



IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Our first state gathering since 2019 at the Honey Creek Resort on Lake Rathbun at Moravia, Iowa, was amazing considering my cell phone ran out of energy making us get lost; we arrived on site an hour late. However, the resort was beautiful and the meeting space was large and inviting. Where do you get offered handmade s'mores for an evening treat and delicious food in the restaurant and at events? Where did I learn about the first terrorist attack in the U.S. near Cincinnati, Iowa; Centerville, Iowa and Unionville, Putnam County, Missouri? I did at the conference! Now, you do some research to see when it happened and what movie was inspired by it.



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Those in attendance also received an insulated shopping bag with the IRSPA logo; this was a token celebrating IRSPA's 70th Anniversary. Wait until the 75th celebration which is usually a diamond gift. Currently two diamond anniversaries are celebrated – one at 60 and one at 75 years. The 75th anniversary is the original diamond anniversary and the 60th was added when Queen Victoria (English Empire Monarch) celebrated her Diamond Jubilee on her 60th anniversary of accession to the throne in 1897. We will be sharing the limelight in 2026 with the United States Semiquincentennial, Italy hosts the Winter Olympics; construction of the Sagrada Familia will be complete; the FIFA World Cup will be hosted jointly in Canada, Mexico and the United States; Mars Science Laboratory will be shutting down; China's economy will overtake the U.S. for the first time; Google will contribute to speeding up the Internet to make it 1000 times faster; world population is forecasted to reach 8,215,348,000; world sales of electric vehicles will reach 10,526,667; global Internet traffic will grow to 452 exabytes; use of autonomous trucks for shipping and logistics will be fully legalized across the US. (Likelihood: 80%); and the US military will officially approve the creation of a seventh branch of the military, this one focusing entirely on cyber defense. (Likelihood: 60%). Barring any pandemics or unforeseen circumstances, that annual meeting and conference will be in District 1.

For the first time, we provided a \$1,000 scholarship to a current high school senior to support their continuing education. The Parent in Heaven (PH Balance) Scholarship is a unique scholarship given by the state association to any student whose parent or guardian has passed at any time in the student's educational journey. This scholarship started with seed money from the state association, but it is currently funded through contributions from individual members and proceeds from silent auctions at the state conference. It is our hope that through awareness of this scholarship and ongoing member support we will be able offer more or larger scholarships in the future. If you know of a high school PH, contact

Jean Hoffman (42teacher@gmail.com).

It was almost like a paid vacation. Even though we offered two rooms for lodging on October 6 and mileage for two cars of unit attendees, our attendance almost reflected our years of existence – 68 to 70. What a deal for our local leaders. Next year, we go back to one room night and one car mileage for our local leaders or their designee. Plan for another trip off the beaten path on October 5 & 6, 2022, in District 3, most likely in Decorah, Iowa. Your only cost is meals. Think about it. Plan for it.

Leadership duties kept me from my much anticipated visit the Quilt Shop in Chariton (I have lots of fabric already), a stroll around the Centerville Town Square (there is nothing wrong with a stash of dark chocolate.), and seeing the bank that Jesse James robbed in Wayne County (I am interested in Iowa bank robberies.) I plan to go back to enjoy these hidden gems of Iowa! I want to learn more about the first terrorist attack of Continental Airlines Flight 11. More fun than walking a mall!

We installed a new Vice President; Jeanne Handeland, at the Annual Meeting. She hails from Estherville. I know you will support her as an IRSPA leader for the next four (or more) years.

Our IRSPA motto is Proud to Serve. Volunteering is one way to serve others. Last year, Iowa volunteers provided an in-kind value of \$28.54 per volunteer hour. This figured out to a value of \$6,561,317 for Iowa for September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. The Pandemic had an impact on volunteerism this past year. Thanks to Sandy and Jay Thede for gathering this data and calculating the value.

Farewell to Barbara Songer, District 1 Coordinator, and Anita Fagen-Miller, District 2 Coordinator.

Barb served the units in northwest Iowa for 11 years and led the work for the 2019 Annual Meeting & Conference in Denison. Barb brought years of IRSPA knowledge to the board. Judy Jepsen from Kiron, Iowa, has agreed to serve District 1. She will be installed at our April meeting.

Anita energized the units in north central Iowa for several years. Anita brought fresh ideas to the board meetings during her tenure. We are seeking a coordinator for District 2.

Both Barb and Anita attempted to attend at least one meeting of each of their units annually. They provided lots of service to IRSPA and its members. We cannot thank you enough.

Your Board approved a one time, color copy of this newsletter. We encourage members with email addresses to share them with me (dutchboygwh@gmail.com), Bob Swanson, Treasurer (rmswanson1936@gmail.com), or Toni Hood, Newsletter Editor (tonihood@q.com). Receiving a digital copy of the newsletter saves on postage and many other expenses. The web page issue is always in color. We learned we received more election votes using email. And we know that our newer, "younger" members are more engaged with online connections.

Praying for member health and safety,
George Wm. Holland

Happiest of Holidays to all IRSPA Members!

THE STATE MEETING

BY JEAN M. HOFFMAN

The State Meeting and Convention was a huge success. A big shout out to Jane Beatty and District 5 for all of the hard work and setting up the self-guided tours in and around the area and for their support of the silent auction. Jeanne Handeland, your new vice-president, and I traveled together from northern Iowa. We truly enjoyed the area. One thing we noticed was the downtown parking downtown in southern Iowa compared to northern Iowa. The towns took me back to my childhood and all seemed so homey and welcoming. We checked out the spot where Jesse James robbed a bank, enjoyed some specialty chocolates and a quilt store. The Yankee Peddler was a fun surprise. We had tossed around the idea of Yankee candles, and were pleasantly surprised by the bikes; duh, peddler should have been a give away. I personally know a few bike enthusiasts that I have recommended that store to.

Honey Creek was amazing in its own right. The accommodations were great and the food was fabulous. What a great venue for a family vacation in the summer.

Learning about Appanoose County through the tapestry presentation was amazing. So much talent was displayed. There was a lively discussion on the funding of the scholarship. To all of our members, you can be certain that the board will take your questions and concerns under consideration. We started small so that we could see where we needed to make tweaks and changes. The scholarship will remain voluntarily funded by those who wish to support it either personally or as a unit. We have many small units that are unable to sponsor scholarships without it being a hardship on the members. This is one way that individuals or units can band together for a greater good.

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." - Kathy Calvin United Nations Foundation. Our business partner AMBA was so supportive of the idea that they have donated \$250.00 toward the scholarship fund. A HUGE THANK YOU to AMBA!

I am looking forward to spring meetings this next year. Feel free to contact me: 42teacher@gmail.com for any questions or concerns you may have. I may not know the answer, but I will find out.



Look, look, look. See, see, see.
George Holland presented how Dick, Jane, and Sally helped us learn to read.



Bob and Marge Swanson at beautiful Lake Rathbun.



(above) Linda Miller inducted Jeanne Handeland as the new Vice President at the IRSPA Annual Meeting.

Phil Tetzloff (below) reported on IPERS and our lobbyists' efforts.



A beautiful Appanoose Historical Tapestry

Piper's Grocery, at Chariton has too many delicious candy choices for Toni Hood & Sandy Thede.



Anita Fagen-Miller at Honey Creeks Resort's indoor water park

Newly installed Vice President Jeanne Handeland at the silent auction table which generated \$650 for the PH Balance Scholarship fund.



Cheri Maehl, Sally Allard, Sheryl Griffith, and Judge Brown represented the Fort Dodge Unit at the 2021 IRSPA Conference.



Jane Beatty and Jean Hoffman with AMBA representatives Paul Strid and Larry Newman mix IRSPA business with pleasure at Lake Rathbun.

Debbie Robinson displayed the Historic Tapestry of Appanoose County while discussing Centerville: an American Saga by Enfys McMurry.



Lois Hays introduced Enfys McMurry, the Centerville author who gave a program about Flight 11, the first jet terrorist attack in the US; her book concerns the crash and local color details that occurred in Appanoose and Davis Counties, IA.

**District
1**

**IOWA GREAT LAKES
Retired School
Personnel Association**

IGLRSPA met for it's last 2021 meeting in October. The association, will meet again starting in April 2022. Notice will come out in the local paper. During the October 2021 meeting, speaker Jean Hoffman gave a summary of the state meeting. State is creating a scholarship for students who have lost a parent. "Parents in Heaven."

Members do many hours of volunteering in the community. The volunteer hours are recorded at the state level and money goes toward IPERS. Volunteer hours for 2020-2021 was 739 hours; value of \$28.54 was given to each volunteer hour. Our total earned \$21,091.06. The volunteer hours assist IPERS benefits. A brochure is being finalized and distributed to the 4 schools in Dickinson County, encouraging retired teachers to join IGLRSPA. A scholarship for area high school seniors interested in getting a degree in education will be presented to the 4 schools in Dickinson County. Scholarship applications will be sent out in April to area high school seniors.

IGLRSPA donated \$200.00 to the senior center for repairs on their floors.

By Reporter: Marjorie Roelofsen

We encourage membership renewal!

*"To become great, you should take the path of service, serving others."
~ Pope Francis ~*

**District
2**

**MASON CITY
Area Retired
School Personnel**

Mason City Area Retired School Personnel met for a dinner meeting on September 20th, at the Village Court Family Restaurant. The program was an update on IPERS, presented by Phil Tetzloff, State Legislative Chair. Proposed amendments to the unit's bylaws were approved and a motion was approved to increase our annual Merit Award to \$500.



**Pictured:
President
Karen Dole,
Membership
Co-Chair
Jay Thede,
Legislative
Chair Phil
Tetzloff**

(Submitted by Karen Dole)

**District
2**

**HARDIN COUNTY
Area Retired
School Personnel**

Getting back in the swing of things. We met in September and were privileged to have Iowa State Senator Annette Sweeny as our guest speaker. She gave us information on the redistricting taking place. She also answered many questions related to education.

A report was given on the three girls who received the scholarships. Another reminder was given to keep track of volunteer hours. A handout was given with examples of what you can count.

Our October program was given by Marilee Lawler on SHIP, which she works on as a volunteer. This is a State Health Insurance Program which presents information to seniors on different health plans. She also talked about Medicare part D and comparison plans available to us. They will do these free of charge.

Our programs are mostly designed to interest our group. It was followed by a delicious lunch served by the Edgewood Board.

We are actively seeking new members. The secretary will send notes to those who recently resigned. An article with a brief history of our organization and membership opportunities was sent to local newspapers. Members are also urged to contact retired school personnel and invite them to a meeting. We had two guests at the last meeting.

Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, Secretary

*"It is more important to be of service than successful."
~ Robert Kennedy, Jr. ~*

**District
2**

**BOONE COUNTY
Retired School
Personnel**

Every other month the BCRSP meets at the Boone Public Library; we are very fortunate we have a place. We are hoping the Methodist Church will soon serve our luncheon and we can have our meetings there.

Our speaker for October was Lindsay Hyman, head of the EDGE program for Boone Schools. EDGE stands for empowering desire and guiding experience.

The work-based model spans grades K-12 and rests on pillars that combine classroom experience with work experiences. The members who attended learned what the students in K-12 learn from the EDGE program.

In December the Boone High Choral will present their music program which we look forward to every year.

Bev Olofson, Co-Chair

District 2

HUMBOLDT COUNTY Area Unit

The Humboldt Area Unit of IRSPA met on September 13th at Deb's Simply Coffee in Humboldt. There were 10 members in attendance. We are grateful to Deb for opening and providing drinks and treats for this meeting.

After a short business meeting, we completed our September project by writing 47 note cards welcoming new school personnel in the Humboldt School District and at St. Mary's. The welcome cards were filled with gum and candy.



**Anita Fagen-Miller,
Deb Peterson,
and
Mary Lou Perry
address
welcome cards
to new
Humboldt
school
personnel.**

Also at this meeting, members brought school supplies and clothing for elementary students in Humboldt and St. Mary's. The school nurse has indicated that sometimes extra clothing is needed for the younger students. The school supplies and clothing will be delivered to the schools after the meeting.

Anita Fagen-Miller, Toni Hood, Barb Zabel, and Darlene Stirling will be attending the state meeting at Honey Creek Resort at Lake Rathbun on October 6 and 7. Members were informed that if they would like to attend they should contact one of above members soon as registration needs to be completed by September 27.

Our next meeting will be October 11 at Deb's Simply Coffee. Mike Sexe of the Humboldt Emergency Medical Service at the hospital will be our guest speaker. Humboldt's EMS recently completed a new ambulance building and was rated as a top volunteer service in Iowa.

By Toni Hood

Thank You, Thank you, Thank you!

IRSPA and the PH Balance Scholarship Committee want to give a big shout out and a huge thank you to Richard Rowland, Larry Newman, Paul Strid and our friends at AMBA for their generous donation of \$250.00 to the PH Balance Scholarship. It is humbling to know that our business partner has chosen to share in supporting the PH Balance Scholarship fund.

District 2

HUMBOLDT COUNTY Area Unit

The IRSPA Humboldt unit met on October 11th at Simply Coffee. This is the last meeting in 2021; we will resume meeting in April and May 2022.

Mike Sexe presented an interesting and informative program about Humboldt's Emergency Medical Service. Mike has been an EMT for 33 years and he joked that he would retire when he delivers his first baby. He explained that the difference between a paramedic and an emergency medical technician is that EMT's cannot administer drugs. Humboldt is fortunate that our emergency service now has five paramedics that provide 24 hour service, 7 days a week. It was comforting to hear that pain relief is a priority when the crew responds to calls; sometimes emergency care can prevent hospitalizing the patient. Humboldt's emergency medical service has responded to 1000 calls this year with a response time of 6-8 minutes.

Mike stressed that our responders are extremely proud of our new four stall ambulance garage which is a multi-purpose structure that includes sleeping quarters. It is now an essential facility for Covid testing and drive-up flu shots. Covid funds were also utilized for the purchase of a new \$250,000 ambulance.



**Martha Schmidt visits with
Mike Sexe after his informative
program concerning Humboldt's
Emergency Medical Services.**

Darlene Stirling reported that the Humboldt unit reported 532 hours of volunteer work with a value of \$15,183. The pandemic reduced our volunteer hours and members were encouraged to resume volunteer activities when they feel comfortable.

Anita Fagen-Miller, Barb Zabel, Darlene Stirling and Toni Hood attended the October's IRSPA State Conference and they highlighted some of the interesting information from the conference programs. The conference was held at Honey Creek Resort which is a wonderful facility at Lake Rathbun. Members were encouraged to attend the 2022 conference which will be held in Northeast Iowa's District 3.

Anita Fagen-Miller will no longer be the District 2 coordinator although she will continue as president of the Humboldt Unit. Anita has done an outstanding job in her three years as coordinator and we thank her for her hard work, her enthusiasm and for her leadership abilities.

By Toni Hood

District 2

MARSHALL COUNTY Area Retired School Personnel

The Marshall County Retired School Personnel Association met in person at the library in Marshalltown for the September meeting on Sept. 20th. There were 24 members present. The group enjoyed a potluck meal. Paul Strid and Olivia Chumbley presented information about the AMBA programs and insurance options. Later, Phil Tetzloff gave an update on the status of IPERS. After the business meeting was conducted by President Carole Permar, the group enjoyed a social game of Trivia. It feels good to have meetings in person again; we've missed everyone!
By Charles Smith



L-R: Olivia Chumbley (new Iowa AMBA representative), Paul Strid (AMBA representative), and Carole Permar (MCRSPA president)

one guest present today. No treasurer's report was given. President Permar passed out stickers to be placed in our yearly booklet telling who will be on the omitted social committees in March, April and May. Anyone who wasn't present will need to get these.

Permar spoke about the State Meeting held Oct. 6-7th at the Honey Creek Resort. She and Phil Tetzloff attended from our group. The volunteer hours have been turned in and our group showed over 1000 hours this past year. A reminder to keep track of your volunteer hours was given.

Under new business, it was noted that the library piano needs tuning. We used it at a couple of our meetings. A discussion was held stating that it would be a good community service for our organization to pay for it, not to exceed \$200; we use the rooms at the library monthly, and this would be a nice "thank you." Our treasury is solvent enough to donate this. LaVonne Hildahl made a motion to pay for this; Sue Garrels seconded the motion and it passed.

Under new business, it was brought up that we have had a Christmas project in the past. Gary Bryant spoke about the Emergency Food Box, and it was decided that we would make that our Christmas project this year. We will be collecting a monetary donation. An announcement was made by Carole Permar about the School Board Forum October 19th at the Coliseum. Everyone is encouraged to vote.

By Charles Smith

District 2

MARSHALL COUNTY Area Retired School Personnel

The Marshall County Retired School Personnel Association met October 18th at the library. The program was presented by Gloria DeBower (pictured below holding quilt) who spoke about the Quilts of Valor. The Sew-



ciety guild has presented 319 quilts to people in the Marshall, Tama and Hardin Counties over the years. Quilts are "awarded" not gifted. It costs about \$150 to make each quilt and there are certain specifications to be met for each quilt. Anyone wishing to donate to this project can send a check to Marvis Drew, 1537 Yates Ave, Marshalltown and the money will be spent to cover expenses.

The meeting was called to order by Carole Permar. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Barb Vana and they were approved. There were 13 members and

District 2

BIG FOUR UNIT Retired School Personnel

Legislators and Big 4

Discuss School Personnel Priorities

Each September our Big 4 Unit invites legislators to address concerns members may have about a variety of issues. Todd Pritchard, (pictured below left) a Democrat from Charles City, has been a representative since 2013 and currently represents Iowa House District 52 covering Floyd, Chickasaw, and part of Cerro Gordo County. Amanda Ragan, (pictured below right) a Democrat from Mason City, who serves Senate District 27, is



currently serving her 5th term in the Iowa Senate. She represents Franklin, Butler and Cerro Gordo Counties.

Senator Wayland Brown, a Republican from St. Ansgar, was unable to attend. He represents the 26th Iowa Senate District.

Most of the questions regarded public school issues such as school choice, vouchers, charter schools and Covid issues. Both legislators emphasized the importance of funding public education first and outlined how each of the above is dangerous to our public schools. School choice can be supported by existing grants and other funding opportunities and procedures to help parents who need it. Charter schools are allowed to take public funding with little or no regulation or oversight and do not have to offer the same necessary services required of public schools. Both Legislators stressed the importance of Iowa education and urged members to keep advocating for it. "Pritchard said, "Big employers stay in Iowa because a high school diploma from here means something. If you want good workers, if you want a robust economy, invest in your education system, because that's your worker pipeline."

IPERS was addressed as follows: Both Legislators agreed that IPERS is in solid shape. "It's doing great. It's still a wonderful system, as it was last year and the year before and every year since we first got it. Members were urged to remain vigilant, as there are a handful of people who would like to do something drastically different with it."

Our Big 4 Unit is very grateful for the dedicated members who serve on state committees to do the watching for and with us as well as employing lobbyists who do the same. IRSPA as well as AARP have our backs in so many areas. Thank you and thank you to all legislators who keep open minds and work across the aisle for keeping Iowa strong.



Representative Todd Pritchard and Senator Amanda Ragan are pictured speaking at the September meeting of the Big 4 Unit in an article that ran in the Charles City Press.

By Mary Koenigsfeld

HARDIN COUNTY Area Retired School Personnel



The Hardin County Area Retired School Personnel started our year with a meeting in Iowa Falls on September 3rd. We were pleased to have Iowa State Senator Annette Sweeny present to discuss redistricting and many additional topics of interest to educators.

A report was given on the scholarship recipients. One of the girls was from Eldora and two were from Iowa Falls.

We were reminded to keep recording our volunteer hours. A hand-out was given to members with examples of hours that qualify.

Our October meeting was also held in Iowa Falls at Edgewood. The Edgewood board served a delicious lunch.

The program was given by Marilee Lawler on SHIP. She serves as a volunteer on this State Health Insurance Program. They provide information to seniors on different health plans. She also talked about Part D Medicare drug plans and comparisons they will do for us.

Each month's meeting has an informative topic of interest to seniors. We are actively seeking new members. An article about our group was printed in local papers giving the history and opportunities provided. Invitations have also been mailed to former members encouraging them to rejoin. Members are also encouraged to contact recently retired individuals and invite them to join us. We were happy to have two guests at our last meeting.

What an interesting article on our 70th anniversary in the September newsletter. If you missed it, I encourage you to look it up and read it.

Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, Secretary



WEBSTER COUNTY UNIT

Linda Whiting, (pictured right) Webster County Unit member, recently shared her books in a presentation at our luncheon meeting. Whiting, a retired teacher and principal, always wanted to write books, but thought those books would be for children.

But as Whiting said, "someone had a different plan for my writing".

During her husband's cancer illness, Whiting found solace reading daily devotionals for emotional support. She started journaling her thoughts about the Bible passages. After his passing, Whiting was encouraged to put those thoughts into book form. She has now written six daily devotionals. Not the children's books she had once thought she'd write, but definitely six books that come from her heart.

She has learned a great deal about self-publishing over the last six years. Her six devotionals have evolved over time. The last three are in a format, size and style she likes the best. She works with Amazon to publish her books. Her books, Reflections in Faith, Volumes IV, V and VI, can be found on Amazon.com.

Whiting said "I'm not going to give up my IPERS checks, but I do get royalty checks periodically and that is a pleasant surprise."

By Cheri Maehl



District
4

COUNCIL BLUFFS
Area Chapter of the
Iowa Retired School Personnel

The Council Bluffs Area Chapter of the Iowa Retired School Personnel met on September 15th for the first time since November 2019. Twenty-six members, including four new members; Bob Traylor, Dena Higginbotham, Deb Goodman & Kristy Nickolisen, were present for lunch at the Country Club, followed by a brief meeting and then social time discussing how we had spent the time during the Covid Pandemic. Members shared projects such as remodeling, sewing masks, quilting, learning to crochet and lots of Zoom meetings. The current officers will remain for this school year.



The previous officers for the Council Bluffs Area Chapter will serve again this year. They are Linda Cody - reservations, Darlene Schwarzkopf - vice-president, JoAnn Tews - president, Sue Griswold - secretary and Carol Huffman - treasurer.

The group met again on October 20th at the Country Club with thirty-one members present, including another three new members.



Three new members were welcomed to membership during our October meeting. They are Connie Bradshaw, Pat Frascht and Sherry Johnson.

We were treated to a medley of songs by organist Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, a graduate of Hastings College and a longtime elementary music teacher, now retired. The medley



The Council Bluffs Area Chapter enjoyed the musical expertise of Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, who entertained us with patriotic and old time favorites.

included patriotic songs, as well as old favorites such as "Side by Side" and "A Bicycle Built for Two." Dr. Christensen of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs currently has 12 organ students.

The November meeting will be on November 17th with a musical program by the local group Witness.

By Sue Griswold, Secretary

District
4

DALLAS COUNTY
Area Retired School
Personnel

It was a joyful reunion when members of Dallas County Area Retired School Personnel met in September following a 1 ½ year absence due to COVID. After business was conducted, members spent time reconnecting with good friends.

In October, Eddie Diaz, Director of DMACC's Van Kirk Academy in Perry, explained the Future Ready Programs being offered there. Of particular importance to members was the Teacher Pathway which allows students to engage in learning opportunities relevant to current instructional strategies and methods. High School students can participate in a variety of courses and experiences with youth to allow them to determine if a career in education is something they want to pursue. Participants can earn an Associate Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood Education or an Associate of Arts Transfer Degree in elementary or secondary education.



Accompanying Mr. Diaz, were two students currently in the program, Mary Ann Reisberg and Lanie Fish. Both young ladies had done an observation in a Perry kindergarten classroom. Mary Ann has mentored students and Lanie is currently subbing as a para in a pre-kindergarten classroom in the Greene County School District. They are both eagerly looking forward to continuing their educations and becoming elementary teachers.

Diaz also described the Squad Scholarship currently available. Donations from the community are used to give students in the program who apply a minimum of a \$500 scholarship. After some discussion, members voted to donate \$500 toward the program to be used by a student in the education field.

We are currently supporting the Blessing Boxes in Dallas County with donations of food or money. They seem to empty as quickly as we fill them, so obviously there is a need in our community.

On another positive note, we were pleased to note that we had exceeded our membership goal by 10 members.

By Sue Leslie

District
4

**CLARKE AREA
Retired School
Personnel Association**

CARSPA met on Monday, August 9, 2021, 9:00 a.m. at the Osceola Senior Center with nine members present. Hostess Bev Schader served doughnuts and fruit while members visited.

Diane Slough, speaker for this month, shared tips on searching family genealogy. Family reunions, web sites such as Find a Grave, Ancestry.com, internet searches and cemetery stones can provide information. Be aware that some old spellings were changed, a person may have been known by middle name, and cemetery stones may be incorrect or worn. Check geography for where people lived. She urged everyone to write their own history, document sources of information, label photos with acid free gel pens, complete ancestry charts, family group charts and pedigree charts. Roots Magic and Family Tree Maker help organize information. Osceola.advantage-preservation.com at the library gives Osceola information only until you click "Directory" to reach other counties and maps of US places. Take your laptop to the library, use web-sites and email your research to your computer.

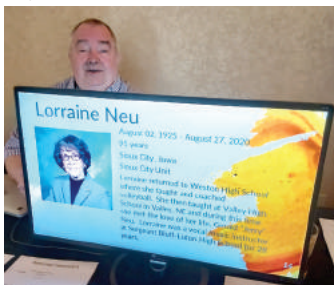
In 2020-2021 CARSPA has had three members pass away: Mildred Ashley, Marjorie Faulkner and Effie Crawford. Linda Foland will donate appropriate books in memory of these deceased members as CARSPA has traditionally done.

Eleanor Gage shared her positive experience at "The Barnyard" restaurant which recently opened at 304 Vine Street in Decatur City, IA. Since members wanted a daytime experience, Eleanor moved that the CARSPA group go there after the September meeting.

By Venita Escher

**"It's a Small World"
MEMORIAL**

Each year IRSPA president George Holland prepares a slide show that is a tribute to our deceased members. Each unit is encourage to submit a picture and a short biography of any member who they would like to be included in this memorial. When George Holland was preparing the salute to members who had passed during the last two years, he came across a colleague. Lorraine Neu was the high school vocal music teacher in Sergeant Bluff-Luton



School District; George was a teacher and principal there. Lorraine created a K-12 Faculty Choir which would perform at elementary, middle school and high school music events. Her energy uplifted the faculty and audiences.

District
5

**DAVIS COUNTY
Retired School
Personnel**

The Davis County Retired School Personnel met on Tuesday, October 5th at The McGowen Farm campground shelter with 12 members present. Our program was presented by Davis County Public Health nurses Lynn Fellingner and Megan Hull (pictured below). They discussed with us the Covid pandemic, symptoms, testing, vaccinations and answered questions concerning Covid and how it has impacted our lives and activities.



By Becky Shively

District
5

**DAVIS COUNTY
Retired School
Personnel**

The Davis County Retired School Personnel met on November 9th at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall with 7 members present. Our program was provided by Gail Wortmann who is the Director of "The Sound of Music" being presented by The Davis County Community Players at The Iowa Theatre. Gail engaged us in a "Name That Tune" contest from songs in the musical. She also gave us a brief history of The Iowa Theatre and the roles it has played in it's operation from a Vaudeville stage to a movie theater and now as a weekend movie theater and home to stage performances as presented by The Davis County Fine Arts Council, local school groups and other entertainers.

By Becky Shively

www.irspa.org

Check it out!

**District
6**

**JOHNSON COUNTY
JCRSP**

Johnson County really had a full year during 2020/21. We had fun summer meetings outside in June and July. Not many groups can brag of guests like HD Hoover, who helped Hieronymus write the math section of the ITBS, as well as attendance from our Iowa City CSD Human Resource Director from years past. Al Azinger's attendance, presenting a program, as well as joining our June outdoor fun get together/pay dues is notable. Our final meeting of the year regularly includes Representative Mary Mascher who is also a member. She reviews the year in the Iowa Legislature and keeps our group current on political happenings.

We can brag about our two \$1,000 scholarships given to students from Kirkwood Community College in the education program. One of these scholarships was earned by our JCRSP secretary's daughter-in-law. A continuing membership of 147 paid with about 120 past members needing a phone call reminder to send in their dues; helps keep our group viable. Hills Bank always donated to this effort.

The Exec Board decided programming for the year begins with zooming. We averaged 25 at each of our zoom meetings during the year. Facilities in Johnson County that we usually depend on for meetings have changed dramatically for Covid reasons. With the University population, our Covid positive rate remains over 8%. We will remain on zoom for the ensuing time and hope for gatherings in person in the near future.

I'm truly thankful for the retired teachers who continue to keep our group viable: Dave Ulrick, treasurer; Cathy Schiele, program chair; Kathy Wyatt-Hanes, secretary; Maryjo Mihalopoulos, past president; John Evens, directory publisher. Thank you to Marla Swesey, Lyn Adams and Sharon Raffensberger for attending and helping with meetings. I will add to this list in the next publication.

Nancy Porter, JCRSP President



JCRSP enjoy the outdoors at the Hieronymus home with Jim Hawtry, Sharon Raffensperger, Al Azinger, LaDonna Wickland, HD Hoover, Gary Wicklund, Dave Ulrick



Fred Stark and Mike Petersen surround host John Hieronymus at the June social for JCRSP.



Cathy Schiele and Lyn Adams solve all the problems at this summer's JCRSP gathering.

**Please Note: E-mail for
Robert Swanson
rmswanson1936@gmail.com**

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

District 6

DAVENPORT AREA DARSPA

Our DARSPA organization sent four representatives to the annual convention that took place at Honey Creek Resort near Moravia. After a wonderful dinner on Wednesday evening, Thursday was devoted to several entertaining and informative workshops. All four of our attendees agreed that the workshops were worth the trip!

Back at home in Davenport, we attended our second luncheon of the year on October 12th. The most important discussion, after socializing and visiting with friends, was the need for members to volunteer for the officer vacancies that need to be filled by the end of the year. The importance of stepping up to fill these important vacancies cannot be underestimated. DARSPA is a marvelous organization offering retirees terrific benefits and monthly opportunities to socialize with fellow school retirees, partake in a delicious meal and enjoy entertaining programs. We have been fortunate to have excellent leadership. We have many competent members who can continue this trend.

Let's keep DARSPA
active and STRONG!

BY Deb Kelly



District 6

LEE COUNTY Retired School Personnel

Lee County is back in full swing and excited to be meeting in-person again. The executive committee has been working on securing a great line-up of speakers. Programs through November included the following:

1) Janet Fife-LaFrenz and Jane Abell presented information about the Keokuk Teachers Strike in the 70's at the Pilot Grove Community Room in Donnellson. Jim Merritt added notable details as well.

2) Earl Walrath's presentation in October featured the History of Native American Artifacts in the SE Iowa region at the Montrose United Methodist Church.

November's meeting is always a favorite at the Denmark UCC Church featuring a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Program for this meeting was provided by Paul Hedgepeth featuring the history of the Old Fort Madison Prison. At the conclusion of each meeting, an auction is conducted by Pam Strong from items that members have donated. Proceeds from the auction are used for scholarships given to Lee County students majoring in education. Executive Committee members include: Sally Barrett, President, Gretchen Kirchner, Vice President, Janet Dinkel, Secretary and Judy Bartachek, Treasurer.
By Jill Anderson-Cox

It's News to Me...

By Toni Hood

- The 2021 IRSPA Annual Meeting & Conference was held October 6 & 7 at Honey Creek Resort at Rathbun Lake. New friendships were made and old friendships were renewed. Jane Beatty organized a wonderful event at a beautiful location.

- This was the first time that IRSPA offered members the option of online voting for officers. Linda Miller reported that they received 120 online votes and 38 paper ballots.

- IPERS' return on investments was 29.6%. The trust fund has a market value of 44.4 billion dollars and is 85% fully funded. IRSPA Legislative Chair Phil Tetzloff commented, "It has been a very good year for IPERS."

- Robert Swanson reports that as of October, 2021 IRSPA gained 289 new members; 201 are not unit members. IRSPA dropped 665 members; the total membership is 5,350.

- Barb Bielenberg, IRSPA membership chair, has sent information and suggestions to the units that will assist them in their membership drives.

- If each of our members would recruit one new member, our state membership would double.

- IRSPA has a new relationship with UNI retirees.

- "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.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Articles for the **March**
newsletter are due no later than
Friday, February 4, 2022



Get info to Toni Hood, at

E-mail: tonihood@q.com

Home Telephone: 515-332-5819

Cell Phone: 515-269-3823

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Jean Hoffman
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(712) 209-1780 - 42teacher@gmail.com

Vice President:

Jeanne Handeland
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(712) 260-0943 - jhandy@rvtc.net

Secretary/Historian

Mary Jo O'Connell
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*Thank you to AMBA for
contributing \$250 to
IRSPA's PH Balance
Scholarship.*

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATED
LEADERSHIP AND THE SUPPORT
YOU'VE GIVEN YOUR UNITS.*

*Barb Songer,
11 year District 1 Coordinator,
is relinquishing her position to
Judy Jepsen from Kiron, IA.*

*Anita Fagen-Miller
is retaining her position as
Humboldt's IRSPA unit president,
but she will no longer be
the District 2 Coordinator.*



HELP SOLVE A MYSTERY

In 1959, Ethel Virtue and Helen Myers (Original Luncheon Club) were on the board of the Horace Mann Corporation with president Vesper Price. A \$2 fee was solicited from membership.

In 1960, the first plans for IRTA Retirement Home mentioned. Officially, the project was called "Horace Mann Home for the Aging." Orval Barnes reported on the progress; and by October, 1961 sketches were displayed.

Lillian Heathershaw Darnell, IRTA Vice President 1961 – 1964, and her sister, Jeannette Heathershaw, offered their family home and three acres of land on Fleur drive for the project. The gift was accepted, after many consultations with FHA and ISEA about funding and ownership. The sisters were pleased by the choice of a name and assisted in viewing buildings in Omaha and Grinnell to guide the architect. Mrs. Darnell passed away in 1967, but ground breaking was held on January 5, 1968, a bitterly cold day. Genevieve C. Johnson (IRTA President 1959 – 1965) and Vesper Price and Georgia Samons wielded the spade. Mabel Iowa Robbins, present at the ceremony, became the first resident, May 1970.

ISEA gave the initial loan of \$10,000 and was the administrative force. In 1970, the operation was in the black; but the building loan was not retired.

A health center was added in 1972.

Since May 12, 1973, Life Care Services Corporation, formerly Christian Home Services, Inc., has been retained to provide the home with a licensed administrator to oversee the day-to-day operations.

In 1978, the Horace Mann Home became Heather Manor.

Mabel Robbins (IRTA President 1966 – 1968) stated that during her

term, "IRTA began to help build Heather Manor. In 1968, she asked every teacher who had retired from an Iowa school to buy one brick for one dollar. Approximately 300 or more responded. Those who gave \$100 or more had their name listed on a "Century Club" plaque which hangs on the wall between the two elevators in the first-floor lobby of Heather Manor. They also purchased a new Baldwin piano for the lounge, also a color TV and a stereo. We paid for folding doors between the library and the coffee room. We helped buy furniture for the library: carpet, chairs, table, etc. We gave \$200 toward the purchase of books... When the Health Center was built, IRTA furnished a room completely: carpet, drapes, bedding, furniture."

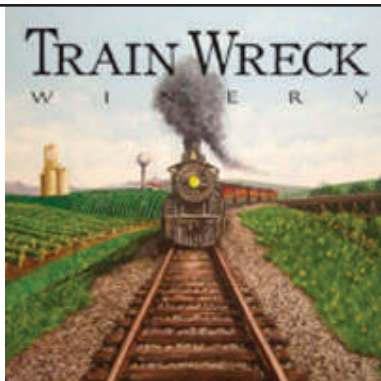
IRTA also established a fund -- \$500 one time and \$1000 in October 1965, to buy special items to furnish a room. . . Many bequests: \$1700 from the Alice Boyer estate, Friendship Haven of Fort Dodge gave memorials for Ethel Virtue and Lucy Hobbs, the first classroom teachers to head ISEA.

We have only this information prior to 1979. A "Heather Manor" still exists at 600 E 5th St., Des Moines, IA 50309. 5th Street is not near Fleur Drive. What happened since 1979?

Share anything you know about Heather Manor by emailing dutchboygwh@gmail.com by February 1, 2022, so the mystery can be shared in the IRSPA March 2022 Newsletter.



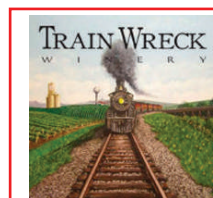
By George Holland



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.

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



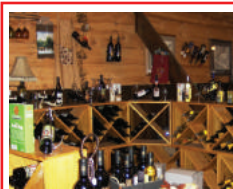
Little Swan Lake Winery



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 • Phone: (712) 858 - 4592

*"Learn what you are good at and exploit it in service to others."
~ Larry Wingert ~*



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- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
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Learn More: 1-877-556-4582

myambabenefits.info/irspa

IRSPA - Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

BENEFITS STILL FIT?



Scholarship Given



**President elect
Jean Hoffman
presents
Katie Schlosser
from
Colfax-Mingo
with the first
PH
(parent in heaven)
Balance Scholarship
awarded to a
high school student
who has
lost a parent.**

What an honor it was to award the initial PH Balance Scholarship to Katie Schlosser, a senior from Colfax-Mingo Community Schools in the amount of \$1000 following the banquet at the State Meeting and Convention in October. She has, in her words, endured the “unimaginable” when her father died suddenly from a heart attack during her freshman year of high school. She stepped up and quickly learned how to do the chores on the farm to keep it going. She has continued to participate in many school activities such as student council, Generation On, choir, youth group, swimming, golf, track, girl’s wrestling, FFA and 4-H. She has held multiple offices in these organizations. In fact, she has excelled in wrestling, placing multiple times as a state place-winner. Her high school girl’s wrestling teams have placed 2nd and 3rd in the state. She represented women’s wrestling for the state of Iowa at the AAU National Scholastic Duals Championships held in Orlando, Florida, this past June. Presently, she is preparing for her senior year of wrestling in hopes of gaining a wrestling scholarship too.

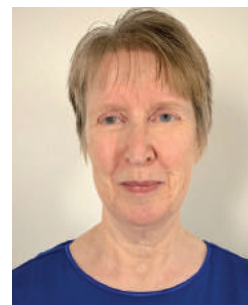
During the state fair in 2019 and 2021, her leadership skills were put to use as she led a group of 20 FFA members from across the state by answering questions and developing work schedules for their work done at the grandstands. I can only guess that she would have been there in 2020 had it not been for Covid.

Katie is looking at several options for school at this time and intends to pursue a degree in photography and ag related studies. It was a pleasure to meet Katie in person. We wish her continued success in her future.

By Jean Hoffman

IRSPA Member Inducted in 2021 Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame

One of the four women inducted into the 2021 Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame in November, is IRSPA member, Jan Mitchell (pictured right). Mitchell taught at Marshalltown High School for most of her career, bringing to Marshalltown teaching experience from Estherville, Manson, and Dysart high schools.



While at Marshalltown HS, Mitchell taught English and coached Debate and Mock Trial Teams. She was selected Marshalltown Teacher of the Year and the 1997 Iowa Teacher of the Year. During the last couple decades before her retirement, Marshalltown had a large number of immigrants from Mexico. One particular student, Gabriella Vargas became important to Mitchell’s accomplishments after retirement.

Vargas was classified as a junior at MHS when she and her family immigrated to the United States. She took an ESL (English as a Second Language) class and later was assigned to Mitchell’s Advanced English Communications class in her final semester of high school because of her intentions to go to college.

In 2005, after Jan Mitchell was retired, she said she and Vargas happened to see each other, and Mitchell learned that Vargas had a four-year degree in finance and a position as a banker. This encounter inspired Mitchell to contact several college-experience Latinas in Marshalltown to see what could be done to keep young Latinas in school, for them to graduate from high school and to have a plan for the future.

The result was ¡Al Éxito! which began in Marshalltown in 2006-07, grew to other school districts and became a non-profit organization in 2009. Now, in 2021, ¡Al Éxito! serves both male and female Latinx students in 22 schools. As a surprising result of her leadership, Mitchell was honored as a 2019 Robert D Ray Award for Equity and Justice recipient when she was inducted into the 2019 Iowa Latino Hall of Fame.

When asked, her response to learning that she had been selected for the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame, Mitchell said, “I was absolutely astonished that I was even considered.” While surprised, Mitchell is thankful nonetheless and honored to be inducted. “Living life is about helping others,” she said. Mitchell and her husband, Don, currently live in Des Moines.

Submitted by Jean Hoffman

Dear AMBA,

I am a recent retiree of the Iowa School system. I am very excited to begin this new chapter in my life, but there are things I am concerned about, especially insurance coverages. I will be turning 65 soon and will be losing my insurance. I have questions about Medicare Supplement. My husband and I are starting to plan some nice vacations too and are wondering if there are opportunities for us to save money on travel and dining expenses.



I am interested in joining our local retirement unit. I understand they meet every other month and have over 50 people at each meeting. I think that would be fun to meet with my peers and share stories about retirement and also learn about opportunities available to us when it comes to supplemental benefits. The annual membership fee is very inexpensive, but I am also interested to hear more about the state wide Iowa Retired School Personnel Association. I was told the IRSPA offers benefits through a company called AMBA, Association Member Benefits Advisors. Is there a way to learn more about these programs through our local unit meetings?

Thanks, Happy New Retiree

Dear Happy New Retiree and IRSPA Unit Leaders,

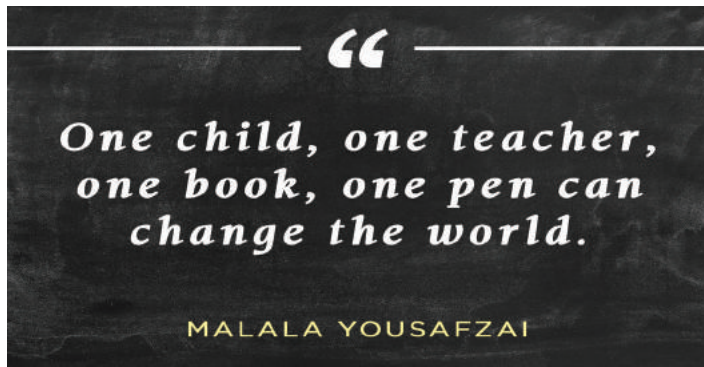
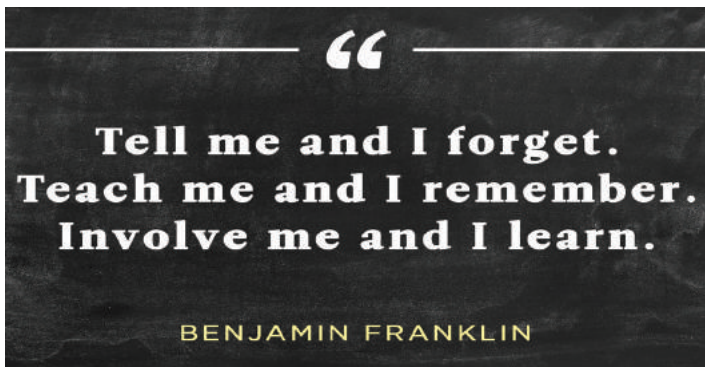
Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) and IRSPA have had a wonderful partnership for over nineteen years and continue to build upon it. We are now part of a "group" that is providing benefits to over 70 associations around the country.

We are blessed to have strong support from our AMBA Senior Field Representative, Paul Strid and Regional Vice President, Larry Newman. Paul has provided valuable time to work with our state and local units. Because of AMBA's leadership and dedication to enhancing our IRSPA website, we have increased our membership dramatically over the past few years.

Our membership benefits need to be shared with our members. These benefits are a solid way to recruit more members and provide great opportunities for our members. Since our bylaws changed a few years ago, anyone who supports education can also be a member and enjoy our benefits at the same very reasonable rates. We encourage all the local units throughout the state to reach out to Paul Strid and invite him to your local meetings. It's the perfect way for all your members to learn about these programs and answer all your questions.



Respectfully, AMBA
 Association Member Benefits Advisors
 Contact Information: Paul Strid
 AMBA Senior Field Representative
 Cell: 708.347.7081 • paul.strid@amba.info



Newsletter

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104

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WE REMEMBER

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Ballou, Marcia	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Barber, Marilyn	Centerville, IA	Appanoose/Wayne Unit
Barth, Marjorie	Farmington, MN	No Unit
Berckhan, Ron	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Brown, Joanne	Ringoes NJ	Des Moines Area Unit
Carter, Neva	Stockport, IA	Van Buren County Unit
Chaadwick, Jack	Newton, IA	No Unit
Clausen, Arnold	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Dailey, Carol	Ballwin, MO	Wappello County Unit
Dickson, Patricia	Anamosa, IA	No Unit
Fellers, Marvin	Fort Wayne, IN	Des Moines Area Unit
Glibson, Mary	Preston, IA	Jackson County Unit
Hill, Marlan	Sioux City, IA	No Unit
Jefferson, Lea Ann	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Jurgens, Lester Pete	Marion, IA	No Unit
Jurgens, Sharon	Marion, IA	No Unit
Lindner, Nadine	Keokuk, IA	Lee County Unit
Lycke, Elsie	Iowa Falls, IA	Hardin County Unit
Maly, Mary	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
McGinnis, Glenna	Boone, IA	Boone County Unit
Miller, Patricia	Keosauqua, IA	Van Buren County Unit
Mitchell, Joan	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Nulle, Sandra K	Springville, IA	No Unit
Ockelmann, Donald	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Peterson, Ed	Des Moines, IA	No Unit
Poldberg, Jeannine	Carter Lake, IA	Council Bluffs Area Unit
Rankin, Eneatha	Knoxville, IA	Marion County Unit
Sonier, Sharon	N Sioux City, SD	No Unit
Struthers, Lee	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Sylvester, Donna	Ottumwa, IA	Wappello County Unit
Urbatsch, Tonya	Bettendorf, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Walden, Judith	Des Moines, IA	Des Moines Area Unit
White, Rosalie	Ottumwa, IA	Wappello County Unit
Wooten, Edwin	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit

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

PLEASE NOTE: Send relevant notices, change of address, and/or subscription cancellations to rmswanson1936@gmail.com