



## IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

### From the Co-President Jean Hoffman

After a cold, and may I dare say miserable, spring, (miserable sure fits for the track season and for the farmers) I thought we had jumped right into summer. Then this fourth week was again back to sweatshirts and jackets. What a pleasure it was to put faces to the many people I was in contact with, in preparations for the district meetings. Each district had something unique to make their meeting memorable.



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We started in District 3 in Waterloo. Our meeting was held at the Grout Museum. Along with our general IRSPA news, all enjoyed a tour of the museum and a show in the newly renovated planetarium. If you like to travel in and around Iowa, I would put this on your bucket list of places to see!

District 2 was held in Boone, Iowa, and was especially entertaining. They went with the train theme which was so appropriate. Dave & Dave, two retired teachers, who really know how to keep their brains healthy, took us on a little trip. We first joined Duke Ellington on the "A Train" and found ourselves in the "City of New Orleans." We then hopped on "This Train (is bound for glory)" and ended up with Roy Acoff and Johnny Cash on the "Wabash Cannon Ball." They concluded with "Watch What Happens" and the theme song for 2020 "Don't Get Around Much Anymore." by Duke Ellington which brought us full circle. An AARP presentation called "Home Fit" showed us how with a few simple, inexpensive changes we can spend more time in our own homes and be safe at the same time.

District 1 definitely has a sense of humor. In the most official looking file folder labeled IRSPA we found many reasons to laugh, another good thing to do to keep your brain healthy. After reading a few of the documents, I found myself ROTFLAICGU. A HUGE shout out to District 1 - ALL UNITS WERE REPRESENTED!!!!!! We were entertained with a rally song by the Cherokee unit. Bev Radke provided piano music throughout the day.

After a week off, we then traveled to the Historic Hotel Pattee in Perry, Iowa, for the District 4 meeting - bucket list item crossed off! We were greeted by a cheerful group as we entered "Perrydise." Brain health information tells us how important it is to keep connected to friends and family which is also one of the goals of IRSPA. I was able to do that as I reconnected with a teacher that I taught

with forty-five years ago! Learning new things is also important for our brains. We were entertained by Laura McCord with music played on a dulcimer. Through the travels of Dirk & Carol Cavanaugh, we took a cultural trip to Kurdistan.

Bloomfield was the location for the District 5 meeting. One of the things I love most is learning of the many places in Iowa to explore as we travel from meeting to meeting. David Johnson shared many reasons that Lake Wapello State Park is a must see. Judy Combs talked about tourism in and around Davis County. I was especially intrigued by the clock tower on the court house. She is also a former National History Day teacher. If you ever coached NHD students, you will understand why that was a highlight for me.

On our way to Iowa City for the District 6 meeting, my traveling partner VP Jeanne Handeland and I visited the Grant Wood house in Eldon - another bucket list item crossed off! There is such a wealth of learning opportunities in Iowa City and at The University of Iowa. Mary Masher discussed current legislation as it relates to education, Will Coghill-Behrends, Ph.D., shared a program about the many advancements at the College of Education. Lauren Lessing, Director at the newly revamped University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art took us on a virtual walk through the Arts Museum that has been closed due to flooding issues and will reopen soon. This museum should be on your bucket list, also.

Connie Eastman from AARP in Des Moines presented on the Six Pillars of Brain Health at the first three meetings. Connie was unable to attend the second round of meetings, so we gave a brief overview of the Six Pillars of Brain Health; I would highly recommend calling Connie at the AARP office and inviting her to come to your unit. AARP has several excellent programs to choose from. It was interesting how each meeting had included activities that help us to keep our brains healthy without even hearing the presentation first.

In District 2, we also heard another AARP presentation on how to do a few simple inexpensive things to keep you in your home longer. That program is called "Home Fit." AARP is our business partner and is a fantastic source for program ideas. Please use them. They are awesome!

Paul Strid, our AMBA representative, was unable to attend our second round of meetings. He is more than willing to come to your local units to share with you your benefit package and then to follow up with one-on-one meetings.

I cannot wait to reconnect or meet new people at the State Meeting and Conference in Waterloo on October 5 & 6, 2023. Information will be coming to your unit presidents soon. It has been a wild ride coming out of the pandemic. Be assured that we are working tirelessly to smooth some of the bumps we have encountered these past two years. A big thank you to all who reached out to show how connected we really are such as: I was born in....., I did my student teaching in ....., my grandparents used to live in ....., we used to teach together in ....., etc. See you all in October!

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER EVERYONE!**

## A NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

What a busy spring it's been for the board. As the newest member of the board, it was my first experience attending all six district meetings across Iowa. Because Co-President Jean and I live fairly close, we were able to travel together. It's always nice to have a co-pilot!

At each of the district meetings, the officers led a focus group. My focus group was programs. I distributed a handout with program ideas I had taken from our IRSPA webpage. I asked each group what their favorite program had been so that we could share ideas. I wound up with two pages of additions I could add to our list of possible programs. Even the programs we heard at the district meetings could spark an idea for a program in our own local units. They included museums, art museums, planetariums, musicians, AARP, country school houses, physical therapists, global travel, state parks, reports of our legislators, college educators or administrators, AMBA benefits, and a volunteer program called Angel Flight. **If you are interested in the list, it's easy to find—IRSPA.org, click on About, then Resources and then Possible Programs.**

In addition to the meetings, we enjoyed wonderful food and were able to meet so many delightful people who are a part of IRSPA. The first pillar of brain health is to stay socially engaged, and we certainly had that opportunity. I commented to Jean on our return home that I would love to come back to the six locations to explore the area even more. What a beautiful and diverse state we have!

Jeanne Handeland, Vice President

## ASK AMBA

Dear AMBA,

I'm a little confused about Medicare Supplement. With everything that is going on in the world, life is confusing enough. COVID, the war in Ukraine, the price of gas, inflation, and all this advertising about open enrollment. How does this affect me and my Medicare coverage? Also, I do not know why the insurance companies tell me there may be annual price adjustments for my monthly premium. They might as well say price increases, because my rates have gone up every year for the last 5 years. Is there a way to get around these rising costs? Am I missing something?

Sincerely, Sally

Dear Sally,

Very good question. Open enrollment has to do with several different things. When someone turns 65 and goes from health insurance to Medicare, they are in an open enrollment period. That means they qualify for Medicare without having to answer any medical questions.

Open enrollment also comes between October and December each year for those who may want to change their Plan D, prescription coverage, or move from one Medicare Advantage Plan to another one.

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

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

Thank you for your inquiry.  
AMBA

## CHEROKEE COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION AWARDS \$1,000 LYNN RHOADS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Cherokee County Unit of IRSPA awarded its second annual \$1,000 scholarship during awards night at Cherokee Iowa's Washington High School on Tuesday, May 17th, 2022. The scholarship, which is sponsored by the Cherokee County Unit, is given in memory of Lynn Rhoads. Lynn was a member of the Cherokee County Unit of IRSPA who suddenly passed away at her home in May of 2020.

Last year's first recipient was a young man, Dale Bil-lam, Jr., who has been attending Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs. Dale plans to eventually transfer to another college to complete his bachelors in music and education.

This year's recipient, Miss Rylee Jo Bezoni, is a young lady with an impeccable academic record, graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Rylee plans to attend Iowa State University seeking a double major in Family Consumer Sciences and Spanish Education. She plans on becoming an educator in one or both of these fields. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Scholarship recipient,  
Rylee Jo Bezoni,  
with  
Cherokee Unit  
President,  
Karen Thomsen.

# 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.



*Beth Hieronymus*

- ❖Retired ● June 2021
- ❖Professional Development Instructor for National Board Candidates ● August 1999 – Present, Iowa State Education Association, Des Moines, IA
- ❖Keynote Speaker ● 2021, University of Iowa December Commencement
- ❖Special Education Teacher and Instructional Coach, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, IA; Monmouth and Avon, IL
- ❖Co-Chair Signature Chefs Auction ● 2019, March of Dimes
- ❖Director, State/District Outreach ● 2013-2015, National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

### How to Cast Your Ballot

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

### Ballot Options for 2022 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.

*Exercise your right and responsibility to vote for those who serve this organization.*



## BALLOT IRSPA VICE PRESIDENT

SELECT ONE

<input type="checkbox"/> Beth Hieronymus	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ (WRITE-IN)
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Printed Ballots must be postmarked by **July 15, 2022**, and mailed to:  
Linda Miller, Nominations Chair, 205 E. Harlan Street, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.

# District 1

## CHEROKEE UNIT

At last! After three years of planning, Covid delays and rescheduling, the District 1 Meeting of IRSPA was finally held on May 5th, 2022. The meeting was hosted by the members of the Cherokee Retired School Personnel Association Unit and held in the basement of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cherokee, Iowa. Members from all five units of District 1 (Cherokee County, Crawford County, Estherville, Iowa Great Lakes, and Sioux City) were represented at the meeting.

The attendees were welcomed by the Cherokee Unit president, Karen Thomsen, and the Cherokee unit members greeted them with a special "IRSPA Welcome Cheer." Special presenters for the day included:

**1)** Linda Burkhart, Director of Sanford Museum & Planetarium, spoke on the constellations to be found in the "Summer Sky" as well as the lunar eclipse and the space station schedule.

**2)** Jakob Hummel, from the Cherokee Regional Medical Center, presented a program about the "Falls Class" which is a class on strengthening your center core of balance to prevent falls. The group even had a chance to try the "clock exercise"—one of the fun exercises aimed at developing better balance.

**3)** Rick Angell, from Angell Insurance Agency, presented a program which included some of his experiences with "Angel Flight Central." Angel Flight Central is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve people in need by arranging free charitable flights for access to health care or other humanitarian purposes. (If you know someone who might benefit from this program, you may call Angel Flight Central at 1-866-569-9464 or 1-816-421-2300).

**4)** Bonnie Ducommun, Cherokee County Unit member, presented a display based on the "Sally, Dick and Jane" reading book series and on the old-fashioned one room school house—with emphasis on the "Lily of the Valley #5" one room school house located in Cherokee.

**5)** Connie Eastman, State AARP, spoke on the "Six Pillars of Brain Health": Being socially active, Keeping your brain engaged, Managing stress, On-going exercise, Getting plenty of sleep, and eating right—a list of six very common-sense things to do to stay healthy.

Phil Tetzloff from the State IRSPA Legislation Committee and Paul Strid from the State AMBA Insurance Committee, also gave presentations on their respective areas. The breakout session of State and Unit Officers and Committee Chairs was held while the "Summer Sky" presentation by Linda Burkhart was given to the remaining members in the main meeting area. State President, Jean Hoffman, addressed many issues and answered questions posed by the breakout participants. State Treasurer, Robert Swanson, handed out papers needed by the unit treasurers and membership chairs for the upcoming year. A couple of items to note at this meet-

ing were made by the State IPERS representative, Phil Tetzloff, and State President Jean Hoffman. Each plans to keep the units more informed about legislation affecting IRSPA and Education and resolved to have better communications, in general, with all the individual units in Iowa. A point was also made about secretarial notes: keep them short, to the point and keep a good record of money matters in your local units. Informational hand-outs on the Duties of Local Unit Officers, District Meeting Guidelines and a list of Program Ideas was supplied to the attending members to share with their units.

Lunch was catered by The Family Table in Cherokee. It consisted of a ham or turkey sandwich, macaroni salad, mixed fresh fruit and cherry cobbler with whipped cream. The ladies of the Cherokee Unit had also made coffee-time goodies such as brownies, mint bars, muffins, peach bars, various breads, bagels & cream cheese, scones, etc., that were available for morning coffee and afternoon break.

Door prizes consisting of school bus planters with plants were awarded at the end of the day. Hopefully, each unit got at least one to take home with them. It is also hoped each member attending the District 1 Meeting went home with some useful information and had an enjoyable day.

*Local and the State IRSPA Officers and Chairs enjoy dinner out together on the evening before the District 1 Meeting*



*Setting up the "Sally, Dick and Jane" reading books and school house display*

*Mary Jo Poggenklass sets up the refreshment table as Bonnie Ducommun, Molly Ver Huel and Lynette Hyndman look on.*



*Pianist Bev Radke practices the musical pieces she will play throughout the day of the meeting.*



Molly Ver Heul and Betty Resch check to make sure all the "goodies" are ready to go for the morning coffee.



State IRSPA President, Jean Hoffman, addresses information and fields questions during the group breakout session.

Tables all set with special placemats, flower candy holders and school bus centerpieces.



Linda Burkhart, Director of Sanford Museum & Planetarium, presents her program on "The Summer Sky."



Rick Angell, from the Angel Insurance Agency, enlightens the group about the "Angel Flight Center" during his presentation.



Jakob Hummel, Physical Therapist from the Cherokee Regional Medical Center presents information on the "Falls Class."



The ladies who worked on putting everything together for the meeting: (from left to right) Jodi Feser, Betty Resch, Karen Thomsen, Mary Jo Poggenklass, Linda Hiniker, Barb Pruet, Pat Friedrichsen, Bonnie Ducommun and Bev Radke, Not pictured: Molly Ver Heul and Lynette Hyndman (who is behind the camera).



Bonnie Ducommun gets into character as an old-fashioned school teacher for her presentation.



Greeters Jodi Feser & Barb Pruet check visitors in and hand out meeting information, name tags and gift bags.



Connie Eastman, State AARP, presents her interesting information on "The Six Pillars of Brain Health."



Beep! Beep! There goes one of the door prizes!!!



Visitors take advantage of the coffee hour food choices.



Cherokee Unit President, Karen Thomsen, welcomes the members from the 5 units to District 1 Meeting.



State Secretary/Historian, Mary Jo O'Connell, makes a comment during the breakout session.

## THE WELCOME CHEER FOR IRSPA

(Sung to the tune of Alexander's Rag Time Band)  
Written by former IRSPA member, Opal Pratt Warton

We all came here, to give a cheer  
Just to keep our club in gear.  
We will debate, our IPERS fate  
And with all our friends relate--  
About the new insurance laws that SHIP is here to tell,  
Coverage of the Delta Dental Plan we'll hear as well.  
We should be happy 'cause we know—it'll be swell.  
Good leadership, and officers are the backbone of our group,  
Some politics, and membership are essential to the troop.  
So if we want to keep our I.-R.-S.-P.-A. in motion—  
We cannot stall, or hit the wall,  
Let us make good use of this hall!

Submitted by Karen Thomsen

*"The highest of distinctions is service to others."  
~King George VI*

# District 2 HUMBOLDT COUNTY Area Unit

## Humboldt Area IRSPA April Meeting

The Humboldt Area IRSPA met on Monday, April 11, at Deb Peterson's Simply Coffee. There were 10 members present; Shirley Bakken, Kate Smith, and Jan Newton attended for the first time.

Candy Carlson gave the legislative report. She noted that Humboldt County has 534 IPERS recipients who receive 7.9 million dollars in benefits. As of October, 2021 IPERS had a 29.6% net return which is the second highest return in its 63-year history. IPERS members need to be aware of legislative activity and contact your representatives with concerns. One area of concern is the movement to give public tax money to help fund private school enrollment. This initiative will take tax dollars from public schools and negatively impact public education.

Kathy Yoakum, a Humboldt Middle School band instructor, brought two 5th grade music students who performed a clarinet duet. As part of a grant Kathy wrote, students had to perform three times and interact with people older than 60 years. The group was entertained and enjoyed interacting with the students.

Additional entertainment was provided by two Humboldt High School speech students. The group enjoyed hearing their public address speeches that were selected for the Iowa State Speech Contest.

Members brought food for the local food pantry, and this will also be done at the May meeting.

## Humboldt Area IRSPA May Meeting

The Humboldt Area IRSPA met at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 9, 2022 at Deb Peterson's Simply Coffee. President Anita Fagen-Miller introduced Cindy Applegate from the Humboldt County Food Pantry. She gave an interesting presentation on various activities besides the food bank that take place through their office. Besides food, they help in energy assistance, senior voucher program, adopt a family, coats, etc. They also always need volunteers and donations. They just moved recently into a different building on Sumner Ave. Members brought food items for the pantry last month and again this month.

There were 11 members present, and we welcomed new member Cindy Pratico. Since April, we have three new members—Shirley Bakken, Jan Newton, and Kate Smith. Welcome!!

Darlene Stirling distributed the Volunteer Hours sheets for the May 2022-April 2023 year. As was reported at the District meeting, it is important to turn in our volunteer hours as they are reported to state and national sources and are used to help get grants. The volunteer hours show how much the hours are worth and what money it would take to get all the work done if the workers were paid.

Candy Carlson gave the legislative report. There are discussions happening on school vouchers and the bot-

tle bill. No agreement can be reached on either one. Please let your representatives know your feelings about these issues.

Anita Fagen-Miller, Darlene Stirling, and Toni Hood attended the District 2 meeting in Boone. The Boone hosts used a train theme that was a very effective motif. There were presentations on age related topics such as brain health and retro fitting homes. Two retired teachers entertained us with a medley of train related music. We also received information on the various AMBA products and services available to members. Our state executive officers gave reports, and Co-President Jean Hoffman explained the PH Balance Scholarships.

The following slate of officers for next year was voted on and approved:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>          | <b>Anita Fagen-Miller</b>                   |
| <b>Co-Vice Presidents</b> | <b>Mary Lou Perry &amp; Pat Worthington</b> |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | <b>Darlene Stirling</b>                     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | <b>Barb Zabel</b>                           |

The next meeting will be the second Monday of September at Simply Coffee. We will be writing welcome cards for the new teachers. We will invite our IRSPA District 2 Representative, Judge Brown from Fort Dodge, to the meeting.

By Darlene Stirling, Secretary



**Member and Humboldt Middle School band instructor Kathy Yoakum with her 5th grade musicians.**



**Member Shirley Bakken with Holly Applegate, Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO) Outreach Specialist, who spoke about the Humboldt Food Pantry.**



**Mary Jo O'Connell, IRSPA Secretary/Historian, acknowledged Anita Fagen-Miller's work as the District 2 coordinator at the Boone District meeting; Anita will be replaced by Fort Dodge member Judge Brown.**

**District  
2**

**WEBSTER COUNTY  
IRSPA**

Webster County IRSPA met on **March 7, 2022**, at Friendship Haven. Father Jim gave grace before lunch. Becky Nelson Reilly reminded everyone to send in their volunteer hours.

We gave a donation to the Butler Elementary School water bottle filler project. Gary Lauterbach, scholarship chairman, asked if you want to join the scholarship committee, please see him. Judge Brown, District 2 Coordinator, is replacing Anita Fagen-Miller. We collected \$360 in cash and 40 bags for the Lord's Cupboard. We gave a trunk load of stuff to Lotus. Rose Claussen, historian, indicated the archives are housed at the public library in boxes.

Our program was Shelley Bottorf, (pictured right) Executive Director of the Fine Arts Organization. Shelley talked about the locations for theater and productions that are going on in Fort Dodge. They are having a fundraiser April 1st to raise money for a theater curtain.



President Cheri Maehl reminded everyone that our next meeting will be April 4th at Prince of Peace Church, and speech students from Fort Dodge Senior High will preform.

Our April meeting was held **April 4th** at Grace Lutheran Church. Cheri Maehl gave a prayer before lunch.

Membership dues are being collected, they are \$23.00. Our donation to the Butler water bottle fundraiser was \$25.00.



Three of the Senior High All State Individual speech Students (pictured left) gave their state presentations.

The Board voted to increase the luncheon meals to \$12 instead of \$10 beginning in August. Membership has been stable.

Toilet paper and paper towel holders should be saved. We donate them to the schools for art projects.



Judge Brown, (pictured left) now District 2 Coordinator, talked about HF 522 which has been amended. IPERS – 88% solvent. There are still 4,000 people left who still get that dividend.

Cheri reminded us that the next meeting will be May 2nd at First Covenant Church, and we will award scholarships and hold our memorial service.

Our May meeting was held **May 2nd** at First Covenant Church. Cheri Maehl opened with a prayer. Gary Lauterbach, scholarship chairman, introduced our two scholarship winners of \$1,000 each.



They were L) Malaney Buttrick and R) Gavin Piper. Each student gave an introduction of



themselves and their future plans. Our Memorial Service was in recognition of



Mary Berckhan and Helen Miller.

Cheri is still looking for a vice president for next year. The Blanden Art Gallery is looking for volunteers to be tour guides.

Cheri Maehl gave a “State of the Organization” address where she gave a summary of what our group has accomplished this year. Cheri then turned the meeting over to incoming President Sheryl Griffith. She gave a short welcome as the new President.

Pat Axne’s mother donated another check which goes to the Schoolhouse Fund.

Submitted by Bonnie Rhodes

[www.irspa.org](http://www.irspa.org)  
**Check it out!**

# District 2

## BOONE COUNTY Retired School Personnel

The Boone IRSPA unit hosted the District 2 meeting on May 4, 2022. We were all relieved to finally be able to get together after a 2 year hiatus. The meeting's theme was "On Track with IRSPA," to honor the railroad heritage of the Boone area. The 30 attendees broke into officer, membership, and program focus groups. All groups then summarized their discussions and shared ideas with the entire group. Entertainment was provided by retired teachers Dave Swenson and Dave Richardson. They kept true to the theme with a variety of railroad tunes.

Our speakers were Connie Eastman from AARP who spoke on brain health and Jim Sweeney who offered information on ways to retro-fit your home to make it functional as you age. We also heard from Paul Strid and Phil Tetzloff, who updated us on IRSPA membership news and benefits. Jean Hoffman talked about the Balance Scholarship program and explained who would be eligible and how to contribute. Judge Brown, District 2 Coordinator, was very instrumental in organizing the program and he gave the closing remarks.

By Jean Sorsen



The program focus group was lead by Vice President Jean Handland



Marge Swanson, Health-Care Advocacy Chair, introduced Connie Eastman who spoke about Brain Health at the Boone District 2 meeting.



(Above) IRSPA member Maurice Gaulke, who recently turned 90 years old, won a copy of *Orphan Train Rider* at Boone's District 2 meeting.



(L-R) Karen Sprock and Angela Pratt welcomed Boone guests with morning treats.



Boone Co. audience was "all aboard" as they listened to a montage of train-related hits.

L-R Dave Richardson, Carol Bacon, Dave Swenson and Bev Olofson.

# District 2

## HARDIN COUNTY Area Retired School Personnel

HCARSP has adjourned for the summer. We look forward to beginning again in September. We will continue to meet at Edgewood in Iowa Falls. The executive board will meet in June and the auditing committee will also meet. The Vice President, Connie Wagner, will meet with her committee to set programs for 2022-2023 and prepare membership booklets.

Maurice Gaulke, our representative to the District 2 meeting in Boone reported on the meeting he attended. We will give one \$300 Scholarship to a graduating senior. The committee has chosen a girl from Iowa Falls who is going into education to receive this award.

Officers for the coming year are pictured here. They are Connie Wagner, Vice President; Jill Fraser, President; Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, Secretary; and in the front Carolyn Crosser, Treasurer. The President and Secretary are elected in even years and the Vice President and Treasurer in odd years which helps with continuity of the executive board.

We have had many interesting programs this past year. In March, Helen Wall of Burdett Ostrich Farms told us about everything ostrich. She cooked different meats for us to sample and also shared some of the products made from an ostrich such as soap, ornaments, leather products. Ostrich feathers decorated the tables. She is pictured here with an ostrich egg.



In April, we learned about a project called Providential Homes. They are a volunteer group that works to help others. They provide safe and secure housing for people in need. They also provide instruction in daily living, financial management, and other life skills. Pictured is Arlen Daleske and wife Jean, who are very active in this program.



In May, we heard an update on both IPERS and AARP presented by Phil Tetzloff of Marshalltown

We welcome any ideas for increasing our membership and also projects for groups of less than 20.

By Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, Secretary



# BLACK HAWK RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION (BHRSPA)

The District 3 Spring Meeting of IRSPA was held on May 3 in the conference room at the Grout Museum, 503 South Street, Waterloo. It was hosted by Black Hawk Retired School Personnel Association (BHRSPA). There were 31 people in attendance.

The meeting was opened with a Welcome from Jean Hoffman, IRSPA President, Jane Brown, BHRSPA Co-President, and Shelia Bullock, BHRSPA Co-President. Michelle Temeyer recognized the organizations who contributed items for the take-home bags given to each attendee.

Carrsan Morrissey, the Director of Programming and Outreach at the Grout Museum, talked about the "Opening New Doors" fundraising campaign that is happening at the Grout Museum. Then our tours began. We had a self-guided tour of the Grout Museum of Science & History and the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum. Everyone was treated to a wonderful program by Carrsan Morrissey in the newly renovated Norris Corson Family Planetarium.

After lunch, Connie Eastman, our AARP Representative, gave a very informative talk on "Brain Health." She noted that our involvement in IRSPA (and other organizations) is helping to keep our brains healthy! Next, we took some time to meet in "role alike" groups to share ideas with other officers/units. Then Jean Hoffman spoke about the PH Balance Scholarship. This scholarship will be given to a high school senior from District 3 this year. Jean encouraged us to contact guidance counselors at our local high schools to inform them of this scholarship. Phil Tetzloff talked to us about IPERS. Paul Strid, our AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisor) representative, reviewed the benefits that are available and told us of new benefits that have been added.

By Jane Brown, Co-President BHRSPA



Taken at the registration table. Barb and Larry Dodge are seated. Jane Brown (co-president of BHRSPA) is standing.



Right is our main speaker, Carrsan Morrissey, the Director of Programming at the Grout Museum, and Jane Brown standing next to him.



Jean Hoffman  
Robert Swanson  
and  
Phil Tetzloff



IRSPA Executive Officers are enjoying the company and waiting to eat.



Two of our members standing ready to serve breakfast. (L-R) Viola Cody and Bev Cooper.



(L-R) Marcia Street, Shelia Bullock (co-president of BHRSPA) and Louise Conklin ready to serve lunch.

**We encourage membership renewal!**

**District  
3**

**CEDAR RAPIDS  
AREA CHAPTER**

The Cedar Rapids area chapter meets the fourth Wednesday of most of the months of the school year. Although meetings this past year have been at the Indian Country Club in Marion, next year's meetings will take place at the Marion American Legion. Meetings consist of a buffet luncheon followed by a program or guest speaker, followed by the monthly meeting.

An ongoing project of the chapter is the collection of Hy-Vee receipts which are then turned over to the Linn County Child Development Center. Proceeds are used to help support projects at the center as well as to provide financial assistance to families in need.

Officers for the coming year include Bob Gilchrist as president, Sunny Story as vice president, Mary Muehl as secretary, and Anne Althoff as secretary.

By Mary Muehl



Newly elected officer of Cedar Rapids area Chapter.  
Left to right: Treasurer Anne Althoff,  
President Bob Gilchrist, Secretary Mary Muehl,  
Vice President Sunny Story

**IRSPA CONTACTS**

**President/Past President:**

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**President Elect/ President:**

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**Vice President:**

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**Secretary/Historian**

Mary Jo O'Connell  
1700 Avoca Street, Dubuque, IA 52201  
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**Treasurer:**

Robert Swanson,  
3221 Cheyenne Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51104  
(712) 252-1446 - [rmswanson1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanson1936@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor**

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[tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com)

**District  
4**

**COUNCIL BLUFFS  
Area Chapter of IRSPA**

The Council Bluffs Area Chapter of the Iowa Retired School Personnel concluded the 2021-2022 school year with a very successful craft/bake sale on April 20th. The group raised \$611 for the Scholarship Fund. Items available included plants, baked items, craft items, and gift cards.

On March 16th the group met, and following lunch, enjoyed the program, "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate" presented by Gere' Stevens (pictured right) of the Iowa State University Extension Service, dealing with inheritance.

Bev Fletcher was named chairman of the Nominations Committee and will prepare a slate of officers to be voted on at the April meeting.

Officers elected for the 2022-2023 school year are President, Bev Fletcher; Vice-President, still open; Secretary, co-secretaries Diane Johnson and Julie Dillahay; Treasurer, Nancy File will be in charge of collecting dues and other monies and Joan Blum will be in charge of reservations and collecting money for lunches; Courtesy, Carol Mattox, and Membership will be handled by JoAnn Tews and Darlene Schwarzkopf.

The group is in recess until September 21.

By Sue Griswold, Secretary



**District  
4**

**CARSPA  
Clark Area Retired School  
Personnel Association**

CARSPA met on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Osceola Senior Center with seven members present plus our speakers, Francis Acland and Lonna McDonald. Hostess Jeri Lytton served doughnuts, and Martha Snell decorated the tables. Linda Foland provided snack packages for each member.

Guest speaker, Francis Acland, gave a little background about himself. He had worked at libraries in Graceland and Lamoni before coming to Osceola. He distributed brochures which itemized many of the services available at the Osceola Public Library (OPL). The OPL is 111 years old in 2022. In 1999, the addition was built with space for the children's library, a computer lab, and many other services.

The OPL has over 30,000 books for anyone to check out. Some large print books are available. If the book you want is not found in the shelves, the Interlibrary Loan program can usually ship the book from another library at no cost to you. Videos, CD's, and Audios are available. Audiobooks and Ebooks can be downloaded with Bridges. Tumblebooks offers talking and animated

picture books suitable for elementary children. Residents of Clarke County can download audiobooks with Bridges.

The library offers: printing and photocopying services; laminating, scanning, sending, and receiving documents; free computer use and tech help; craft groups; monthly book discussion and writing groups; a variety of free items; and text communications for card holders. President Linda Foland opened the business meeting with stories "From the Mouths." Members recited the pledge. Pianist, Jeri Lytton, accompanied members as they sang "Grace" and "God Bless America." Linda Foland shared an article on "Inspiration." Jeri Lytton shared some funny jokes.

Effective for the April meeting, Jeri Lytton will become the CARSPA president, Martha Snell will become the vice president, Venita Escher will continue as secretary. Linda Foland will take the treasurer position.

By Venita Escher

*"Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living." ~ Albert Einstein ~*

## District 4 DALLAS COUNTY AREA

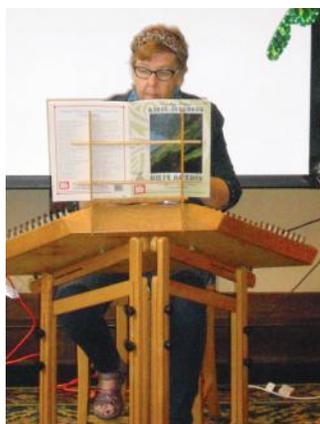
Thirty members of Dallas County Area Retired School Personnel Association welcomed twenty-five District 4 members and state officers to "Perrydise" May 17 at the Hotel Pattee in Perry, Iowa. After registering and receiving leis, visitors were encouraged to enjoy the muffins, coffee cake and nut bread as well as the fruit kebabs provided by the DCARSPA members.



Perry Mayor John An-dorf (pictured left) welcomed the IRSPA group to Perry and to the historic Hotel Pattee, the history of which he briefly outlined before Karen Einck of Perry, president of DCARSPA, led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Entertainment was provided by DCARSPA member, Laura McCord, (pictured right) who played her hammer dulcimer as well as giving everyone a history of the instrument.

Mary Jo O'Connell, Jeanne Handeland, and Jean Hoffman shared the six pillars of brain health with those present offering ideas on how to attain them.



A highlight of the morning session was a special presentation by Dirk and Carol Cavanaugh (pictured left) of Perry, entitled "Global Education: Kazakhstan." The Cavanaugh's lived in Kazakhstan for a number of years, where Carol taught English in an orphanage; and they have hosted high school exchange students from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in their Perry home.

The afternoon wrapped up with reports on IRSPA initiatives: the PH Scholarship, newsletter, AMBA, and an IPERS update.

By Susan Leslie

## District 5 DES MOINES COUNTY Retired School Personnel

Our group was happy to gather once again for food and fellowship at Bethany Lutheran Church in Burlington. The board has been sending short letters with info about benefits and current issues and encouraging members to let educators know how much we appreciate them! In May we were able to gather for a "picnic" box lunch, and the scholarship committee reported on their continued efforts! Thanks to the amazing generosity of our members, two more young people will benefit from our financial assistance this coming school year!

We are hoping to gather names of new retirees, publish our membership book, and return to regular gatherings in the fall.

By Kim Smith, Secretary

## 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 2, 2022**



Get info to Toni Hood, at

E-mail: [tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com)

Home Telephone: 515-332-5819

Cell Phone: 515-269-3823

# District 5

## JCRSPA County

Jasper County greetings! The '21-'22 year has been exciting for our Jasper County unit. We began the year welcoming our membership back from Covid hiatus at the Jasper County Historical Museum.

We have had exceptional programs this year ranging from the fields of art, music, education, history, legislation and parks and recreation. The pictures below are of the Newton High School Chamber Choir and the "Tintinnabulation," our local all volunteer bell choir, who serenaded us with spectacular musical selections in April. "Tintinnabulation" includes members from our Jasper County unit.

The Jasper County unit's strength lies in our members. We have members from each of the five school districts in our county. Additionally, we welcome members who live in Jasper County and were involved in educational systems outside our county. Our leadership team is a cohesive unit with varied experiences from different school districts. We volunteer extensively in our community and enjoy each other's company and delectable treats provided by our members at each meeting.

Our leadership team is looking forward to planning our '22-'23 year and welcoming new members.

Respectfully submitted by co-presidents  
Denise Bontrager and Lana Wohlers



# District 6

## DAVENPORT AREA DARSPA

After dealing with the Covid shut downs, our group was able to have a TERRIFIC DARSPA year from September 2021-May 2022!

We were able to meet monthly (we don't meet June-August or January) for our luncheon and business meeting. I'm sure all members would agree that those eight luncheons were thoroughly enjoyed by all of our members and would definitely be classified as HAPPY DAYS!

Our program director, Diane Foley, did an excellent job booking a spectrum of interesting and entertaining guests.

From musical groups (including ukuleles) and a self-taught artist to Habitat for Humanity, "Pollinators," and the Quad Cities Ballet. We enjoyed every presentation and, most importantly, the opportunity to socialize with our fellow educators!

It has been a pleasure for me to work with such a talented group of officers: President Lynda Kuehn, Program Director Diane Foley, and Treasurer Joyce Ceurvorst (who has been treasurer for 12 years!). It takes dedicated officers to plan luncheons and meetings involving 80 or more members!

May you all have a wonderful summer as you look forward to another GREAT IRSPA year—and many more HAPPY DAYS!

By Deb Kelly

# District 6

## JOHNSON COUNTY UNIT

The State Officers divided us into interest groups including presidents, secretaries, treasurers, programs. Fred Stark from the Johnson County Unit has a history repertoire of the state of Iowa, loves to talk and is willing to travel. **He's a great one to present a History of Iowa program for you.**



By Nancy Porter

**Make Plans to Attend the State Meeting Now! See Details... Lower RH of this Page.**

**District 6**

**LEE COUNTY UNIT**

Earl Walrath, Extensive Knowledge and Collector of Native American Artifacts, October Program



Paul Hedgepeth, Retired Deputy Warden, gave the history of the Iowa State Penitentiary in Ft. Madison, November Program

Stand Bear Council, Native American History, March Program



Dr. Eugene Watson, Site Director of Old Fort Madison, presented history of the fort, April Program

At the May meeting, new officers were elected; Mary Meyer, President, Lynda Levai, Vice President, Tonya Ferguson, Secretary and Judy Barachek, Treasurer. Kirk Brandenberger,

Exec. Director of Keokuk Convention and Tourism Bureau highlighted all the sites to visit and upcoming events in the area to attend.



John and Beth Hieronymus were responsible for our speaker from the University of Iowa Department of Education. Beth called upon Professor Will Coghill-Behrends who presented a valuable slideshow about his role with the Learning Center. John and Beth are pictured with Professor Coghill-Behrends.



Lyn Adams and Sharon Raffensperger keep the registration moving.

Linda Miller is the organizer supreme when it comes to keeping the meeting running smoothly and making preparations.



Submitted by Jill Anderson Cox

**Join us in Waterloo, Iowa for the**

**IRSPA STATE MEETING**

**“Proud to Serve”**

**October 5-6, 2022**

**at**

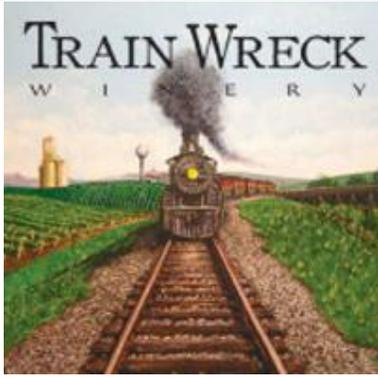
**Best Western Plus Executive Residency**

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**Waterloo, Iowa**

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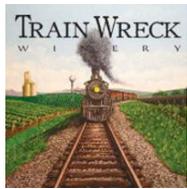
**Reserve before September 1, 2022**



Train Wreck Winery is owned by Dallas Clark former Hawkeye All-American and NFL All-Pro tight end.

Open since December 20, 2011, Train Wreck is a small winery dedicated to producing quality wines served in a fun atmosphere. They make a variety of wines, from sweet to dry; red, white and blush. You are invited to stop by, try our wines and relax in our beautifully restored depot. The Train Wreck Winery is located in Algona, Iowa. Stop in and see the beautifully repurposed depot, learn the story of the train wreck and enjoy their many wonderful wines.

<http://www.trainwreckwinery.com>  
(515) 395-3376



The Train Wreck Winery in Algona, Iowa, will offer a 10% discount on bottled wine when you show your IRSPA membership card or the ad from the IRSPA Newsletter. In-store only.

## Little Swan Lake Winery



Little Swan Lake Winery is a family owned and operated business located 1-1/2 miles north of the small town of Superior in Northwest Iowa. In May of 2002 our doors opened to the public. The tasting room, our remodeled 1920's barn, features 35 different wines all produced on site, a selection of gourmet cheeses, and buffalo meat from our own herd which roams nearby. Our vineyard consists of two acres of northern cold hardy grapes. The gift shop features clothing and wine related items. We are dedicated to producing the finest and most enjoyable wines and invite you to spend an hour or an afternoon with us.

Our newest addition, our bed and breakfast, opened in September of 2011. This renovated grain elevator is a great place to relax and enjoy the beauty that is Little Swan Lake!

Scott and Diane Benjamin and Family



Little Swan Lake Winery offers a 10% discount on bottled wine to IRSPA members when you show your membership card or the ad from the newsletter. Offer good at the winery only.

[Lslwinery.com](http://Lslwinery.com) • Phone: (712) 858 - 4592

Please Note: E-mail for

**Robert Swanson**  
[rmswanson1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanson1936@gmail.com)



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### CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from **IRSPA & AMBA**:

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[myambabenefits.info/irspa](http://myambabenefits.info/irspa)

IRSPA - Iowa Retired School Personnel Association



## 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](mailto:paul.strid@ambainfo)

Paul's email is: [paul.strid@amba.info](mailto:paul.strid@amba.info)

## PARENT IN HEAVEN BALANCE SCHOLARSHIP

The PH (Parent in Heaven) Balance Scholarship is designated for a graduating senior that at any time in his/her life has lost a parent or legal guardian. Until the scholarship fund is built up to the point where we can give a scholarship in every district every year, we are awarding the scholarship to a student in the district where the State Meeting and Conference is held. In 2021 our State Meeting and Conference was held in District 5 and Katie Schlosser of Colfax-Mingo was awarded the scholarship. In 2022 District 3 will host the meeting and applications are currently open for a student that will graduate in May of 2023 who lives in or attends a high school in District 3. The student may plan on attending a vocational school, community college, or a four-year institution. If you know of a student that qualifies or if you are willing to take applications to your local high school in District 3, please contact Jean Hoffman, 42teacher@gmail.com, for an application. We are working to create a page on our website that is dedicated to the scholarship.

A huge thank you to all of the individuals who contributed to the PH Balance Scholarship at the District meetings. A total of \$861.16 was donated through a free will donation collection at each district! Also, a heartfelt thank you to the family of Dawn Rogers, a former president of IRSPA. She also held many other jobs with IRSPA including the newsletter and was a representative for Delta Dental insurance. Dawn's family gave a generous memorial which was designated for the scholarship. She supported the idea of the PH Balance Scholarship long before it finally came to fruition.

By Jean Hoffman

## It's News to Me . . .

By Toni Hood

- According to "U.S. News and World Reports," Iowa has the best high school graduation rate; however, Iowa students now rank 40th in college readiness.
- The private school voucher movement will affect IPERS. Private school employees do not receive IPERS benefits. This will save the schools money, but it will also reduce the IPERS benefits pool.
- IPERS launched a new website. The site has streamlined the content; however, some links you may have used are no longer active. Here's what's new and improved:
  - The site will function well whether you used a desktop computer, a tablet, or a smart phone.
  - The navigation is simplified; content can be accessed faster and with fewer clicks.
  - There is a resource library that features relevant videos, publications, and forms.
  - The new life stage pages make it easier for you to get information that's specific to your needs whether you're a new hire, preparing to retire, or somewhere in between.
  - Information that is communicated by email is featured prominently on the home page or newsroom.
  - IPERS email communication comes from this address: [IPERS@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:IPERS@public.govdelivery.com). Mark this as a safe address so IPERS communication does not go into the spam filter. All snail mail from IPERS is usually on the IPERS letterhead and/or includes their logo and contact information.
  - Check out the changes at [www.ipers.org](http://www.ipers.org).

“

**Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn.**

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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

# 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>
Berckhan, Mary	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Blank, Ruth	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Burchett-Rusher, Bernice	Creston, IA	Creston Area Unit
Burgett, R. Gayle	Des Moines, IA	DMARSPA Unit
Champagne, Marilyn	Burlington, IA	Des Moines County Unit
Churck, Hazel	Longmont, CO	Mason City Area Unit
Davis, Mary	Maquoketa, IA	Jackson County Unit
Decker, Mary	Burlington, IA	Des Moines County Unit
Eggleston, Carolyn	DeWitt, IA	Clinton County Unit
Fitzpatrick, Ruth	Churdan, IA	Carroll-Greene County Unit
Geilenfeld, Ruth	Mason City, IA	Mason City Area Unit
Gogg, Mary	Charles City, IA	Big Four Unit
Hagen, Jerry	Grinnell, IA	Poweshiek County Unit
Henshaw, Katherine	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Johnson, Susan K	Sigourney, IA	Keokuk County Unit
Kahler, Bobbie	Grinnell, IA	Poweshiek County Unit
Loeschen, Moselle	Glidden, IA	Carroll-Greene County Unit
McCarthy, Don	Burlington, IA	Des Moines County Unit
Menz, Karen	Perry, IA	Dallas County Unit
Miller, Helen	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Moore, Gwen	New London, IA	Henry County Unit
Niemeyer, Lyle	Marshalltown, IA	Marshall County Unit
Opheim, Earl	Mason City, IA	Mason City Area Unit
Opheim, Wayne	Mason City, IA	Mason City Area Unit
Oriano Sarah	Riverside, IA	Des Moines County Unit
Ormston, Bill	Marshalltown, IA	Marshall County Unit
Orr, Margaret	Burlington, IA	Des Moines County Unit
Prout, Thomas	South Sioux City, NE	Sioux City Area Unit
Reeder, Erma	Pinehurst, NC	Lee County Unit
Rubis, Mary Jo	Hinton, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Sehr, Colleen	Collins, IA	Johnson County Unit
Smith, Mary C	Cedar Rapids, IA	Cedar Rapids Area Unit
Stablein, Joe	Coon Rapids, IA	Carroll-Greene County Unit
Swanson, Arnold	Cedar Falls, IA	No Unit
Witt, Roberta	Chariton, IA	Lucas County Unit
Yates, Margaret (Peggy)	Sigourney, IA	Keokuk County Unit
Zhorne, Patricia	Marshalltown, IA	Marshall County Unit

**PLEASE NOTE:** Send relevant notices, change of address, and/or subscription cancellations to [rmswanon1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanon1936@gmail.com)

### LEGISLATIVE FUND

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

\$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Member of Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL EITHER FORM TO:

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

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Member of Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

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