

IRTA

Illinois Retired Teachers Association
Investing in the future of retired educators

Jackson County Retired Teachers Association Newsletter



IRTA NRTA AARP

Fall 2017

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UPCOMING FALL MEETING

The next meeting of the JCRTA will be at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at the United Methodist Church in Carbondale.



The speaker will be Brad Griffith from the John A. Logan College Exercise Center. Come find out what exercise opportunities are available to the general public.

A Necrology Service will be part of the meeting, as we honor former members who have passed in the previous year. We will also be conducting the business of the JCRTA, including the election of officers for the next two years. The slate of candidates includes Julie Bohnsack for President, Charles McCann for President-elect, Mary Ann Horstmann for Secretary, and Alice Berry for Treasurer. There will be updates on issues affecting retired teachers and a door prize! Make plans now to attend and bring another retired teacher with you!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you haven't already paid your 2017 membership dues for the JCRTA, please send a \$10 check to JCRTA/PO Box 874/Murphysboro, IL 62966. Your response is greatly appreciated.

Minutes

JCRTA Unit #82 met July 19, 2017, at 11 A.M., at the Grace United Methodist Church in Carbondale. Forty-five people were in attendance. President Gary Hartlieb called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with

the Pledge of Allegiance. One newly retired teacher, Deb Gurley, was present and introduced.

Floyd Waggoner introduced the speaker, Dr. Robert Swenson, S.I.U. professor emeritus, who presented an excellent, informative program on riverboats. John Harland, IRTA Region 18 director, spoke about IRTA Foundation, the need to still be vigilant, and how our attorneys will be prepared to fight for our pensions and insurance. Naomi Johnson was introduced by John; Naomi will be taking over as IRTA Region 18 director in January 2018.

Business:

- Nadine Risley made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann Almy, to approve the May 17, 2017, minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.
- Terry Rosenberger made a motion, seconded by Charles Leming, to accept the treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.
- Alice Berry will be the treasurer/membership chairman. The directory is being compiled. Only JCRTA members will be listed in the directory. Membership in JCRTA is presently at 117 members.
- Charles McCann volunteered to be the next President-elect.
- Slate of Officers for 2018-19 will be President: Julie Bohnsack; President-elect: Charles McCann; Secretary: Mary Ann Horstmann; and Treasurer/Membership: Alice Berry; this slate of officers will be presented at JCRTA's October meeting

- Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 11 AM, at First United Methodist Church in Carbondale.
- Door Prize (Panera gift card) was won by Marilyn Sanders.
- A delicious fried chicken dinner was enjoyed by all present.

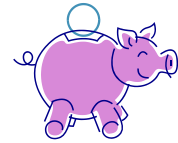
Submitted respectfully by Mary Ann Horstmann,
Secretary

TRS FOLLOWS NEW LAW AND LOWERS THE STATE'S FY 2018 CONTRIBUTION BY \$531 MILLION: MORE "KICKING THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD"??

In August the Teachers' Retirement System Board of Trustees reduced the State of Illinois' annual funding contribution to the System for fiscal year 2018 by \$530.8 million, reluctantly adhering to a new law that changes the statutory pension funding formula. The revised state contribution for TRS is now \$4.034 billion. The previous FY 2018 contribution, certified by the TRS Board last October, was \$4.564 billion.

"The changes enacted this year in the pension funding formula move TRS further away from financial stability and continue to kick the can down the road. Period," said Dick Ingram, executive director of TRS. "Cutting the state's contribution only increases our concern that TRS will eventually become insolvent." Ingram added that the System's \$71 billion unfunded liability – one of the largest in the country – is a direct result of decades of underfunding by state government. In FY 2018, the state's contribution will fall \$2.839 billion short of what the System's actuaries say is "full funding" for the year, or \$6.873 billion. "For every dollar that the state cuts from the TRS contribution now, they will have to spend \$3 down the road to replace that revenue because of the interest costs," he said. "A \$530 million funding cut today just puts off the inevitable and will create a payment of \$1.6 billion in the future."

October 2017 Treasurer's Report



Beginning Balance	\$4189.91
Disbursements:	
Grace United Methodist Church (July Luncheon)	\$540.00
Robert Swenson (Speaker—July meeting)	\$ 75.00
Michael Arthur (A. V. person)	\$100.00
Gary Hartlieb (October Conference Registration)	\$854.00
Wilma Westerfield (Gift cards purchased for July Meeting)	\$ 40.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$1609.00

Income:	
7/17/17 Dues Deposit	\$180.00
8/8/17 Dues & Luncheon Deposit	\$487.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$667.00

ENDING BALANCE **\$3247.91**

Following are a couple articles from a newsletter from the technology guru Kim Komando regarding the recent Equifax Breach.

Equifax Breach - One thing you must do with your Social Security number NOW!

Most likely, you or someone you know has been negatively affected by the Equifax data breach. That's because 143 million, nearly half of all Americans, had sensitive data stolen in the breach. Yikes!

[We've already given you important steps that you need to complete following this massive breach.](#) However, there is one more thing that everyone needs to do to secure their Social Security number.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

With so many people impacted, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is advising everyone to take the following steps to protect their Social Security number.

Open your personal *my* Social Security account

A *my* Social Security account is your gateway to many SSA online services. Creating your account today will take away the risk of someone else trying to create one in your name, even if they obtain your Social Security number. Follow these instructions to open your account:

- [Click here](#) to visit the *my* Social Security account home page
- Click the green tab that says Sign In or Create an Account
- Click the Create An Account button
- Scroll through the terms of service; click on the I agree to the Terms of Service button
- Click Next
- You will be taken to a Please tell us who you are page. Fill this information out and click Next. (You may add an extra level of security to your account. Select yes or no, maybe later.)
- Answer the security questions (These can be tricky; if you get some wrong, your electronic access will be suspended for 24 hours. If your account gets suspended, you can call 1-800-772-1213 and ask for the Help Desk for assistance with your account.)
- Select a username and password

Once you've completed the previous steps, your account has been created.

If you already have a *my* Social Security account but haven't signed in lately, take a moment to log in to take advantage of SSA's [second method](#) to identify you each time you log in. This is in addition to the first layer of security, a username and password. You can choose either your cellphone number or your email address as your second identification method.

Using two ways to identify you when you sign on will help protect your account from unauthorized use and potential identity theft. If you suspect identity theft, report it to the [Office of the Inspector General](#) and visit identitytheft.gov.

What to do if your Social Security number has been compromised

If you know your Social Security information has been compromised, and if you don't want to do business with Social Security online, you can use the [Block Electronic Access](#) feature. You can block any automated telephone and electronic access to your Social Security record.

No one, including you, will be able to see or change your personal information on the internet or through the SSA automated telephone service. If you block access to your record and then change your mind in the future, you can contact Social Security and ask to unblock it after you prove your identity. This resource is available to certain victims of identity theft and those who need extra security.

As we said, the Equifax breach is one of the worst of all time. It's very important that you take every precaution to keep your critical data safe. Keep checking in with our [Happening Now](#) section for further updates.

What retirees should do after the Equifax breach

It's extremely important that you take steps to ensure your personal data is secure, [click here to learn what to do](#). However, there are some critical extra steps that retirees need to take that you really need to know about.

Those impacted by the Equifax data breach should be setting up a credit freeze on their accounts. A credit freeze allows you to restrict access to your credit reports and scores provided by the three major credit bureaus (Experian,

TransUnion and yes, Equifax). Locking up your credit reports will prevent identity thieves from opening new accounts under your name even when they have managed to steal your personal information.

Setting up a credit freeze might sound difficult, but we promise it's not. In fact, we've written an entire tip about it with step-by-step instructions. If you believe your private information has been compromised by this or one of the many past data breaches, then you need to take our advice to protect your finances.

--> [Click here and we'll show you how to set up a credit freeze and protect your identity!](#) This is very important.

As we said earlier, retirees need to take some additional steps to protect their life savings. Keep reading to learn what to do.

1. Safeguard your Medicare number

Retirees enrolled in Medicare need to safeguard their card number. If you are enrolled in Medicare, you know that the number on your Medicare card is also your Social Security number. This will change sometime next year as Medicare will stop using Social Security numbers as its identifiers.

Medical identity theft doesn't just threaten your financial life, it also puts your health at risk. If someone steals your medical identity, you could end up receiving the wrong blood type during an emergency transfusion. Keep your Medicare card in a secure location and do not share your number with anyone who doesn't actually need it, like your doctor.

2. Withhold your Social Security number from medical providers

Giving out your Social Security number is risky business. As we found out with Equifax, data breaches can happen anywhere, anytime. That's why it's so important to keep your Social Security number secure.

Most doctors and medical facilities ask you to give them your Social Security number before being treated. But do they really need it? The short answer is no.

When filling out forms, tell your provider you're not comfortable with giving out your Social Security number. They should be able to accept a different form of identification.

3. Keep an eye on your Social Security benefits

As a retiree, you're most likely receiving Social Security benefits. If so, you really need to monitor your payments carefully. If someone steals your identity they could contact the Social Security Administration to make changes to your account.

They could have your check sent to a different address or have it deposited into another bank account. Keep an eye on your Social Security benefits to ensure you are getting them each month. If you stop receiving payments or see any suspicious activity, contact the Social Security Administration by [clicking here](#).

Take these additional steps to protect your life savings. Don't forget to share this article with friends and family so they can also stay protected.