

SEPTEMBER 2023



## IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

### From the President Jean Hoffman

How quickly we have gone from spring and the District Meetings to the end of summer with preparations in full swing for the State Meeting in October. I hope you were able to squeeze in some family time and maybe watch a few of the grandchildren play some ball games.

The State Executive Committee recently held our budget meeting in Des Moines. A major concern is the rising cost of postage. If you have mailed a letter lately, I'm certain you understand how this would affect the cost of postage on the newsletter. We are going to be making a push for people to receive a copy online. Some of the benefits are that you will receive it earlier, it is always in color, and it is archived along with the last five years of newsletters. We totally understand that there are those who do not have access to the online version and it will continue to be mailed to them. More information on this will be dispersed at the State Meeting.

Look elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter to find the registration form for the State Meeting in October. Registrations are due September 15. Please strongly consider sending a delegation from your unit to this meeting. Our goal is to have every unit represented!

Also note that we have reviewed the Constitution and By Laws very carefully and there is a minor adjustment to be made due to the addition of the PH Balance Scholarship. The verbiage is included in this newsletter and will be voted on at the State Meeting.

As you make plans for this next year at your local unit level, please remember to send a pdf copy of your program to me at [42teacher@gmail.com](mailto:42teacher@gmail.com) along



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

with an updated copy of your local unit's Constitution and By Laws also in pdf format. These will then be placed on the webpage.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer. Iowa is filled with small town celebrations of all kinds in the late summer into fall. I hope your travels take you to one of them.

*By Jean Hoffman*

**Due to rising postal costs,  
we are encouraging  
IRSPA members to read  
the IRSPA Newsletter  
online; go to [irspa.org](http://irspa.org),  
under "news" you will see  
a selection of newsletters  
in color that go back six  
years. Beginning in March  
of 2023, members will no  
longer receive a printed  
copy UNLESS they notify  
[rmswanson1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanson1936@gmail.com)**

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

*District*  
**2**

**BOONE COUNTY  
IRSPA**

The Boone County Retired School Personnel Association met June 13th at the United Methodist Church in Boone. A delicious lunch was served by the United Methodist women. Eighteen members and guests were present.

Following the lunch, Julie Trepa, superintendent of Boone Community Schools, spoke to the group giving updates on several district programs and construction projects including the Ledges Elementary School which will open in the fall.

The Boone County Retired School Personnel Association met August 8th at the United Methodist Church in Boone where members enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon.

The meeting was called to order by President Bev Olofson. Twelve members and one guest were present. Amber Ahrens, Boone County Coordinator for RSVP, spoke to the group about volunteer opportunities within our communities.

Association by-laws were updated and officers were elected: JoAnn Hanson and Jean Sorsen co-presidents and Angela Pratt secretary/treasurer.

The next meeting will be October 10th.

Submitted by Sue Duffee

*District*  
**4**

**COUNCIL BLUFFS  
IRSPA**

Officers of the Council Bluffs Area Chapter have been planning our 2023-2024 meetings. We will begin our year on September 20, 2023 with a luncheon at noon at the Council Bluffs Country Club. Debra Schmidt the AMBA representative for Nebraska and SW Iowa will be our speaker.

Our first scholarship was presented in May to Sean McGee from Tri Center High School. He will be attending Iowa State University this fall.

We currently have 62 paid members and are looking to increase our membership again this year. Our remaining meetings will be held on October 18, 2023, November 15, 2023, March 20, 2024 and April 17, 2024.

Julie Dillehay, Secretary

*District*  
**5**

**APPANOOSE AND  
WAYNE UNIT**

On Thursday, June 1st the District 5 Appanoose-Wayne met at the Bowling Green Lanes in Corydon for lunch. The members shared stories of their teaching experiences, and local events. The meals were excellent.

After the lunch the group met at the Lutheran Church in Corydon. A regular meeting was held with thanks to Bill Thom for his many years of service as treasurer. Bill was the Centerville H.S band director for many years. Enfys McMurray then presented a program on Flight 11, a story that many people in Southeast, Iowa are unfamiliar with.



**Patty and Dave Mason,  
Enfys McMurray  
and Rick Keilig Jr.**

*Flight 11* is a book written by Enfys that tells the story of Continental Flight 11, a Boeing 707, that left Chicago, Illinois at 8:35 PM to travel to Kansas City, Missouri on May 22, 1962. Tragically, at 9:17 PM the airliner exploded and crashed with debris and remains of 45 crew and passengers in Appanoose County and Putnam County, Missouri. Subsequent investigation found that a passenger as part of a suicide insurance scam had carried a bomb on board. This terrible event was one of the first terrorist events involving an air craft. A memorial to Flight 11 is in Unionville, Missouri. Enfys' talk was well received by the members. The story of Flight 11 truly shows the need for security at our nation's airports.

On Thursday, August 17, 2023, the District 5 Appanoose and Wayne Unit held a planning meeting for October 2023 to August 2024. The unit met at Hardee's in Centerville and had an excellent lunch. After lunch, many ideas were discussed and a schedule was decided on. In addition, the unit members briefly mentioned the units volunteer hours to our counties, which included quilt flags for US Veterans, helping people in many ways, supporting Veterans groups, and fire fighting in the communities.



Six attended the meeting. The picture shows four of the members. From left to right Richard Keilig Jr., Jane Kaster, Louis Hays, and Dave Silias.

Richard H. Keilig Jr.  
President IRSPA, Appanoose and Wayne Units

**District  
5**
**DALLAS COUNTY  
IRSPA**

At the first meeting of the new year, members of Dallas County Area Retired School Personnel and their friends paid tribute to Florence Heck, the last founder of the local organization who passed away July 8 at the age of 94.

Florence's teaching story started at age 17 in southern Missouri just 9 miles from the Arkansas line. She had taken an exam as a senior in high school that allowed her to teach for one year with the requirement that she take 10 hours of education each summer at SW Missouri State to keep that certificate. She next taught two years in a Catholic school before her father mortgaged his cattle so she could go back to SWMS to secure her two year certificate.

Although she had perfect credentials, no district would hire her because she was Catholic. Finally she was hired to teach in Couch, Missouri. On the passing of her mother, she moved to Des Moines where she taught school in the Army barracks on Army Post Road, met her husband Mel Heck, and took time off to raise their 6 children while also finishing her four year degree.

Upon completion of her degree, she was hired in Perry where she taught for 22 years before retiring in 1991. She started in first grade and went to kindergarten for the last 8 years. During that time she taught in almost every building in the Perry system finishing on the stage in the junior high. As she put it, "I spent my last years on center stage!"

Upon retirement, Florence was one of 38 retirees contacted by Grace Freestone to assist in the formation of a Retired Teachers unit in Perry. At a May 7, 1992, meeting with Ed and Hazel Chuck, co-presidents of the state organization, it was decided to pursue this idea. Former superintendent, Dr. Blaine Lytle, was present and suggested that ALL school employees should belong to this organization. He also suggested that Florence would make a good president and she, as well as Lois Seeley, Grace Freestone and Don Matthews, should be officers. No one was given a chance to say NO! In October, 1992, the state charter was received and the Dallas County Area Retired School Personnel Association was official.

Florence was a perfect example of the official motto "To serve, not to be served" as she guided our organization through all these years.



*Florence Heck*

**District  
6**
**DES MOINES CO.  
IRSPA**

Des Moines Co. RSPA has had a busy year; we met monthly Sept.-Dec. and Feb.- May for fellowship, a catered lunch, and a program of local interest. Each month we collect contributions for our scholarship fund, and that committee headed by Sheila Townsend has once again chosen two outstanding young people to receive our help!

Among our programs this year was a local author/historian about efforts to establish our area as a historical site containing Native American artifacts relating to our iconic Warrior BlackHawk. Also, we enjoyed holiday music and trivia with our own Jeanette McWhorter and her piano, a presentation by Burlington Police about the Explorer Program for youth, and an update from Burlington Lightscape to illuminate our steeples and Mississippi Bridge!

Other fun included a time of sharing and reflections about our working lives, information about Master Gardening, and a wonderful concert by Notre Dame Show Choir to send us into summer! We are looking forward to our gathering of members and new retirees in September.

Kim Smith, Sec.

**District  
6**
**LEE COUNTY  
IRSPA**

Approximately 35 Lee County Retired School Personnel met recently at Meyer's Courtyard for their June luncheon. The meeting was led by President Mary Meyer. Focus of the meeting was the Necrology service giving honor and tribute to 5 member who have passed away.; Nadine Linder, Jean Peterson, Deisy Harrington, LaVerna Moore and Loretta Rotter. In May this organization also awarded three Lee County High School graduates majoring in education a \$500 scholarship. Recipients were Wren Richardson, Keokuk, Madison Sherwood and Isabella Boeding, Ft. Madison.

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



# CEDAR RAPIDS AREA CRIRSPA

The Cedar Rapids IR-SPA's last regular meeting was held at the end of May 2023. Representatives from ReLeaf Cedar Rapids presented. Cedar Rapids is still in recovery from the 2020 Derecho. Over 670,000 trees were destroyed in just 45 minutes. The ReLeaf plan was designed so that tree plantings address climate concerns, preserve neighborhood character, and balance equity across neighborhoods. It is a partnership between private and public entities and will help select, plant, and nourish trees for each location. Volunteers are welcome.



Optional summer "bring your own" lunches were scheduled at Thomas Park in Marion. Unfortunately, the June and July meetings were attended because of poor air quality and extreme temperatures respectively. Hopefully the conditions on August date will have been more conducive for this fun event.

CRISPA collects Hy-Vee receipts each meeting and are given to the Linn County Child Development Center in Cedar Rapids. They are always very appreciative of our donations. Please save your receipts and bring them to any meeting.

Selections for our book club are available each month. The Book Club will meet at the new Marion Public Library in July and August.

Respectively Submitted,  
Mary Muehl, Secretary



Dear AMBA,

There is so much uncertainty in the marketplace today. Interest rates are on the rise, to stave off inflation. There is talk of a possible recession by year's end. My friends tell me they cannot bear to even look at their 401K, 403B or IRA because they are losing money. Any investments tied to the stock market are so volatile right now. I feel like I am losing money with it being in the bank, since they are paying next to nothing in interest rates and inflation is around 5%. I've been reading about something called a Fixed Index Annuity, as a safe-haven for my investments. I am getting up there in years and know that if we go into a bear market, I may not have the luxury to wait for an 8 to 10-year correction, like what happened back in 2008. Any thoughts?

Thanks,  
Anxious Andy

Dear Andy,

You are not alone. Not only are banks paying little interest, but they are also not the safest place to park your money. Four banks have gone under since March of 2023 and it is projected there may be more. Banks are offering CDs at higher interest rates right now so people will keep their money with them, but these rates are temporary and will probably be back to less than 1% again, once the CD's renew. The FDIC guarantees up to \$250,000, but there is no timeline on when they have to pay you your money. The IRSPA members now have access to a tax deferred asset protection plan.

The program is with Ameritas, an insurance company that has been around for over 136 years out of Lincoln, Nebraska. It is rated A+ by Standard and Poor's. There are no fees, there is no downside risk, and it is averaging about 6% to 8% interest. You have access to 10% of your money, penalty free annually and a one-time extra 10% access if you have an emergency. The policy protects you for Long Term Care needs with the Confinement, Home Health Care and Terminal Illness waivers should you need it at no cost to you. While the banks are averaging 10 cents on the dollar in reserves, Ameritas carries \$1.10 in reserves for every \$1.00 invested. Insurance Companies are required to carry a dollar for a dollar in reserves for every dollar they have outstanding, so your money is very safe with an insurance company.

The benefits include receiving guaranteed lifetime withdrawal benefits, tax deferred growth, investing qualified and non-qualified money, enjoying market gains and protecting your investment while never losing money. Thousands of Americans are turning to annuities today, more than ever, to protect their money and earn more than current inflation rates.

Please note that if you have any questions about this great opportunity, please contact Paul Strid, our AMBA representative at 708-347-7081 or paul.strid@amba.info.

Thank you for your inquiry.

AMBA



**AN AMBULANCE COULD TAKE YOUR SAVINGS FOR A WILD RIDE, TOO.**

**PROTECT YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS WITH A MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION MEMBERSHIP.**

Medicare may not cover all of your medical transportation costs. Because a ground ambulance could cost thousands of dollars, and air transport can be \$50,000 or more, it's important to cover the gaps. With a membership from Medical Air Services Association (MASA), emergency transportation from home or anywhere in the world is covered, plus transportation of vehicles, children, grandchildren, and even pets are at no additional cost.

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[ambamedtransport.com/irspa](http://ambamedtransport.com/irspa)

IRSPA - Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

 

**Paul Strid**  
**AMBA Senior Benefits Representative**  
**PH. 708-347-7081 • email: paul.strid@amba.info**

## Executive Committee Meeting

by Jeanne Handeland, President Elect

Members of the executive committee met August 1st at PolicyWorks in Des Moines. Those attending were: President Elect Jeanne Handeland, Vice President Beth Hieronymus, Secretary Mary Jo O'Connell, Treasurer Bob Swanson, Legislative Chair Phil Tetzloff, District 6 Coordinator Linda Miller, and District Coordinator 4 Venita Escher. President Jean Hoffman and Newsletter Editor Toni Hood attended via Zoom.



*John Cacciatore, one of our lobbyists, shared noteworthy legislation from the 2023 session.*

Lobbyist John Cacciatore shared with the group noteworthy bills of interest to IRSPA members during the 2023 legislative session. The first was the additional homestead tax exemption for those age 65 as of January 1, 2023. The second was the voucher bill. Several issues were raised regarding that bill including the fact that taxpayer money is now being used to finance education in private schools even though there may not be a private school nearby, and private schools can pick and choose who is allowed to attend their school.

John also shared that there is a new state committee that will review Iowa's 256 boards and commissions to reduce the number of committees and improve efficiencies. The committee had its first meeting in late June. The next meeting is August 29th when they will reveal their recommendations, and a public hearing will follow on September 6th. PolicyWorks will monitor the subcommittee's recommendation in case there are significant changes that may negatively affect IRSPA members. Phil Tetzloff attended an IPERS BAC meeting on July 31st and indicated that no concerns were raised at that meeting regarding the reduction of committees.

Treasurer Bob Swanson presented the proposed budget for October 2023 through September 2024. The budget is a 4.7% decrease from the previous year. It will be presented at the annual meeting.

Toni Hood addressed concerns about the newsletter. It must be printed in 4-page increments. The June newsletter was quite large with the coverage of district meetings. The executive committee would like to encourage members to access the colored newsletter via the IRSPA webpage rather than receiving a mailed

copy; this would substantially reduce costs.

The legislative representative position was discussed and questions prepared for the interviews. Interviews will be held on August 28th at PolicyWorks.

The executive committee recommended including a scholarship standing committee in the constitution and by-laws; this addition will be presented at the annual October meeting.

A reminder: send your registration and check for the annual meeting by September 15th to Peg Lewis, 803 Goldenshores Ave., Creston, IA 50801. The only fee is for the meals--\$30 for Wednesday night's banquet and \$23 for lunch on Thursday.



*Mary Jo O'Connell, Phil Tetzloff, and Linda Miller at the executive committee meeting.*

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

*Articles for the December  
Newsletter are due no later than  
Friday, November 10, 2023*



*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*



## Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

2023 Annual Meeting  
& Conference  
October 4 - 5, 2023

### Wednesday, October 4, 2023

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Visit Creston and surrounding communities to explore historical, artistic, and cultural sites.
5:00 p.m.	Registration
5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Speaker – Author Linda Betsinger McCann speaking about her book <b>Prisoners of War in Iowa</b>
8:00 p.m.	Presentation of PH Balance Scholarship to Recipient

### Thursday, October 5, 2023

7 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Room Check-out
8:00 a.m. - 11:59 a.m.	Memorial to deceased members
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Morning Refreshments, including coffee, juice, and assorted pastries (compliments of IRSPA)
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Pledge / Introductions
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	Speaker – Dr. Jill Tussey speaking about Disciplinary Literacy and Gamified Learning in Elementary and Middle School Classrooms (2 books)
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	AMBA – Garrett Mowery “Know Your Who” AARP – Brad Anderson Legislative – Phil Tetzloff AMBA – Paul Strid
11:30 – noon	Group Pictures by District
Noon	Luncheon
1:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting



# Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

2023 Annual Meeting & Conference

October 4 - 5, 2023

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 IRSPA Unit \_\_\_\_\_



There are no fees for the Conference except for meals.

### **Banquet – 6:00 pm – Wednesday Evening**

Menu: Baked Pork Chop with pork & onion gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll with butter, Cheesecake, Iced tea, Lemonade, and Bottled Water.  
*(This price includes beverages, tax, and gratuity.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$30 per guest = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (I request a gluten-free option. \_\_\_\_\_)

### **Lunch – 12:00 pm Noon – Thursday**

Menu: Assorted Croissant Sandwiches (Ham with Swiss, Turkey Club with Cheese, and Chicken Salad), Macaroni Salad, Vegetable Relish Tray with Assorted Dips, Assorted Dessert Bars, Iced Tea, Lemonade, and Bottled Water. *(This price includes beverages, tax, and gratuity.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$23 per guest = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (I request a gluten-free option. \_\_\_\_\_)

**TOTAL PAYMENT = \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please return your Conference Registration with your meal reservations and a check made out to IRSPA by Sept. 15, 2023, to: Peg Lewis, 803 Goldenshores Ave., Creston, IA 50801.**

**ROOMS:** Contact Supertel Inn & Conference Center, 800 Laurel St., Creston, Iowa at 641-782-7873 or emailing supertelinn800@gmail.com before September 1, 2023. Ask for the “IRSPA Conference Rate.”

## Greetings from Creston, Iowa, to IRSPA State Convention Attendees

In Creston, Iowa, over 20 murals were painted during the spring of the COVID-19 pandemic by community members, local students, and artists. There are now over 50 murals in the Uptown District. You can learn more by visiting [www.crestonarts.com](http://www.crestonarts.com)



## Sites To See In Creston & Surrounding Areas

### Corning

Lake Icaria, Johnny Carson birthplace, French Icarian Village, and Corning Opera House

### Creston

Mural painted magic in uptown, Restored 1899 Railroad Depot, Green Valley State Park, McKinley Park Historical Complex

### Greenfield

Iowa Aviation Museum, Warren Cultural Center, Historic Hotel Greenfield, State Freedom Rock, and Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center

### Osceola

Lakeside Hotel Casino, Clark County Museum, Historic Depot, Revelton Distilling Co., and Midwest Wholesale

### Winterset

Covered Bridges, Iowa Quilt Museum, Piece Works Quilt Shop, and John Wayne Museum & Birthplace

## If needed - Motel / hotel accommodations in Creston or the surrounding area in addition to SuperTel Inn are:

### 1. Quality Inn

900 S. Sumner (aka Highway #25), Creston, IA  
641-782-6541

*Southeast of SuperTel Inn. One can walk from one Inn to the other.*

### 2. Adams Street Country Lodge

1412 170 St., Creston, IA • 641-344-5478

### 3. Hotel Greenfield

110 E. Iowa St., Greenfield, IA • 641-343-7323

### 4. Corning Hotel

2260 Juniper Ave., Corning, IA • 641-418-8190

### 5. Lenox Lodge

305 W. Temple, Lenox, IA • 641-413-3788  
(no smoking / no pets)

### 6. Heritage Inn B & B

300 N. Main St., Lenox, IA • 319-360-2163

### 7. The Nest

306 N. Elm, Lenox, IA • 641-333-2731

### 8. Lakeside Hotel Casino

777 Casino Dr., Osceola, IA • 641-342-9511

### 9. AmericInn

111 Ariel Dr., Osceola, IA • 641-342-9400

### 10. Covered Bridge Inn

1312 Cedar Bridge Rd, Winterset, IA • 515-462-4888

### 11. Cobblestone Inn & Suites

1304 N. 4th Ave., Winterset, IA • 515-462-4889

## IRSPA BYLAWS CHANGE FOR APPROVAL AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN OCTOBER 2023

The Executive Committee of IRSPA approved the recommended motion of the Constitution and Bylaws at the Budget meeting on August 1, 2023. This motion is now to be presented to the membership in the September issue of the association newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting to be held in October 2023. If you have questions or concerns in regard to this motion, contact Jean Hoffman, President, at 42teacher@gmail.com.

### **ADDITION OF SCHOLARSHIP TO STANDING COMMITTEES**

The following bylaws change is recommended to take effect at the end of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

**MOTION:** The Committee moves to add Scholarship to Standing Committees of the association.

**Rationale:** The Parent in Heaven (PH) Balance Scholarship is now in its third year. Adding Scholarship to the Standing Committees will ensure that a voluntarily funded scholarship continues to be a priority.

Current	Recommended Changes
<p>ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES</p> <p>Section 1. Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the organization shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Benefits</li> <li>B. Budget &amp; Finance</li> <li>C. Constitution &amp; Bylaws</li> <li>D. Health-Care Advocacy</li> <li>E. Legislative</li> <li>F. Membership</li> <li>G. Nominating</li> <li>H. Public Relations</li> <li>I. Supportive Services</li> </ul> <p>Section 2. Other Committees. Such other committees as the Executive Committee or Board deems necessary or expedient.</p> <p>Section 3. Committee Chairs. The Chair of these committees shall be appointed by the president.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES</p> <p>Section 1. Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the organization shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Benefits</li> <li>B. Budget &amp; Finance</li> <li>C. Constitution &amp; Bylaws</li> <li>D. Health-Care Advocacy</li> <li>E. Legislative</li> <li>F. Membership</li> <li>G. Nominating</li> <li>H. Public Relations</li> <li>I. <b>Scholarship</b></li> <li>J. Supportive Services</li> </ul> <p>Section 2. Other Committees. Such other committees as the Executive Committee or Board deems necessary or expedient.</p> <p>Section 3. Committee Chairs. The Chair of these committees shall be appointed by the president.</p>

# It's News to Me . . .

by Toni Hood

As of July, 2023 IRSPA had 5,286 members. From October, 2021, until September, 2022, IRSPA lost 483 members. We gained 308 members which resulted in a deficit of 175 people who are "proud to serve, and not be served." There is strength in numbers. With that in mind, I've compiled some ideas that some units are already using to recruit new members.

- ❖ Remember IRSPA membership is not only for teachers. Any retired school employee is eligible to join.
- ❖ DID YOU KNOW that "Friends of Education" are able to join IRSPA? Anybody who wants to support our efforts can purchase a membership and attend meetings.
- ❖ Be visible in your local schools. Give school supplies to elementary schools. Schools appreciate mittens, hats, and socks as well as classroom supplies.
- ❖ Organize a book drive and donate age appropriate books to local classrooms.
- ❖ Consider giving a membership to a friend as a gift. The recipient will be able to take advantage of many IRSPA benefits while enjoying the available social opportunities.
- ❖ Depending on your unit's budget, consider giving complimentary memberships to as many retired teachers as you can afford, and invite them to attend a meeting. One unit draws the names of two new retirees each year, or you could just choose people who you think would be interested.
- ❖ Send congratulatory retirement cards to new retirees, invite them to a meeting, and encourage them to join IRSPA. Perhaps treat them to a meal or a snack.
- ❖ Consider hosting an informal coffee for new retirees.
- ❖ Challenge your members to recruit new members and give prizes to those who have helped grow your unit.
- ❖ Unit coordinators could challenge their units to enroll new members. A prize could be given to the unit(s) that were successful.
- ❖ Submit your unit's news to the local paper and include information about how to join IRSPA. Send your unit's volunteer hours report to your local paper with an explanation that emphasizes IRSPA's local and state contributions.
- ❖ **The articles and pictures you submit to our newsletter could also be sent to your local paper.**
- ❖ Send "thank you" goodie trays to teacher lounges to celebrate the end of a successful school year. Include information about IRSPA.

- ❖ Send "welcome back" goodies to local schools with a special note welcoming the new staff.
- ❖ There is strength in numbers; IRSPA's ability to "serve and not be served" benefits so many communities.
- ❖ **If everybody recruited one new member, our membership would double.**



**The ballots from the 2023 election for IRSPA Vice President were counted on July 31. Anne Cowley was elected for the position and will**

**be installed at the October Annual Meeting in Creston.**

***Linda Miller, Nominations Chair***

**A REMINDER: send your registration and check for the annual meeting by September 15th to Peg Lewis, 803 Goldenshores Ave., Creston, IA 50801. The only fee is for the meals – \$30 for Wednesday night's banquet and \$23 for lunch on Thursday.**

## 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

## IRSPA CONTACTS

### **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:**

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

### **President Elect:**

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

### **Vice President:**

Beth Hieronymus  
3322 Muscatine Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240  
(319) 360-4634 - [bhieronymus62@gmail.com](mailto:bhieronymus62@gmail.com)

### **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)

## Hawkeye Buffalo & Cattle Ranch



<https://www.facebook.com/hawkeyebuffaloranch/>

Hawkeye Buffalo & Cattle Ranch is a family farm in northeast Iowa. Our heritage dates back to 1854 when my great-great-grandparents settled in a sod house just a mile from our farm. The bison have returned, and we invite you to connect with the land, our family, and our farm.

Tours include an informative lesson on the history of buffalo in Iowa and a chance to feed the buffalo. Tours are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. With an IRSPA membership card or showing your copy of the IRSPA newsletter with the Hawkeye Buffalo advertisement, the **cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children**. Tours are set up on an as needed basis so you must call in advance to set up your tour. The Buffalo Ranch is southwest of Fredericksburg next to Split Rock Park and Campgrounds at 3034 Pembroke Ave. Visitors often get a chance to see other wildlife too - deer, sandhill cranes, hawks, songbirds, and occasionally eagles. Buffalo meat is also sold on location.

Check us out at [Hawkeyebuffalo.com](http://Hawkeyebuffalo.com)

Phone: 641-229-6701

# Newsletter

## Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.  
Sioux City, IA 51104

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

### WE REMEMBER

<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>City</b></i>	<i><b>Unit</b></i>
Budwig, Judy	Colwell, IA	Big Four Unit
Calldwell, Donna	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Delzell, Wally	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Dillman, Kristin	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Freitag, Elizabeth	Bettendorf, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Galloway, Robert	Keosauqua, IA	Van Buren County Unit
Heck, Florence	Perry, IA	Dallas County Unit
Holton, Martha	Sigourney, IA	Keokuk County Unit
Knox, Gary	Iowa Falls, IA	Jasper County Unit
Meier, Martha	Hedrick, IA	Wapello County Unit
Mortiboy, Clara	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Ockelmann, Lorie	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Olson, Mary Ellen	Bettendorf, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Sewick, Lorraine	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Smrha, Ron	Cedar Rapids, IA	Cedar Rapids Area Unit
Steingreaber, Robert	Keosauqua, IA	Van Buren County Unit
Straetker, George	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Tallman, Sheila	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Thatcher, Bonnie	Chariton, IA	Lucas County 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