



JUNE 2021

VOLUME 69, NO. 2

IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

How often do you feel like Punxsutawney Phil?



How often do you peek out from your PANDEMIC hibernation to see if we will have six more months of precautions or a chance to come out and be safe? Is it safe with only half of the population immunized? Will we get hit like India with a new virus?

I believe we will overcome the pandemic if we wear masks, socially distance, wash our hands, and trust others to move forward. I am so thankful for all the volunteers who worked at the immunization sites. I have had COVID and both of my shots. I should be safe; I hope you are also.

Our first Board outing will be a budget and legislative meeting in the Des Moines area at the end of August. Our first state gathering will be the Annual Meeting and Conference on October 6 – 7, 2021 at the Honey Creek Resort on Lake Rathbun. Because we were cautious in our spending this year, we will provide each unit two rooms for lodging on October 6 and mileage for two cars of unit attendees. Unit attendees will only have to pay for their own registration and meals.

I hear local units are making plans to gather as soon as the state lifted the mask and other recommendations. Don't forget to acknowledge all that the educators and health people have done in the past 18 months to keep us safe and sane.

The Board has been busy with IRSPA work. Our lobbyist have been great at letting us know what was on the legislative funnels and how we leveraged our influence.

Jean Hoffman and her committee have been working on a Parent in Heaven (PH Balance) Scholarship. Linda Miller is putting together some installation ceremonies. AMBA has made significant changes to our website. Our health theme for 2021-2022 will probably be COVID. Most significantly, we are trying to move our election to an online format using Survey Monkey as our data collector. See details about the scholarship and elections in another part of the newsletters.

We are looking for people to volunteer to serve a district coordinators in District 2 (north central part of Iowa) and District 3 (northeast corner of the state). You would serve as a coach to the units in the district. You will be trained. You are paid for your expenses while working with local units, leading a district meeting, and attending state events. It is a great way to meet new people and find old friends. Let me know if you are interested. Let me know if you would like to be considered for a state office or a committee position. Better yet, tell me who would be good to fill those positions.

I am done with Pandemic Hibernation. I am looking forward keeping my face covered and exploring what we can do as we ease our way out of this pandemic.

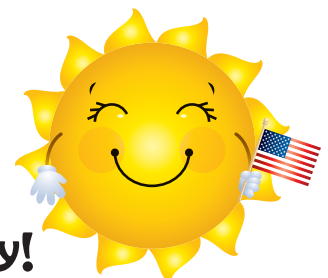


Praying for member health and safety,
George Wm. Holland



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

Have a Safe
Summer
and
Happy 4th of July!



IRSPA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Zoom • April 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

President George Holland introduced our new representative from AMBA, Larry Newman. Larry has worked with AMBA for 13 years and has enjoyed working with the Associations.

Secretary Mary Jo O'Connell completed the roll call. The Minutes of September 2, 2020, were approved as printed.

Officer Reports

President – George Holland. Presented a report listing all his activities since the last meeting.

Vice President – Jean Hoffman. She has been meeting with the Scholarship Committee establishing guidelines and application for an ISEA Scholarship (PH Balanced Scholarship). She is continuing to learn about Zoom.

Secretary/Historian – Mary Jo O'Connell. No report because of COVID.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer - Bob Swanson. We have 5,558 members. Even during the time of COVID, the following Units met their membership goal: Black Hawk, Estherville, Muscatine, Sioux City, Van Buren, and Winneshiek. Bob transferred \$40,000 from checking into savings in the Money Market Account because canceled District and State Meetings in 2020. AMBA will look into the reason why some members received an increase in Delta Dental dues and others didn't.

The Treasures Report was filed for audit.

Money Market Account –

Security National Bank, Sioux City - \$65,795.04

Certificate of Deposit –

*Security National Bank, Sioux City - \$52,493.86 -
.65% interest matures 3/28/23*

Certificate of Deposit –

*Security National Bank, Sioux City - \$55,052.73 -
.45% interest matures 6/18/22*

*Certificate of Deposit – Security National Bank, Sioux City -
\$51,172.34 – .30% interest matures 4/26/22*

Newsletter – Toni Hood. Covid has impacted issues because of units not holding meetings. Bob Swanson reported that he sent a list of email addresses to the printer who sends a notice that the newsletter is ready. Please submit articles and pictures.

District Reports – Everyone reported that all units are coping with Covid by having meetings outside, over Zoom, some in person, and others postponing meetings.

The next District Meetings will be held as follows:

District 1 – Barbara Songer – Cherokee Unit

District 2 – Anita Fagen-Miller – Boone Unit

District 3 – George Holland – Black Hawk Unit in Waterloo

District 4 – Venita Escher – Dallas County Unit in Perry

District 5 – Jane Beatty – Davis County Unit in Bloomfield

District 6 – Linda Miller – Iowa City

Executive Board

AMBA – Richard Rowland, Paul Strid, and Larry Newman. Membership is their number one goal -247 new members in 2020. AMBA has less than 17% of members' email addresses. They will hire a company to do a search for members' emails. They will be starting Seminars. There has been a concern about Delta Dental. Some members have received a notice of a rate increase and others have not. They think that part of the problem is that Delta Dental deals with some members and AMBA deals with others. They will check it out and arrange a meeting with George. One of their goals is to hire new Representatives in Iowa. AMBA wants to partner with the Retirement Seminars. AMBA is starting a Fixed Indexed Annuity Program for members who are interested.

Health Care Advocacy – Marge Swanson. She said that "Covid 19" would be the topic for the District Meetings.

Legislation – Paul Tetzloff. The Investment Division of IPERS is looking to hire an internal staff. The only changes scheduled for IPERS is language. Our plan is in good shape. AARP has cancelled all activities until at least 2021.

Membership – Barb Bielenberg. She sent emails to all units with suggestions on getting out information to current members for renewal and new retirees from this year.

Nominating – Linda Miller. They have a candidate for Vice President, Jeanne Handeland. She has been working to start either online voting (Survey Monkey) or a paper ballot for the next election.

Public Relations – George Holland. He has updated the website. He separated the Directory into five sections for easier use. He is looking into a new IRSPA banner for the State Meeting.

Supportive Services – Sandy & Jay Thede. A communication was sent to the Coordinators of the IRSPA Units reminding them to let their members know we are still keeping volunteer hours. These hours will be turned in at the end of August.

Unfinished Business

Elections - Linda Miller has been working to have elections either with Survey Monkey or a paper ballot.

70th Anniversary – We will be updated as plans are made.

PH Balance Scholarship – Jean Hoffman presented the committee report establishing a scholarship for students who have lost a parent. The scholarship will be presented at the State Meeting.

Installation Ceremony – Linda Miller has found three different versions.

New Business

It was moved by Mary Jo O'Connell that the vote for elections be available either through Survey Monkey or a paper ballot. Seconded by Phil Tetzloff. Motion passed.

It was moved by Mary Jo O'Connell to accept the District Meeting Rotation. Seconded by Sandy Thede. Motion passed.

It was moved by Mary Jo O'Connell to accept the State Meeting Rotation. Seconded by Phil Tetzloff. Motion passed. It was suggested that IRSPA consider having partners across the State. They would be listed in the Newsletter. Hotel Pattee was suggested as the first one. They will give members a discount if they show a membership card. George Holland, Jean Hoffman, and Mary Jo O'Connell will meet to look into partnerships.

It was moved by Jean Hoffman to accept Hotel Pattee in Perry as an IRSPA Partner. Seconded by Jay Thede. Motion passed.

It was moved by Jean Hoffman to incorporate the Ameritas Flexmark Fixed Index Annuity as a new supplemental benefit provided to members of IRSPA, by our partner, AMBA. Seconded by Sandy Thede. Motion passed.

It was moved by Linda Miller to promote each unit's participation in attending the Annual State Meeting. One night's lodging for the President and one additional night's lodging for another member will be provided by IRSPA. Seconded by Sandy Thede. Motion passed.

It was moved by the Scholarship Committee that IRSPA proceed with the initiation of a statewide scholarship called PH Balance Scholarship. Motion passed.

It was moved by the Scholarship Committee that initial start-up funding for the PH Balance Scholarship will come from the IRSPA treasury. Motion passed.

Announcements

Budget Meeting in August on Zoom

State Meeting October 6 & 7, 2021

Executive Board Meeting – October 6

State Meeting – October 7

Mary Jo O'Connell, IRSPA Secretary

Members in Attendance

George Holland – President

Jean Hoffman – President Elect

Robert Swanson – Treasurer

Mary Jo O'Connell – Secretary/Historian

Barbara Songer – District 1

Anita Fagen-Miller – District 2

Venita Escher – District 4

Linda Miller – District 6

Richard Rowland - AMBA

Larry Newman - AMBA

Paul Strid – Insurance/AMBA

Marge Swanson - Health

Phil Tetzloff – Legislative

Jay Thede -Supportive Services

Sandy Thede -Supportive Services

Members Not in Attendance

Jane Beatty – District 5

Bart Bielenberg – Membership

John Cacciatore – Lobbyist

Connie Eastman – AARP

Toni Hood - Newsletter

It's News to Me...

By Toni Hood

The following information was provided by Candy Carlson, the Humboldt Area IRSPA Unit's Legislative Chair:

• IPERS's CEO reported that in 2020 IPERS received 92,545 phone calls, counseled 7,593 members, and prepared 31,078 benefit estimates.

• The Public Health Emergency Proclamation makes it easier for retired IPERS members to return to work.

• Retirees who are younger than age 65 are no longer required to pay back a portion of their IPERS benefit if they earn more than \$30,000 annually.

• Retirees who are younger than 70 are no longer subject to the mandate that they could not return to work for an IPERS-covered employer until they had received at least four monthly benefit payments.

• "My Account" is your IPERS retirement toolkit. "My Account" gives you access to your individual retirement benefits information. It can allow you to: view your benefit payment history, change your tax withholdings, change your direct deposit information, and view your income tax verification information.

• You can set up your "My Account" by calling 800-622-3849.

At the end of the 2020-21 school year, many of Iowa's school employees will be retiring. IRSPA offers many personal benefits, contributes to the economic health of our state, and our members support many volunteer efforts. I thank our IRSPA units, as well as our individual members, who will be contacting newly retired school employees. As we increase our membership, we increase our mission "to serve, and not to be served."

Newsletter Deadline

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

Articles for the September newsletter are due no later than Friday, JULY 30, 2021

NOTE: Early Deadline Due to September Newsletter will have pertinent information about the Annual Meeting.

Get info to Toni Hood, at

E-mail: tonihood@q.com

Home Telephone: 515-332-5819

Cell Phone: 515-269-3823

IRSPA & Delta Dental Plans

On April 13, 2021, George Holland (IRSPA), Mary Jo O'Connell (IRSPA), Paul Strid (AMBA), Richard Rowland (AMBA), and Ryan Motola (AMBA) met to discuss Delta Dental and IRSPA members. Some members were getting notification of rate changes and others were not. Simply, some members get their coverage through Delta Dental out of Johnston, Iowa, while other members get their coverage through our benefits provider: AMBA. Sometime around 2011, AMBA took care of benefits enrollments for IRSPA members. (Previously, an IRSPA board member enrolled members in Delta Dental.)



Rate Update

- The rate update occurred on March 1, 2021 for **ALL** IRSPA participants; those administered by AMBA **AND** those administered by Delta Dental of Iowa.
- Monthly Rates from 3/1/2021 Through 2/28/2022 for **ALL** IRSPA participants:
 - Member Only \$39.50; Member+1 \$79.60; Family \$98.03
- The rates are guaranteed through 2/28/2022 but we could see a change on 3/1/2022. AMBA and IRSPA leaders will meet in January 2022 ahead of this change to inform all IRSPA Participants.

Notifications

- AMBA sent rate notice notifications to participants that AMBA administers.
- For plan participants that Delta administers, they did not send notifications to those paying monthly. Annual payers will see the new amount on their annual invoice.
- This caused some confusion that members could be paying different rates for the same plan. AMBA confirmed with Delta Dental on 4/13/2021 this was not the case. The rate is the same for **ALL** IRSPA participants.

Plan Changes

- Dependents on the plan may stay through age 25 (was previously age 24).
- All waiting periods were waived effective 3/1/2021 and going forward.

If you have questions, contact:
Paul Strid - AMBA District Manager (IA, IL, FL)
708.347.7081 cell • paul.strid@amba.info



Two seconds of your time, that's all it takes to be nice to someone!

Hold the door.

Say "Good Morning" to a random co-worker or stranger.

If a task comes up at your job that isn't

"your responsibility," help.

Say "Hello" and/or "Good Bye."

Pay someone's parking meter.

Be empathetic to someone who might be struggling.

Be a smile to someone who thinks their life/job sucks.

Give a high five and embarrass yourself to try and make someone smile.

"That's a handsome shirt you have on."

You only get one life folks!

You can spare two seconds of your time!

In future issues...

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@ambainfo Paul's email is: paul.strid@amba.info

Nominations Committee Announces Candidate for IRSPA Vice President

Show your support and vote for Vice President on the IRSPA Executive Board. This is an elected position and requires an election ballot. Officers so elected shall take office following the close of the Annual Meeting and serve until their successors are elected.

Information about the candidate is printed below. A write-in candidate is accepted.

Jeanne Handeland for Vice President

- Taught Business Education for 16 years at Lincoln Central Community School District
- Taught Business Education for 16 years at Estherville Lincoln Central Community School District
- Has held many offices in her church
- Volunteers at the Estherville Public Library
- Has served on Emmet County Community Foundation Board and Emmet County Extension Board.
- Serves as Vice President of PEO Ch AY
- Sings with Many Voices Community Choir (since 2000)
- Serves as Secretary for EARSPA (since 2014)
- Serves as Township Clerk (since 2017)
- Has lived in Wallingford, Iowa all but four years of her life and on the family farm all but eight years of her life.



How to Cast Your Ballot

- Those casting ballots must be members of IRSPA.
- This is an elected position and requires an election ballot.

NEW Ballot Options for 2021 Election

1. Newsletter Ballot. This ballot may be duplicated if there is more than one individual receiving the newsletter at the same address. If the newsletter is received via e-mail, then the ballot needs to be printed and sent as directed.
2. Email Ballot. If we have your email address, we will send you an email with a Survey Monkey link to cast your ballot.
3. Link to Survey Monkey Link. Use this link to submit your ballot: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PFL5YB5>

Election Goal: To have email addresses from most of our members to streamline our election (and communication) processes.

Trust: Over the past years, the ballot has been printed in the newsletter. We have trusted members to print or clip and use that ballot. With the few number of ballots returned, we believe no one has stuffed the ballot box. We trust our members to vote accordingly.



Clip and Mail-In



Clip and Mail-In



BALLOT

IRSPA VICE PRESIDENT

SELECT ONE

<input type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Handeland	<input type="text"/> (WRITE-IN)
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Printed Ballots must be postmarked by **July 15, 2021**, and mailed to:
Linda Miller, Nominations Chair, 205 E. Harlan Street, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.

District 2

Mason City Area Retired School Personnel

During the past year, the Mason City Area Retired School Personnel Association has not been able to hold coffee or program meetings due to pandemic restrictions, and there wasn't enough interest for doing outdoor bring-your-own coffee or sack lunches. Although the group hasn't met, members have come up with many ways to continue to volunteer, either in person with precautions or from home. Several have continued to be Pen Pals to 4th and 5th graders. Some have recorded themselves reading a book for their usual Reading Buddy class. Kay Mestad helped staff a local food pantry, volunteered at the Architectural Interpretive Center in Mason City, and sewed bags for her church mission project. Jay Thede coached track, and he volunteered with his condo association, by helping clear shrubs, trim trees, and move rocks.

Other volunteer activities included: stuffing and labeling envelopes for KCMR (Rita Foley), running the cash register at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Karen Dole), delivering Meals on Wheels (Larry & Ellen Niebur), and assisting with reading/evaluating senior awards and scholarship applications for local groups and NIACC (Kay Mestad & Karen Dole). As churches began to open back up, several have served as ushers or communion ministers and worked on church committees. While these were activities that were reported in response to an email to members, there are likely many more ways that members have continued to volunteer.

One uniquely-pandemic activity that presented itself was the opportunity through RSVP, to assist with the COVID-19 vaccination clinics held



by Cerro Gordo Public Health. Local President Karen Dole decided to participate. To date, she has helped with registration for 24 clinics since they started in January. Besides the benefit of receiving vaccinations early in the process, she has also enjoyed seeing many acquaintances as they come through the clinic and getting to spend time with a close friend as they work together. She also feels this is a great way to make a difference in her community.

The Board plans to meet this summer, with the hopes of starting up in-person activities again in the fall.

by Karen Dole, President

District 2

Hardin County Area Retired School Personnel

District 2 Hardin County Area School Personnel met Friday, April 9th. The election of officers was held and volunteers were secured for several committees. Forms have been sent to area schools to get applicants for the two scholarships to be given to area seniors.

We will meet in May at the Buckeye Community Building, but we were excited to get the update that we can return to our pre-covid meeting location. Our September meeting will be at Edgewood in Iowa Falls with a luncheon at noon.

We enjoyed a program on the Hardin County Farm Museum located in Eldora. It was presented by Richelle Ziesman Stowe whose father was instrumental in getting the project started. The 12 acre museum features equipment, agricultural practices and history of Hardin County farming from the 1800's to the 1950's. The museum's purpose is to preserve the memories of times past and to feature the great amount of work our ancestors did with the existing machinery.

The focal point is a 38x80 foot round-roofed barn built in the late 1930's as a dairy barn. A country school built in 1882 was added to the museum along with a church built in the 1930's and moved 15 miles to the museum site. A large chicken brooder house and a smaller red barn have also been added. There are over 90 large machines and over 400 smaller antiques on display in the largest barn. The museum hosts monthly pancake breakfasts, a tractorcade, suppers and barn dances. In the fall, there is a thresher and power show that demonstrates the machinery. The museum is a great place to visit or to volunteer.

We look forward to new ideas as we hear about other chapters' programs, projects, and fund raising ideas.

by Mary Lou Kirkdorffer,
Hardin County Area School Personnel secretary

District 2

The Humboldt Area Unit of Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

The Humboldt Area Unit of Iowa Retired School Personnel Association met Monday, April 12th at Simply Coffee.



The program consisted of speech presentations by the following Humboldt High School students (from left to right) Chloe Carson, Sydney Savery, Cassondra Ruzika and Sam Numedahl. Unit president Anita Fagen-Miller is pictured with the students.

During the meeting, the members designated the collection of food for the local food pantry as a spring project. For a fall project, the unit will continue with the collection of school supplies for the elementary schools in Humboldt and the writing of welcome notes to new teachers.

by Toni Hood

Website: www.irspa.org

State Meeting 2021

Mark your calendars now for the 2021 State Meeting. We will be meeting at the beautiful Honey Creek Resort State Park on Lake Rathbun near Moravia, Iowa, October 6 & 7, 2021.

The Appanoose/Wayne and Lucas County Units have been busy planning the 2021 State Meeting. Watch for more information in the September Newsletter. Hope to see you in the Autumn.

Jane Beatty

District 5 Coordinator State Meeting 2021

District 2

Humboldt Area IRSPA Unit's May Meeting

The Humboldt Area Unit of Iowa Retired School Personnel Association met Monday, May 10th at Simply Coffee. Anita Fagen-Miller called the meeting to order. Darlene Stirling distributed our unit's volunteer hours sheets, and members were encouraged to continue to accumulate volunteer hours. After the treasure's report, the slate of officers was presented, voted on, and finalized. The present officers will continue their valued and appreciated positions: Anita Fagen-Miller, unit president, Mary Lou Perry and Pat Worthington, co-vice presidents, Darlene Stirling, secretary, and Candy Carlson, legislative chair. Barb Zabel was installed as the new treasurer.

Toni Hood noted that our unit's membership would double if everyone recruited one new member. Due to schools closing early last spring, it was difficult to contact newly retired teachers. Members were encouraged to emphasize the many benefits that are available with an IRSPA membership. There was a reminder to remember the State IRSPA meeting on October 6-7th at Lake Rathbun's Honey Creek Resort.

Humboldt's new chief of police from Illinois, Joel Sanders, introduced himself and talked about his personal and professional background. He then gave an informative presentation about personal security measures. Criminals look for easy targets, so environments, lighting, and security measures should be examined. Interestingly, he said that security alarms don't always offer complete protection due to the time it takes for law enforcement to arrive. He noted that 99 percent of all home security alerts are false alarms. It is also important to find a way that can offer easy access to your home if there is a medical emergency; this would prevent damage to your home should a forced entry be necessary.

Cyber security is a real danger, but he advised the audience to be safe but to not let fear of technology limit their lives. Sanders finished his presentation by assuring us that the police department is the citizen's department, and he is very interested in becoming part of our community and strengthening community relationships.

by Toni Hood



**Humboldt Chief of Police,
Joel Sanders, with Darlene Stirling
after his May 10th "stay safe"
presentation.**



District 2 Webster County IRSPA

Although we had to cancel all of our luncheon meetings during the past year, the Board did hold four Board meetings, complete with masks and social distancing!

We are starting a Memorial Tribute Program where members can memorialize the passing of a member with a monetary donation. All donations will be added to our Unit's Schoolhouse Fund which goes annually to the Fort Museum to help support the upkeep of the Border Plain School (in use 1857-1959), Webster County's first one-room school. It was moved to the Fort Museum and Frontier Village in 1964. The Webster County Unit has been supporting its restoration and maintenance since 1978.

The Webster County Unit is currently collecting membership dues as well as scholarship donations. Our unit typically awards two scholarships to Webster County students going into education. In the past, we have been able to award two \$1000 scholarships. We hope we can continue that support at this level, but that depends on the membership renewals and new member recruitment.

The Program Committee has met and planned programs and possible speakers. We are looking forward to August when we hope to begin our luncheons and programs again.

Submitted by Bonnie Rhodes



Children's Book Published by a Member of Webster County Unit By Cheri Maehl, President Webster County Unit



Julie Hoesel, a Webster County Unit member, recently wrote a children's book. The book was requested by CJ BioAmerica's Senior Operations Manager Luke Palmer. CJ BioAmerica has been part of the Webster County community since 2013. "Luke dreamed up this project.

It was Luke's vision was to promote literacy and to incorporate the values of CJ BioAmerica of Integrity, Passion, Creativity and Respect," Hoesel said.

CJ BioAmerica is part of the Livestock and Other Animal Food Manufacturing Industry with a large operation at the Iowa Crossroads of Global Innovation industrial park west of Fort Dodge. Palmer came to Hoesel with his idea. He already knew she could write children's stories as he had "inside information." Hoesel is his mother-in-law and she has written books for his own children over the years!

Hoesel is a retired Language Arts instructor from Iowa Central Community College. She retired in 2015, but Palmer didn't approach Hoesel about writing a book until 2018. "I chose the characters of Chessie the chicken and JoJo the pig for the book. Since CJ Bio uses amino acids from the local plant to go into feed for those animals, they seemed the perfect choice. The character's names were chosen for the company's name: "C"-Chessie and "J" for JoJo. Initially, there was to be only one story; but once I got started, I couldn't stop. I wrote three stories and the book became a chapter book. The book is called "Chessie and JoJo Make Their Way," said Hoesel.

Palmer's plan was to give the book to every second-grade student in Webster County. That plan came to fruition last fall. Each year, the second graders will receive their "Chessie and JoJo Make Their Way" book from CJ Bio. The books are not for sale, but several copies will be given to the Fort Dodge Public Library.

The book was illustrated by Jennifer Bemrich Dutcher, who was Hoesel's art instructor friend at ICCC. "I loved the way she drew the character's and illustrated the book, it was just what I had in mind," Hoesel explained.

In comments made to the Fort Dodge Messenger, Palmer said, "This is something that is really unique that we could do for the community. When I first started at CJ my first job was trying to help embed CJ into the community. Because I am from Fort Dodge and I've been here my whole life, that philosophy of working with the community instead of just working in the community really rang true for me."

Hoesel was asked if there would be another book down the line. She said she had no idea; but "I have a few ideas I am kicking around in my head, just in case I am asked."

Hoesel has been a member of the Webster County Unit of IRSPA since 2016. She is a member of the Book Committee, which collects, sorts, and levels books for distribution at Christmastime for area children in need.

"I've always loved children's books and reading to and with children. Helping children learn to love reading has been important to me all my adult life, and being on the book committee with like-minded people is enjoyable," Hoesel said.

District 2

A Very Surprising Donation

By Cheri Maehl, President,
Webster County Unit of IRSPA

Our unit was in the middle of collecting membership dues by mail for the second year in a row due to the covid crisis, when I received a text and photo from Bev Totten, our treasurer.



It was a picture of a note from Pat Axne, one of our members. Pat explained that her mother, Agnes Mumper turned 100 years old in October 2020 and that Agnes had been a member of our group many years ago.

Pictured: Pat Axne (left)
current Webster County
Unit member and her
100 year old mother
Agnes Mumper - (right)
a former member.

Agnes wanted to donate \$100 to the Border Plains School at the Fort Museum in Fort Dodge because her first teaching job was at the Border Plains School!

Our unit has had the Border Plains School as one of our special projects for 43 years. The school stood proudly, serving the children of the surrounding area from 1857-1959. Then, in 1964, the school was moved from its original spot in rural Webster County to the grounds of the Fort Museum and Village. In 1978, our Webster County unit was invited to provide help in restoring and maintaining the one-room schoolhouse. Since that time, we have donated \$100 annually to the Fort Museum to help with the maintenance of the schoolhouse. We make an annual donation to honor the memory of our members who have passed away.

Agnes taught at the Border Plains School from 1940-1944. She was only 19 years old when she completed her two-year teacher training at Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) and was hired to teach the 22 boys and 10 girls at Border Plains School. Her extra chores in those days was to build the fire in the heat stove and sweep the floor. The children would help bring in the well water each day. After the chores were done, she had to teach all 32 children, ages 7-14, who were squeezed into that one-room school!

"I had a 16-year old boy in my class when I started. He quit coming and I overheard him saying he didn't

want that "kid" to be his teacher," Agnes said with a smile. "Most other teachers were women in their 40's or 50's; since I was only 19, he thought I was just a kid. There were others who thought I was too young to be a teacher, so I had to show them I could do the job."

When Agnes left the Border Plains School to teach at Lehigh, the children's parents gave her a beautiful quilt. "I could see the fabric from some of the little girl's dresses sewn into the quilt squares," she remembered. Agnes completed her Bachelors' Degree in Teaching during summers.

It was a delight to visit with Agnes. Those four decades of teaching elementary-aged children kept her mind sharp and her conversation lively and interesting.

Daughter Pat, also one of our unit members, had a 41-year teaching career before retiring in 2017. She taught English and Spanish for 28 years in Lake City and Spanish for 13 years at Fort Dodge Senior High. Agnes' oldest granddaughter is also a teacher. The teaching tradition runs deeply in this family!

Please Note - NEW Email for
Robert Swanson
rmswanson1936@gmail.com

District 3

Dubuque Area Retired School Personnel

DARSPA Helps Deliver Bedroom Furniture to the Needy

The Dubuque Area Retired School Personnel Association (DARSPA) had a pretty amazing opportunity. A local organization purchased an existing Inn & Suites and asked if Resources Unite and DARSPA would be interested in any of the furniture for the people we serve.

On Thursday, May 6, they loaded many beds, dressers, and night stands into trucks and then delivered them to people in need. There were 56 rooms of furniture.

Many volunteers, along with Western Dubuque High School students, worked to deliver as much of the great looking furniture to individuals and families who were on their list who have nothing.

Imagine 40 homes having beds for the first time. As of this writing, we had 25 children sleeping on the floor or on pallets.

The group was hoping to gather new pillows and blankets so each child was on a nice big bed with a new pillow and blanket.

A big thank you to Tucker Freight Lines (Dubuque) for donating the use of a semi-trailer to store all the furniture that was not delivered to people in need!

District 4

Council Bluffs Retired School Personnel

The Council Bluffs Area Chapter of the Iowa Retired School Personnel is preparing to resume meetings in September. The group which normally meets five times a year, September, October, November, March, and April, has not been able to meet since November, 2019. The current officers will be meeting to plan programs for the upcoming year. On the agenda will be recruiting a new slate of officers and finding a new meeting place where lunch can be served. We hope to be organized and ready to kick off the new year in September.

By Sue Griswold, Secretary

District 5

Davis County Area Retired School Personnel

Davis County Retired School Personnel met March 2 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with 14 members present. The program was presented by Jeani Leyda, local China Painter. Jeani shared with us some of her favorite pieces, some award winning pieces, and the steps she uses to process each piece of art. Jeani also shared that she has pieces displayed in The National Museum of China Painting in Oklahoma.

by Becky Shively



Pictured
Jeani Leyda
showing
her art
projects.

District 5

Davis County Area Retired School Personnel

Davis County Retired School Personnel met April 6 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with ten members present. Our program was presented by Davis County High School Music students, both instrumental and vocal. The students performed pieces they had prepared for State Solo and Small Ensemble competition. The following students performed selections: David Nash, vocal solo; Kenny Cronin, vocal solo; Kelsey Rook and Taylor Thordarson, flute duet; McKinley Boyd and Jeff Cook, clarinet and flute duet; Maddie Warning and Jeff Cook, flute duet; Megan Swan, Chloe Fetcho, David Nash, and Kenny Cronin, vocal quartet. Vocal selections were accompanied on piano by DCRSP members Nancy Squire and Lyle Stirling. Jeff Cook, Instrumental Director, filled in for 2 students unable to attend. Christopher Gingerich, is the Vocal Director.

by Becky Shively



District 6

Davenport Area Retired School Personnel

The Davenport Area Retired School Personnel Association is DELIGHTED to report that we will be meeting May 11th for the first time since March, 2020! So far, there are 69 members signed up for our luncheon. It is no surprise that we are ALL very excited to attend this luncheon! We are going to have a special DARSPA necrology service for those members who have passed away since May of 2019. Our luncheon will be one to remember those dedicated members who have passed away AND to celebrate life itself by reveling in the camaraderie of our fellow educators.

During the pandemic year, our Executive Board met in July, "puzzled" as to how to move forward. We discussed the options—there weren't any! We HAD to suspend our meetings to protect ourselves. In August, the Executive Committee met at a local park to make sure some routine tasks did not get overlooked. We discussed what we COULD do during the pandemic. Our Yearbook and Membership Director was able to assemble our yearly directory and get it mailed to members. Our Program Director had to cancel all the guests who were scheduled to address our group (ALL of them will be returning starting in September!).

Our executive committee also met via Zoom in January, February, March and April of this year.



The pandemic has not kept our dedicated DARSPA team from working hard to keep our organization safe and focused on the future! We are no longer "puzzled" as to how to proceed!

by Deb Kelly, Secretary

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Hi Toni,
I'm attaching an article from the Charles City Press. Even though our Big 4 Unit didn't sponsor this, the two people

in the photo ARE both members of Big 4.

This is a great idea that others may want to think about for another year.

Thanks much,
Mary Koenigsfeld



Where to Work for Volunteer Hours

Sandy & Jay Thede • Supportive Services

Many of our normal activities have been halted or changed this past year because of the Corona Virus. Hopefully, we are slowly coming back to "normal" life and are picking up where we left off last March, 2020. This is a reminder to all IRSPA members that we are still keeping track of volunteer hours no matter how few of hours they may be. The following are examples of what you may count.

Any time a member works for no pay or no reimbursement, they may keep track of that time. Hours are divided into: Youth and Education and Community. This means that when working with public or private schools, Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H, caring for your grandchildren or others, this all counts. You may also count the time it takes you to drive to and from the babysitting/caring work. Youth programs, working with speech and drama students, being an aid during testing, assisting in music with youth, spelling bees, Kids Against Hunger Program, Dollars for Scholars work, working free with any organization that serves children or youth counts, and these hours are recorded under Youth and Education. You may work with Boys and Girls Homes, Child Development Centers, Children's Shelters, GED programs, testing sites, Scholarship Committees, etc.

All other volunteer work should fall under COMMUNITY when dealing expressly with non-student age. Examples are: volunteering at Libraries, Museums, Churches, Church Committees, Community Centers, Senior Citizen 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, the Humane Society, and Planting Flower Areas all count. You may volunteer at organizations such as the AARP, Elks, NRTA, NA ACP, 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, service organizations and Auxiliary Units, etc.

It is important to keep your volunteer hours and report them to your local unit coordinators by the end of August of 2021, so that Iowa can receive much needed grants that are based on volunteerism. Jay & Sandy's Phone Numbers is: 641-425-2394 (Cell)

IF I WANTED TO SEE SO MUCH PHISHING, I WOULD HAVE MOVED TO THE GULF COAST

Since the last issue, I have had calls from Oden-ville, AL; Glendora, CA; Metamora, MI; Meridian, MS; Covington, LA; Houston, TX; Alberta, AL; In-vernness, CA; United States; Parma, ID; Los Ange-les, CA; Mount Eden, KY; Lancaster PA; Wolf Creek, MT; Memphis, TN; Belle Fourche, SD; Beaumont, TX; Southport, NC; Canandaigua, NY; Upland, CA; Atlanta Northeast, GA; Avoca, NE; Battle Creek, MI; Loveland, OH; and others. What a great geogra-phy lesson to find these places as I have no con-nections to any of these.

Most of the messages (I don't answer the phone if I don't know the name or number) deal with an auto-renewal of a subscription, threaten-ing me with jail time for not doing my taxes, or there is a pending law suit.

I also get texts telling me I can get a Walmart gift card if I go to a web-site. Or *"How are you doing buddy? This is what Mary wanted me to show you before Christ-mas [internet link](#) she said it's important to you"* Or *"Congrats you've been selected for a Forbes Maga-zine reward. See why this smart pill has been guar-anteed to help you think clearer and smarter [inter-net link](#)"* Or *"Amazon: George your order has been SHIPPED to: my address! Confirm delivery time: [internet link](#)"* Or *"You've been selected for a free bottle of Our CBD Pain Relief Oil. It is guaranteed to work and its free! INCREDIBLE BENEFITS. OFFER ENDS APRIL 28 [internet link](#)"* The BEST one: *"Your credit card got double charged at Walmart George! Please confirm your details here [internet link](#) so we can credit you for \$1,000! Sincere apologies, Team Customer Department"*



Remember to be cautious about calls, texts, and emails from people you don't know. Of course, we all want to get free stuff, or think clearer, or get a package; BUT there are other ways to get that from someone other than phishers.

From, George Holland

ASK AMBA

Dear AMBA,

My husband and I are in our late 60's, early 70's and I am starting to worry about the cost of care when it comes to in-home care or a nursing home. We watched our parents go through most of their savings. Mom was in a nursing home for almost two years and we spent over \$80,000 for dad, for one year in a decent nursing home. Like everyone our age, we have some health issues, who doesn't. We have been pricing Long-Term Care, but at our age it is just too expensive. How can we protect our money when the time comes for us to need help at home or in a facility, like assisted living or a nursing home?



Worried Sally

Dear Sally,

Your concerns are justified. More than 70% of people over the age of 65 will need long-term care services and support at some point. The average cost of a nursing facility can be over \$90,000 per year while help in the home can be as much as \$46,000 a year. If you think about it, the largest part of our population, the "Baby Boomers," are at the age where they are all filing claims for long term care. Space is becoming more limited while the demand is increasing, which is driving prices higher.

Insurance companies are making it more difficult to qualify for traditional long term care. Who wants to insure someone with health problems, anticipating they will need help soon, for a long time?

The good news is, we now have a product that can help people who are a little older and have some health issues. It is more affordable and easier to qualify for coverage. It is called Short Term Care. The plans provide people up to a full year of home care and a full year of facility care and the underwriting is a lot less strict. The plans are also adjustable to fit your needs and budget.

We are helping thousands of retirees with peace of mind, knowing they will be comfortable later in life and able to protect their estate, so they can pass their hard-earned money on to their church or their favorite charity or even their grandchildren.

Please note that if you have any questions about your long-term care needs, reach out to Paul Strid, our AMBA representative, at 708-347-7081 or by email at paul.strid@amba.info.

Thank you for your inquiry.
AMBA

Parent in Heaven (PH) Balance Scholarship

Submitted by Jean Hoffman,
IRSPA President-Elect
(pictured right)



IRSPA will proudly launch a new scholarship during our Annual State Meeting & Conference in October.

The Parent in Heaven (PH) Balance Scholarship is intended for a high school senior who has lost a parent or legal guardian and forever feels that void. As teachers or people involved with schools, we understand the necessity of the support that comes from the home and the void that is created when a child loses a parent, both parents, or legal guardian due to death. There is a void that can never be fully filled.

The PH stands for a parent in heaven. Balance is the support that is given to the child in the form of a scholarship. We know that nothing can ever fill that void or bring the parent back, but we want the child and his/her family to know that no matter when or how you lost your parent, we recognize that void and would love to show you our support and wishes for a bright future.

Our initial \$1,000 scholarship will be presented at our Annual State Meeting & Conference at the Honey Creek Resort in October of 2021 to a student graduating in May 2022. Because the logistics of beginning something like this can be overwhelming, we are starting with one scholarship this year. The student will come from District 5, the location of the state meeting, which covers the following Iowa counties: Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Lucas, Monroe, Wapello, Wayne, Appanoose, and Davis.

Qualifying students living or going to high school in those counties may apply for the first scholarship. The scholarship will move to a different district each year until voluntary funding will allow us to reach our goal of one per district per year. When we reach that goal, we will present the scholarships during the May district meetings

in hopes that our recipient will be close enough to attend. Qualifying students may plan on going to a four-year college, a community college, or a technical school with plans to earn a degree or diploma for their desired field of study. The scholarship is payable to the school they attend after the completion of the first semester and continued enrollment for second semester.

Applications may be obtained by contacting an IRSPA Unit President; President-Elect of IRSPA, Jean Hoffman; or by talking to your school's guidance counselor (District 5 counties).

It is recommended that each unit chose something to do to give back to the community. Several units choose to offer a scholarship. Many of our units are small enough that sponsoring their own scholarships is too monumental of a task. This gives those units and those individuals who wish to donate a chance to partner with other units and members across the state for a worthy and unique cause. We look forward to sharing more information about this at the Annual State Meeting & Conference in October. Also look for information that will be coming from your district coordinator. In the meantime, if you wish to donate privately or as a unit, make checks out to IRSPA with PH Scholarship in the memo and mail to Bob Swanson, 3221 Cheyenne Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51104.

Anyone who
does anything
to help a child
in his life is a
hero to me.

FRED ROGERS



FREE Iowa State Park Passports

The Department of Natural Resources and Travel Iowa are offering FREE Iowa State Park Passports to encourage residents to get out and be active after a long winter. Iowans who sign up can sign in on their smartphones at more than 60 state parks. There are opportunities to win prizes with every check-in. Take advantage of the opportunities to experience a wide range of scenery and excursions: go to traveliowa.com and click on Park Passport.



Honoring a 30% Discount on Rooms for IRSPA Members.

Show them this advertisement or your IRSPA Membership Card.

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

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515.465.3511
Hotel Pattee
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Newsletter

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104

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Have a Cool Summer!

WE REMEMBER

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Beyer, Patty	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Bohner, Maxine	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Davis Paul E	Iowa City, IA	Johnson County Unit
Denger, Ruth	Maquoketa, IA	Jackson County Unit
Dexter, James T	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Evans, Kim	Mt Pleasant, IA	Henry County Unit
Flaherty Diane	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Gaston, Marlene	Bettendorf, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Horst, Louise	Miles, IA	Jackson County Unit
Kerkman, Thelma	Wheatland, IA	Jackson County Unit
Koch, Ellen	Maquoketa, IA	Jackson County Unit
Leaman, Don	Iowa City, IA	Johnson County Unit
Mallaro, John (Jack)	Phoenix, AZ	Webster County Unit
Putney, Kenneth	Iowa City, IA	Johnson County Unit
Riese, Lois	Davenport, IA	Davenport Area Unit
Schuldt, Glendora	West Des Moines, IA	Boone County Unit
Vessey, Jon	Daytona Beach, FL	Webster County Unit

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

LEGISLATIVE FUND

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

\$5.00 _____ \$10.00 _____ \$15.00 _____ Other _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

If Member of Local Unit _____

Unit Name _____

County _____

MAIL EITHER FORM TO:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

Name _____
Last First M.I.

Street Address _____

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