

# IRSPA

## IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

### From the President Jean Hoffman

What a wonderful round of District Meetings this year. Each one was informative and well run by the hosting units. I always enjoy the trips around Iowa and find unique places to put on my bucket list. It is definitely a perk.

We kicked off the meetings in District 4 on Teacher's Day in Osceola. They had an interesting speaker who owns his own radio station, KSOL, in the Osceola area. A tidbit I picked up is that if the call letters begin with a "K" it is west of the Mississippi and if they start with a "W" it is east of the Mississippi. So obvious, but I never took time to think of it.

The state meeting will be held in Creston this October which means that the PH Balance Scholarship will be awarded to a student living in or going to high school in the District 4 area.

Please pass the word to schools or to a qualifying student. The application can be found and downloaded from the webpage at [irspa.org](http://irspa.org). Look for SCHOLARSHIP in the drop down menu of the ABOUT tab.

From Osceola we moved on to the District 5 meeting in Newton. Newton is a city of fine arts with many, many beautiful sculptures in and around the city. They are truly amazing. Our meeting was held in the beautiful arboretum in Newton. At lunch we were entertained by a fabulous bell choir.

We then ventured down to the SE corner of Iowa to Van Buren County, a unique county in so many ways and a county with no stop lights - stop signs only! Someday I will venture back to visit the villages of Van Buren County.

Following a week off, we started the second round off in Estherville where EARSIPA hosted their final event as EARSIPA. Lili Jensen shared stories about the meteorite that fell in Estherville, Joan Enockson, an author of children's books shared her story and Alex Baruth shared a program at Estherville Lincoln Central that focuses on the mental health of children. During lunch we were delightfully entertained by the high school choir under the direction of Mr. DeMoss.

The District 2 meeting was held in Charles City. Leslie Milius from Iowa State Extension presented a program called "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate & Who Gets Grandpa's Guns?" It was a very relevant topic that we all



**President:**  
Jean Hoffman  
1460 470th Ave.,  
Estherville, IA 51334  
Cell 712-209-1780  
E-mail:  
[42teacher@gmail.com](mailto:42teacher@gmail.com)

face at some point in our life. We were also swept away by the musical talents of the Charles City vocal music group Rhymes With Orange. They were phenomenal!

On our way to West Union for the last of the District meetings several of us stopped at the Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch in Fredericksburg where we took a wagon ride out to the pasture to feed and learn about the Buffalo. Martha McFarland graciously agreed a year ago to be a business partner with IRSPA and gives a discount to our members - just show your membership card or take your copy of the newsletter with the ad. Please call ahead to make arrangements. It is a unique experience and a memory maker for the grandkids.



The final District meeting was held in District 3 in West Union. We had the most delightful homemade kolaches anyone could ever ask for! You know you are in NE Iowa when you find kolaches like that! Mallory Hanson shared information about the biking and hiking trails along the Turkey River in NE Iowa. What a beautiful area to explore! We also heard from Linda McCann, who has authored several books about the history of prisoner of war camps in Iowa.

Connie Eastman, our partner at AARP, presented at all of the meetings and passed out information about the topic "Prepare to Care." Caregiving is something we will be involved in one way or another in our life. Paul Strid, from AMBA, also shared information at each meeting as to what different kinds of benefits are available through AMBA. Both Connie and Paul are more than happy to present at local units at any given time.

Phil Tetzloff shared a document showing what our IPERS means to each county. This was very pertinent information as next year IPERS is up for possible legislative change. Phil has given IRSPA twelve good years of hard work to BAC and IRSPA and has decided to step back from his position on the Benefits Advisory Council. If you are interested in legislative work, please give Jean Hoffman or Phil Tetzloff a call. We plan to fill this position in August.

Thank you to all of the units that hosted a district meeting. You did a wonderful job of providing great meeting places, good food and entertainment, great speakers and a thank you to the state board who also attended the meetings and offered informative information at the breakout sessions.

*By Jean Hoffman*

**District  
1**

**ESTHERVILLE AREA  
IRSPA Spring 2023 Meeting**



**Judy Grethen and Margaret White hosted the District 1 meeting at Estherville**

The IRSPA District 1 meeting was hosted by the Estherville Area unit at Iowa Lakes Community College on May 16, 2023. After the registration and refreshments, the group broke into break-out sessions followed by information sharing from the sessions.

The theme was “Out of This World” and that motif was appropriate for the first speaker of the day.

Lili Jensen, a former teacher and librarian, spoke about the unique meteorite that landed in Estherville on May 10, 1879. This is the largest meteorite that has fallen in North America. Bob Jensen, Lili’s husband is fascinated by this event and has been instrumental in preserving and disseminating information about this phenomenon now known as the Estherville. The center slice of the meteorite is displayed at the Estherville Public Library; the Meteorite Museum is at the intersection of Highways 4 & 9. A second slice of the meteorite and a sculpture by an Iowa artist is also displayed there. Portions of the 744 pound meteorite have been displayed all over the world.



Joan Enockson, and ELC teacher at Estherville-Lincoln



Central, spoke about her career, her varied life and teaching experiences, and what motivated her to become an author. Joan dreamed of being a children’s author and by following her instincts and persevering she made this a reality. She started her own publishing company, Tall Girl Publishing, found an illustrator, and published *The Snail That Wanted to Hop*. Other books followed and Joan continued her theme of addressing the social and emotional needs of children, friendship, problem-solving skills, citizenship, and patriotism. Her newest series, *The Biker Grandma Series*, along with her other books are available at Amazon.com.

After lunch, AARP representative, Connie Eastman,

spoke about caregivers and their roles and responsibilities. Her topic, “Prepare to Care,” informed the audience about the 48 million people of all ages and sexes who are family care givers. We can all engage in care giving activities, and there are area agencies that provide information and assistance. Call 211, not 911, for further help.

Adam Reiter, a student mental health provider at ELC, spoke about the social/emotional needs of students. Family and social dynamics have changed for a variety of reasons. These changes have impacted our youth in many ways. Reiter’s program addresses many student skills such as self-management, wellness, self-awareness, relationships, safety, and social media issues.



The Estherville-Lincoln Central high school music students gave a wonderful performance and their enthusiasm was contagious; the audience enjoyed their medley of well-performed songs.

Toni Hood

**District  
1**

**CHEROKEE COUNTY  
IRSPA**

**APRIL:**

The Cherokee chapter of IRSPA met on Friday, April 14th, for the first time since November 2022. The group met at the Family Table in Cherokee, Iowa, where they enjoyed a program presented by Fran Briggs of Marcus, Iowa, entitled “My Mother’s Apron/Tie One On .” Fran



**Fran Briggs shares her collection of vintage aprons as she has the Cherokee group**

showcased aprons she had collected and shared with other groups for nearly 30 years. She had some of her own grandmother’s aprons that were over 100 years old. However, most of Fran’s collection was made up of contemporary aprons of the 1950’s and 1960’s eras. She collected aprons that were made of linen, cotton and organza. Many styles were crocheted or had counted cross stitch on them and ran the gamut from work aprons to wedding aprons. Fran gave many of the IRSPA members the opportunity to model an apron or to “tie one on.” Several members recounted memories of how the

different styles related to when they were growing up and/or of their own past apron experiences. Needless to say, the program was enjoyed by all in attendance.

### **MAY:**

The Cherokee chapter of IRSPA met in the basement of the Presbyterian Church in Cherokee, Iowa, on Friday, May 12th. The members and invited guests enjoyed a brunch prepared by the May committee before the guest speaker, Senator Lynn Evans, presented his program. Senator Evans shared his insights on many of the new education bills/laws that were being acted upon in the state legislature this year. He very briefly touched on the new alignment law of the state which goes into effect on July 1st of this year, and he shared information about the changes instituted by other laws as they pertain to schools, students, books, libraries and educational funding. Hopefully, some changes will allow schools to use assigned funds in areas that need them rather than restricting them to only the categories where they were originally assigned. Also, some changes have been made to make it easier to hire teachers from other states, to allow current teachers (especially at the college level) to instruct level one and level two of a consecutive curriculum in the same room at the same time and to hire non-teaching librarians to help ease the current teacher shortage. Senator Evans was a wellhouse of information and presented a very informative program.



**State Senator Lynn Evans, District 3, grew up in Aurelia Iowa. He and his wife, Midge, have been married for 38 years and have raised 2 children. Senator Evans has been fortunate to lead school districts and serve communities in O'Brien, Osceola, Buena Vista and Cherokee counties.**

**Committees: Education, Ethics, Health and Human Services, Judiciary, Natural Resources and Environment Subcommittee: Education Appropriations**

On May 9th, Cherokee chapter President Karen Thomsen and chapter member, Sharon Nelson, traveled to Marcus, Iowa, to present the \$1,000 Lynn Rhoads Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Cherokee County Retired School Personnel Association. This year's recipient was Derek Goth. Derek plans to attend Iowa State University and to major in Agricultural Studies and minor in Agronomy. He hopes to customize his educational experience to bring back the knowledge learned to his family farm. He also plans to return to his local community to be an active volunteer, leader, and mentor. In the future he especially wants to raise his children in his home community and teach them to be good citizens, leaders, and

active community members. He states he would also "encourage them to take part in FFA and 4-H." We wish Derek all the best in his future endeavors.

Karen Thomsen, President



**MMCRU Senior, Derek Goth, accepts the \$1,000 Lynn Rhoads Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Cherokee County Retired School Personnel Association.**

### **Iowa Retired School Personnel Association volunteer hours will be collected the end of August, 2023.**

The new value of each hour is \$31.80, 6.2% increase from 2022 which was \$24.69.

Almost all of our local chapters keep track of individual hours and once they are turned in, we send them to several state and national organizations. They compile information for reference by non profit organizations who need to apply for grants to continue their work.

#### **Here are tips for collecting volunteer hours:**

1. Appoint a person to be responsible for collecting, compiling and reporting the volunteer hours to us by August 31.
2. Mention the recording of volunteer hours at your meetings, informal get-togethers, and in your correspondence to members.
3. Try to have members separate their hours into two categories
  - a. Youth and Education
  - b. Community
4. Include the time spent traveling to or from the activity. Report hours in WHOLE numbers.
5. Tell members that they may count hours spend in UNPAID care-giving for family members.
6. Emphasize the importance of keeping volunteer hours.
7. Thank your members who keep their hours and turn them in.

**Sandy & Jay Thede  
Supportive Services**

# District 2

## HARDIN COUNTY IRSPA

“To serve... not to be served” continues to be our focus each year. Our final meeting for 2022-2023 was held on Friday, May 5th at Edgewood in Iowa Falls. We are very fortunate to be able to meet in this historic location. The ladies of the Edgewood board prepare and serve a wonderful meal prior to each meeting. They also have beautiful seasonal decorations in the dining room and on the tables for our enjoyment.

Our membership is down somewhat as we end the year due to moves and illness. One of our annual goals is to recruit new members. Our group was saddened in December when longtime member, Lee Wright, passed away. She was very active, pleasant to be with, and served in many leadership roles for HCARSP. We donated a book to her hometown library in her memory.

We met the first Friday of September through December and March through May. Our meetings open with Verv Davison leading the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by singing patriotic favorites led by Lois Nassen. We average about 16 members at each meeting and often host prospective members as guests.

The scholarship committee sent out information on our HCARSP annual scholarship to all local schools. It will be awarded at the South Hardin senior awards evening later in May. This SHHS senior, who plans to go into the field of education, was awarded a \$300 scholarship. Efforts will be made to have more fund-raising events this coming year in hopes of awarding multiple scholarships in May 2024.

Maurice Gaulke has been our representative attending district and state meetings. He reports on the same, as well as legislative items of interest to education.

In April, HCARSP member Marlene Reece gave a program entitled “Born an Angel, IA”. She brought several examples of Angel gowns, blankets, bonnets, and bunting she created from donated wedding and formal gowns. This non-profit group (BOA, IA) provides burial garments to bereaved families whose child has been born “asleep” or who passes within the first year of life. The volunteers donate finished items to midwives, hospital NICU departments, and to local funeral homes all across Iowa.



Marlene Reece with BOA, IA

In May, Connie Eastman from AARP spoke to us about “Seven Steps to Better Brain Health.” Each step led to activities which actively engaged her audience, and she provided very positive feedback & encouragement to the group.



Connie Eastman

At the April meeting, we elected new officers who were then installed at our May meeting. President Jill Fraser installed Carolyn Crosser, Vice President; Maurice Gaulke, Nominating Committee; Helen Wall, Treasurer; and Connie Wagner, Nominating Committee. The new executive board will have a joint meeting with the retiring board members in June to review the year



Installation of Officers

and make plans for 2023-2024.

Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, Secretary

# District 2

## CARROLL-GREENE COUNTY

The Carroll-Greene County Unit held their May 2023 meeting at Hotel Pattee in Perry. After enjoying a delicious lunch, members were led on a tour of the hotel. A famous musician once stayed there as he was playing in the area. That guest was Louis Armstrong and one of the rooms is decorated in his honor. The historic hotel, with its beautiful wood decor and Arts and Crafts style, uses various themes for its 40 rooms. The photo shows members by the grand piano in front of the original staircase in the lobby.



**District  
2**

**THE BIG 4 UNIT  
IRSPA Spring 2023 Meeting**

The Big 4 unit of the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association hosted fellow members of the IRSPA who belong to units in the state's District 2. Conversations, laughter, and fellowship were evident as 50 fifty members from 20 communities assembled Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Charles City, Iowa.

Musical entertainment was provided by the music department of the Charles City Community High School. Student Anders Hagland gave a solo performance of "God Bless America" and two combined musical groups performed musical selections that awed their audience.



Sessions were held for the various office holders of the units as well as for areas of membership and meeting programs. Ideas and suggestions were discussed and shared with all members when the large group reconvened. Ways to enhance officer holders' positions, ways to increase membership, and ways to offer interesting meeting programs will be shared at the individual local level IRSPA units.

"Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate and Who Gets Grandpa's Gun" was the title of the presentation given by Leslie Milius, ISU Executive Director for Floyd County. Through humor and sound rationale, members were given ideas on how to share treasured items, items of value, and sentimental items with family and friends.

AARP representative Connie Eastman's topic was "Prepare to Care." As people age the level of care needed for daily living may change. It's important to have a plan ahead of time to make the transition to being a care-giver go more smoothly. Many good suggestions were made to the IRSPA members.

President of IRSPA Jean Hoffman shared the updates to the IRSPA website and informed the members about the PH Balance Scholarship given by IRSPA. PH stands

for students who have Parents in Heaven. Phil Tetzloff, legislative chair, gave an update on IPERS. Paul Strid, Association Member Benefits Advisors representative, reviewed the various benefits that are offered only to members of IRSPA members.

A delicious lunch was prepared and served by volunteers from Trinity United Methodist Church.

The Iowa Retired School Personnel Association is a state organization that promotes education, provides information, lobbying efforts for IPERS, and offers benefits through AMBA. Big 4 IRSPA fosters a sense of community for all retired school personnel who have shared workplaces and continue to volunteer in multiple ways in their communities. Membership is open to all retired school personnel. Big 4 welcomes new retirees and those who have been retired for some time. Meetings are held at First Citizens Bank on the third Wednesdays of the months of March, April, May, June, September, October, and November.



Joy Hall, Secretary

**District  
2**

**BOONE COUNTY  
IRSPA**

The Boone County Retired School Personnel Association met April 11th at the United Methodist Church where we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon.

The meeting was called to order by President Bev Olofson with seventeen members present.

Following the lunch, members shared pieces from their various collections and told stories of where and how different items had been acquired.

We are looking forward to our next luncheon/meeting where our guest speaker will be Boone School District Superintendent Julie Tapa.

Submitted by Jean Sorsen



**Colette Schmidkte, District 2 steering committee hostess, and ISU Executive Director Leslie Milius who was a keynote speaker.**

**A huge shout-out to Jay and Sandy Thede for their efforts in signing up members to receive the IRSPA newsletter digitally. They contacted their Mason City area's 80 members, and 72 people agreed to cancel their "snail mail" delivery and read the newsletter online.**



# WEBSTER COUNTY IRSPA

We met at Friendship Haven on March 6, 2023. Pastor Jennifer said the prayer.

President Griffith made some announcements. Our next meeting will be April 3rd at the Corpus Christi Center. Please enter on the north side. The Catholic Daughters is hosting.

Sharon McNeal is stepping down as calling committee chairman. Anyone interested in taking her place, please contact Sheryl Griffith.

Our program is on D/SOAC and Violent Crimes. Jamie Huse will represent D/SOAC and Marie Henry and Sheryl Kuchenreuther represent Violent Crimes.



D/SOAC stands for Domestic Sexual Abuse Outreach Center and opened in 1992. All services are free and confidential. They have a kitchen, living room, 9 bedrooms, 26 beds for men, women and children and cover 20 counties. From Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, they served 332 clients.

Most times, the people just come with the clothes they are wearing. They are always in need of clothing and hygiene items. They receive counseling and they reach out to the community for resources. They help with court, dental and doctor.

For the 17 and younger, they do crafts, help them enroll in school, provide school supplies, they have birthday and Christmas parties, distribute Santa gifts that were donated.

They have a thrift store called The Key on Central where the proceeds go to D/SOAC. The clients can get free items here. They also have an on-line cake auction.

Violent Crimes covers 15 counties. Offices are in Fort Dodge and Waterloo. In 2021, they served 630 clients, and in 2022, they served 437 clients. They deal with things like vehicular homicide, hit and run, burglary, etc. They stay with the family, help make phone calls, etc.

Crime Victims Compensation includes \$7,500 towards funeral, work with funeral home, law enforcement, court, attorneys, trial, sentencing, support group.

They do receive federal funding. They also have a

golf tournament in August to raise funds.

Judge Brown announced that the District 2 meeting will be May 17th in Charles City.

### April meeting

We met on April 3rd at the Corpus Christi Center.

Jenn Becker, program director for PLC, Play and Learn Center, talked about the need for volunteers and the opportunities for volunteering.



We had two All State Speech students share their speech entries with us. The students were Braydon Schmieder and Aaron Amhoff.

The titles were Death by Braydon and I Believe and The Sniper by Aaron. They did an excellent job.

Our next meeting will be May 1st First Covenant

Church.

### May 1st

The Webster County IRSPA met at 1st Covenant Church on May 1st.

Gary Lauterbach, Scholarship Committee chairman, announced the 2 winners of this year's scholarships. They are both from Southeast Valley school. The two recipients are Cooper Nuss and Elias Field.



Cheri Maehl presented the Memorial service by starting out with a poem called The Ripple Effect. Those



who passed this year were Wilma Cook, Merle Kearney, Irene Sweat, Robert Pearson, and Agnes Mumford. Cheri then read a poem called

Take Time and ended with a prayer.

President Griffith thanked last year's board and committees. She introduced next year's president, Janet Carlin, who gave a few words of looking forward to serving our group.

Linda Whiting announced the library book sale runs from Tuesday through Saturday morning for those interested.



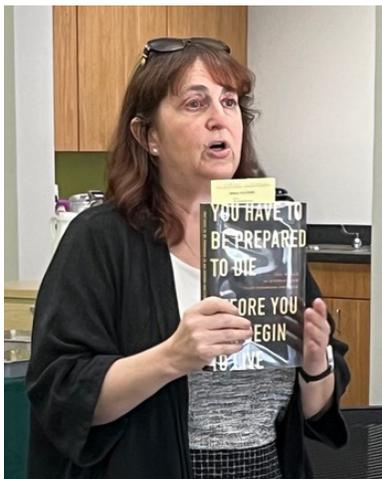
Submitted by Bonnie Rhodes



## MARSHALL COUNTY IRSPA

The MCRSPA met May 8th at the Marshalltown public library. A potluck luncheon was enjoyed by all members. There were 21 members and one guest present.

Sarah Rosenblum, director of the library, presented the program telling about "What's Going on at the Library." She told about an upcoming book discussion by author Paul Nix on June 8th at 6:30. Our fine-free library is open 7 days a week. The newest project of the library is "MOBI," a new book-mobile that will be visible in the community this summer. It hopes to be stopping at childcare places as well as assisted living, farmer's market, schools, and other stops. They will be needing volunteers to help with MOBI; if you are interested in helping, call the library. This year is 125th anniversary of the Marshalltown Public Library, and there will be some celebration, so watch for news about that.



The meeting was called to order by President Carole Permar. Minutes of the April meeting were ready by Rita Smith. Otto Welfring gave the treasurer's report. No bills were presented. The membership remains at 72. Welfring stated that dues are still \$23 and are being accepted now for the coming year. Notices will be sent early this summer.

Members were reminded to keep track of their volunteer hours. They need to be reported by early August.

Under new business, the September 18th meeting will be moved to Hope UMC as the library is unavailable in September. Sandy Bennett will make arrangements.

Phil Tetzloff reported that he is resigning his legislative chair position with IPERS. A new person will be chosen in August. If you like to work with numbers, and are interested in this opportunity, contact Phil Tetzloff for details on how to submit your name. He also reported that IPERS is about

85% solvent and has been increasing over the past few years. If it gets to 100% funded, it might be looking at paying dividends in the future.

Public Service announcements: Maria Hazen told about a TTT golf tournament fund raiser on Saturday, June 24. The money raised helps send two 4th grade girls to camp in the summer. Diane Oleson mentioned that it would be a good idea for MCRSPA to give \$125 to the library in honor of the 125th anniversary when they have their celebration as we use their facility for our meetings. Carole Permar offered free rhubarb to anyone who wants it. She also has some garden space available. Contact her if interested. Sandy Bennett gave a follow-up on the meals that were packed by the high school students. They DID meet their goal of 50,000 meals + recipes for Marshall County residents in need. Churches that have food pantries, received several boxes of the meals.

Several members discussed their summer plans. It was mentioned that some of those people who have special travel plans might be good programs for our meetings. Sandy Bennett said that her goal is to complete visiting all of the state parks this summer.

The social committee of Diane and Keith Oleson was thanked. The next meeting will be September 19th at Hope United Methodist Church and will be a potluck. The executive board will be the social committee.

## 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, August 11, 2023**



**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 2

### HUMBOLDT UNIT IRSPA Spring 2023 Meeting

The Humboldt Area IRSPA met April 10, 2023 at the Humboldt Senior Citizens Center; there were 16 members present. President Anita Fagen-Miller called the meeting to order and reviewed old business and then introduced Humboldt Middle School principal Cassie Smith who spoke about "What's Happening at the Middle School."



**"What's Happening at the Middle School" speaker Cassie Smith with Darlene Spurling at the Humboldt unit's April, 2023 meeting.**

Cassie, a 15 year teaching veteran with many varied assignments, is in her first year as a principal. The HMS has 475 students in grades 5-8. We enjoyed hearing about all the changes education is undergoing. Middle school students are an interesting, yet challenging, age group. Group dynamics, cooperative skills, and social/emotional well-being are some of the areas Cassie touched on. Her audience laughed when she introduced all the acronyms that label the many initiatives that educators practice as they support student's academic and social growth; MTSS, PBIS, SEL, and FUEL are all programs that are new to our former school employees. The Humboldt district now employs therapists and behavior specialists that support the staff's effort to meet the needs of all students.

The May 9th meeting had 15 members present. Volunteer hours were turned in, a new by-laws committee was discussed, food pantry donations were accepted, and Candy Carlson provided some information about IPERS. Humboldt county has 540 retired recipients; their total IPERS payments are \$8,016,740. There are 6,262 new Iowa retirees; the average monthly benefit is \$2,041, and the average years of service is 22.2

There was no speaker, but the members enjoyed visiting. Anita Fagen-Miller initiated the conversation by beginning a round robin discussion; each member spoke about their educational backgrounds and experiences; it was a great opportunity to reminisce and share professional memories.

Toni Hood

## District 3

### WEST UNION IRSPA

The District 3 IRSPA-Iowa Retired School Personnel- Spring Meeting was held Thursday, May 18th, at the West Union Event Center.



Gay Bowden, President of the West Union IRSPA, welcomed members from Waterloo, Oelwein, and West Union affiliates. In addition there were IRSPA officers and associates present to share valuable information for retirees on IPERS, insurance, member benefits, etc.

The morning guest speaker was Linda McCann, an author of Iowa History books from Shell Rock, Iowa. Ms. McCann gave an interesting talk about some of the many things she learned while researching for her book *Prisoners of War in Iowa during World War II*. McCann has also written a history of the CCC-Civilian Conservation Corps in Iowa, along with many books about the "lost" towns in Iowa. Her next work, *Rosie the Riveter*, is due out in August. More can be learned the author and you may find a list of her books by googling her name, Linda Betsinger McCann.



The afternoon guest speaker was Mallory Hanson, Fayette County Tourism Director, who spoke about "Tourism along the Turkey River Corridor." One visitor from Waterloo remarked after her presentation, "I could have listened to her all day!"

Guests left with many positive comments about the beautiful area, the program the delicious meal served at the Event Center.

Membership in IRSPA is open to all retired school personnel. The West Union affiliate has teachers, bus drivers, school lunch personnel and paraprofessionals. Annual dues are \$15 and provide access to many benefits. More can be learned at [irspa.org](http://irspa.org)

Submitted by Vicki Rowland

**District  
3**

**JACKSON COUNTY  
IRSPA**

Jackson County Retired School Personnel had a festive meeting on Cinco de Mayo! Rae Ann Dickinson, Barb Nelson, and Mary Hamann provided the festive decorations and door prizes! Fourteen members and 2 guests attended the meeting held at Clover Ridge.



The program was by Emily Starr. She presented about her work as an entrepreneur with StarrMatica which she started 18 years ago. Science is an area that needs to be taught more at the elementary level. She said it is important for students to know that things don't always go perfectly. They need to be encouraged to wonder and ask questions and to understand that failure is expected.

In 2010 she was the winner of the IA Entrepreneur of the Year and featured on PBS. In 2013 she asked school districts what is needed and that is when she wrote 5 grants and developed 2 new products for STEM. She said research shows that we must get elementary age students interested in science. Students need to be asked "What do you wonder? How can we test this?" (when shown natural events). She suggests using picture books to present these questions but not to tell the answers.



One activity she suggested was to use the book *Twenty One Elephants* about building the Brooklyn Bridge and then do an activity where the students use pennies

to test bridges they build. Do not show examples. Let them create. Open Science Education is a website any school can use. We hoped that she will present to school districts because we liked her information so much!!

The business meeting followed and we found out who won our \$500 scholarship and decided to give \$100 to the two people who also applied and impressed us.

Carol Atkinson reported on health issues and reminded us to use sunscreen. Rae Ann Dickinson said a new COVID vaccine is available now too.

We were reminded to record our volunteer hours and turn them in to Nancy Wagoner in August. On May 18 there is a district meeting in West Union. Our next meeting will be at the Presbyterian Church in Bellevue on June 2.

**District  
3**

**OELWEIN AREA  
IRSPA**

Oelwein Area Retired School Personnel began meeting in person again this past year (2022-2023) after Covid and a two-year absence.

Officers are Charlene Stocker, President; Linda Potter, Vice-President; Vivian Rourke, Secretary; and Kathy Adams, Treasurer.

Programs for the year included touring the newly renovated Wings Park elementary school building; touring the Brick Kitchen business; a presentation from Oelwein Area Chamber and Development on a proposed Event Center and extended park area downtown; a program about the newly founded Plentiful Pantry; an update on the Oelwein Public Library programs; and a meeting at the new Sugar Shack Bakery in Oelwein.

A \$300 scholarship was donated to Dollars for Scholars to an Oelwein high school graduating senior.

Books were donated to the Oelwein Public Library in memory of Geri Frisch and Bob Downs.

All meetings are held at the Oelwein Public Library the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00am, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are not held in the summer and meetings will resume in September.

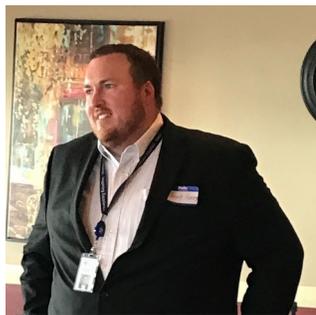
Books were donated to the Oelwein Public Library in memory of Geri Frisch and Bob Downs.

Submitted by Kathy Adams

# District 4

## COUNCIL BLUFFS IRSPA

The Council Bluffs Retired School Personnel Unit resumed meetings on March 25, 2023, at the Council Bluffs Country Club with 31 members and 3 guests present. We welcomed two new members, Geri Frederiksen, and Bev Patten.



Dr. Brent Hoelsing

Dr. Brent Hoelsing, Superintendent of Lewis Central Community School District, was our third superintendent of the year to speak. He has been involved in education his entire life and has experienced a variety of jobs in the educational field. He spoke about how they still see some effects of the pandemic on students, staff, and parents. Lewis Central provides a fun

working environment, has opened up the schools more with programs like Breakfast Buddies, been more creative in pay and compensation to all staff, and is trying to create community connections, especially with the use of their new auditorium.

Our second speaker was Dick Miller, who portrayed Grant Wood. Grant had a hard life growing up. He began sketching with a burnt stick that his mother sharpened. In his early years, he won first prize in a contest sponsored by the Crayola Company. Although American Gothic is his most famous painting, he was also commissioned to paint murals in several hotels. One was the Hotel Chieftain in Council Bluffs. One of the panels from Grant Wood's Corn Room Murals will soon be permanently displayed at the Richard & Deanna Miller Grant Wood Gallery in the Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center in Council Bluffs.



Dick Miller as Grant Wood

The Council Bluffs Retired Personnel met on April 19, 2023, at the Council Bluffs Country Club with 38 members and 3 guests present. We welcomed one new member, Patty Plummer.

Diane Ostrowski and Paula Plunkett from the Council Bluffs Downtown Kiwanis shared various activities that the local Downtown Kiwanis sponsors. They are looking for new members and encouraged anyone interested to contact them.

Dr. Vickie Murillo, Superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community Schools, was our fourth guest Superinten-

dent of the year. She explained the Diploma +1 College & Career Opportunities in the Council Bluffs Public Schools. It is possible to obtain a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree simultaneously through Iowa Western Community College. Opportunities are also available to earn certifications in the Trade Works Program through the college. She also spoke about the new Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center which will open in August. It will serve children from 6 weeks to 4 years old.

Members signed cards of congratulations that will be sent to retiring school personnel from the area schools along with information about IRSPA and CBRSPA.

The meeting concluded with drawing for our Scholarship Fund raffle which was very successful. Members donated a wide variety of items including baked goods,



A few of the donated items for our raffle.

a quilt, wreaths, wine, gift cards, plants and a variety of other items. Our scholarship will be awarded for the first time this May through SWIEF.

We are on recess until September 20, 2023.

Julie Dillehay, Secretary

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended district meetings and donated to the PH Balance Scholarship! The scholarship is open to donations at any time. Just mark your check IRSPA - PH Balance and send it to our treasurer, Bob Swanson. There will be a silent auction at the State Meeting and Conference in October. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!



## DAVIS COUNTY IRSPA

Davis County Retired School Personnel met March 7th at the Coffee Can in Bloomfield with 16 members present. Our program was presented by Davis County High School Small Group Speech Contestants along with their coach Joy Orwig. Their presentations were an original short film, an original poem, and an interpretive presentation.



Davis County Retired School Personnel met on Tuesday, April 4th in the fellowship hall at The Bloomfield Christian Church with 17 members present.



**Pictured is Nancy Proctor, Yoga Instructor**

Nancy Proctor introduced us to the origins of Yoga and we participated in Yoga techniques for relaxation for our minds and bodies. We also had the pleasure of Chloe Fetcho's presentation of her Bloomfield Optimist's Oratorical Contest winner titled "Discovering the Optimism in Me"

Davis County Retired School Personnel met on May 2 at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with 16 members present. Our program was presented by Davis County High School Food Pantry.

Students Saydee Westercamp and Kammie Joos along with their Ag Instructor and FFA Advisor Amy Mosbey talked about how and why their Food Pantry was established and who it serves. They also told us how we could donate goods or monetary gifts. Our members collected several bags of food items that we presented to the students and their adviser. The program presenters also brought a variety of flowering plants from the FFA greenhouse for our members to take home and enjoy this summer.



Our next meeting will be the first day of school in August.

Becky Shively, Public Relations



## JASPER COUNTY IRSPA Spring 2023 Meeting

Our Jasper County Retired School Personnel Association (JCRSPA) was the host location for the District 5 Spring Conference on May 3rd. Our theme was "Celebrating Education Through the Arts". We had the pleasure of having 39 people in attendance.



Throughout the day, we showcased the 'Fine Arts' of our Newton community. From the art in nature seen outside the Newton Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, to our speaker, Linda Klepinger, the Curator of the Newton Center for Arts and Artists, to the culinary arts of our local caterer Michelle Stalzer of Z Marie's (who provided lunch) to the bell ringing artists of "Tintinnabulation" (who



provided our musical entertainment) to a local sculptor, who provided a beautifully sculpted watermelon with the IRSPA logo accompanied with chocolate covered strawberries, to our local JCRSP members who created the table favor bells on the tables, made the pots in which the pansies were planted (and given away as the door prizes) and to those of us who created breakfast delicacies and lunch desserts... We CELEBRATED The ARTS!



Of course we also had the pleasure of listening to and learning from our road tripping state officers. They shared loads of information ranging from tips for programs and possible ways to increase membership to understanding the State Website. We were proud to learn that WE WERE ACKNOWLEDGED FOR INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP! And we learned about the Iowa Caregiver Resource Guide as well as the relatively new PH scholarship. It was a good day!

\*We were pleased to hear all the positive remarks and feedback from everyone about everything, including our selection of the hotel!!!

Denise Bontrager

**District  
6**

**LEE COUNTY  
IRSPA**

Lee County Retired School Personnel met recently for their May meeting at the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Ft. Madison.

The program was presented by Kumar Wichramasigam who started the Elliot Test Kitchen, in Ft. Madison which offers after school programming, stem activities, cooking, homework help, and ACT preparation.

Kumar was a chef in his native country of Sri Lanka before arriving to the U.S. in 1986. He was fortunate to meet George and Jean Alton, both teachers in the Ft. Madison



School district. The couple invited Kumar to share their home and gave him the opportunity to pursue higher education at SCC. With their passion for learning, Kumar was able to get the education he needed which enabled him to fulfill his American dream of becoming a chef and a leader of a healthcare organization.

To show his gratitude for the opportunities provided to him in Ft. Madison, he paid "it forward" by giving back to the community. In 2015, Kumar bought a building, 807 Ave G, remodeled it, and added a kitchen. His idea was to combine education with food. In Sri Lanka, teachers were highly respected, and he values education.

Kumar wanted a safe place for students to come after school. He named his program "Elliot" after James T Elliot, the successful healthcare businessman for whom he worked. Kumar contacted Mr. Elliot and asked if he could name his project after him. "Test" refers to education and "kitchen" refers to preparing meals for the children.

Kumar's innovative thinking started with 10 students but quickly grew to 30. The students arrived after school to the smell of cookies baking. This was "wind down" time from school. Students receive help with homework, in math, science, robotics, history, music and ACT prep. Many times, with busy family schedules, kids do not eat at home with their families. At the kitchen, kids learn to cook, prepare a meal, and eat to-

gether. Before eating, they offer a prayer to say what they are thankful for.

Due to the extraordinary success of the program Kumar needed grant money to expand. In January 2023, the Elliot Test Kitchen merged with the Ft. Madison YMCA, due to the success and growth of the program. This expansion enlarges activities for the children as attested to by with Karen Siefken from the YMCA who also presented with Kumar.



**Kumar with Siefken**

The retirees' next meeting is June 7, 2023, 12:00 noon at Meyers' Courtyard in Keokuk. Contact 319-470-1146 for more information. Lee County is a member of the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association with many member benefits. For more information about the benefits, contact Paul Strid at 708-347-7081.

Jill Anderson-Cox

**District  
6**

**CEDAR VALLEY  
IRSPA**

Our first meeting on 2023, was held Monday May 22, at the 10th hole In Riceville. Wayne Kreitzer is shown here welcoming our program speaker, Deana Hageman.



Deana shared about the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Fraud Fighters. (Partnered with Iowa Insurance). Their office is in the courthouse in Decorah. RSVP is funded through Americorp and a small amount from the county. Vol-

unteers are needed and application forms were available.

The next 5 months we will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, beginning June 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted  
Dianne Souder

**District 6 JOHNSON COUNTY JCRSPA**

Johnson County does not meet in January. In February, we actually had a Snow Day, which was really a cloudy, rainy, sleet day. We don't meet if school is called off for inclement weather. Although a few of us got to the meeting sight with our treats, we just chatted. We need to check our Constitution and Bylaws for that statement: no school, no JCRSPA Meeting.

Our March meeting brought us information about fraud. One of our members works with AARP and presented a very interesting program: stick with those jell pens for writing checks. It is harder to erase the ink of jell pens. Thank you, Sally Leme for sharing some of your "fraud knowledge" with us.

In April we invited Paul Strid who knows all there is to know and what is necessary to survive these times and with money! He is a worthwhile man to have at your meetings and can help with insurance through savings to discounts. If you haven't spent some time with him, you should. He's a benefit!

Although our meetings were limited, we were able to have two events that made our social time together fun. We went to a Hockey game at the new XTreme Arena in Coralville, dining together before the game. Eating always seems to bring us "together." We "hooted" and "hollered" and met Dash, the mascot, and were invited to venture onto the ice following the game.



**Eating out is always fun. Waiting for lunch is (clockwise): Fred Stark, Jon Noel, John Hieronymus, Karen and Mike Petersen, Elaine Tarnutzer and Marla Swesey.**



**Fun with Dash, the mascot: John Hieronymus, Dave Ulrick, Cathy Schiele, Carol Hammill, Dash over Beth Hieronymus and Patty Burger Karen Petersen, Nancy Porter, Fred Stark.**

**Serious members on ice: Patti Burger, Fred Stark, Cindy Fitzgerald, Cathy Schiele, Carol Hammill, John Hieronymus, Nancy Porter, Dave Ulrick, Beth Hieronymus, Mike and Karen Petersen**



**Left to right on ice: Patti Burger, Fred Stark, Cindy Fitzgerald, Cathy Schiele, Carol Hammill, John Hieronymus, Nancy Porter, Dave Ulrick, Beth Hieronymus, Mike and Karen Petersen. Xtreme Arena.**

We visited the Kinze factory in early March. The tour of Kinze is as interesting as it is educational. Mr. Kinzenbaw is a remarkable man who used his talents early on to jerryrig any go-cart or farm machine for an ask. His 30 acre plant (soon to be 35 acres) runs well with over 800 workers, and he plans to construct more factory area. From grain bins to planters to parts, the factory makes life easier for the farmer. The good is the visit, the bad is the teacher role seemed to bring with it: A FIRE DRILL. There actually was a fire in the plant and we all had to vacate. Standing outside could have been pleasant, but it was a windy day. The good news is we were invited back to finish our tour. We had only begun our tour on a "toggle" that drove us through the buildings. It's worth being part of a tour, if you have a chance. We ate in Williamsburg at the Sundown Bar and grill. It's amazing how many small towns in Iowa have great places to dine!



**First group tour of Kinze: Merin Swesey, Beth Hieronymus, Nancy Porter, Marla Swesey, Fred Stark, John Hieronymus, Chris Reynolds, Dave Ulrick, Jon Noel, Mary Mascher, Laura and Phil Conaway.**

Four of us went to the District 6 meeting in Keosauqua with our new state VP member, Beth Hieronymus. Thank you state officers for your knowledge and sharing.

We'll have one more meeting this school year to elect officers and come up with plans to have as many attendees at meetings as Davenport: 80 dine together there! The challenge is on.

Nancy Porter, Past President

**www.irspa.org**  
**Check it out!**

**District  
6**

**VAN BUREN COUNTY  
IRSPA Spring 2023 Meeting**

May 4th, 2023, a beautiful day in “Baja Iowa,” the District 6 Meeting of IRSPA was held at the Roberts Memorial Building in Keosauqua. The meeting was hosted by the members of the Van Buren County Retired School Personnel Unit. President Dave Kirchner welcomed the attendees after a half-hour refreshment period of rolls, juice and coffee. Beth Hieronymus led the Pledge of Allegiance, and IRSPA President Jean Hoffman extended greetings from IRSPA. A focus group session followed with four groups: Presidents/Vice Presidents, Secretaries/Treasurers, Membership and Recruitment, and Programs, who then reported back to the attendance.

There were three special presenters. Paul Strid, AMBA representative, gave an overview of the AMBA benefits available to members, and made special note of upcoming new programs and changes in existing ones. The AMBA website was presented and strategies for using its many links were explained.



The second presenter was Connie Eastman from AARP. She discussed caregiving and AARP’s benefits, putting emphasis on not only those cared for, but also those who are the

caregivers.

The third presenter was Jean Hoffman, who gave a thorough review of the IRSPA website, showing how to navigate the links and what changes were to be made in the future. Units can upload via pdf their meetings and programs. She also informed members about the PH Balance Scholarship which goes to a student who has lost a parent or guardian.



Following a delicious lunch catered by the Hotel Manning, a representative from the Villages of Van

Buren talked about the many tourist attractions in the county, including Bloom and Bark, Bentonsport, the Dutchman’s Store, the Scenic Drive Festival and many more.

Phil Tetzloff gave an update on the financial health of IPERS. A new representative for IRSPA is needed soon.

Four door prizes of IRSPA shopping bags were given out at the end of the meeting, along with invitations for the IRSPA Annual Meeting on October 4-5

**District  
6**

**CEDAR RAPIDS AREA  
CRIRSPA**

Since the last newsletter, we met in October, November, and January. We didn’t meet in December because of the holidays or in February because of an ice storm. Our numbers have been stable or slightly increasing.

In October, we heard from Eric Weiller of Kirkwood Community College. He described the many roles Kirkwood plays in education from Liberal Arts, Technical, and specialized training programs.

In November, we celebrated Thanksgiving with a tasty feast and entertainment by David Braun, a retired teacher and principal. Everyone sang along to some adapted songs like “Over the River and Through the Woods to GRANDFATHER’S House We Go.” As the saying goes, a “good time was had by all.”



**Dave Braun entertains the CRIRSPA members in November.**

Our January meeting featured Dara Schmidt of the Cedar Rapids Public Library who spoke on censorship. In past years, the Bible was often a challenged book while lately books with topics on sexuality and rape are most often challenged. She described the process the libraries use when a book is challenged. A lively discussion followed her presentation. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators to offer comments or express opinions.

Our next meeting is March 22, 2023 at the American legion Hall in Marion, Iowa.

By Mary Muehl, Secretary

# District 6

## DAVENPORT AREA IRSPA

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Our local officers and committee chairs have worked hard this past year organizing meetings and programs. Our executive board will stay in their positions for another year (until the spring of 2024.)

In February, our speaker was Nathaniel Kraft from the Bix Museum in Davenport. We learned many new facts about Bix Beiderbecke.



**Nathaniel Kraft from the Bix Museum**

In March, Sherry Plath O’Keefe gave a presentation about the Timbernook Outdoor Program.



**Sherry Plath O’Keefe speaking about the Timbernook Outdoor Program.**



**CASI Golden Tones**



**Students from Bettendorf High School Vocal Ensemble**

In April, we enjoyed the songs from the CASI Golden Tones (from the local Center for Active Seniors) - directed by Mary Arnold.

In May, a group of very talented students from Bettendorf High School (vocal ensemble) entertained us with some unique selections of music.

Our last meeting in May also includes our necrology ceremony honoring those members who have passed away during the last year.

We take a summer break but look forward to meeting again in September.



**Gina Harper lighting the candles as each member who passed away is announced.**

Submitted by Cheryl Sly - Secretary

The Executive Board met on April 3rd at the AMBA offices in Urbandale. John Cacciatore, one of our lobbyists from Policy Works, shared legislation of interest to IRSPA. Throughout the year John reaches out to IRSPA through the president and legislative representative for their input whether to support, oppose or remain neutral on legislation.

Members of the board submitted reports of their activities since the last board meeting. President Jean Hoffman has been working with Paul Strid, our AMBA representative, on the web page. Check it out -- irspa.org. It was discovered that the contact tab to be used for questions about benefits, address changes, etc. was not reaching anyone. That form now reaches the president and president-elect and is forwarded to the correct person.

Toni Hood, newsletter editor, prepares a newsletter four times each year. We would encourage our membership to sign up to receive the newsletter electronically. Newsletters are posted to the IRSPA webpage under the News tab. In fact, the newsletters are posted there back to June 2017.

Paul Strid introduced Bo Carr and Garrett Mowery as well as three of the new benefits representatives in Iowa. AMBA’s number one goal remains to increase membership in IRSPA.

Phil Tetzloff announced that he would be retiring from his legislative chair position and as a BAC (Benefits Advisory Committee) representative of IPERS this October. Jane Beatty was recognized for her service as District 5 Coordinator.

A replacement has not been found for Jane or Phil at this time. This is your opportunity to live the motto of IRSPA—Proud to Serve. Even King Charles in his coronation said, “..... I come not to be served, but to serve.” If you have an interest in either position or have questions, please contact Jean Hoffman.



**Jean Hoffman presented Jane Beatty with a plaque for her time of service as district 5 coordinator.**



## Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

2023 Annual Meeting  
& Conference  
October 4 - 5, 2023

### Wednesday, October 4, 2023

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Visit Creston and surrounding communities to explore historical, artistic, and cultural sites.
5:00 p.m.	Registration
5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Speaker – Author Linda Betsinger McCann speaking about her book <b>Prisoners of War in Iowa</b>
8:00 p.m.	Presentation of PH Balance Scholarship to Recipient

### Thursday, October 5, 2023

7 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Room Check-out
8:00 a.m. - 11:59 a.m.	Memorial to deceased members
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Morning Refreshments, including coffee, juice, and assorted pastries (compliments of IRSPA)
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Pledge / Introductions
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	Speaker – Dr. Jill Tussey speaking about Disciplinary Literacy and Gamified Learning in Elementary and Middle School Classrooms (2 books)
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	AMBA – Garrett Mowery “Know Your Who” AARP – Brad Anderson Legislative – Phil Tetzloff AMBA – Paul Strid
11:30 – noon	Group Pictures by District
Noon	Luncheon
1:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting



# Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

2023 Annual Meeting & Conference

October 4 - 5, 2023

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 IRSPA Unit \_\_\_\_\_



There are no fees for the Conference except for meals.

### **Banquet – 6:00 pm – Wednesday Evening**

Menu: Baked Pork Chop with pork & onion gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll with butter, Cheesecake, Iced tea, Lemonade, and Bottled Water.  
*(This price includes beverages, tax, and gratuity.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$30 per guest = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (I request a gluten-free option. \_\_\_\_\_)

### **Lunch – 12:00 pm Noon – Thursday**

Menu: Assorted Croissant Sandwiches (Ham with Swiss, Turkey Club with Cheese, and Chicken Salad), Macaroni Salad, Vegetable Relish Tray with Assorted Dips, Assorted Dessert Bars, Iced Tea, Lemonade, and Bottled Water. *(This price includes beverages, tax, and gratuity.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$23 per guest = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (I request a gluten-free option. \_\_\_\_\_)

**TOTAL PAYMENT = \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please return your Conference Registration with your meal reservations and a check made out to IRSPA by Sept. 15, 2023, to: Peg Lewis, 803 Goldenshores Ave., Creston, IA 50801.**

**ROOMS:** Contact Supertel Inn & Conference Center, 800 Laurel St., Creston, Iowa at 641-782-7873 or emailing supertelinn800@gmail.com before September 1, 2023. Ask for the “IRSPA Conference Rate.”

**Sites To See In Creston & Surrounding Areas**

**Corning**

Lake Icaria, Johnny Carson birthplace, French Icarian Village, and Corning Opera House

**Creston**

Mural painted magic in uptown, Restored 1899 Railroad Depot, Green Valley State Park, McKinley Park Historical Complex

**Greenfield**

Iowa Aviation Museum, Warren Cultural Center, Historic Hotel Greenfield, State Freedom Rock, and Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center

**Osceola**

Lakeside Hotel Casino, Clark County Museum, Historic Depot, Revelton Distilling Co., and Midwest Wholesale

**Winterset**

Covered Bridges, Iowa Quilt Museum, Piece Works Quilt Shop, and John Wayne Museum & Birthplace

**If needed - Motel / hotel accommodations in Creston or the surrounding area in addition to SuperTel Inn are:**

**1. Quality Inn**

900 S. Sumner (aka Highway #25), Creston, IA 641-782-6541

*Southeast of SuperTel Inn. One can walk from one Inn to the other.*

**2. Adams Street Country Lodge**

1412 170 St., Creston, IA • 641-344-5478

**3. Hotel Greenfield**

110 E. Iowa St., Greenfield, IA • 641-343-7323

**4. Corning Hotel**

2260 Juniper Ave., Corning, IA • 641-418-8190

**5. Lenox Lodge**

305 W. Temple, Lenox, IA • 641-413-3788

(no smoking / no pets)

**6. Heritage Inn B & B**

300 N. Main St., Lenox, IA • 319-360-2163

**7. The Nest**

306 N. Elm, Lenox, IA • 641-333-2731

**8. Lakeside Hotel Casino**

777 Casino Dr., Osceola, IA • 641-342-9511

**9. AmericInn**

111 Ariel Dr., Osceola, IA • 641-342-9400

**10. Covered Bridge Inn**

1312 Cedar Bridge Rd, Winterset, IA • 515-462-4888

**11. Cobblestone Inn & Suites**

1304 N. 4th Ave., Winterset, IA • 515-462-4889



**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 Anne Cowley is printed below. A write-in candidate is accepted.

**Anne Cowley - Retired in 2008** - Taught Elementary General Music and Strings in the Sioux City Community College Schools for 36 years - Went to Drake University for both my BME & MME - Has played cello in the Sioux City Symphony for 52 years - Has been my church's handbell director for 15 years and also sings in my church choir - Currently serves on three church committees - Volunteers at the Siouxland Soup Kitchen - Volunteers at the Public Library - Current President of the Friends of the Library Board - Current President of the Sioux City Chamber Music Association - Current President of Sioux City Retired Educators - Retired High School Softball Umpire - Current High School Volleyball Official - Has lived in Sioux City entire life

**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 2023 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. Digital Ballot. To access the digital ballot, a gmail account is needed. This is the link to the digital ballot: <https://forms.gle/6ysbwAdW7VbVg3sp6>



**IRSPA VICE PRESIDENT BALLOT**

SELECT ONE

<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Cowley	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ (WRITE-IN)
--------------------------------------	--

**Printed Ballots must be postmarked by July 15, 2023, and mailed to: Linda Miller, Nominations Chair, 205 E. Harlan Street, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641**

## 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.

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

## IRSPA CONTACTS

### **Past President:**

George Holland,  
16992 Middle Road, Dubuque, IA 52002  
(563) 582-2663 or (563) 581-8737 Cell  
[dutchboygwh@gmail.com](mailto:dutchboygwh@gmail.com)

### **President:**

Jean Hoffman  
1460 470th Ave., Estherville, IA 51334  
(712) 209-1780 - [42teacher@gmail.com](mailto:42teacher@gmail.com)

### **President Elect:**

Jeanne Handeland  
4181 230th St., Wallingford, IA 51365  
(712) 260-0943 - [jhandy@rvtc.net](mailto:jhandy@rvtc.net)

### **Vice President:**

Beth Hieronymus  
3322 Muscatine Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240  
(319) 360-4634 - [bhieronymus62@gmail.com](mailto:bhieronymus62@gmail.com)

### **Secretary/Historian:**

Mary Jo O'Connell  
1700 Avoca Street, Dubuque, IA 52201  
(563) 557-1451 - [moconnell12@msn.com](mailto:moconnell12@msn.com)

### **Treasurer:**

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

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Toni Hood  
1006 6th Ave. N., Humboldt, IA 50548  
515-332-5819 Home; 515-269-3823 Cell  
[tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com)

## Hawkeye Buffalo & Cattle Ranch



<https://www.facebook.com/hawkeyebuffaloranch/>

Hawkeye Buffalo & Cattle Ranch is a family farm in northeast Iowa. Our heritage dates back to 1854 when my great-great-grandparents settled in a sod house just a mile from our farm. The bison have returned, and we invite you to connect with the land, our family, and our farm.

Tours include an informative lesson on the history of buffalo in Iowa and a chance to feed the buffalo. Tours are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. With an IRSPA membership card or showing your copy of the IRSPA newsletter with the Hawkeye Buffalo advertisement, the **cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.** Tours are set up on an as needed basis so you must call in advance to set up your tour. The Buffalo Ranch is southwest of Fredericksburg next to Split Rock Park and Campgrounds at 3034 Pembroke Ave. Visitors often get a chance to see other wildlife too - deer, sandhill cranes, hawks, songbirds, and occasionally eagles. Buffalo meat is also sold on location.

Check us out at [Hawkeyebuffalo.com](http://Hawkeyebuffalo.com)

Phone: 641-229-6701

# Newsletter

## Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.  
Sioux City, IA 51104

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockwell City, Iowa 50579  
Permit #145

### WE REMEMBER

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Agee, Robert	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Brown, Patricia	Des Moines, IA	No Unit
Collier, Tom	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Cook, Wilma	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Dnox, Gary	Iowa Falls, IA	Jasper County Unit
Ducommun, Bonnie	Cherokee, IA	Cherokee County Unit
Hamilton, Beverly	Ottumwa, IA	Wapello County Unit
Harris, Irma Rae	Mason City, IA	Mason City Area Unit
Hopkins, Darwin	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Humiston, Patricia	Burlington, IA	Des Moines County Unit
Johnson, Marian	Charles City, IA	Big Four Unit
Kearney, Merle	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Kephart, Ralph	Manchester, IA	No Unit
Mendenhall James	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit
Munger, JoAnn	Newton, IA	Jasper County Unit
O'Farrell, Edwina	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Oderkirk, Arleen	Sherrill, IOA	Dubuque Area Unit
Pearson, Robert	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
Pogemiller, Marlys	Charles City, IA	Big Four Unit
Rotter, Laetitia	Fort Madison, IA	Lee County Unit
Sleezer, Janet	Cherokee, IA	Cherokee County Unit
Stukenholtz, Ann	Council Bluffs, IA	Council Bluffs Area Unit
Sweatt, Irene	Spring Hills, KS	Webster County Unit
Teal, Veneta	Keosauqua, IA	Van Buren 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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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