



IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Dear Members,

Your Executive Board had its first special meeting on Friday, April 24, 2020, using our AMBA friend's Zoom account. All were on time and used the technology effectively. A motion by Bob Swanson, seconded by Toni Hood, allows the Association to purchase our own Zoom account. This may prove to be a way to hold meetings in the future as all Board members will be able to use.

In the December letter, I talked about the wonderful Annual Meeting and State Conference in Denison and plans for another eventful meeting and conference this October 2020. Right now, the Board is planning to hold the event but we are not sure. We will keep you posted via separate mailings.

Meanwhile, e-mail me with your thoughts about a state conference in October 2020. Will you attend? I will use the comments I receive to inform our decision at a special board meeting at the end of July. E-mail me at the address listed here under my photo.

National Public Radio (NPR) has a four-minute video attached to the following link. The site is called: With an Election on The Horizon, Older Adults Get Help Spotting Fake News: <https://www.npr.org/2020/02/26/809224742/> It is worth the read and watch.

In other action at our special meeting, we agreed to appoint Jean Hoffman to another term as Vice President as well as President-Elect since we were not able to recruit a candidate at spring unit meetings and District Meetings. We also recommend local units wait on any unit elections until the social distancing requirements change.

Dropout prevention funding is available, but the amount a district can request was frozen in 2013. Previously, districts could request additional funding up to 5% of their total district costs. For districts with an increasing number of at-need students, the percentage they were frozen at is no longer adequate. Additional funding will provide support for reading and math, counselors, social workers, family and community outreach programs, and mental health resources.

House File 2497, an act relating to modified supplemental amounts for at-risk, returning dropout, and dropout prevention programs is on the Iowa legislative docket. The Iowa



President: George Holland
16992 Middle Road
Dubuque, IA 52002
Cell 563-581-8737
E-mail:
dutchboygwh@gmail.com

Retired School Personnel Association is joining the following organizations which already registered in favor of the bill: Iowa Association of School Boards, Rural School Advocates of Iowa, Urban Education Network of Iowa, School Administrators of Iowa, National Alliance on Mental Illness – Iowa, Iowa State Education Association, Iowa Mental Health Advocacy, Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association, IA Mental Health Planning Council, United Way of Central Iowa, and Father Flanagan's Boys Home.

Many thanks to Shirley and Jerry Barth for their twelve years as Membership Chairs. Barb Bielenberg has been approved to serve as our new Membership Chair. Welcome Barb.

Also, Happy 98th Birthday to Craig Downing, who has served as IRSPA Parliamentarian for many years. His birthday was on April 12; Easter 2020.

This issue is dedicated to two fine IRSPA members. First, we dedicate this issue to the memory of Dawn Rogers who served as President of IRSPA twice, spent many years dealing with Delta Dental, and as editor of this newsletter. Her obituary and picture are in this issue.

Second, we dedicate this issue to Robert Campidilli. Bob was an active IRSPA member but most importantly, he spent many miles on the road with his wife, Chris, so she could visit every unit in the state throughout her six years in the presidential line up. Bob was a complement (HE was a big part of our group joining us at meetings and meals always with a happy heart and smile) and a compliment (we all admired Bob's strength and perseverance as he struggled with health issues) to our Executive Board and Committee.

Stay safe. Stay strong. Stay vigilant.

Newsletter Deadline

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

**Articles for the September
newsletter are due no later than
Tuesday, August 4, 2020**



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



In Memory of Dawn Carol Rogers 1940 - 2020

Dawn C. Rogers, 80, a life-long resident of the Iowa City area, passed away from natural causes on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at a local care center.

Dawn Carol Unash was born March 25, 1940, in Iowa City, Iowa, to Clarence "Joe" and Mildred Carol (Wrede) Unash. She gradu-

ated from City High School with the class of 1958 and attended Northern Iowa Teachers College.

Dawn was united in marriage to James C. Rogers on October 17, 1959, in Iowa City. The couple celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary last October.

Dawn was the principal's secretary at City High School for many years and then worked at the Iowa City Community School District Board Office until her retirement.

After retirement, she was very proud to serve as the President of the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association (IRSPA). She served as President in 2007-2009 and again in 2015-2017. She also served as newsletter editor, public relations chair, and Delta Dental liaison for several years.

Dawn had many passions throughout her life. She shared her love for horses with her girls and even convinced Jim to build a house in the country so they could raise and show horses. Later, she bumped up the horse power and began riding motorcycles with Jim. She was a member of the Motor Maids and put many miles on her Yamaha Virago she called "Care Bear".

In the 90's, Jim and Dawn ran the Hawkeye Area Trap and Skeet Club in Tiffin, IA. Dawn quickly picked up trap shooting and began to compete. She won the Ladies Missouri 16-yard Fall Handicap in 1994, the Ladies Southeast Iowa Zone Championship in 1996, and the Iowa State Handicap Ladies Championship in 1997.

Dawn was an avid Chicago Cubs and Iowa Hawkeyes fan and her family knew not to disturb her if there was a game on TV. She looked forward to going on the Hawkeye Football Cruise every February with Jim.

Dawn loved having her daughters, grandkids, and great-grandkids over for cookouts and pool parties on summer holidays. Her family includes her husband, Jim; two daughters, Lisa Hebl (Dennis) and Stacey Lingel (Brad Moore); 5 granddaughters, Melanie Robe (Nathan), Brittany Bronemann (Sterling), Jamie Stratton (Jason), Allison Bates (Nelson), and Mindy Lingel; 4 great-grandsons, Cooper Robe, Tucker Robe, Paxton Bronemann, and Jaxen Stratton; and Dawn's sister, Donna Thibodeau (William). She was preceded in death by her parents.

Dawn chose to be cremated. There will be no public services, however a Celebration of Life gathering will be scheduled at a later date. Memorial donations can be made in Dawn's name to the charity of your choice. To share a thought, memory, or condolence with her family, please visit the funeral home website at www.gayandciha.com.



Still Going By the Rules...

Craig Downing, a retired Iowa school superintendent from Sigourney, Iowa, had his 98th birthday in April. Craig is the IRSPA Parliamentarian in addition to serving as an officer in the Keokuk County Unit; in 1993-1995 he and his wife were Co-Presidents of IRSPA.



NEW IRSPA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Barbara Bielenberg (pictured right) retired in 2009 after teaching Business Education for 41 years, 5 at Hinton, Iowa, and the remainder in Sioux City at East High and Central Campus. She was head teacher/coordinator of the Business Departments for all the Sioux City Schools, having student taught under Bob Swanson. Barb grew up on a dairy farm in Minnesota, where she still has one brother. She came to Sioux City to attend Morningside College. Her degree was a major in Business Education and a minor in French. She worked for the Port of Sioux City River-Cade their first 7 years of operation from 1965-71, while she was in college and a few years after that, first as secretary and then as Executive Officer.



Barb was active in her state, regional and national business education associations, having served as president of both the state and 8-state North Central Regional Business Education Associations. She also has served on the national and international boards, as well as serving on the National Policies Commission for Business & Economic Education; and serving as chair for one year. She currently serves as historian on the IBEA board.

Barb also serves as 2nd vice president of the Sioux City Delta Kappa Gamma Educational organization, and is treasurer of the local Sioux City Area Retired Teachers. She has served as secretary of Skien Lutheran Church since her retirement, and helps with quilting at the church, funerals, nursing home Bingo, etc. Her husband passed away 6 years ago, and she lives on 7.5 acres southwest of Sloan, Iowa, spending a lot of time in the summer mowing.

IRSPA ANNUAL MEETING BOULDERS CONFERENCE CENTER Denison, Iowa October 2 & 3, 2019

The following transpired on Wednesday, October 2, 2019:

9:00 - Executive Board Meeting
 11:30-5 - registration was open
 12:30 – 4:00 - Guided Tours
 6:00 pm – Welcome Banquet – Excellent food and the Denison High School Mariachi Ensemble provided entertainment. The Director indicated that they were trying to get new uniforms. We decided to pass-the-hat to help them. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we donated over \$320 to their fund.

The following transpired on Thursday, October 3, 2019:

8 – 9 am – Registration in the Lobby.
 Complimentary Continental Breakfast was served.
 9 – Welcome to the General Session by the State President, Chris Campidilli;
 Welcome and Logistics by the President of Host Crawford County Unit, Judy Jepsen.
 9:30 – noon – Breakout Sessions attendees could choose to attend
 12:00 – Luncheon served in West Ballroom.
 1:15 – Pictures and Annual Business Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

President Chris Campidilli called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. She thanked the Crawford County Unit for holding this year's Meeting. President-Elect George Holland led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roberta Cochran-Zavitz led us singing "God Bless America."

Lyle Sterling moved to approve the Agenda with a second from Jerry Zavitz. Motion Carried. President Campidilli appointed Jay Thede as Parliamentarian. She also introduced the State Officers and Guests Anthony Carroll, AARP and Christopher Gluck, AMBA).

Secretary Mary Jo O'Connell reported that 88 members were in attendance. We need a current up-to-date copy of each Units Constitution and Bylaws. Please send them in PDF format if possible.

Secretary's Minutes: The minutes of the IRSPA 2017 Annual Meeting held October 3, 2019, in Iowa City were available and presented. The Minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Swanson, IRSPA Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report covering the period October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. Balance on hand as of 10/01/18 was \$46,469.90 and Balance on Hand as of 9/30/19 = \$40,935.15. Investments are as follows:

Money Market Account – Security National Bank,
 Sioux City = \$25,188.35

Certificate of Deposit – Security National Bank,
 Sioux City = \$51,676.07 @ .65% interest –
 matures 9/28/20

Goldman Sach Bank CD – Cetera Investments =
 \$50,000 @ 5% interest – matures 5/29/20

American Express CD – Cetera Investments =

\$50,000 @ 2.05% interest – matures 12/23/19

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Mr. Swanson also presented the 2019-20 proposed budget with proposed breakdown of income and disbursements in the amount of \$81,000 (2018-2019 was \$78,000). Following review, Gerald Zavitz moved to approve the proposed budget for 2018-19. Motion Carried.
Newsletter Report: Toni Hood, Editor, encouraged everyone to look at the Newsletter on the web page because it is in color. Then thanked everyone who has turned in articles and pictures.

Past President Report: President Campidilli appointed Jerry and Roberta Zavitz to perform the duties of Past President because Dawn Rogers was unavailable. Jerry reported that they had attended all District Meetings in May, the Budget meeting in August, and the Lobbyist meeting in August.

Executive Board Reports AARP: Anthony Carroll reported that after working for five years, the Iowa CARE Act was passed. This year will make sure that caregivers receive information on how to care for individuals when they are released from a care facility. They are currently working to update the Guardianship/Conservatory Laws. They are also working with our Legislators to get a bill passed about lowering the cost of prescription drugs. They have held townhalls with Senator Grassley and Representative Finkenauer, Senator Grassley has helped pass a bill out of the Senate with bi-partisan support. They are waiting for the House to take action.

AMBA: Paul Strid, District Manager and Christopher Gluck, Regional VP, explained that increasing membership for IRSPA is one of their goals. New products include a Children's Whole Life Policy. If your Unit would be interested in additional information, please contact Paul or Chris. AMBA helped revise and update the IRSPA Website. You can enroll for next year and pay your dues electronically on the Website. Visit irspa.gov and see all the changes.

Bylaws: The Constitution/Bylaws Committee move the following items:

- 1) The Committee moves to eliminate the requirement for officer membership in NRTA. Motion Passed
- 2) The Committee moves to add AARP and AMBA as additional leaders, programs, and goals to add to this (5.) duty of President. Motion Passed
- 3) The Committee moves to add Historian to the Office of the Secretary. Motion Passed
- 4) The Committee moves to change the name of Public Relations (Publicity) Committee to Public Relations Committee.
- 6) The Committee moves to place the Committee names in alphabetical order as names change and committees are added or deleted. Motion Passed
- 7) The Committee moved to add the AMBA Representative to IRSPA to the list of Executive Board Members. Motion Passed

Health Advocacy: Marge Swanson reported that the District Meetings in May, 2018, had speakers explaining HIPAA Laws and Living Wills. Each presentation was very informative. The health topic for the 2020 District Meetings will be "New Findings in the Treatment of Cancer". It will be customized for the services in each area.

Legislative Review: Phil Tetzloff reported that IPERS is currently funded at about 82%, and they have a little more than the projected increase. Please keep yourself up-to-date on what the Legislature will be doing in the upcoming Legislative Session.

Membership: Shirley Barth indicated that we have 286 new members but we lost 119 (deceased, moved, or dropped) for a total of 5,624.

Nominations: Linda Miller reported that the District Coordinators counted the ballots in August. Results were George Holland is President, Jean Hoffman is Vice President, and Mary Jo O'Connell is Secretary.

Public Relations: George Holland reported that students in Davenport made the key chains that were distributed. They have the new IRSPA logo. Please check out the new IRSPA Website. Use the Directory to find the Officer information, Newsletters, Calendars, etc. You can now renew and pay for your membership online.

Supportive Services: Sandy Thede thanked everyone who submitted hours. If your local does not meet during the summer, please send the total to her through May. Count the summer months in the next year. This year Preston and Webster had six-year improved hours. The hours equaled \$9,282,280.59.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business Announcements:

The 2020 District Meetings are as follows:

May 5 – District 3 at Cedar Falls/Waterloo

May 6 – District 2 at Boone

May 7 – District 1 at Cherokee

May 19 – District 4 at Dallas County

May 20 – District 5 TBA

May 21 – District 6 at Iowa City

2020 Annual Meeting will be October 7 & 8, 2020, at Honey Creek Resort at Lake Rathbun, Jane Beatty, District 5 Coordinator. Marsha Whisler from Honey Creek talked about the Resort.

Installation of Officers:

Chris Campidilli installed the following officers:

George Holland – President,

Mary Jo O'Connell Secretary,

Jean Hoffman – President Elect.

Memorial Tribute: George Holland paid tribute to those IRSPA members who have passed this year with a Power Point presentation.

Awards and Recognitions:

George Holland and the Executive Board thanked Chris for all her time spent with the organization by helping her get all her "ducks in order". She received a duck from each person with a special thank you.

Chris Campidilli closed the meeting by thanking everyone who has helped support the organization.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm. Door Prizes were then awarded to lucky attendees. Thanks for an Excellent State Meeting!

Mary Jo O'Connell, IRSPA Secretary

IRSPA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING BOULDERS CONFERENCE CENTER DENISON, IOWA October 2, 2019

The IRSPA Executive Board Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by President Chris Campidilli.

President Elect, George Holland, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Campidilli appointed Jay Thede to serve as Parliamentarian.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and accepted as printed. Secretary Mary Jo O'Connell completed the Roll Call, and the names of attendees and guests in attendance are listed at the end of the minutes. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held April 3, 2019 were presented and available. Approved as printed. As Historian, Mary Jo looked through the archives. Her suggestion would be to convert everything to digital where possible. Phil Tetzloff moved that the IRSPA Secretary/Historian purchase an external hard drive on which to store the history and documents for the organization. Seconded by George Holland. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Swanson, IRSPA Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report covering the period October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. Balance on hand as of 10/01/18 was \$46,469.90 and Balance on Hand as of 9/30/19 = \$40,935.15. Investments are as follows:

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American Express CD – Cetera Investments = \$50,000 @ 2.05% interest – matures 12/23/19

A budget for 2019-20 was presented for our information, and it will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Bob encouraged all local units to keep him up-to-date and individual members addresses. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Newsletter Report: Toni Hood published her first issue of the newsletter in March, 2019. Connie Ramthun is her contact person at the Calhoun County Reminder. The June issue was published later to include information from all District Meetings. Toni introduced new features: "It's News to Me..." and "Did You Know" (not published because of space issues). She has talked to McKenzie Lyman about online voting. Jay Thede moved that we set up online voting. Seconded by Venita Escher. Motion passed.

The President Elect: George Holland, reminded everyone that this is the first year the transition to new officers will take place at the end of the Annual Meeting.

Past President Report: Gerald Zavitz had a temporary appointment due to illness of Dawn Rogers. He reported that he had attended all six District Meetings and the Budget Meeting.

Executive Board Reports

AARP: Brad Anderson reported that the following are some of the programs that's AARP sponsors: Stop Greed – negoti-

ating for lower drug costs: holding Driver Safety Classes; and Fraud Watch. They are starting to get ready for the Caucus.

Insurance/Benefits: Christopher Gluck reported that membership remains AMBA's number one goal. Membership in IRSPA is important to help AMBA grow. Our website is up and looks great. The website has an area to automatically enroll and pay online. (go to memberships on Website) One of their new programs is "Children's Whole Life Policy."

Whole Life Insurance: There goals are to help local leadership promote seminars; direct communication from IRSPA to all email addresses; direct communication with IRSPA to increase awareness with active educators.

Bylaws: George Holland distributed proposed changes to the Bylaws at the April meeting. They will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. We need to clarify working on length of terms for the standing rules. Each Unit needs to recommend members to serve on Committees. George is looking into policy changes.

Health Advocacy: Marge Swanson reported that the topic for 2020 District Meetings will be "New Findings in Treating Cancer". She would also like suggestions for future topics.

Legislative/AARP: Phil Tetzloff reported that the IPERS Trust Fund is 83% funded. IPERS is looking into going to "inhouse" investing. They have to go to the Legislature for approval. IPERS has 140 members over 100, average 22.61 years of service, and average \$1,461 as average monthly benefits.

Membership: Gerald and Shirley Barth presented information that will be given to each local membership Chairman and President. This included information about getting new members and what IRSPA does. They also encouraged everyone to attend their District Meeting.

Public Relations (Publicity): George Holland reported that Pre-Retirement Seminars are being scheduled with IPERS. The State Directory is being updated as needed.

Supportive Services: Contact each of your groups to remind them to keep track of volunteer hours. Total volunteer hours were \$9,282,280.59 which equaled 365,013 hours at \$25.43

District Coordinators' Reports:

Each District reported that they had good meetings in May 2019.

- **District 1:** Barbara Songer – 2020 Spring Meeting is May 7 in Cherokee.
- **District 2:** Anita Fagen-Miller – 2020 Spring Meeting is May 6 in Boone.
- **District 3:** George Holland – 2020 Spring Meeting is May 5 in Cedar Falls/Waterloo.
- **District 4:** Venita Escher – 2020 Spring Meeting is May 19 at Dallas County.
- **District 5:** Jane Beatty – 2020 Spring Meeting is May 20 TBA.
- **District 6:** Linda Miller – 2020 Spring Meeting is May 21 in Iowa City.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

George moved that the District Coordinator overseeing the Annual Meeting and Conference be gifted \$500 for planning and organizing the local units. Seconded by Sande Thede. Motion passed.

Jerry Barth moved that the Executive Council gift \$1,200

(paid quarterly) for the Newsletter Editor. Seconded by Jay Thede. Motion passed.

Sandy Thede moved that the Executive Council gift \$1,200 (paid quarterly) for the Public Relations Chair. Seconded by Venita Escher. Motion passed.

George Holland moved that the Executive Council gift \$2,400 (paid quarterly) for the IRSPA Treasurer. Seconded by Phil Tetzloff. Motion passed.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be October 7 & 8, 2020, at Honey Creek Resort at Lake Rathbun. Jane Beatty is currently making plans.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30

Mary Jo O'Connell, IRSPA Secretary

Members in Attendance

Chris Campidilli
George Holland
Mary Jo O'Connell
Robert Swanson
Marge Swanson
Phil Tetzloff
Shirley Barth
Gerald Barth
Sandy Thede
Jay Thede
Toni Hood

Barbara Songer
Anita Fagen-Miller
Venita Escher
Jane Beatty
Linda Miller
Paul Strid
Connie Eastman
Brad Anderson
Guests
Christopher Rantz
Richard Rowland

IRSPA MEETING – Zoom April 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Secretary Mary Jo O'Connell completed the roll call. Additional New Business items included: 1) Toni Hood has information from another State regarding meetings; 2) Phil Tetzloff has a motion in support of HF2497; and 3) Toni Hood has information for online voting.

Bob Swanson moved to appoint Barb Bielenberg to serve as Membership Chair. Seconded by Sandy Thede. Motion passed. Welcome to the Exec. Board. A special thanks Shirley and Jerry Barth for all their years of service.

Sandy Thede moved that IRSPA allow Jean Hoffman to serve as Vice President for another term along with her President Elect term and conduct an election in 2021 for Vice President and Secretary. Seconded by Toni Hood. Motion passed.

Jean Hoffman discussed the current concern obtaining new officers. She suggested the following: In case of unusual times, the election, nomination, and/or installation of officers may be waived and the current president or the highest-ranking officer may present a slate of officers to the Executive Board. A three-fourths favorable vote by the Executive Board will be required for adoption. After a discussion, the Board directed Jean to contact Local Presidents with this information.

Jane Beatty gave an update on the State Meeting in

October. At the present time all State Parks are closed. After a discussion, it was suggested that Jane contact Honey Creek and to find their cancellation policy and the latest date to do that. Also, what is the time frame for cancellation of room reservations.

Toni Hood moved to have a Zoom conference in July to discuss the status of the State Meeting. Seconded by Jean Hoffman. Motion passed.

Anita Fagen-Miller moved to contact Local Units to see how many would be interested in still going to the State Meeting. Seconded by Jean Hoffman. After a discussion, the Motion was withdrawn by Anita.

Paul Strid suggested having a Zoom meeting for Districts. AMBA would do a presentation of benefits, the President would give a statement, and the District would decide any additional presentations. This suggestion will be placed on the July Zoom meeting agenda.

Chris Gluck discussed new AMBA benefits: 1) Life Insurance for children; 2) updated Benefits sheet; and 3) Email campaign to request benefits. He reminded us that you can apply for membership on the Website. Richard Rowland discussed a new program that we will help pilot. Emails will be sent to members advertising legislative issues, social issues, and benefits. They are also doing email and paid ads on Facebook.

Bob Swanson moved that IRSPA buy a subscription for annual Zoom account. Seconded by Toni Hood. A discussion indicated that any one of us could hold a Zoom meeting – District Representatives could use to have meetings with Local Presidents, Committee Chairs could meet with members of their committee, etc. Motion passed.

New Business

Phil Tetzloff moved that IRSPA will register support for HF2497 with our Lobbyist John Cacciatore. Seconded by Mary Jo O'Connell. Motion passed.

Toni Hood will try to move up the June issue. She is looking into online voting with Velocity. Richard will help her follow up with this. She has information about Nebraska thinking about changing their State Meeting because of low attendance. We will use the July meeting to discuss this issue.

Bob Swanson and Chris Gluck will work to get a Zoom account working for the July meeting.

Chris Campidilli informed us that Craig Downing, Parliamentarian, turned 98 in March.

Next Meetings

July, 2020, and August 25 & 26, 2020 at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in West Des Moines.

Mary Jo O'Connell, IRSPA Secretary

Members participating in zoom

George Holland – President

Jean Hoffman – President Elect

Chris Campidilli – Past President

Robert Swanson – Treasurer

Mary Jo O'Connell – Secretary/Historian

Toni Hood – Newsletter Editor

Barbara Songer – District 1

Anita Fagen-Miller – District 2

Venita Escher – District 4

Jane Beatty – District 5

Linda Miller – District 6

Christopher Gluck – AMBA

Richard Rowland – AMBA

Marge Swanson – Health Care

Paul Strid – Insurance/AMBA

Phil Tetzloff – Legislative

Barb Bielenberg - Membership

Jay Thede -Supportive Services

Sandy Thede -Supportive Services

Christopher Gluck – AMBA

District 1 • EMMET COUNTY

Due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic, the Estherville Area Retired School Personnel officers met virtually using Zoom on April 24, 2020. The officers will continue to fulfill their current roles for the coming year and members will continue to hold monthly meetings virtually using Zoom throughout this coming year.

Some members of the group have been helping the community, family, and friends by volunteering to sew masks. Other members are using their teaching skills to tutor their grandchildren with math and other academics. Another member was happy that she had kept all the books she had purchased when in the classroom because she was able to spark interest in reading them with her grandchildren. Furthermore, we see our members being creative with celebrations such as clearing branches and cleaning the landscape on Earth Day. Retired educators are notorious for finding creative activities to do with children, including introducing cooking and baking activities and other things to keep children's brains learning.

By Judy Grethen

District 2 • HUMBOLDT AREA

The Humboldt Area IRSPA meetings for April and May have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The following slate of officers have agreed to serve for the 2020-21 year: President-Anita Fagen-Miller, Co-Vice-Presidents- Pat Worthington and Mary Lou Perry, Secretary-Darlene Stirling, Treasurer-Chris Campidilli, and Legislative Chair-Candy Carlson. The fall meetings are tentatively set for Tuesday, September 8 and October 13, 2020. At the September meeting, there will be an official vote for the slate of officers.

Anita Fagen-Miller, President

Please Note:

The District 2 IRSPA meeting scheduled at Boone on May 6, 2020 was cancelled.

The Boone unit has agreed to host the 2021 District 2 meeting.

The Big 4 Unit will host the District 2 meeting for 2022.

Anita Fagen-Miller, District 2 Coordinator

District 4 • COUNCIL BLUFFS

Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the March and April meetings of the Council Bluffs Area Chapter of the Iowa Retired School Personnel were cancelled.

Tentative plans have been made for the 2020-2021 year which is scheduled to begin with a September meeting. The third Wednesday in September has been designated as a social gathering. The October meeting's program will be the Tai Chi program from March or the Craft Fair delayed from April. St. Paul's Bell Choir will provide the November program. The program for the March meeting is undecided at this time, and the April meeting will feature the Craft Fair, if it has not yet been held.

There had been no nomination or election of officers, so the current officers will continue in those positions. They are JoAnn Tews, President, Darlene Schwarzkopf, vice-president, Sue Griswold, secretary, and Carol Huffman, treasurer.

Sue Griswold, Secretary

Website: www.irspa.org

District 6 • JEFFERSON COUNTY

What can we do that's a little different? That's what the planning committee wondered last summer. Anything that involved a lot of walking would leave out too many members, so how about a sharing time—a sharing of hobbies. February would be a great month for that. The weather is good enough for a meeting in SE Iowa, usually anyway, so that was the month that was chosen, which turned out to be a good thing, too, because it ended up being the last meeting before the pandemic reached Iowa and everything closed down.

This choice of activity proved one thing: teachers enjoy sharing as much as students do. And what a variety of hobbies there were! Members told about and brought samples of paintings, genealogy records and books, a wood block design made from the remains of a beloved family barn, a camel collection from time spent in the Mideast, pictures of times with a husband selling Shaker boxes, pictures of Golden Doodles raised by a daughter, articles sewn and knitted, quilt tops and runners, a sample of the state square dance newsletter edited by a member who loves dancing, and horse/pony equipment and pictures by a member that raises and shows them.

It was a good day to get pictures for the secretary's notebook, and here's a few to share with members from around the state.

by Michele Weber, secretary
Continued to next column ~



Left:
Martha Cathey shared her camel collection from the time she lived and traveled in the Mideast.



Right:
Roberta Mattson loves to sew and shared a dress she had made for her daughter and then passed down to her granddaughter and great-granddaughter.

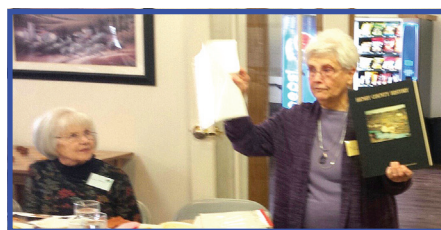


Left:
Judith McDonough raises and shows horses and ponies. She wasn't allowed to bring the real thing with her, so she brought a picture.

Right:
Marge Lewiston loves to quilt and shared some samples of her work.



Above: Don Kremer, a retired art teacher, shared one of his paintings. Some of his work is displayed locally. He also paints murals.



Left:
Rosie Cochran Thompson enjoys genealogy. She shared some charts and a

county history book which included articles she had written.

District 6 • DAVENPORT

Need a good laugh during these unprecedented times? Keep reading, and I'll give you a reason to laugh until you cry!

Before you have to grab the tissues to control your laughing tears, I would like to share some information about our Darspa group. Our president, Lynda Kuehn, has done an excellent job keeping our membership informed about how business is being conducted during the pandemic. Although we won't be able to meet again until September, Lynda has made sure that our members know that they will receive their membership renewal forms via mail. She sent out a detailed letter explaining what our Executive Board and Executive Committees are doing to insure a smooth transition into the upcoming Darspa year. Our group is very fortunate to have such competent leadership from our board and committee members.

At our March meeting, Dave Ceurvorst (whose wife is our treasurer) spoke about a subject that was unfamiliar with many of us: geocaching! This is a treasure hunting outdoor recreational activity that is popular worldwide. Participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or device to hide and seek containers, or geocaches. Dave's enthusiasm for this activity was evident by his ebullient presentation! Yes, this is an adult version of "Hide and Seek". In fact, many find it to be an entertaining family activity.

And now...it's time to laugh until you cry! I'm sure there are legions of members out there who have been sewing masks during the pandemic. Well...there is ONE lady who wanted to contribute to this worthwhile cause despite her inexperience with sewing. However, she had just a few issues with her sewing machine while attempting her first mask. To understand her situation AND perhaps identify with her "issues", please Google "DIY Face Mask Tutorial with Kay". You will want to watch this AT LEAST three times! This lady truly has a flair for making masks the WRONG way! Enjoy!

Deb Kelly, Secretary

Help the Homeless or Mission Ideas.

Would You Like A Project?

Go To:

wmu.com/adults

You will find instructions for sleeping Mats for the Homeless made out of plastic grocery bags and many other Projects to keep you busy and feeling good that you have helped someone!

SPECIAL NOTICE:

The 2020 State Meeting

to be held October 7-8, 2020

at Honey Creek Resort on Rathbun Lake

will be reviewed at a Zoom meeting in July.

Members will be notified if changes need to be made via e-mail, mail or in the September

Newsletter (which is planned to publish early).

Please keep watch ... the President would like your input, so please e-mail him: dutchboygwh@gmail.com

Hello Fellow Iowa Retired School Personnel Friends:

The other day I was taking my daily stroll around the neighborhood, which is about all we can do nowadays, and I ran into an old friend of mine. We sat down at the park, 6 feet apart, and started reminiscing about family and friends. The conversation led to us discussing the need for home care, as well as care at a nursing home or assisted living facility.

My friend, Betsy, recently had to deal with her mother and the outrageous costs of long term care. Her mother did not have any long-term care coverage in place to help pay for her care. Unfortunately, Betsy's mother ran out of her savings, and had to apply for government welfare, otherwise known as Medicaid. She was admitted to a Medicaid regulated home, which would normally not have been their first choice.

Betsy, who also retired from the Iowa school system, indicated she was worried about her own situation considering what she just went through with her mother.

I asked if she was aware of the IRSPA endorsed benefits through AMBA? She was not. We then set a time to talk so I could show her the benefit through Aetna that was designed to meet the needs of folks that require care in the home or at an assisted living facility or nursing home.

The Aetna Recovery Care and Home Care Plus is an indemnity plan that pays up to \$300 per day for facility care (nursing home or assisted living) for a full year and up to \$1200 a week for an additional 52 weeks of home health care. It has a restoration of benefits option included, which can double your amount of coverage. Traditional Long Term Care has become extremely difficult to qualify for, and if you can qualify for it, it is expensive. Aetna is an amazing alternative to traditional long term care plans. Should you have any questions on the Aetna plan, or any of the IRSPA endorsed benefits, call or e-mail Paul Strid (708-347-7081, Paul.Strid@amba.info).

Article for IRSPA NEWSLETTER from Sandy & Jay Thede (Supportive Services Chairs)

During these unusual and difficult times, our previous volunteering has definitely been upset. Each of us should now think of what we are doing these days in order to help others. We need to record this VOLUNTEER TIME spent. Some examples of new volunteering would be sewing face masks and gowns, preparing and taking food to our neighbors (include your time spent purchasing the ingredients and fabric), and time spent calling and sending cards and letters to shut in people in nursing homes. You may count the time spent gardening for your community. With no schools open, count your time on line assisting in daily school lessons and tutoring. Any time you have put in doing FOR OTHERS, FOR FREE, counts as volunteering.

Once our state reopens for non-essential businesses and organizations, we will resume our normal volunteering as before. Remember, examples of the two categories to record your volunteer hours are YOUTH and EDUCATION and COMMUNITY. Youth and Education examples are: working in and with public or private schools, Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H, baby sitting your grandchildren or other kids. You may also count the time it takes you to drive to and from the baby sitting work. Youth programs, working with speech and drama students, being an aide during testing, assisting in music with youth, spelling bees, Kids Against Hunger Program, Dollars for Scholars work, Child Development Centers, Children's Shelters, GED programs, testing sites, Scholarship Committees, etc, all count.

All other volunteer work should fall under COMMUNITY, when dealing expressly with non-student age. Those examples are: volunteering at libraries, museums, churches, church committees, community centers, Senior Citizen's Centers, fundraisers, parks, recreational areas, hospitals, Community Kitchens, Food Banks, Hospice Facilities, Nature Centers, Chamber of Commerce, Health Centers, local historical sites, fairs, theaters, cemetery, Genealogical Society, Opera Houses, Meals on Wheels, Soup Kitchens, Church mission work, Legion work, Grant Writing, assisting the Elderly, Humane Society, planting flower areas. You may volunteer at organizations such as AARP, ELKS, NRTA, NAACP, Delta Kappa, Lions and others. Providing rides to appointments, helping at nursing homes, assisted living, family care giving, SHIP, Elder Affairs, tax and legal assistant work, rehab centers, Recovery Therapy, visiting shut-ins, American Legion, VFW and other service organizations all count.

Remember to take care of yourself and others.

IPERS Committee Meetings

Long time IPERS CEO Donna Mueller has announced her retirement. Governor Kim Reynolds appointed Greg Samorajski as the new CEO. I am sure there will be a celebration to honor Donna and to meet Greg at a future date.

The Investment Committee met via a teleconference on March 27. Karl Koch, Chief Investment Officer, reported that the COVID-19 crisis has created volatility in the equity and bond markets. The value of the Trust Fund has declined, but I have no dollar amount or percentage to report.

Because the legislature is in recess there have been no meetings of Benefits Advisory Committee. I feel confident that we will meet when the legislature adjourns. It will take several months before the IPERS staff can accurately predict what short term and long term actions will need to be taken to adjust investments and benefits. The fall state meeting may be the time I can give a full report to the IRSPA board and members.

Phil Tetzloff, Legislative Chair

IT'S NEWS TO ME ...

•England's King James I coined the phrase, "No news is good news." Unfortunately, if you are newsletter editor, "No news is not good news!"

•Since the last newsletter in March, 2020 we have experienced unprecedented events due to Covid-19. Social isolation, which previously referred to people who had some sort of interpersonal issues, has become a way of life for all but necessary workers. As a result, most IRSPA units have not been meeting.

•Hopefully, our local meetings can soon resume. Perhaps whatever speakers or programs you've had scheduled can be postponed until then.

•The effects of this pandemic are far reaching and multi layered. Since our members strive "to serve, and not to be served" consider how your unit can help those who continue to be impacted by this social and economic crisis.

•Please share any volunteer or charitable work your unit has contributed. Our units are always interested in new program ideas and charitable endeavors. As always, submit pictures with captions when possible.

•There will be more information forthcoming about the 2020 IRSPA State Meeting hosted by the Appanoose-Wayne County and Lucas County units on October 7-8 at Honey Creek Resort on Rathbun Lake. Many people work hard to create a memorable event, and we encourage you to attend. It's informative, it's fun, and it's a great getaway opportunity.

•I'm hoping that by the time you are reading this the phrase "flattening the curve" will be a reference to dietary and physical measures needed to lose weight.

Toni Hood

IRSPA Newsletter Editor

tonihood@q.com

515-332-5819(H) 515-269-3823(C)

What Do Retired School People Do?

Two retired Western Dubuque teachers spent eight years as DARSPA Membership Chairs



Retired teachers, Patty Bries (left) and Mary Dankert (right), served as Membership Chairs for the Dubuque Area Retired School Personnel Association (DARSPA) for eight years. Good people are hard to replace.

Patty taught 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades in Cascade, Epworth, and, finally, Farley in the Western Dubuque Community School District. Farley was when Mary and Patty hooked up!

Now that Patty is retired, she is crossing things off her calendar, not because she did them! She was supposed to be in Vegas with my college friends celebrating our 70th birthdays in April but that has been postponed to October, hoping they can go then. She is not used to being homebound but she does not have any serious complaints! So many people are really suffering from all of this. Her kids are all well and have their jobs and are keeping in touch using Zoom.

Considering the stay at home requirement, Patty has done a few small cleaning projects and says she should step up her efforts there. She made raspberry jam with lots of frozen berries her husband picked last summer. The freezer is empty now! Patty is reading some and watching Netflix, staying in her pajamas more, and trying not to overeat! She does some outside work in her flower beds and will get back to that with warmer weather. She plans to paint her blue Mary statue which her neighbors kid her about.

Patty got a new car in March, just before all this started. A 2020 Jeep Limited, Red Pearl. She has not really driven it much and she will be watching the speed limits as red vehicles attract ticket writers! She is missing out on the cheap gas prices, too!

While at Western Dubuque, Mary taught grades 1, 3, and 4. She spent most her years in 4th grade where she taught all subjects. She traded classes with another 4th grade teacher; sometimes teaching science and sometimes teaching social studies. She team taught many years with a special needs teacher (mostly multi categorical) where the two traded off being the leader of a unit while the other teacher monitored students who needed help. She says she learned a lot from these teachers and they were able to help a lot of kids.

In her new free time, Mary is reading, keeping in touch with her family via FaceTime, sometimes social distancing in their driveway, or talking walks together on the Heritage Trail (a walking trail connecting Dubuque and Dyersville) or at Swiss Valley Nature Center. She misses spending time close to her grandchildren. In addition, Mary and husband, Ron, go for a walk every day. They play a lot of cribbage and have found some great Ken Burns documentaries to watch in the evenings.

All local units have many dedicated individuals who do amazing things.



Iowa Extends Absentee Voting

~ Spread the Word ~

ALERT: Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus) the absentee voting period for the June 2nd primary has been extended. Voters can first receive their absentee ballot beginning April 23rd. All voters are encouraged to vote-by-mail to avoid crowds on Election Day, so fill out your application today! Right now, polls are remaining open for in-person voting on June 2nd with curbside voting available for voters who may have difficulty entering the polling location, including everyone in the high-risk categories for the virus.

Absentee Ballot Process

You must provide ID information on your absentee ballot request forms. All request forms must now include your driver's license/non-driver's ID number or your Voter ID Card's four-digit PIN number. Request forms without these forms of ID will not be accepted.

Applications for absentee ballots can be obtained online in a PDF format, or mailed upon request from the Secretary of State. You can also request a ballot by mailing the application to the county auditor/commissioner of elections in the county where you are registered.

The request form must be received in the county auditor's office by 5 pm on the Friday, 11 days before the election OR, for General Elections, the deadline is the Saturday, 10 days before the election. If the request is received so late that it is unlikely the absentee ballot can be returned by mail in time to be considered for counting, the county auditor will enclose a statement to that effect with the absentee ballot.

After receiving the request form, the county auditor will mail the voter a ballot. For primary and general elections, the ballots are mailed no later than 40 days before election day. For other elections, ballots are mailed to voters as soon as they are ready. The county auditor will include instructions on how to mark the ballot as well as how to return the ballot.

You can return your voted absentee ballot by mail. The ballot must be postmarked by the Monday before election day or earlier and received in the county auditor's office no later than the Monday following the election. Voted absentee ballots cannot be delivered to the polling place on election day. If you have not returned your absentee ballot on election day, you have the following options:

- Deliver your voted absentee ballot to the county auditor's office before the polls close on election day
- Surrender your voted absentee ballot at the polls and vote a regular ballot
- Vote a provisional ballot at the polls if you cannot surrender your voted absentee ballot

Some County Auditors use Satellite Absentee Voting Stations to provide absentee voting at places other than the Auditors office. You must mark your ballot at the station and leave it with the officials. All satellite stations must be accessible to people with disabilities.

GUIDE TO YOUR IRSPA MEMBER BENEFITS



Dental & Vision Plans

Freedom to use any dentist and no network required. Routine cleanings and exams are part of the plan and there are no referrals required for specialty care. Vision Service Plan (VSP) is the largest national eye care company. VSP offers one-stop shopping and discounts for all your eye care needs.

Long Term Care Insurance

AMBA will build a policy to match your needs. You select the daily benefit amount, elimination period, and benefit period which best suits your needs for care. The policy features include no prior hospital stay and no waiting period for pre-existing conditions.

Home Health Care Insurance

This policy is designed as an affordable solution that helps give you the flexibility and freedom to utilize the type of care that's right for you – in your very own home.

Medicare Supplement Plans

This plan offers the freedom of choice to select the doctors, hospitals, and clinics that members want, and they will never be cancelled because of age or health.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCOUNTS:

Children's Whole Life Policy

Why buy life insurance for a child or grandchild? This policy covers costs associated with an unexpected loss, helps protect a child's future insurability, and provides simplified coverage that's easy to apply for. Coverage is available for ages 14 days to 17 years, in face amounts of \$5,000 to \$50,000. Premiums remain level for the life of the policy, at affordable rates that never increase with age.

Rental Car Discounts

Avis: 800.331.1212 | www.avis.com | Code: AWD# G725000
Budget: 800.527.0700 | www.budget.com | Code: (BCD) X925500

Cruise & Vacation Benefits

You will receive a 4% vacation reward on the base fare of your trip and will also have access to special bonus offers on a monthly basis. 855.577.9497 | www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/AMBA

Orlando Employee Discounts

Save up to 35% on Your Orlando Vacation!
866.391.6840 | www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com | Code: AMBA

Nationwide Pet Insurance

Get a 5% discount on new pet insurance policies:
www.petinsurance.com/amba

Cancer, Heart & Stroke Insurance

Benefits paid directly to you. Members select the benefit level that best suits their needs.

Final Expense Whole Life & Term Life

Members can have peace of mind knowing that their premiums are guaranteed never to increase and their coverage is guaranteed never to decrease.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

MASA is dedicated to providing life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise.

Hospital Indemnity Flex Benefit Plan

This plan is designed to help protect your savings by offsetting the cost of deductibles, co-pays, and unexpected or additional expenses not covered by your other insurance plans. Benefits are paid directly to you or a medical provider that you designate—and paid in addition to any other health care coverage. What's more, this plan lets you choose options that are right for you.

Road Scholar

First-time Road Scholar participants are eligible for either a \$200 gift certificate good toward any international adventure or a \$75 gift certificate good for any North American Adventure. www.roadscholar.org/AMBA

American Hearing Benefits (AHB)

AHB offers members a complete hearing evaluation, warranty on digital technology aids in any style, loss and damage protection, and batteries with a complete benefit package. americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/amba
888-200-5701 | Discount code AMBA

myAMBA dining.com

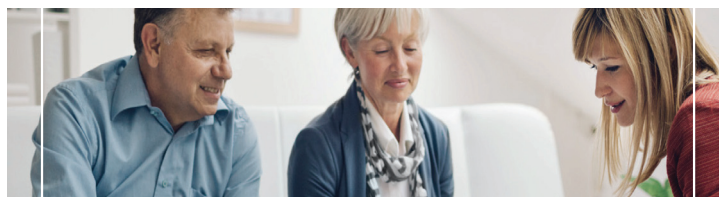
Powered by restaurants.com, myAMBA dining.com offers members discounts at over 18,000 restaurants nationwide. When members use this discount they get the best deal for every meal! www.myAMBA dining.com

1-800-FLOWERS

Members save 15% at 1-800-FLOWERS when they call or shop online! Code: AMBA

Computer Discounts

Apple: 1-800-MY-APPLE | Code: AMBA
<http://store.apple.com/us/go/eppstore/amba>
Dell: 866.257.4711 | www.Dell.com/mpp/amba | Code: GS530005355936
(Not all products are eligible)



DID YOU KNOW?

IRSPA has partnered with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) so that you have access to exceptional member benefits. Are you wondering if certain benefits are right for you? Contact us for a free benefits review!

800.258.7041
myambabenefits.info/irspa

BENEFITS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH



Some benefits not available in all states. Association membership required to obtain benefits. Some associations have made a special benefits website available to their members. Register at myAMBAbenefits.info.



myAMBA discounts gives IRSPA membership even more value. Explore thousands of savings opportunities on dining, event tickets, clothes, health, travel and many other discounts nationwide!

To activate your free myAMBA discounts membership, follow these 3 easy steps!

- 1 Go to myAMBA discounts.com and enter your email
- 2 Enter activation code - **ambasavers**
- 3 Register your basic information and sign-up for email alerts

ENROLL TODAY AND START SAVING!



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>
Bakken, Iola	Council Bluffs, IA	Mason City Area Unit
Campidilli, Robert	Humboldt, IA	Humboldt Area Unit
Darbyshire, Roberta	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Duke, Colleen	Keosauqua, IA	Van Buren County Unit
Eittreim, Marilyn	Decorah, IA	Winneshiek County Unit
Fairfield, Art	Valentine, NE	Sioux City Area Unit
Gesling, Richard	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Kay, Richard	Dickeyville, WS	Dubuque Area Unit
Kumm, Donna	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Logan, Dorothy	Newton, IA	Jasper County Unit
Pilgrim, James	Clear Lake, IA	Big Four Unit
Rogers, Dawn	Iowa City, IA	Johnson County Unit
Roth, Carol Y	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Selby, Carol Jean Gibson	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Simpson, Arthur	Conrad, IA	No Unit
Stribling, Betty Lou	Ogden, IA	Boone County Unit
Struthers, Marjorie	Sioux City IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Thompson, Arlene	Decorah, IA	Winneshiek County Unit
Unruh, Carol	Austin, TX	Sioux City Area Unit
Woodward, Rosemary	Rock Island, IL	Davenport Area Unit
Yeager, Les	Cedar Rapids, IA	Cedar Rapids Area Unit
Zimney, Kenneth	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit

PLEASE NOTE: Send relevant notices, change of address, and/or subscription cancellations to rswanson@cablone.net

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