



IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION



President's Message

President: Chris Campidilli
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GREETINGS TO ALL AND...

Congratulations to our newly elected officers.

- George Holland - President Elect
- Jean Hoffman - Vice President
- Mary Jo O'Connell - Secretary/Historian

Installation will be at the Annual Meeting.

This is my last column & I want to say:
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- * All who sent notes, e-mails & comments of support.
- * All of the units for their hospitality during my visits.
- * All of the Coordinators for their time and work they continue to do for our organization.
TRULY APPRECIATED!
- * All of the IRSPA Committee Chairs and the IRSPA Officers for their willingness to give their time for our SPECIAL ORGANIZATION, IRSPA!
- * AMBA who has given us a "Top Notch" Benefit Program and the best representatives to go with it.
- * AARP Staff for always making us feel welcome, for their willingness to help IRSPA, and to Connie for being the best representative we could ask for.
- * All members for their acquaintances & friendships.

Please know I have truly appreciated it all!
I wish only the very best for our new officers.
Chris

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

Articles for the **DECEMBER** newsletter are due no later than **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019**



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

IT'S NEWS TO ME ...

Toni Hood • IRSPA Newsletter Editor
tonihood@q.com

515-332-5819 (Home); 515-269-3823 (Cell)

Thank you for all your submissions to the June IRSPA issue. All issues are on the IRSPA.ORG website, and the color copy is wonderful. If you do not want to receive a "snail mail" hardcopy, let Robert Swanson know and you will receive an email when the new edition is on-line. The next issue will be in early December;

- The December issue will have coverage of the State Convention, and articles from our Iowa units. Remember:
 - There is no need to submit detailed meeting minutes.
 - Use pictures with captions whenever possible.
 - Focus on any interesting program information, volunteer and charitable activities, member profiles, future meetings, and include pictures if possible.
 - If your unit gives scholarships, we'd love to learn about the recipients' plans, goals, and why they were selected.
 - Small world blurbs/pictures are fun; these are connections with former students or any educational "small world" encounters.
 - Anything apart from a meeting that is relevant can be submitted with an explanation or a picture with a caption



The Crawford County Unit Invites You to Denison for “It’s A Wonderful Life” Experience

October 2-3, 2019 to be held at the Boulders Conference Center,
2511 Boulders Drive, Denison, Iowa.

Directions to the Boulders Conference Center are... Take Highway 30 East and then turn South on Donna Reed Road. Turn right on Boulders Drive. The Conference Center and Boulders Inn are along this drive. Also the Denison Golf Course is located here.

Please use a separate registration form for each person.

Please fill out and Mail in Registration on the Next Page

Wednesday, October 2, Executive Board Members Only

Executive Board Meeting is at 9:30 A.M. with lunch following at 11:15 A.M. No Fee.

Wednesday, October 2, Meeting Registration 11:30 A.M.

Lunch is served at Majestic Hills Diner below the Conference Center.

Begin Loading Buses for the Two Tours at 12:30 P.M.

Tour A

Tour the Donna Reed Theatre and Museum. Focus on the life of Donna Reed and how the movie of “It’s A Wonderful Life” came to be. Episodes for the Donna Reed Show will be shown. Popcorn and pop will be provided.

Tour B

Tour of the YellowSmoke Park and Lake. The Park Ranger will share the history and the makeup of the park. A stop at the Nature Center will show the animals and environment of the park. Will return to the Donna Reed Theatre for popcorn and pop.

Wednesday Evening Buffet Dinner served at 6:00 P.M. at the Boulders Conference Center. There will be a cash bar in the dining room at 5:30 P.M.

Hotel Reservations must be made by September 15

Boulders Inn, 2511 Boulders Drive. Phone number is 712-263-2200

Boulders Inn, 161 Oakridge Drive. Phone number is 712-263-2833

Park Motel, 803 W. Highway 30. Phone number is 712-263-4144

Presenters on Thursday, October 3

Orphan Train: Lori Vickers

Human Trafficking: Sr. Shirley Fineran

Donna Reed and It’s a Wonderful Life: Pat Fleshner and Roy Voggeser

Story of Honey Bees: Angie Carlyle

Dual language Program: Heather Langenfeld, Megan Schroeder and Myrna Velazquez

Sally, Dick and Jane: George Holland

AMBA: Paul Strid

IPERS: Phil Tetzloff

Scams: Connie Eastman

Law and Drug Dog: Sheriff James Steinkuehler and Bayou

"It's A Wonderful Life" Registration Form 2019

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact with Phone #: _____

Unit Name: _____ (example) Crawford County

X HERE	REGISTRATION TYPE	FEE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday, October 2, Executive Board Members Only, No Cost..... Board Members Name _____	NC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday, October 2, Meeting Registration 11:30 AM	NC
<input type="checkbox"/>	TOUR A - Tour Donna Reed Theatre and Museum This tour will cost \$5.00	\$ _____.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	TOUR B - Tour YellowSmoke Park and Lake This tour will cost \$5.00	\$ _____.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wednesday Evening Buffet</u> served at 6:00 pm at the Boulders Conference Center There will be a cash bar in the dining room at 5:30 pm. Choice of two entrees, Staley's chicken and roast sirloin in au jus, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, toasted lettuce/ 4 dressings, cherry fluff, fruit pies ala mode, coffee, lemonade, iced tea. After dinner entertainment will be the Denison High School Mariachi Ensemble Cost of dinner will be \$25.00 each	\$ _____.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Thursday morning October 3, 8:00-9:00 AM</u> registration; coffee, juice and assorted pastries. Thursday morning registration and breakfast sessions 9:30-noon. Sessions will be explained in the September Newsletter as they are being planned at this time. Vendors are also invited. NO COST	NC
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Thursday 12:15 pm lunch:</u> French dip sandwiches or chicken breast sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, relish tray, cookie, beverages. Cost is \$20.00	\$ _____.00
TOTAL		\$ _____.00

ALL FUNCTIONS WITH EXCEPTION OF THE BUS TOURS WILL BE HELD AT THE BOULDERS CONFERENCE CENTER.

Copy your registration form and check for your records. Hotel reservations are due no later than September 4.

PLEASE HAVE THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE TO IRSPA.

Mail to: BARB WUESTERWALD, P.O. BOX 152, MANILLA, IOWA, 51454

NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15

RECOMMENDATION FOR STANDING RULES; NOT A BYLAWS CHANGE

We need committee members!

In review of the Constitution & Bylaws, there are no guidelines for committee membership in any of the Membership, Legislative, Supportive Services, Health Care Advocacy, and Constitution & Bylaws standing committees.

Budget & Finance, Insurance (Benefits), and Nominating Committee membership have been structured differently than other Standing Committees over the years per State Directories. Budget & Finance consists of the Executive Committee. Insurance (Benefits) consists of the Executive Committee and AMBA representatives. The Nominating Committee consists of the District Coordinators as stated in the Constitution & Bylaws.

Since there are limited guidelines for committee membership on the noted committees, ***the Constitution and Bylaws committee moved the following policy be approved by the Executive Board at their April Board Meeting:***

SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF IRSPA COMMITTEES

- *Each local unit will recommend local unit members to serve on IRSPA committees at the District Meeting. (This will be a new item to the District Meeting Agenda.)*
- *IRSPA Committee members will be determined at each spring District Meeting by attending units through nominations and vote.*
- *Terms will be for two years with reappointment for two more years.*
- *Each District will recommend members to serve for three years beginning in 2019-2020 to create an alternating membership for three committees. (See charts below.)*
- *Each District will recommend members to serve for two years beginning in 2019-2020 to create an alternating membership for alternating committees. (See charts below.)*
- *The upcoming President-Elect will recommend appointment of new committee members at the Executive Board Meeting in October for announcement of appointments at the Annual Meeting when the President-Elect becomes President.*

Districts One, Three, and Five

Committee	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Constitution & Bylaws					
Health-Care Advocacy					
Legislative					
Membership					
Public Relations					
Supportive Services					

Districts Two, Four, and Six.

Committee	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Constitution & Bylaws					
Health-Care Advocacy					
Legislative					

Committee	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Membership					
Public Relations					
Supportive Services					

The motion was approved. Committee members were solicited at District Meetings.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES FOR APPROVAL AT THE OCTOBER 3, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING.

The following Edits and Additions are being recommended for approval at the Annual Meeting in Denison on October 3, 2019.

1. ELIMINATION OF NRTA MEMBERSHIP

The following bylaws change is recommended to take effect at the end of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

MOTION: *The Committee moves to eliminate the requirement for officer membership in NRTA.*

Rationale: This bylaw has not been monitored. Membership is now open to anyone who has worked in a school and/or supports education. Originally, IRSPA was exclusive to teachers.

Current	Recommended Changes
ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS Section 3. Eligibility To be eligible to hold an office in the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association, a person must be a member in good standing in a local unit, the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association and NRTA, AARP's Educator Community.	ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS Section 3. Eligibility To be eligible to hold an office in the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association, a person must be a member in good standing in a local unit and the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association. and NRTA, AARP's Educator Community.

2. EDIT A SECTION

The following bylaws change is recommended to take effect at the end of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

MOTION 2.a.: *The Committee moves to edit IRSP Association to IRSPA.*

Rationale: IRPS Association is not recognized in the Constitution and Bylaws as a correct name for IRSPA.

MOTION 2.b.: *The Committee moves to add AARP and AMBA as additional leaders, programs, and goals to add to this (5.) duty of the President*

Rationale: IRPSA has strong connections with AARP and AMBA as well as NRTA. NRTA was founded by Ethel Percy Andrus to help retired teachers in retirement. NRTA eventually founded the American Association for Retired Persons which now recognized solely as AARP. AMBA has served as IRSPA's benefits provider for 17+ years. It is essential that the President as well as other officers know the people associated with these organizations which support IRSPA.

Current	Recommended Changes
ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS Section 5. A. Duties of the President (5) Provide opportunities for the President-Elect to become acquainted with IRSP Association and NRTA leaders, programs and goals.	ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS Section 5. A. Duties of the President (5) Provide opportunities for the President-Elect to become acquainted with IRSPA, AARP, AMBA and NRTA leaders, programs and goals.

3. ADD HISTORIAN TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The following bylaws change is recommended to take effect at the end of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

MOTION: *The Committee moves to add Historian to the Office of the Secretary.*

Rationale: At the 2018 Annual Meeting, the Committee of "Historian" was added to the duties of the Secretary. Since this is now a combined position, the bylaws should so reflect this change.

Current	Recommended Changes
ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS Section 5. D. Duties of Secretary	ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS Section 5. D. Duties of Secretary / Historian

4. RENAME AND REORDER COMMITTEES

The following bylaws changes are recommended to take effect at the end of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

MOTION 4.a.: *The Committee moves to change the name of the Insurance Committee to Benefits Committee.*

Rationale: In the past, the Insurance Committee appeared to work specifically with the dental benefits. Since our relationship with AMBA has been enhanced, it appears that Benefits Committee would appear to be more reflective of our opportunities for more benefits than just dental insurance.

MOTION 4.b.: *The Committee moves to change the name of the Public Relations (Publicity) Committee to Public Relations Committee.*

Rationale: Potato vs Potatoe. Public Relations and Publicity are synonyms. The title is redundant.

MOTION 4.c.: The Committee moves to place the Committee names in alphabetical order as names change and committees are added or deleted.

Rationale: It looks more professional to have a list in alphabetical order. This will allow for an automatic change in the bylaws without bring an editorial motion to the assembly.

Current	Recommended Changes
ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES Section 1. Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the organization shall be: A. Membership B. Legislative C. Supportive Services D. Public Relations (Publicity) E. Health-Care Advocacy F. Budget & Finance G. Constitution & Bylaws H. Insurance I. Nominating	ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES Section 1. Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the organization shall be: A. Benefits B. Budget & Finance C. Constitution & Bylaws D. Health-Care Advocacy E. Legislative F. Membership G. Nominating H. Public Relations I. Supportive Services

5. ADDITION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following bylaws change is recommended to take effect at the end of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

MOTION: The Committee moves to add the AMBA Representative to IRSPA to the list of Executive Board Members.

Rationale: Action was taken by the Executive Board in 2018 to add the AMBA Representative to the Executive Board. Bylaws need to be adjusted.

EDITORIAL: To clean the bylaws section, if there are no objections, *the AARP Representative to the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association* be changed to *the AARP Representative to IRPSA* to align with the motion to add AMBA.

Current	Recommended Changes
ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS Section 2. Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Committee, the AARP Representative to the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association, and Chairs of the Standing Committees.	ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS Section 2. Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Committee, the AARP Representative to IRPSA, the AMBA Representative to IRSPA, and Chairs of the Standing Committees.

Volunteer Hours are DUE NOW

As your State IRSPA Supportive Services Coordinators, we have asked that all members keep track and write down their volunteer hours during the year. Some units did not meet in the summer months and have already collected and turned in their hours. Members need to turn in their volunteer hours NOW to their local units so that the local volunteer hour coordinators can get these totaled and email them to us by the end of August. We report all hours by mid September and get them turned in to the National. Our volunteer hours year began on September 1, 2018 and continued through August 31, 2019. Your hours are to be divided into two categories: Youth and Education and Community and then the total. It is important to keep volunteer hours as they are important for local communities when applying for and obtaining grants.

Any time a member works for no pay or no reimbursement, they should keep track of that time. Examples of YOUTH and EDUCATION are: working in and with public or private schools, Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H, baby sitting your grandchildren or other kids. You may also count the time it takes you to drive to and from the baby sitting work. Youth programs, working with speech and drama students, being an aide during testing, assisting in music with youth,

spelling bees, Kids Against Hunger Program, Dollars for Scholars work, Child Development Centers, Children's Shelters, GED programs, testing sites, Scholarship Committees, etc, all count.

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

Thank you for the time you spend volunteering.

Sandy & Jay Thede
Supportive Services IRSPA

TO SERVE, AND NOT TO BE SERVED

The district meetings in Sioux City and in Davenport profiled two women who embodied the values that are embedded in IRSP's philosophy. Their commitment to education, service, and community serves as an inspiration and as a reminder to our members that we are viable and valuable community assets. Dr. Andrus believed that, "Old age is not a defeat, but a victory-not a punishment, but a privilege."

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus 1884-1967

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus founded AARP in 1956. This remarkable educator:

- Graduated from the University of Chicago in 1903.
- She believed in free college education for working class people and for hands-on learning experiences.
- As a young teacher, she worked to improve conditions for immigrants and other marginalized citizens.
- In 1910, she moved to California, and at age 32 she became that state's first female high school principal
- She worked to raise academic standards, put students to work in community outreach programs, and brought policemen into the school as "big brothers."
- In 1930, she earned PhD; her dissertation advocated for equal rights for all in body, mind, and spirit while focusing on female education.
- She retired in 1944 with a pension of \$60 a month, but her concern for retired educators was galvanized when she found a colleague living in a former chicken coop.
- In 1947 she founded the National Retired Teachers Association which is now a part of AARP.



- She actively promoted AARP until her death at age 83-the same year that AARP membership reached 1 million members.

- She urged retirees to remain active, to pursue new passions, to travel, and most of all to use their skills and experience to serve their communities.

Phebe Sudlow 1831-1922

Phebe Sudlow was an Iowa teacher and a warrior in the fight for equal gender rights. This education pioneer:

- Began teaching at the age of 15 in Ohio.
- Moved to Scott County, Iowa in 1856 and continued teaching.
- In 1860, she was the principal of two Davenport schools.
- In 1874, Sudlow became the first woman in the United States to be appointed a school superintendent.
- She successfully lobbied for equal pay for female teachers. This set a precedent that impacted many Iowa and national school systems.
- She became the first female president of the Iowa State Teachers Association in 1876.
- Despite having only an honorary degree, she was the first female professor at the University of Iowa.
- Her volunteer work included founding the first Women's Missionary Society west of the Mississippi, raising funds for a public library in Davenport, and promoting support for working women through what is now Family Resources, Inc.



by Toni Hood

BYLAWS

All units need to review their bylaws and send them by "snail mail" or digitally to Mary Jo O'Connell. All unit bylaws need to include a Dissolution Article which is often the last article. Units can paraphrase the following: "Disposition of assets in the event of dissolution of the IRSPA unit (use your unit name) shall be transferred to IRSPA, the AARP Foundation, a local scholarship fund, or any educational or civic nonprofit entity." Assets cannot be transferred to individuals.

Mary Jo O'Connell: 1700 Avoca Street,
Dubuque, IA 52001 moconnell12@msn.com

Don't Forget The Annual Meeting!

October 2 & 3, 2019

Annual Meeting & Conference
Denison, Iowa

- Executive Board Meeting
on October 2, 2019
- IRSPA Business Meeting
on October 3, 2019

District 5 • JASPER COUNTY

At the April meeting of the Jasper County Retired School Personnel Association members enjoyed good food and conversation at a potluck salad luncheon.

Following the business meeting, the Newton High School Chamber Choir (pictured below) under the direction of Rudy Kammel performed several selections.

This ended a year long celebration of the 45th Anniversary of JCRSPA.

by Sandra Prendergast



District 6 • CRAWFORD COUNTY

Planning for State Meeting and Hearing About Cruise to Hawaii Highlight February IRSPA Meeting

The regular meeting of the Crawford County Retired School Personnel Association was held on February 22, 2019 at Cronk's Café at 1:00 p.m.

President Judy Jepsen welcomed the members. After the prayer we enjoyed our lunch served by Cronk's. After lunch President Judy called the meeting to order. We said the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was then answered by 19 members. The response was to tell what type of a valentine box you had made as a child. The minutes from the last meeting were read and the Treasurer's report was given. Both reports were approved. The town reports were given and the volunteer clipboard was passed around.

For the unfinished business Judy reminded us to keep checking to see if any retirees would be interested in our group.

For new business we discussed the upcoming State Meeting that we will be hosting in October. Many ideas were shared. We then decided to have another planning meeting March 27 at noon at Cronk's.

Our speaker, Jinny Rasmussen, then gave an interesting and informative talk about their recent trip to Hawaii.

Judy thanked Jinny Rasmussen, Sandy Sharp, and Barb Songer for taking care of today's committee obligations. The next meeting will be April 26, 2019 with Judy Evers, Cyndy McGrane, and Connie Volkman as hostesses. The meeting was then adjourned.

Rhonda Christensen, Secretary

Hearing About Local Photography Business and More Planning for October State Meeting Highlight April Meeting

The regular meeting of the Crawford County Retired School Personnel Association was held on April 26, 2019 at Cronk's Café at 1:00 p.m.

President Judy Jepsen welcomed the members. After the prayer we enjoyed our lunch served by Cronk's. After lunch our guest speaker, Angie Carlyle, presented an interesting program on her photography business. President Judy then called the meeting to order. We said the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was then answered by 21 members. The response was to tell a memory you had about one of your proms. The minutes from the last meeting were read and the Treasurer's report was given. Both reports were approved. The town reports were given and the volunteer clipboard was passed around.

For the unfinished business Judy reminded us to keep checking to see if any retirees from our respective former school faculties would be interested in joining our group.

For new business we discussed the upcoming State Meeting that we will be hosting in October. We were updated as to what plans had been completed and what we still needed to do. We were reminded about and encouraged to attend the upcoming district meeting to be held in Sioux City on May 21.

Judy thanked Cyndy McGrane, Judy Evers, and Connie Volkman for taking care of today's committee obligations. The next meeting will be June 28, 2019 with Joan Swenson, Mary Koenig, and Esta Denton as hostesses. The meeting was then adjourned.

(All retired school personnel are welcome to join our group as our year starts up again in October. Dues are only \$15 for state and \$5.00 local and you don't have to pay at your first meeting. Call Cronk's before the 28th and tell them to add one to the total of meals for that day.)

Rhonda Christensen, Secretary

District 6 • LEE COUNTY

The Lee County Retired School Personnel Association completed the 2018-2019 year with Programs presented by the Keokuk School District music program, a tour of Israel, and the Necrology Service was held in memory of those who passed away in the last two years. This included Ramona Lewiston, Kathleen Martin, Aurelia Martinez, Cynthia Smith and Marjorie Templeton.

The past two years we have been able to add several men to our membership and continue working to get other retired school personnel to join. We also

continue to support students entering the teaching profession with our scholarships, this year Allison Hasek and Brooke Finney of Central Lee High School and Corgan Ball of Keokuk High School were selected. At the end of each meeting we have our auction to raise the funds to support this program. Items sold are donated by the members of the Association.

During the summer our Executive Board met and made plans for 2019-2020, located the places and programs for each meeting. Most of the meetings are held in churches in the three school communities. Programs scheduled for this next year include a report on the Underground Railroad of South East Iowa presented by Cathy and Dave Helman, The Trumpeter Swans by Stefanie Paeg, Music by the Keokuk High School Vocal Music Department, AARP – Scam Alert by Chuck Betts and The Illiniwek Settlement located near St Francisville MO, with additional programs to be announced later.

Current Officers of the Lee County Retired School Personnel Association for the coming year include President-Sally Barrett, Vice President-Gretchen Kircher, Secretary-Janet Dinkel and Treasurer-Judy Bartachek. Other committees include Legislative-Howard Carter, Public Relations-Janis Carter, Health Care Advocacy-Laetitia Rotter, Attendance-Carolyn Brewer, History-Janet Dinkel, Necrology-Ruth Buelt, Alice Hawes & Pam Strong, Newsletter- Howard Carter, Scholarship-Mitzi Jessen, Lynda Levai & Gretchen Kirchner and Volunteer Hours- Janet Dinkel. All members are to serve as the Membership Committee to encourage adding new members.

by Howard Carter

District 6 • JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Jefferson County Unit of IRSPA ended the 2018-2019 season with a potluck moneymaker and a double hitter. How do you make a potluck a moneymaker? It's simple. Just bring your own food to a potluck, but then pay the regular amount at the door to eat. Cook one dish, pay for the meal, and then sit, relax, and enjoy the guest speaker. It's a lot easier than a bake sale!

And to end this year, we had not one, but two guest speakers—a double hitter! Our first speaker was Gloria Countryman, a retired teacher from the Fairfield district, and she entertained members with a lot of information about Iowa country schools. In 1900, there were 19,000 of them in the state; now there are 400 of them, some barely standing. One class taught daily in an old country school was orthography. Ever have that class? Maybe it was called spelling when you studied it.

The second speaker was Dr. Laurie Noll, the superintendent of Fairfield School District, who gave us an overview of the latest changes and improvements in the district. It was a good day to compare the old and the new.

Michele Weber, Secretary



District 6 • JOHNSON COUNTY

The Johnson County Unit of IRSPA celebrated a successful year of fun, fellowship, and field trips. We began by hosting the state's annual meeting in October. For those that attended the evening banquet, who could forget the steel drum ensemble that inspired a majority to dance in the aisle? Members attending the bus tours enjoyed the Kinnick Press Box, Hawkeye Hall of Fame, Hancher Auditorium, and the Big Grove Brewery.

Representative Mary Mascher, who serves on the IPERS board, is a JCRSP member and keeps us up to date on what is happening in the legislature and with IPERS.

Some of our programs this year included historical downtown Iowa City buildings, an aging specialist, and virtual reality.

Our monthly field trips took us to the Anamosa Penitentiary Museum, "Guts and Glory" at the National Czech and Slovak Museum, the Swedish Mu-

seum in Swedesburg, and the Iowa Baseball Museum in Norway, IA.

We also attended a U of I Women's Basketball Game and a Kernel's Baseball Game in Cedar Rapids.

by Jan Tschantz

In Memory John Raffensperger

John Raffensperger, a longtime member of the Johnson County RSP, passed away on April 22, 2019. For over 35 years, John was a teacher and track coach at City High in Iowa City.

He was past president of the Track Coaches Association of Iowa, honorary member of the University of Iowa Varsity Club, Iowa Track Coaches Hall of Fame, University of Northern Iowa Hall of Fame, City High Hall of Fame, nine time winner of the State of Iowa Coach of the year, and National Coach of the Year in 2000.



District 6 • HENRY COUNTY

Henry County Retired School Personnel Association (HCRSP) has had some interesting and enjoyable meetings. A variety to be sure, and educational.

In October, Joanne Ancell gave a talk on weighted blankets. From easing the symptoms of autism spectrum disorder to helping insomniacs get the sleep they need, weighted blankets may help address a host of health problems. Studies have shown that weighted blankets can produce a calming effect on children and adults with autism, ADHD, sensory processing disorders. These blankets can also reduce anxiety. Weighing between five and 20 pounds (10% of body weight), these blankets are said to make the individual feel cozy and secure. Most blankets are made with 6x6-inch stitched squares filled with tiny glass or plastic beads. The outer fabric can be any color, patterns and fabrics such as cotton, flannel, and polyester.

Ms. Ancell stated that the blankets were created to help students in school at no cost. Materials are obtained through donations and volunteers create them for all ages and sizes. Informative to HCRSPA, several members obtained patterns and guides to make their own.

November brought Jean Peiton, Fort Madison Tourism and Marketing Coordinator, who spoke on the Historic State Penitentiary. The Iowa State Prison now stands empty for the first time in 175 years. Steps are being taken to re-purpose, preserve and sustain the site. There are a variety of stories, folklore and photographs that chronicle the prison. It had served as the oldest continually used prison west of the Mississippi River. The mission statement is "We are dedicated to

the development, preservation, and promotion of the Historic Iowa State Penitentiary a nationally significant asset, for education, economic, historic, and community purposes."



(Photo shows the oldest part of the ISP, circa 1839)

Another day trip was to our local AEA, Great Prairie Area Education Association in Burlington. Dr. Sally Lindgren, Director of Technology and Innovations presented our group with the classroom for the 21st Century. Known as Room 21C, it is the result of redesigned learning efforts to create a learning environment specifically designed to promote both collaborative and

personalized learning through the use of technology. Known as the 4C's (communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity), these factors that are linked to improved student achievement and career success. The learning space integrates the three essentials for classroom design:

- The classroom furniture must be mobile and flexible.
- Each collaborative area must have access to a digital display.
- Each collaborative area must have a writable surface.



Digital media is a primary ingredient in promoting understanding and engagement with content. It was an educational session for all. I might add, there is no front of the classroom, no teacher's desk. Everything is movable to encourage group work and interaction.

For our March meeting, Mount Pleasant School Superintendent, John Henricksen, spoke to the group on a school update: What's Up with Schools? Mr. Henricksen spoke on the many changes occurring at the school and talked of what was coming. Such things as security were included. He also spoke on becoming a volunteer in the local school system.

Kurt Sempf, from Alliant Energy, spoke in April on Energy. Alliant Energy provides electric and natural gas service to customers and communities throughout Iowa. Mr. Sempf talked about a new program becoming available through Alliant Energy via the Internet to see the efficiency of your own home. He answered a variety of questions from the group.

The month of May brought a trip to Fairfield and the Maasdam Farms. Two barns were built in 1910 to house Percheron horses. Milking barn followed in 1906. Museum, welcome center, gift shop. Exhibits on Evergreen Ridge Stock Farm show the history of horse sales, and history and products of the Loudon Machinery Company and a local wagon builder wagon. From 1910 until 1938 the owner of this farm, J. G. Maasdam, was a prominent importer and breeder of award-winning Belgian, Percheron and other draft horses. Horses were of great importance in powering the then improving farm equipment.

Although focused on the three historic barns, the Museum was created with displays, photos, artifacts, and stories about the Maasdam families history. Also included is information about early Fairfield industries, particularly related to agriculture. Of importance is that the barns were equipped with Loudon overhead monorail hay carriers, which were first developed and

manufactured by the Loudon Machinery Company in Fairfield. The Loudon overhead monorail system is still used throughout the world in agriculture, but more importantly, in industry.

July was a very interesting program presented by a Dementia Specialist Tamara Hogberg, a volunteer from the Alzheimer's Association. She spoke on both dementia and Alzheimer. Ms. Hogberg provided valuable information on both the client and the caregiver of those individuals inflicted with the syndrome. Dementia is a syndrome, not a disease. A syndrome is a group of symptoms that doesn't have a definitive diagnosis. Dementia is a group of symptoms that affects mental cognitive tasks such as memory and reasoning. Dementia is an umbrella term that Alzheimer's disease can fall under. It can occur due to a variety of conditions, the most common is Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease gets worse with time and affects memory, language and thought.

Linda Johnson
lindamae65@yahoo.com

District 6 DAVENPORT AREA UNIT

In May the Davenport area was flooded when Mississippi waters reached a record high level. We were also flooded with visitors as we hosted the IRSPA District 6 spring meeting on May 7. To all who attended and gave of themselves to make the meeting possible—especially District Coordinator Linda Miller—we send our gratitude!

When DARSPA met for our regular meeting on May 14, memories flooded our minds. As is our unit's custom, we paused to remember the lives and service of nine members who passed away during the year.

Members brought a flood of diapers for the "Student Success Store" at our local Eastern Iowa Community College. Such items support a unique attendance incentive plan established for non-traditional students at the Fairmount EICC site. Our members stepped up to help!

A flood of extraordinary sounds filled our meeting space when singers from Pleasant Valley High School presented their award-winning solo and ensemble selections. As they performed, the vital role of fine arts in our schools could not have been more evident!

We were also flooded with words of thanks to outgoing officers and support for those assuming or continuing in leadership positions.

Mississippi waters eventually receded, and we look forward to gathering together again in September!

Linda Baustian, Secretary

Never think you are not a Hero...Because at the end of the day you were a Hero to Someone!

District 2 • MASON CITY AREA RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHERS



The Mason City Unit on our June Day Car Pool Trip to Winnebago Industries in Forest City, IA.

Pictured above is the entire group that went in front of one of the first Winnebago models.



Also pictured is Sandy Thede (on right) along with invited friend Marlene Brown (left). by Sandy Thede

While everyone else was meeting, greeting, and eating at the District 2 meeting, Robert Swanson, was cheerfully tending to business.



Thank You....

IRSPA would like to say thank you to
Chris Campidilli
for the outstanding job as President
for the last two years.
It was very much appreciated.

Newsletter

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.
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Happy Harvest Time!

WE REMEMBER

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Anderson, Theo	Boone, IA	Boone County Unit
Britton, Molly	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster City Unit
Brown, Shirley	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster City Unit
Budach, Kathryn	Estherville, IA	Estherville Area Unit
Dick, Marv	Adel, IA	Webster City Unit
Emerson, John	Ogden, IA	Boone County Unit
Esch, Don	Homer, NE	Sioux City Area Unit
Huseman, Joyce	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster City Unit
Johnson, Darlene	Tijeras, NM	Jasper County Unit
Mitchell, David	Cedar Rapids, IA	Mason City Unit
Permar, Bert	Marshalltown, IA	Marshall County Unit
Raffensperger, John	Iowa City, IA	Johnson County Unit
Rasmussen, Donald (Gene)	St Paul, MN	DMARSPA Unit
Sentman, Jeanne	Cedar Rapids, IA	Cedar Rapids Area Unit
Smith, Marvin	Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Area Unit

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

LEGISLATIVE FUND

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

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