



## November 2021 Newsletter



Contact us at: [OgleLeeRTA1@gmail.com](mailto:OgleLeeRTA1@gmail.com) or call Jean Whipple, Membership - at 815-222-2681

Visit our website for further information and latest news: [OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com](http://OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com)

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### Message from Kim McKenna - President, Ogle-Lee RTA



Autumn is upon us with its cooler temperatures and colorful foliage. Just a reminder that there will be no fall meeting.

IRTA and the Ogle-Lee RTA unit works to protect our pension and healthcare along with providing member benefits through AMBA. IRTA has 39,000+ members, but sadly has been losing about 80 members per month due to deaths. IRTA continues to outperform similar organizations with 95% state membership retention and is recognized by the political community. However, local unit membership is declining and a few local units have recently closed. We appreciate your support in our efforts to continue to provide the services and benefits of IRTA membership at both the state and local level.

With the loss of in-person meetings due to the pandemic, the executive board in August did approve to suspend local “yearly” due payments for the 2022 year. Ogle-Lee RTA currently has over 300 members. This change affects 38 people with a loss of revenue of \$190. The Ogle-Lee Unit of RTA currently has assets of \$17,139.79.

Please watch your email and vote via Survey Monkey in the election of the Ogle-Lee RTA officers. If you receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail, you may use the enclosed ballot. Nominations are:  
Kim McKenna – President, Carole Sutton – Vice President, Linda Kenney – Treasurer, and Elke Grennan – Secretary.

The Ogle-Lee Board is looking for a webmaster, legislative, historian/memorial committee chairpersons. Please contact Kim McKenna if you would be willing to serve in any of these positions.

Thank you to JoAnn Nelson, our Area 1 Representative, who was re-elected at the IRTA Convention. Thank you to Linda Nott, our Regional Director the past 4 years. Welcome to Dave Davison, from Winnebago County, the new Regional Director for our Area.

Our local RTA unit has reviewed our constitution and bylaws. The proposed changes will be presented in writing to our membership prior to our next meeting. In general, the proposed changes are to change from three regular meetings to two meetings, one in May and one in September. Another proposal is to waive dues and grant honorary membership to members that are no longer able to attend meetings or pay dues.

Remember to check the Ogle-LeeRTA website: [OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com](http://OgleLeeRTAonline.weebly.com) for more information. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kim McKenna: [kmckenna732@gmail.com](mailto:kmckenna732@gmail.com) with Ogle-Lee RTA in the subject line.



It is our hope to be able to meet in-person again in 2022. Until then – be well and Happy Fall!



## Illinois Retired Teachers Association Biennial “Virtual” Conference October 19, 2021 Making Changes to Move into the Future

Elke Grennan and Kim McKenna attended the virtual meeting via Zoom along with about 220 other delegates. The convention was moved to a virtual meeting format to allow for increased delegate attendance instead of the traditional convention held in Springfield.

The new IRTA officers were sworn in: Bill Funkhouser – President, Larry Pfeiffer – Vice President, Don Ostrom – re-elected as Treasurer, and Doris Heaton – re-elected as Secretary. A hearty thank you goes to John Flaherty for serving as president the past two years.

Don Ostrom, IRTA Treasurer, reported that the three IRTA funds – the IRTA Operating Fund, the Legal Defense Fund, and the Life Fund are all in good financial shape.

IRTA contracted Brewer Pratt Solutions to review the Association. Recommendations for possible improvements were presented which resulted in proposed changes to the constitution. The following changes were voted on during the convention:

All members will vote for officers and constitutional amendments prior to the biennial convention. Majority voted no to this change.

The legislative committee shall consist of 9 members and a chair; 3 members from Areas 1&2, 3 members from Areas 3&4, and 3 members from Areas 5&6. The membership committee shall consist of the chair and one voting member from each region. Majority voted no to this change.

The Membership Committee shall consist of 6 members and a chair. Two members from each area. The Legislative Committee shall consist of a chair and one voting member from each region. This change was adopted.

The standing committees shall be: Finance, Legislative, Member Benefits, Membership, and Nominations. Information Services Committee was disbanded. These changes were adopted.

### In Memory of Deceased Ogle-Lee RTA Members for 2021



Robert Ortmann, Franklin Grove, 1/16/21  
Patricia Burke, Amboy, 1/29/21  
Ida Bell Gray, Chana, 4/3/21  
Devoe Manning, Dixon, 5/3/21  
Harold (Hal) Weaver, Dixon, 6/18/21  
Audrey Blobaum, Florida, 7/24/21  
Andrew Hinkle, Mt. Morris & Oregon, 8/14/21  
Virginia Nelson, Mt. Morris, 8/30/21  
Edith M. Whitney, Ogle County, 9/1/21



See the [In Memorium Page](#) on our website for a link to their obituaries.  
Ogle-Lee RTA donates to the IRTA Foundation in honor of the current year's deceased members.