

The Basics of the



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IRTA

Illinois Retired Teachers Association

Investing in the future of retired educators.



Mission Statement

"The Illinois Retired Teachers Association is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization of retired educators. The Association serves the needs and interests of its members through advocacy, education, cooperation and socialization in a flexible organizational structure."

Advantages of IRTA Membership

Advocacy....Awareness....Socialization....Products and Services

1. Serves as a "watchdog" on the state legislature and monitors the progress (or lack) of those bills that directly affect retired teachers.
2. Represented in the General Assembly by the executive director and lobbyist.
3. Offers a wide range of member benefits from reduced insurance rates to travel savings, to medical and financial aid, to dental plans, to auto insurance, to computer discounts, plus many other benefits.
4. Makes available the services and vast resources of the IRTA office in Springfield for research, data, statistics, and information.
5. Keeps members topically informed through the IRTA's *Action Bulletin*.
6. Offers financial assistance through the IRTA Foundation.
7. Puts members in direct contact with other retired teachers through the 93 individual IRTA Units throughout the state.
8. Keeps members informed and up-to-date via its website: www.irtaonline.org
9. Allows for instantaneous messaging to your local legislators on issues that affect teachers through the use of VoterVOICE.

Contact Information

IRTA

828 S 2nd ST 4 FL
Springfield, IL 62704-2651
800-728-4782 or 217-523-8488
217-523-8493 (Fax)



Website: www.irtaonline.org

E-mail: irta@irtaonline.org

TRS Contact Information

trs.illinois.gov

Phone Number

For Springfield and Lisle: 800-877-7896

Springfield Phone Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm Monday, Wednesday,
Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 pm
Tuesday and Thursday (central standard
time)

Lisle Phone Hours

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through
Friday (central standard time)

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
(TDD for the hearing impaired):

866-326-0087

Fax

Springfield: 217-787-2269
Lisle: 630-505-9607

Forms Order Line

800-877-7896, option 2

TRS Addresses

Springfield Office Address
2815 West Washington Springfield, IL 62702

Springfield Mailing Address

Teachers' Retirement System P.O. Box
19253 Springfield, IL 62794-9253

Lisle Mailing/Office Address

Teachers' Retirement System
4200 Commerce Court, Suite 101
Lisle, IL 60532-3611

Office Hours

Springfield and Lisle Office Hours 8:30 a.m.
to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (central
standard time) Closed on holidays.

Illinois Department of Central Management Services

CMS

CMS- Central Management Services

800.442.1300

Website: www2.illinois.gov

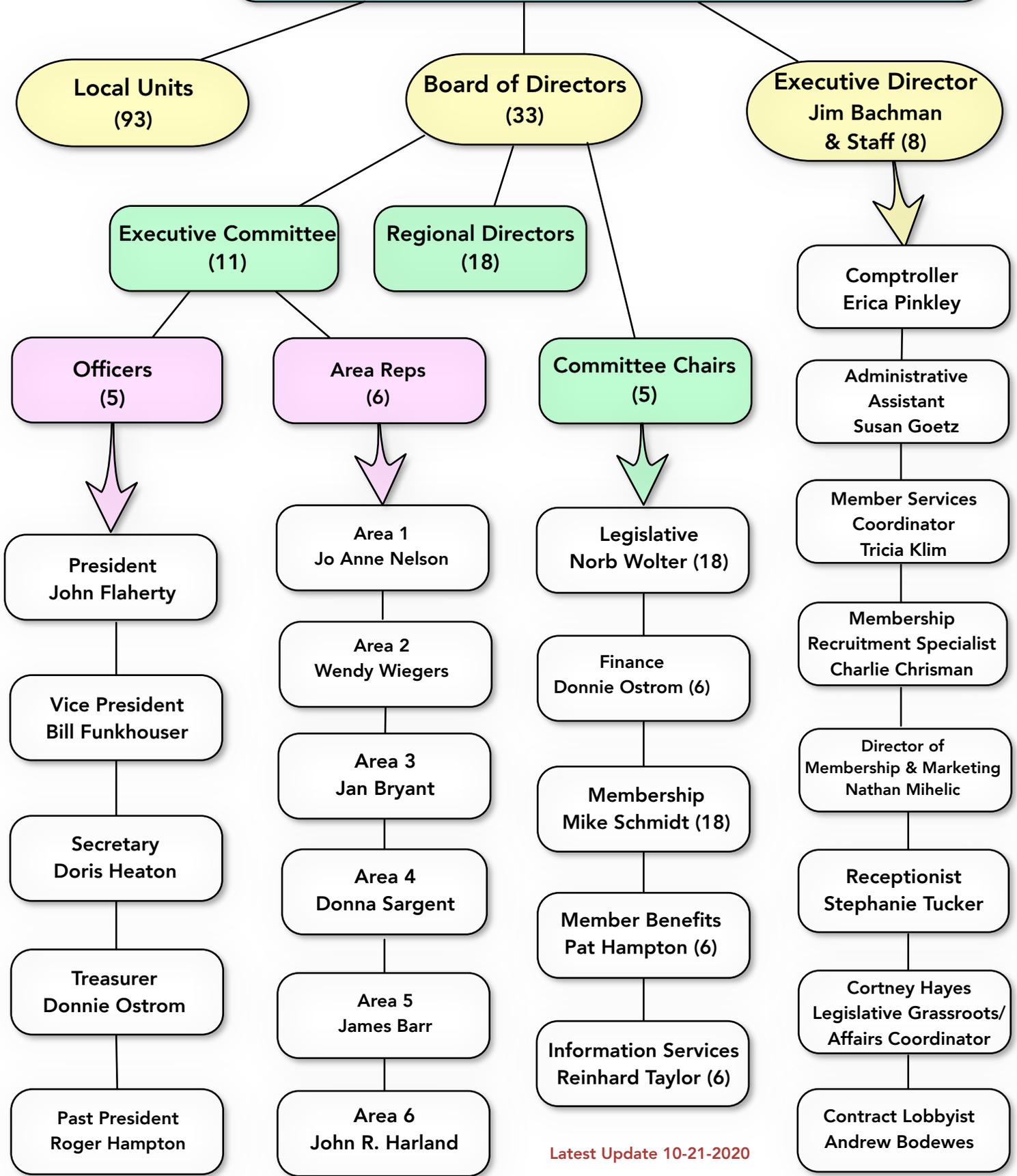
E-mail: cmsinfo@mail.state.il.us

**Health Insurance Questions
Regarding Coverage or
Benefits**



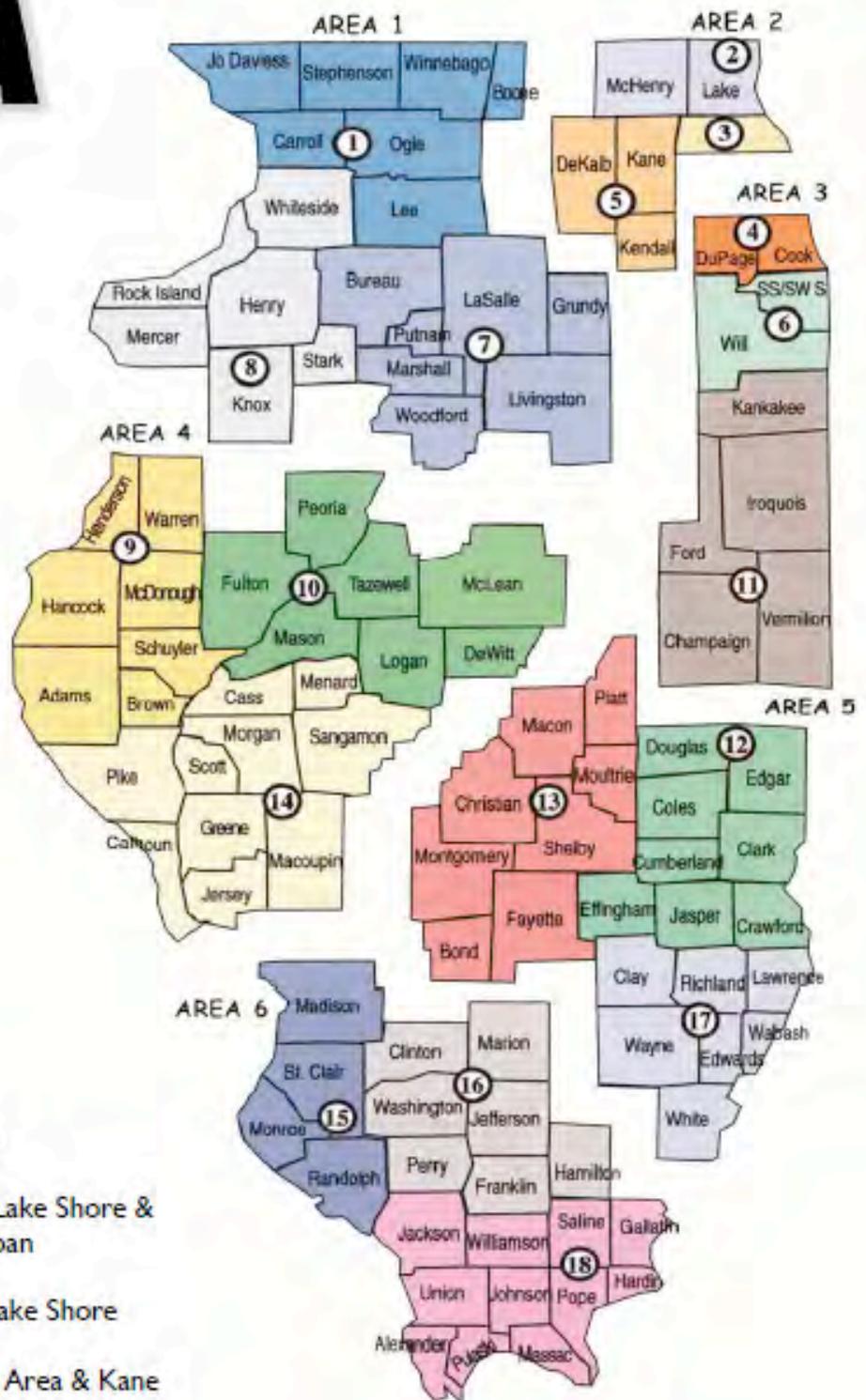
Illinois Retired Teachers Association

Over 39,200 members



Latest Update 10-21-2020

IRTA



IRTA Map Key for Local Units

Region 3: Cook County - North Lake Shore & Cook County - NorthWest Suburban

Region 4: Cook County - West Lake Shore

Region 5: Kane County - Aurora Area & Kane County - Elgin Area

Region 6: Will County - Joliet Area

Region 8: Rock Island County - Blackhawk

Region 13: Macon County - Decatur Area

Region 14: Sangamon County - Land of Lincoln

Home Page of the IRTA Website: www.irtaonline.org

Click here to log in and
see more choices.
Or create your own log-in.



Association | Foundation | PAC | **Members Only**

- My Account
- Account Settings
- Username/Password

ASSOCIATION

Let's get together.



[LEARN MORE](#)

[LIVE CHAT](#)

Current Unit Websites

Area	Region	Unit	Unit Name	
1	1	2	Jo Daviess County	jdrta.weebly.com
1	1	3	Ogle-Lee Counties	ogleleertaonline.weebly.com
1	1	6	Winnebago County	winnebagocountyрта.org
1	1	57	Boone County	boonerta.weebly.com
1	7	9	Grundy County	gcрта.weebly.com
1	7	12	LaSalle County	lscrта.org
1	7	29	Bureau County	bureaucountyрта.weebly.com
1	7	38	Livingston County	livcорта.weebly.com
1	8	5	Whiteside County	whitesiderta.weebly.com
1	8	21	Blackhawk RTA (Rock Island County)	blackhawkirta21.weebly.com
1	8	24	Henry-Stark Counties RTA	henrystarkretiredteachers.weebly.com
1	8	27	Knox County	knoxcountyрта.weebly.com
2	2	11	Lake County RTA	lcrта.org
2	2	13	McHenry County	mcrта.org

Current Unit Websites

Area	Region	Unit	Unit Name	Website
2	3	18	North Lake Shore RTA (Cook County)	nlsrta.org
2	3	90	Northwest Suburban-Unit 90 (Cook County)	irta-unit90.org
2	5	7	Aurora Area RTA (Kane County)	auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org
2	5	8	DeKalb County	dekalbcountyretiredteachersassoc.weebly.com
2	5	10	Kendall County	kendallrta.weebly.com
2	5	15	Elgin Area RTA (Kane County)	earta.org
3	4	14	DuPage County	dupageirta.weebly.com
3	4	20	West Lake Shore RTA (Cook County)	wlsu.weebly.com
3	6	19	South Suburban RTA (Cook County)	http://www.ssртаunit19.com
3	6	91	Southwest Suburban RTA (Cook County)	swirta.weebly.com
3	11	17	Kankakee County	kcrtaweb.weebly.com
3	11	35	Champaign County	ccrtaweb.weebly.com
4	9	28	Warren County	warrencountyrta.weebly.com
4	9	46	Schuyler-Brown Counties	schuylerbrownrta.weebly.com

Current Unit Websites

Area	Region	Unit	Unit Name	
4	10	30	Fulton County	fultoncountyrta.weebly.com
4	10	31	Mason County	masoncountyrta.weebly.com
4	10	32	Peoria Area (Peoria County)	pa-rta.weebly.com
4	10	33	Tazewell County	tcrta.weebly.com
4	10	39	McLean County	mcleancountyrta.weebly.com
4	10	50	DeWitt-Logan Counties	dlrta.weebly.com
4	14	42	Greene-Jersey Counties	greenejerseyrta.weebly.com
4	14	43	Land of Lincoln (Menard and Sangamon Counties)	llrta.weebly.com
4	14	47	Morgan-Scott Counties	morganscotttrta.weebly.com
5	12	55	Coles County	colescountyrta.org
5	12	58	Douglas County	dcrta.weebly.com
5	12	60	Effingham County	ecrt.weebly.com
5	13	53	Shelby County	shelbycountyretiredteachers.com
5	13	70	Bond County (disbanded 5/26/2020)	bondrta.weebly.com

Current Unit Websites

Area	Region	Unit	Unit Name	
5	17	63	Richland County	itrarichland.weebly.com
6	15	73	Madison County I	madco1irta.weebly.com
6	15	74	Madison County II	tidingsonline.weebly.com
6	15	75	Madison County III	mcrtaunit3.weebly.com
6	15	76	Randolph County	irtarandolphco.weebly.com
6	15	77	St. Clair County	stclaircountyirta.weebly.com
6	15	89	Monroe County	mcrta.weebly.com
6	16	66	Jefferson County	jeffcorta.weebly.com
6	16	71	Clinton County	ccrta.weebly.com
6	16	84	Perry County RTA	perrycountyretiredteachersassociation.com
6	18	81	Gallatin-Saline Counties	gallatinsaline.weebly.com
6	18	82	Jackson County	jcrtaweebly.com
6	18	86	Williamson County	williamsoncountyrta.weebly.com

Areas, Regions, Units and Websites

Area 1

Region 1

1	Carroll County	
2	Jo Daviess County	jdrta.weebly.com
3	Ogle-Lee County	ogleleerta.weebly.com
4	Stephenson County	
6	Winnebago County	winnebagocountyrta.org
57	Boone County	boonerta.weebly.com

Region 7

9	Grundy County	gcrta.weebly.com
12	LaSalle County	lscrta.weebly.com
29	Bureau County	bureaucountyirta.weebly.com
34	Woodford County	
38	Livingston County	livcorta.weebly.com
97	Marshall Putnam County	

Region 8

5	Whiteside County	whitesiderta.weebly.com
21	Blackhawk RTA (Rock Island County)	blackhawkirta21.weebly.com
24	Henry-Stark Counties RTA	henrystarkretiredteachers.weebly.com
26	Mercer County	
27	Knox County	knoxcountyrta.weebly.com

Area 2

Region 2

11	Lake County RTA	lcrta.com
13	McHenry County	mccta.org

Region 3

18	North Lake Shore RTA (Cook County)	nlsrta.org
90	Northwest Suburban - Unit 90 (Cook County)	irta-unit90.org

Region 5

7	Aurora Area RTA (Kane County)	auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org
8	DeKalb County	dekalbcountyretiredteachersassoc.weebly.com
10	Kendall County	kendallrta.weebly.com
15	Elgin Area RTA (Kane County)	earta.org/

Areas, Regions, Units and Websites (continued)

Area 3

Region 4

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 14 | DuPage County | dupageirta.weebly.com |
| 20 | West Lake Shore RTA
(Cook County) | wlsu.weebly.com |

Region 6

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 16 | Joliet Area
(Will County) | |
| 19 | South Suburban RTA
(Cook County) | ssrtaunit19.com |
| 91 | Southwest Suburban RTA
(Cook County) | swirta.weebly.com |

Region 11

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 17 | Kankakee County | kcrta.weebly.com |
| 35 | Champaign County | ccrtaweb.weebly.com/ |
| 36 | Ford County | |
| 37 | Iroquois County | |
| 40 | Vermilion County | |

Area 4

Region 9

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 22 | Hancock County | |
| 23 | Henderson County | |
| 25 | McDonough County | |
| 28 | Warren County | warrencountyrta.weebly.com |
| 41 | Adams County | |
| 46 | Schuyler-Brown County | schuylerbrownrta.weebly.com |

Region 10

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 30 | Fulton County | fultoncountyrta.weebly.com |
| 31 | Mason County | masoncountyrta.weebly.com |
| 32 | Peoria Area
(Peoria County) | pa-rta.weebly.com |
| 33 | Tazewell County | tcrtaweebly.com |
| 39 | McLean County | mcleancountyrta.weebly.com |
| 50 | DeWitt-Logan County | dlrta.weebly.com |

Areas, Regions, Units and Websites (continued)

Region 14

42	Greene-Jersey County	greenejerseyrta.weebly.com
43	Land of Lincoln (Menard and Sangamon Counties)	llrta.weebly.com
44	Macoupin County	
45	Pike-Calhoun County	
47	Morgan-Scott County	morganscotttrta.weebly.com
98	Cass County	

Area 5

Region 12

54	Clark County	
55	Coles County	colescountyrta.org
56	Crawford County	
58	Douglas County	dcrta.weebly.com
59	Edgar County	
60	Effingham County	ecrt.weebly.com
61	Jasper County	

Region 13

48	Christian County	
49	Decatur Area RTA (Macon County)	
51	Montgomery County	
52	Moultrie County	
53	Shelby County	shelbycountyretiredteachers.com
70	Bond County (disbanded 5/26/2020)	bondrta.weebly.com
72	Fayette County	
92	Piatt County	

Region 17

62	Lawrence County	
63	Richland County	itrarichland.weebly.com
64	Clay County	
68	Wabash-Edwards County	
69	Wayne County	
87	White County	

Areas, Regions, Units and Websites (continued)

Area 6

Region 15

73	Madison County I	madco1irta.weebly.com
74	Madison County II	tidingsonline.weebly.com
75	Madison County RTA III	mcrtaint3.weebly.com
76	Randolph County	irtarandolphco.weebly.com
77	St. Clair County	stclaircountyirta.weebly.com/
89	Monroe County	mcrtainta.weebly.com

Region 16

65	Hamilton County	
66	Jefferson County	jeffcorta.weebly.com
67	Marion County	
71	Clinton County	ccrta.weebly.com/index.html
78	Washington County	
80	Franklin County	
84	Perry County RTA	perrycountyretiredteachersassociation.com

Region 18

79	Alexander-Pulaski-Union County	
81	Gallatin-Saline County	gallatinsaline.weebly.com
82	Jackson County	jcrtainta.weebly.com
83	Massac County	
85	Pope-Hardin County	
86	Williamson County	williamsoncountyrta.weebly.com
88	Johnson County	

IRTA is the organization that works exclusively for retired teachers It currently represents over 37,000 members

- ★ For 32 years, the IRTA Foundation has been providing assistance to educators of the past, the present, and is committed to the future. This assistance is due to the generosity of our membership.
- ★ For over 60 years IRTA has upheld the stated purpose of the Association “to maintain and improve benefits to annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System; to promote education and the professional, social, and economic status of all members; and to work in cooperation with other organizations to obtain these goals.”
- ★ There’s no better example of fulfilling the IRTA purpose than the the Illinois Supreme Court victory in the “Heaton” decision that upheld our position that pension benefits are guaranteed and insurance is part of these benefits. We also must recognize the concerns of our active colleagues and will remain supportive of their actions to preserve collective bargaining rights and other rights and benefits.

Major Legislative Accomplishments that the IRTA actively supported

- 1956** A provision allowed retired teachers to substitute-teach without their loss of pension.
- 1957-58** Pensions were increased so that those annuitants with pensions of \$87 per month would now receive \$125 per month. This increase applied to several hundred annuitants with 50 years of experience.
- 1978** The post-retirement annual increase for annuitants with service after July 1, 1969, became 3% (simple).
- 1981** Health insurance and prescription drug insurance plan is instituted.
- 1982** Survivor’s benefit increased to 50% of deceased spouse’s current pension and death benefit set to \$3,000.
- 1984** Active teachers are allowed to count one year of accumulated sick leave toward retirement service.
- 1985** A provision allowed for an elected annuitant on the TRS Board of Trustees.
- 1989** Governor signed into law SB 95, which compounds the 3% annual increase (based on current pensions) for annuitants and survivors and instructs the State to increase contributions to the 5 State-funded pension systems in order to amortize unfunded liabilities, with interest, over a 40-year period.
- 1991** The Legislature approved, and the Governor signed, legislation providing for a 75% subsidy of the health insurance plan, with funding to continue for the teachers’ pension fund.
- 1991** A teacher may purchase up to 2 years retirement credit for military service.
- 1992** The Early Retirement Incentive (5 + 5 Plan) was passed.
- 1993** IRTA seeks health insurance plan for retired educators comparable with health plans for other State-funded retirement systems.
- 1995** IRTA spearheaded legislation (Public Act 88-593) which guaranteed that the pensions would be 90% funded by 2045.

- 1999** IRTA helped negotiate a gubernatorial executive order improving health insurance benefits. Effective July 1, 2000, deductibles for both Teachers Retirement Insurance Plan (TRIP) and Teachers Choice Health Plan (TCHP) were drastically reduced. In addition, TCHP's general out-of-pocket maximum was lowered and co-ordination of Medicare's benefits were improved.
- 2001** Public Act 92-505 was signed into law preventing an 80% health insurance premium increase for retirees.
- 2001** HB 4347 allowed for a second elected annuitant on the TRS Board of Trustees.
- 2004** Representatives of the IRTA worked with the Governor to finalize an extension of the Teacher's Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) with no sunset date.
- 2005** IRTA succeeded in passing legislation (PA94-0691) which prevents the Governor from transferring funds from the Teachers Health Insurance Security Fund to the General Revenue Fund in order to help defray the State's operating costs.
- 2009** IRTA efforts prevented a 25% health insurance (TRIP) premium increase for out-of-state retirees.
- 2010** IRTA VoterVoice efforts (over 3000 e-mails were sent) prevented the General Assembly from passing legislation that would have allowed the State of Illinois to issue IOU's to TRS for the 2011 pension payment.
- 2015** In 2015, the IRTA won the landmark decision by the Illinois Supreme Court on our lawsuit (Doris Heaton vs. Pat Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois) which argued that the pension reform law, SB1, was a violation of the pension protection clause of the constitution. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the IRTA and protected the pension benefits of annuitants.
- 2016** IRTA's legislative efforts paid off this year when the General Assembly made the full pension payment to both TRS and TRIP. The total payment, certified by the TRS Board, meets the states' obligation to the teachers of Illinois.

AS A RETIRED EDUCATOR, WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY FELLOW RETIRED EDUCATORS?

1. Join the local Northwest Suburban IRTA - Unit 90. You can do so for \$10 / year, or \$40 / 5 years, or \$100 for life.
2. Join the State IRTA through automatic monthly deduction for only \$30 / year, or pay \$175 / 5 years, or \$400 for life.
3. Donate to our IRTA Political Action Committee and protect the status of retired educators by donating just \$1 / month through automatic monthly pension deduction.
4. Donate to the IRTA Foundation, which currently does the following:
 - (a) Assists annuitants on a monthly basis
 - (b) Awards teacher education scholarships
 - (c) Provides "Excellence in Education" grants to public school educators

(Thanks to Rich Chierico for compiling this list)