternoon with us.

Our newest addition, our bed and breakfast, opened in September of 2011. This renovated grain elevator is a great place to relax and enjoy the beauty that is Little Swan Lake!

Scott and Diane Benjamin and Family



Little Swan Lake Winery offers a 10% discount on bottled wine to IRSPA members when you show your membership card or the ad from the newsletter. Offer good at the winery only.

[Lslwinery.com](http://Lslwinery.com) • Phone: (712) 858 - 4592

## Newsletter Deadline

**Please e-mail articles & pictures if at all possible to avoid retyping.**



Articles for the **June**  
newsletter are due no later than  
**Friday, May 27, 2022**



**NOTE:** Deadline date extended so all the May District Meetings can be included in the June Newsletter.



Get info to Toni Hood, at  
E-mail: [tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com)  
Home Telephone: 515-332-5819  
Cell Phone: 515-269-3823



# Newsletter

## Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.  
Sioux City, IA 51104

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockwell City, Iowa 50579  
Permit #145



### WE REMEMBER

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Coyle, Elaine	Littleton, CO	No Unit
Davis, Mary	Maquoketa, IA	Jackson County
Dexter, Karen	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Fisher, Janice	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Flummer, Helen	Leon, IA	Decatur County Unit
Handley, Beverly	Marble Rock, IA	Big Four Unit
Hodges, Evelyn	Burlington, IA	Des Moines County Unit
Lasack, Alice	Lost Nation, IA	Clinton County Unit
Mackin, Margaret	Bettendorf, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Moore, Claire	Boone, IA	No Unit
Mullen, Shirley	DeWitt, IA	Clinton County Unit
Mumm, Dennis	DeWitt, IA	Clinton County Unit
Sarver, Dan	Indianola, IA	No Unit
Schuchmann, Melvin	Marshalltown, IA	Marshall County Unit
Smith, Mary L	Cedar Rapids, IA	Cedar Rapids Area Unit

**PLEASE NOTE:** Send relevant notices, change of address, and/or subscription cancellations to [rmswanson1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanson1936@gmail.com)

### LEGISLATIVE FUND

Contributions to the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association legislative fund for the improvement of retirement benefits are being accepted for the current year (Oct. to Oct.) Please make your contributions as generous as possible.

\$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Member of Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL EITHER FORM TO:

Robert Swanson, IRSPA Treas. • 3221 Cheyenne Blvd.,  
Sioux City, IA 51104 • Make Checks payable to IRSPA

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Member of Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$15 • LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$300