



IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

From the President Jean Hoffman

Hello Fall, and I hear that by the time you are getting this we may be in the middle of a beautiful Indian Summer. At least that is a prediction I heard.

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the State Meeting and Conference. The chosen theme was Proud To Serve, which comes from our founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus. She was definitely a visionary. If you were unable to attend, we took to a slightly different format this year and had a speaker instead of entertainment at the banquet. Dr. Jane Lindaman, recently retired superintendent of the Waterloo Schools spoke on Wednesday evening following the banquet. She highlighted some of the growth in the Waterloo schools in the past few years and shared her vision of the future of education. In her glass half full outlook, she was a joy to listen to. In my experiences with her, she is a modern day Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

We also awarded the PH Balance Scholarship to Kale Kuenen from Turkey Valley Schools. He will be pursuing a degree in agriculture by starting at NICC and finishing his four-year degree at Iowa State.

The RAPIL Program was explained by Amy Mayer from UNI who serves as Coordinator of RAPIL.

You will find articles that go more in depth on these topics elsewhere in the newsletter.

We are continuing to work with AMBA and Vilocity to update the webpage. If you have not updated your officer listing with us please do so. We are working toward a more friendly directory. There is a wealth of information on the website. Please check out irspa.org.

Are you ready to step up and be Proud To Serve? We have several openings that will provide you with the opportunity to serve.

Each year we need to find someone willing to serve as vice president. This is a four year commitment as you will auto-



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matically move up in the ranks to the president position. It is very fulfilling, and you get an opportunity to work with some amazing people.

District five is looking for a District Coordinator. This position needs to be filled by a person in the confines of District 5. As a District Coordinator, you will work with the units in your district both collecting and distributing information.

With the resignation of Marge Swanson as Health Advocacy, that position is also open. Primarily you will work with the different districts to provide a health focus and secure a speaker that reflects our chosen health area at the district meetings.

If you have a desire to serve by filling one of these positions or just have questions about what you can do, please contact Jean Hoffman at 712-209-1780.

By Jean Hoffman

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HUMBOLDT IRSPA September

The Humboldt IRSPA unit met September 12th for the first of our two fall meetings. President Anita Fagen-Miller introduced Mary Jensen who was a guest. Our new members, Nancy Inman and Linda Stauffer, were also introduced and welcomed.

Judge Brown, the District 2 coordinator, spoke to us about his duties. There are 47 IRSPA units in 6 Iowa districts. Judge intends to visit each of the 8 units in our district. Budget, legislative, and membership concerns were also interesting topics he discussed.

The members brought school supplies which will be distributed to Humboldt's three elementary schools. Anita provided 37 cards which expressed appreciation for new school personnel and for employees who had assignment changes. The members wrote supportive messages and put treats in the cards.



Anita Fagen-Miller
delivered our members'
donated school supplies
to Humboldt's three
elementary schools.

Judge Brown, District 2
coordinator, visited the
Humboldt unit which is
one of eight units in
District 2.



Humboldt IRSPA
members wrote
welcome and
appreciation
cards to 37
Humboldt school
employees.



HUMBOLDT IRSPA October

The Humboldt unit met on October 10th, 2022 with 16 members present. Anita Fagen-Miller conducted the meeting, and she noted that we had one guest and one new member. We congratulated ourselves because we have seven new members this year! Another feather in our cap was that the IRSPA Volunteer Hours tally reported that the Humboldt unit increased their volunteer hours by 81%.



Barb Zabel introduced Humboldt's
Fire Chief Jim Gronbach during
National Fire Prevention Week.

Jim Gronbach, Humboldt's fire chief, spoke about the department's duties. Our meeting coincided with Nation Fire Prevention Week. Barb Zabel introduced the speaker and told us that this national event always occurs in October during a week that has the ninth day because the Great Chicago Fire was on October 9th, 1871. Jim gave a very interesting presentation about the 22-member volunteer fire fighters. These volunteers are trained to react to 50+ situations that includes river rescues and ice rescues. He amused us by saying that the fire department duties do not include getting cats out of tall trees.

Barb Zabel, Anita Fagen-Miller, and Toni Hood attended the IRSPA State Meeting in Waterloo. They reported that the two days were filled with lots of socializing and interesting presentations.

Our next two meetings will be in April and May, 2023.
by Toni Hood



BOONE COUNTY Retired School Personnel

The Boone County Retired School Personnel met October 12th at the United Methodist Church. We were so excited to enjoy our luncheon meetings again. A big thank you to the ladies for a wonderful lunch.

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Bev Olofson. We were excited to have 13 members and 10 guests present. Our guest speaker was Paul Strid from AMBA. He shared the many benefits available to IRSPA members and provided us with informational brochures.

We are looking forward to our December 13th meeting. We will have our luncheon at the church. Then we will carpool to the Boone High Auditorium to listen to the Boone High Choral sing.

Submitted by Co-Presidents Jean Sorsen & Bev Olofson

District 2

WEBSTER COUNTY Retired School Personnel

The Webster County Retired School Personnel met at First Presbyterian Church on August 29th, 2022. Lunch was served by the First Presbyterian Men's group (and a few women). All members were welcomed by President Sheryl Griffith along with the new members. Members were invited to attend the Annual Meeting in Waterloo. Gabriel Alves, Director of Music at First Presbyterian, talked about his music and how he came to Fort Dodge; and then he played some of his amazing jazz music. Becky Koppen, RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program), talked about Webster/Hamilton County programs, Fraud Prevention, Span the Generation, and the Pen Pal Program. If you are interested in the Pen Pal Program, please contact the Elderbridge Office. Paul Strid, Representative of AMBA, went over benefits that are available to members; some are at an additional cost. President Griffith announced that Friends of Education can now join IRSPA. Next meeting will be held on October 3rd at Grace Lutheran Church.

October Meeting:

The Webster County Retired School Personnel met at Grace Lutheran Church on October 3, 2022. Sheryl Griffith called the meeting to order, and a prayer was said before our meal. Linda Peterson asked for volunteers to send cards to the honorary members. Thank you to those volunteering.

Our program was on Fraudfighters. Lori Spanjers and Joyce Zehr, from the RSVP program, gave a program called Iowa Fraud Fighters. They are available to give this same program to other groups in the area. Lori is one of our members.



Common Investment Scams



Common Consumer Scams

They talked about the different investment scams that are targeted towards older people such as ponzi or pyramid scams, free dinner seminars, etc; common consumer scams such as identity theft, grandparent scams, fake IRS calls, etc. They also discussed Medicare fraud and protection, gave prevention tips, talked about advance directives, and gave each of us a booklet which included contact information for reporting a scam or fraud. It was a very informative program. Our next program is November 7, 2022 at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

by Bonnie Rhodes

District 2

HARDIN COUNTY Area School Personnel

The Hardin County Area School Personnel were excited to begin their 2022-23 meeting year. We were welcomed back to Edgewood with a school luncheon complete with the long tables and colorful plastic trays. School supplies that will be given to local schools decorated the tables.

We were happy to greet three new members. June Balvanz and Mary Reece of New Providence and Sharon Johnson of Union have joined our unit. We also had two guests.

Our first program of the year was given by Bailey Primus from Steamboat Rock. Bailey is the author and illustrator of The Friendly Valley Books Series. The theme of the books is farm life and they are written for young children. She told about the process of writing, illustrating, and publishing these books.

Another program was given by Jean Daleske from New Providence. She spoke about her experiences of teaching in two cultures. She and her husband, Arlen, worked in a Friends(Quaker) school in Ramallah. The Palestine culture was very open and welcoming, and they were welcomed into many homes. English was spoken and understood, and traditional foods were shared. Later in her career, Jean accepted a position as the Consumer Science Teacher at the Mesquakie Settlement School near Tama. Jean had an uphill road in gaining trust as the people were suspicious of what her teaching intentions were. She demonstrated a respect for the young people's tribal names, native foods, pow-wow events, traditional dress, and other tribal customs. Jean gave us samples of cedar tea that is a popular beverage. We enjoyed hearing about the contrasting cultures.

We always open our meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the singing of two patriotic songs. One of our favorites is "America the Beautiful."

Helen Wall reported that a scholarship was given to Lillian Rush from Iowa Falls.

Maurice Gaulke reported on the IRSPA convention he attended in Waterloo.

Lee Wright gave information on the upcoming elections.

We continue to record our volunteer hours. There are so many opportunities to volunteer in our schools and community. It's great to remain active.

Mary Lou Kirkdorffer



L-R June Balvanz, Sharon Johnson, and Mary Reece are new members of the Hardin County Area School Personnel unit.

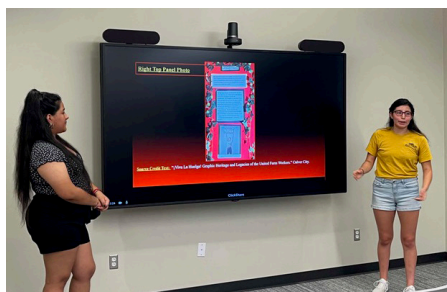


Bailey Primus, the author and illustrator of The Friendly Valley Book Series, shared her literary expertise with the Hardin County IRSPA unit.

District 2

MARSHALL CO. MCRSPA Meeting

The MCRSPA met Monday, September 19th at the newly remodeled Marshalltown Arts and Civic Center. A potluck luncheon was enjoyed by 25 members and 6 guests. The program was Susan Fritzell who brought



two students from MHS who had won the National History Day Debate with their presentation titled "La Huelga: The Struggle That Earned Farm Workers Rights." Students Yessenia Alvarez Zamora and Leticia Herrera had a computer presentation telling how immigrant workers in the 1960s struggled to get workers' rights, safety, and better living conditions, and how they worked together with the grape growers to resolve issues.

The meeting was called to order by President Carole Permar. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Rita Smith. Otto Welfring gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$823.85 and reminded people to pay their dues (\$23) if they haven't already done so. Outstanding bills for our yearly booklets and for printing and postage were presented.

Permar shared information in the state newsletter as well as information about AMBA insurance options and benefits. It needs to be noted that the MASA insurance program will be raising their rates Oct. 1st. The new yearly program booklets were dispersed, and members were asked to review their personal information for accuracy and take booklets for friends who weren't present. The theme of MCRSPA is to "inform and entertain". A thank you note was read from the family of Louise Springer for the memorial book given to the public library in her memory. Members were asked to turn in their volunteer hours today and to keep track of future hours for the coming year. These hours are valuable and are used to get matching grants. Anything you do as a volunteer can be counted.

A report from Phil Tetzloff told about the current condition of IPERS. It has taken a hit with the current market, but it still remains solvent and one of the best public insurance companies in the nation. There are currently no plans to make any changes.

A brief discussion was held about where to have future meetings. Several locations were suggested, such as various churches, the Orpheum, library, and school district central office. Carole Permar was going to check on them; we will be notified of the location before the

next meeting. Today's social committee, Carole Permar, Sue Garrels, Rita Smith, Barb Vana, and Otto Welfring, were thanked.

The next meeting will be October 17th, and the program will be "Grandma's Attic." Each member is asked to bring a family item or heirloom of interest to share. The social committee will be Kathy and Randy Baker, Ardelle Downey, and Steve Kennedy.

by Rita Smith, Secretary

District 3

CRISPA Cedar Rapids Iowa School Personnel Assoc.

We gathered unofficially for "bring-your-own" picnic lunches in June, July, and August at Thomas Park in Marion, Iowa. Approximately 12-15 people attended each month and shared news of family, vacations, and summer projects. Luckily, the weather was gorgeous each time and the cookies were tasty!

The CRISPA chapter met on September 28 at the American Legion Post #298 in Marion, Iowa. The facility and the parking area were large and easily accessible by all. Approximately 52 members and 2 guests attended. The food was delicious and provided by Catering by LJ's of Marion. It was so fun to see our returning members and to greet new members. One can join CRISPA at any time.

Our speaker this month was Representative Art Staed. He described his extensive background in education and his work in the Iowa State House. He reviewed the bills from last year's session and the upcoming 2023 session affecting education. Representative Staed explained how important it is to contact our legislators, both in the House and the Senate. We can reach them by phone, email, texts, or mail. He assured us that such contacts were very useful and appreciated. A short question and answer time followed.

We also had meetings in October and November. The next meeting will be on January 25th, 2023. Hope to see you then!

By Mary Muehl, Secretary



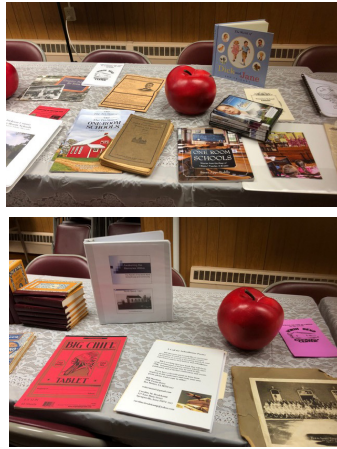
**Representative Art
Staed speaks at the
CRISPA meeting on
September 28th.**

District 3

JACKSON COUNTY Retired School Personnel



The Jackson County Retired School Personnel met at St. John's Lutheran Church in Preston on Friday September 1 from noon until 2. Vivian Pitlow led the meeting to fill in for president Nancy Wagner who had recent surgery for a detached retina. Jo Ellen Langerman also could not attend since she cannot drive after breaking her ankle. In the picture is Vivian, Carla Behrens, treasurer, and Connie Weirup, secretary. The program was presented by Caroline Bredecamp about One Room Schools. The following pictures show some of the items she displayed. The pictures were taken after the meeting and Barbara Downey is also in the fourth picture. The delicious luncheon was served by the Lutherans at St. John's.



District 4

COUNCIL BLUFFS AREA Retired School Personnel

The Council Bluffs Area Unit of the Iowa Retired School Personnel met for its first meeting of the year on September 21, 2022 for a noon luncheon at the Council Bluffs Country Club. Twenty-nine members were present. After the business meeting we had a chance to socialize with new and returning members. Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in September, October, November, March and April.

This year we are inviting area superintendents to our meetings to share about two topics. 1) How did the pandemic that started in 2020 affect K-12 education overall? 2) How does your school district support teachers and other staff? Dr. Joel Beyenhof, Treynor Community School Superintendent was our guest on October 19, 2022. Dr. Brent Hoelsing, Lewis Central Community School Superintendent, will be our guest on March 15, 2023 and Dr. Vickie Murillo, Council Bluffs Community School Superintendent, will be our guest on April 19, 2023.

By Julie Dillehay, Secretary

District 5

DAVIS COUNTY IRSPA September

Sometimes when searching for program ideas, we overlook things that are close to us. Davis County is home to a large Amish community. Tuesday, October 4, we spent our day with a driving tour that was led by Judy and Don Combs. We boarded a school bus from our school district and set out on our adventure. Judy told us about the history of the Amish when they first settled in Davis County. She also introduced us to many of the Amish businesses operating in Davis County.

One of our stops was at a woodworking shop where we visited with the owner who shared information about Amish customs and families.

We learned about sawmills, egg laying chicken operations, goat dairy farms, truck farms for garden produce, buggy builders, pie bakers, and numerous other businesses.



Another stop was at The Southern Iowa Produce Auction. For several of our group, this was the first time to attend the live auction. The amount of produce, especially pumpkins and

mums was outstanding.

We stopped for lunch at The Red Shed located on Highway 2 west of Bloomfield. After lunch we visited an Amish school and spent our time learning from the 22 pupils and their two teachers.

At our last stop we observed a family processing apples through a cider press.

Our day was very enjoyable. We liked having the whole group on the bus together. We were introduced to our neighbors, their customs, and their businesses.

by Becky Shively



District 6

LEE COUNTY Retired School Personnel

Members of the Lee County Retired School Personnel gathered at the Pilot Grove Community Room in Donnellson for their September Meeting. President Mary Meyer greeted all attendees, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Jim Merritt.

The featured program was Wreaths Across America wherein wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans. The program was started in Maine in 2008 and the first wreaths were placed on graves



at Arlington National Cemetery. The group has purchased ten wreaths to be placed on veteran's graves at the Wreaths Across America event on December 17, 2022, at the National Cemetery in Keokuk.

Lee County Retired School Personnel recently met at



the Montrose Riverfront building overlooking the beautiful Mississippi River. Mary Sue Chatfield presented the program on the history of Montrose. Mary Sue graduated from Montrose HS in 1958 and Keokuk Community College in 1960. At 19 years old in July, she married Roger Chatfield the next month, and started teaching first grade at the Montrose school until it closed, then

taught at Central Lee. In 1966, she earned a BA degree from Iowa Wesleyan College.

Mary spoke about Montrose's rich history, beginning in 1673 with Marquette and Joliet. In 1799 education first began when settlers taught the Native Americans agriculture and the Catholic religion. Early history included: An apple orchard was planted, Fort Des Moines (1834), the half Breed tract (intermarrying between white settlers and Native women), and the Mormon's arrival.

The first school was built in 1857 on Chestnut St, and another one on Great River Road, which no lon-



ger exists. In 1868, the foundation of the brick school building was laid. It was 3 stories high and finished in 1871. This school was located where the post office now stands. The last class to graduate was in 1961. While the new school was being built in Central Lee, the children were farmed out to other buildings (as they did during Covid in 2020).

Education has always been important to Mary as she told stories about the early schools: the outhouse, the softball (the tree grew into the ball), a student strike, and the Library Reading tree (a little girl reading a book) now sits inside the current library.

District 6

FAIRFIELD UNIT IRSPA September

The September meeting was a great start to the 2022-2023 year for the Fairfield Unit. Our guest speaker was Brittney Tiller, the naturalist at the Jefferson County Park. During the pandemic, Brittney and retired naturalist, Therese Cumiskey, did ZOOM field trips led by Toad (Therese) and Timberdoodle (Brittney).



Naturalist Brittney Tiller shared the book she co-authored with retired naturalist Therese Cumiskey.

Afterwards, they were encouraged to write a book with Toad and Timberdoodle as the main characters. The result was *The Adventures of Toad and Timberdoodle: Leaving Winter Behind*, a cleverly written, beautifully illustrated, and scientifically accurate (barring the talking animal bit) children's book about the lifestyles of certain Iowa animals encountered by Toad and Timberdoodle.

The book has been published by Barnes and Noble, and the local Farm Bureau has ordered copies for all first graders in the Fairfield, Cardinal, Pekin, and Van Buren schools as Christmas gifts. Some of Fairfield unit members also bought copies of the book for certain special children they wished to treat.

As a change from a luncheon meeting at some local eating place, the October meeting will be at the old Fairfield Library, now the Carnegie Museum. Our president, Judith McDonough, will bring in some food to eat, and then we will tour the exhibits.

by Michele Weber, secretary



JOHNSON COUNTY IRSPA

The Executive Board of the Johnson County Retired School Personnel Association had their first meeting with Jon Noel as the newly elected President on Zoom.



Pictured are Dave Ulrick, treasurer, Nancy Porter, past president, Jon Noel, Linda Ferguson, scholarships, Terry Smothers, Mike Petersen, newly elected VP of IRSPA Beth Hieronymus and her husband, social director John Hieronymus, Kathy Wyatt-Hanes, secretary, Cathy Schiele, communications.



Our first social event was held at the Xtreme Arena with Fred Stark, Nancy Porter, Sharon Raffensperger, John Hieronymus, host, Dave Ulrick, Lyn Adams, State VP Beth Hieronymus in October.

The Johnson Retired School Personnel Association began our season with a September meeting at the Center (formally known as the Senior Center). We were all glad to be together, again, in person. The executive board furnished treats and past president, Nancy Porter, conducted the meeting. Our Board works on the program for the year during the summer, and each comes up with a presentation.

State VP Beth Hieronymus presented changes to our Constitution. It was voted on and accepted. It will be voted on, again, in October.

After formalities, Leslie Carpenter and Vicki Adan presented the program.

Vicki Aden is the voter advocacy chair for the League of Women Voters of Johnson County. Since there have been so many changes in the Iowa law, Vicki presented

all of them. Although mail in ballots are usually encouraged, since mail can be late and that final day of submission is Election Day, the LWV is promoting VOTE EARLY and vote in person at a satellite (which can only be created by 100 signatures on a petition) or at the Auditor's Office which is open daily. Redistricting has changed many voting sites so voting early is another way to avoid confusion on Election Day. The Auditor's Office is NOT open for voting on Election Day.

Leslie Carpenter from Mom's Demand Action explained the measure 1 on the back of the ballot. This is really a constitutional amendment to the Iowa Constitution. We have always operated under the US Constitution and had a right to bear arms. However the Iowa Constitution change adds the words "strict scrutiny." These words mean that any existing law, like refusing to let felons have a gun or anyone to have a gun, could be removed by a judge who deemed the reasons not to pass strict scrutiny. This is the highest level, the biggest hurdle, of judicial decision making possible. Because of "strict scrutiny" any existing law could be removed, and any future law would probably not pass "strict scrutiny." Too many people are not aware of this possible change which would pass with a simple majority. Let people know this amendment is on the ballot and for what it stands. The explanation on the ballot is just a repeat of the words on which we are voting. "Strict scrutiny" are legal terms which can create a whole new set of NO rules to carry a gun. Even Ballotpedia does not explain 'strict scrutiny'.

Remember to Vote.
Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Porter, past president

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 11, 2023**



Get info to Toni Hood, at

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Home Telephone: 515-332-5819

Cell Phone: 515-269-3823

District 6

DAVENPORT AREA DARSPA

Our local chapter, which meets at the Steeplegate Inn in Davenport, enjoyed yummy lunch, fun camaraderie with fellow retirees, and great entertainment, both in September and October. The new officers are working hard and doing a fantastic job! We also have wonderful committee chairs, who work hard doing their part for our organization.

In September, we learned about the workings of the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities with our speaker, Stephen Garrington. In October, we were entertained by Russ Reyman, a singer who also played piano and accordion. Our November meeting will include a speaker from the Figge Museum, sharing information about Grant Wood.

Our goal this year is to reach 350 members...and we are very, very close! We are proud that we are able to record many volunteer hours each month, as well. And... It is always fun to win those door prizes at the end of every meeting!

We were pleased to send six of our local members to the IRSPA state meeting in October.

by Cheryl Sly - Secretary



Stephen Garrington spoke about the workings of the Quad Cities Honor Flight at Davenport's September meeting.

Russ Reyman, a singer who also played the piano and the accordion entertained the members at October's Davenport meeting.



Davenport members who attended the IRSPA State Meeting in October were: (left to right) Carla Breneman, Joyce Ceurvorst, Judy Shannon, Linda Puls; 2nd row: Laurie Marple, Dean Breneman

IRSPA Members Updated on Educational Trends

by Toni Hood

The IRSPA state meeting in Waterloo, Iowa featured two speakers who spoke about educational changes that our members found interesting and informative. Because IRSPA members remain invested in education and all its attendant issues, the speakers' presentations addressed the issues that are driving unprecedented changes in national, state, and local educational practices.

Dr. Jane Lindaman is the recently retired superintendent of the Waterloo Schools. She taught middle school math in Wichita, Kansas and Colo-Nesco. She was a middle school principal for 12 years in Estherville, Dysart, and Waterloo. She was the director of learning and results in Waterloo; after serving as the associate superintendent, she assumed the role of superintendent. She dedicated her professional life to improving student achievement, preparing students for the future, and helping students reach their dreams.

Dr. Lindaman spoke about the past, the present, and the future of education. The future holds many challenges and demands an innovative approach to helping students acquire the necessary skills that will help them shape their futures. Virtual learning and face-to-face learning will be options that districts will implement. Curriculum changes and standard-based grading will also be part of the improvement plans. Students will be provided multiple opportunities to acquire skills that will enable them to become productive members of society.

Waterloo has implemented many programs that are innovative and support student growth. Dr. Lindaman spoke about the district's 18 career programs, signature programs, dual language programs, and grade level field trips that enhance student achievement.

Dr. Lindaman stated that 35% fewer college students are going into teaching programs. This shortage is impacting all Iowa districts. This shortage is driving many of the changes that will impact how education is delivered to students at all grade levels.

A timely and interesting segue that addressed the teacher shortage followed Lindaman's presentation. Amy Mayer is the University of Northern Iowa coordinator of RAPIL (Alternative Pathway for Teacher Preparation). Mayer spoke about the two-year program that is a joint venture involving the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and UNI. This is a state approved program that may provide local districts with educators who have content area experience. It was designed with the working professional in mind. Upon successful completion of all requirements, candidates are recommended for an Initial Iowa Teaching License.

RAPIL was piloted 12 years ago, and 201 teachers have been licensed. Currently, there are interns in 22 counties and 32 school districts. The average age of the participants is 46 years. In addition to having a four or more-year college degree and three or more years of work experience, they bring maturity and experience in their fields; they also have existing community ties and a desire to become an educator.

Mayer's program provided information that reassured the audience that this program is credible and will be an asset as Iowa continues to explore ways to provide our students with a quality education.

Attendees from the 6 Districts

District 1



District 2



District 3



District 4



District 5



District 6



PH BALANCE SCHOLARSHIP Awarded to Kale Kuennen

The PH Balance Scholarship was awarded to Kale Kuennen of the Turkey Vallley Community School district on October 5th in Waterloo, Iowa.

Kale Kuennen participates in a variety of activities in school including trap team, track, FFA, and the Robotics team. Each year, he has shown growth in his school work and excels in the classes that are in his chosen field of study. Kale began working construction at the age of 15 where he has demonstrated a positive work ethic and is known for his self motivation and industrious nature. He is kind and eager to help as was demonstrated when he helped clean up after a flood and the help he gives to elderly neighbors. Kale has been described as very moral and level headed in his letters of recommendation."

As a team of evaluators we were especially impressed with moral code, respect and the ability to not be persuaded by peer pressure. His problem solving skills and his ability to think outside of the box have helped with the newly formed Turkey Valley Robotics Team. In his leadership role, he has taught his peers much about welding and manufacturing. He also serves as the Safety Captain. He leads by example, and is able to not submit to peer pressure. Il of his letters of recommendation pointed out his leadership abilities, his strong moral code, a super work ethic a genuine care for others, and his continuous efforts to strive,for excellence.

At a very young age he began living with his grandparents on the family farm. He grew up loving farming and raising cattle. At the age of 14, just as he was ready to really learn the intricacies of farming and taking care of the cattle, his grandfather lost his life in a tractor roll over accident. Kale remains passionate about his dream of running the family farm. He intends to begin at NICC with a focus on agriculture and then attend Iowa State to complete his Ag degree and eventually to come home to purchase and operate the family farm.



Jane Lindaman, former superintendent of the Waterloo Community Schools, enlightened IRSPA members about the changes in public education and what might be expected in the future.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who donated silent auction baskets as well as those that made it a successful auction. The cash donations were awesome as well. Your generosity brought in a total of \$617!!!! We will do another fundraiser in May. Our goal is to be able to give six scholarships per year.

It's News to Me . . .

by Toni Hood

❖ The 2022 IRSPA Annual Meeting & Conference was held October 5th & 6th in Waterloo. New friendships were made and old friendships were renewed. Mary Jo O'Connell and George Holland from District 3 organized a wonderful event. Instead of the traditional break-out rooms, there were two very informative and interesting speakers.

❖ Phil Tetzloff reported that IRSPA supported the legislative action to remove state taxes on retirement income. Beginning in tax year 2023, Iowans age 55 and older are exempt from state tax on retirement income earned from individual retirement account (IRA) distributions, taxable pensions, and annuities. The bill was signed on March 1st, 2022.

❖ Iowa AARP advocated for the Elder Abuse bill, and it passed. The bill to cap insulin costs did not pass.

❖ On the national level, AARP supported the legislation to lower drug costs and negotiate Medicare drug costs, and that passed.

❖ Robert Swanson reported that as of September, 2022 IRSPA has a total of 5,426 members. There are 249 new members. In 2020-21, 666 members were dropped from the membership list. So far this year, 187 members were dropped.

❖ Our membership remains strong, but the need to recruit new members should be a priority.

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

❖ Jay and Sandy Thede reported that the 2021-22 volunteer hours increased by 48,202 hours from 2020-21. The increase is partially due to members resuming activity after the isolation due to Covid. Our state's total value is \$8,298,028.95 based on the hourly rate of \$29.95.

❖ Nine units improved their volunteer hours by 40% or better. The top three were Humboldt Area (81%), Dallas County (59%), and Cherokee (57.6%). Retired school personnel rock!

❖ IRSPA wishes to thank the estate of former IRSPA President Dawn Rogers for the \$685 donation which was added to the PH Scholarship fund.



Paul Strid missed celebrating his wedding anniversary and Jean Handeland celebrated her birthday at the IRSPA State Meeting. Paul and Jean happily illustrate IRSPA's "Proud to Serve" motto.

It's A SMALL WORLD

Judge Brown and Judy Brown, former colleagues at Fort Dodge Senior High, meet again at the annual IRSPA meeting.



Jane Lindaman, former Waterloo Schools superintendent, reunited with Maurice Gaulke who was her art teacher at Ackley-Geneva High School.



Jane Lindaman, retired superintendent of the Waterloo Community Schools, was Jean Hoffman and Jeanne Handelman's assistant principal at Estherville Lincoln Central Middle School.



Diane Burgmaier, Charlotte Roberts, and Angie Ford paid close attention to the details at the IRSPA State Meeting because they are hosting the 2023 event in Creston, Iowa.



Dear AMBA,

I have a standard Medicare Supplement plan since turning 65. I am now 70 years old and each year my premium goes up a little bit, on my anniversary month. I wasn't too concerned at first, but living on a fixed income as a retired school employee, I am starting to feel a bit squeezed financially about the increases. Is there anything I can do to alleviate these continual rate increases and do I have to make these arrangements at a particular time of the year.

Sincerely,
Molly Moneyconscious

Dear Molly,

Very good question. With the economy and inflation and the cost of gas and food right now, we are all feeling the pinch. To answer your question, YES, there is a way to offset the rate increases we receive every year from our Medicare Supplement providers. If you are in relatively good shape, health wise, and can answer no to the medical questions, a person can change from one insurance company to another insurance company and receive the exact same coverage and go to the same doctors and hospitals. Nothing changes except you will enjoy paying a lower premium. In 1990, Congress authorized the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to standardize the coverage provided under Medicare supplement policies. The purpose of the law was to eliminate questionable marketing practices, provide consumers with a degree of protection and standardize the protection afforded. The NAIC developed standard Medicare Supplement plans that feature the exact same benefits for all companies offering Plans F and G. The differences will be found in the level of underwriting and the premiums which vary from company to company.

Your timing is very good also, in that we are in the Open enrollment period. This means that a person who has a Plan D for prescription coverage can change their provider if they have also experienced rate increases. Many people go on new prescriptions as they get older and their existing prescription plans may not cover the cost very well, for these new prescriptions.

We all experience rate increases with our standard Medicare Supplement plans. Our trusted partner, AMBA, works with several different insurance companies when it comes to Medicare Supplement. They are able to find companies who have very competitive pricing. By just answering a few health questions, it is possible to enjoy the exact same coverage at a lower monthly premium, by medically qualifying.

Please note that if you have any questions about your existing Medicare coverage please reach out to Paul Strid, our AMBA representative at 708-347-7081 or paul.strid@amba.info.

Thank you for your inquiry,
AMBA

IRSPA Executive Board



First Row: Paul Strid, AMBA representative; George Holland, Past President/District 3 Coordinator; Venita Vescher, District 4 Coordinator; Marge Swanson, Health Advocacy (retiring); Jean Hoffman, President; **Second Row:** Phil Tetzloff, Legislative Chair; Judy Jepsen, District 1 Coordinator; Jeanne Handeland, President-Elect; Barb Bielenberg, Membership Chair; Jane Beatty, District 5 Coordinator; Toni Hood, Newsletter Editor **Third Row:** Sandy Thede, Supportive Services; Robert Swanson, Treasurer; Jay Thede, Supportive Services; Judge Brown, District 2 Coordinator; Mary Jo O'Connell, Secretary/Historian; Linda Miller, District 6 Coordinator/Nominating Chair
Not pictured: Beth Hieronymus, Vice-President elect



Ann Mayer, UNI Coordinator of RAPIL, explained the Alternative Pathway for Teacher Preparation requirements. This is a two-year teacher preparation program designed to help working professionals obtain an initial Iowa Teaching License.

**Here's to good health:
Paul Strid, AMBA representative, bids a fond farewell to retiring Health Advocacy chairperson Marge Swanson.**



George Holland with one piece of a hand carved nativity set that he received in appreciation of his work as IRSPA President; he will continue to serve as Past President.

Newsletter

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104

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Rockwell City, Iowa 50579
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WE REMEMBER

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Adams, Virginia	Muscatine, IA	Muscatine Area Unit
Ahrenholtz, Mary	Clive, IA	Des Moines Area Unit
Amfah, Gerald	Jessup, IA	No Unit
Andresen, Mardella	Schleswig, IA	Crawford County Unit
Carsell, Carolyn	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Church, Jon	Council Bluffs, IA	Council Bluffs Area Unit
Donovan, John T	Cascade, IA	No Unit
Fahy, Le Ora	Muscatine, IA	Muscatine Area Unit
Funk, Shirley	Peosta, IA	No Unit
Kieffer, Joan	Preston, IA	Jackson County Unit
Kinsey, Harriett	Chariton, IA	Lucas County Unit
LICK, MARY	Muscatine, IA	Muscatine Area Unit
Lodes, Dorothy	Papillion, NE	Council Bluffs Area Unit
Martens, Doris J	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Menster, Maureen	Sigourney, IA	Keokuk County Unit
Panther, NNCY	Muscatine, IA	Muscatine Area Unit
Peterson, Jean	Keokuk, IA	Lee County Unit
Purdum, Leone	Creston, IA	Creston Area Unit
Smith, Ruth	Chariton, IA	Lucas County Unit
Speck, Clarice	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Taylor, Audrey	Chariton, IA	Lucas County Unit

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

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

