

NEWS BULLETIN

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

Since 1926

VOL. LXVII

FEBRUARY 2011

NO. 1

Teachers gather to oppose pension threats



A record 1,025 RTAC members filled the Grand Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton-Palmer House at the Fall Luncheon Oct. 27. Retired teachers came together to learn about the uncertain future of the pension and the insurance subsidy and to mobilize efforts to safeguard the constitutionally guaranteed rights that RTAC has been defending since its founding in 1926

[Photo courtesy of Roy Coleman]

**MEET OUR NEW
PRESIDENT PAGE 3**

**PROTECTING OUR
PENSION PAGE 4**

**FALL LUNCHEON
REVIEW PAGES 13-15**

**RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
OF CHICAGO**

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The **News Bulletin** invites you to mail your **typed** article to Rosemary Tirio, 6235 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60646 or email it to rtac_editor@comcast.net. Mail handwritten articles to the RTAC office. **March 1 is the deadline for the next issue .**

THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE

HAIL...

Vaughn J. Barber's term as President has expired and he has handed the gavel to me--the next elected President.

Mr. Barber, our respected leader, has graciously joined a distinguished list of RTAC Presidents and Boards of Directors who have dedicated themselves to the goal of the maintenance and enhancement of our pension benefits.



Outgoing president Vaughn J. Barber (left) passes RTAC leadership to newly elected President Steven A. Kailes

Vaughn has spent much of his time and efforts towards this fulfillment.

We retirees have been fortunate since, for over 84 years, RTAC has been the only organization devoted exclusively to the interests of retired Chicago Public School teachers and administrators.

I will strive to continue our long history of this advocacy.



...and FAREWELL

It was my great honor to serve as the president of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC). This is a very special association with a proud history of teachers and administrators who have through the years provided leadership in our public schools. RTAC is a care-minded organization that places great value in the retired persons who have earned the rewards they now experience through their pensions.

It seems like yesterday but it was 14 years ago when I first became a member of RTAC. I have seen many changes in the organization. I served as treasurer, and then as trustee to the pension board as representative from RTAC, and last but not least as president of the association.

Two years ago, when I became president, I had as my major goal the growth of RTAC. I wanted to see a 10% increase in the number of retired teachers to join RTAC. I can cite the recession, the economy, our investments as well as many other factors which prevented this from happening. In the end, more work needs to be done in a membership drive.

Despite these dark times, RTAC has experienced two of the most prosperous years in its history. RTAC fought the loss of revenue from investments by cutting back on less essential activities. RTAC redirected revenue to services which were critical to retirees.

RTAC continues to be a major voice in Springfield protecting our pension and health care rebate. This task requires more than just RTAC, which is why the successes we have experienced have only been possible by your individual involvement.

We are fortunate to have in addition to our leadership, committed and dedicated individuals to serve the organization. I thank each and every one of you, the members, the board and staff for your personal commitment and involvement. Without your visits and contacts with your legislators our progress in Springfield would have been greatly diminished. Thank you.

The task continues, but the experiences RTAC has had during the past two years augur well for RTAC's future.

PROTECTING OUR PENSION

[Editor's note: Perhaps at no other time in RTAC history has it been so important for members and all retired teachers to come together to launch a defense against the attacks of the legislators who would like to use our pension funds to pay the enormous debts facing Illinois. Those funds were part of our compensation; they belong rightfully to us. Yet, "pension envy" is rampant, and it would be very tempting to legislators, with one stroke of a pen, to change the laws protecting our pension.

We must take action to prevent this. We have a powerful weapon--instant information via e-mail. It is now possible for RTAC and the Pension Fund (CTPF) to reach out to every member with the latest information and plans to counteract any legislative moves that would try to deprive us of our benefits. We can reach thousands of members instantaneously, and thousands of members have already signed up to receive important e-mails from RTAC and CTPF. Please register with RTAC and CTPF if you have not already done so.]

STAY INFORMED: REGISTER YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WITH CTPF

Stay up-to-date on information that is important to **you** and **your pension**. Register with the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund online e-mail system.

The CTPF is collecting e-mail addresses so it can notify members quickly when action is needed regarding issues of importance to Fund members. "The more e-mails we register, the larger and faster our response will be when an important issue arises or legislative action is pending," said Frances Radencic, director of member and office services.

"Our database is separate from the union or an employer's, so it's important that Fund members register with CTPF to stay informed."

To register with CTPF, go to www.ctpf.org and click on the link "Sign Up to Receive News Updates Via E-Mail." Complete the brief registration process, and you will be on your way to receiving e-mail notifications from your Pension Fund.

JOIN THE RTAC ALERT NETWORK

GET ALERTS - GET INVOLVED

Help us preserve and improve your pension and medical reimbursement. Help us alert our legislators as to what we desire.

Join our e-mail ALERT network.

All you need to do is send an e-mail to webmaster@rtac.org

and ask to be included in our new ALERT network.

Since the RTAC ALERT network is staffed and paid for by RTAC, please include your name and ZIP code so we can verify your membership. (Not a member? Visit our website at rtac.org to obtain a membership form.)

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold and will only be used to ask for your IMMEDIATE action on pending legislation.

WEBSITE REPORT

RTAC WEBSITE: OUR LINK TO LAWMAKERS

Now, more than ever, it is of particular importance that we are vigilant during this new legislative session. It is quite possible that there will be legislation introduced which will adversely affect our pensions. In particular, applying the Illinois income tax to our benefits seems to be on the agenda. The authorization and funding of our medical reimbursement also seems to be in question.

The status of various pieces of legislation will be posted on the RTAC website and the information updated as it becomes available, usually on a weekly basis but sometimes as often as daily. In the event that legislation is introduced which would adversely impact our pension or medical reimbursement, there will be an "RTAC ALERT" e-mail sent out and a "Red Button"

labeled "Urgent Action Needed" on the home page. It is hoped that everyone will remain vigilant and in personal contact with their individual legislators. (See the RTAC ALERT NETWORK article on page 4.)

New job offerings are regularly posted and maintained for one year, after which they are removed. There is an extensive list of places that need volunteers to help with their programs. There is also an extensive list of venues that offer various cultural, academic and service opportunities. The humor page provides a collection of jokes, puns and humorous situations that have been provided by readers.

For more information and/or to provide suggestions, you may e-mail the webmaster at webmaster@rtac.org.

POINTS TO REVIEW WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

When visiting your legislators in their district (local) offices or when talking to your legislators on the phone, please remember the following:

1. Be courteous; don't lose your temper. Tell them your name and phone number so they can contact you as needed.
2. Share your concerns as a retired Chicago Public School teacher.
3. Urge your legislators to pressure Governor Quinn to release the second half of the \$75 million already allocated in the budget for Chicago retirees' health care.
4. Urge your legislators to introduce and pass the "Ad Hoc Lite" bill increasing the minimum pension for our oldest teacher retirees to \$18,000.
5. Urge your legislators to introduce and pass a bill that increases the number of retiree trustees on the Pension Board from three to four. There are

24,000 active teachers now with six active teacher trustees but just three retiree teacher trustees for 23,000 annuitants.

6. Urge your legislators to increase the amount of money the Pension Fund can spend for our health care from \$65 million in any year to 100% of health care costs. It is NOT STATE MONEY we're talking about, but simply allowing the Pension Fund to spend its own money in this case.
7. Urge your legislators to pass no more legislation that is adverse to retired teachers—no taxes, no increase in age requirements, no reductions in the Annual Increase, no delayed pensions. Remind your legislators that YOU paid for your pension over the years. The pension was NOT given to you by the school board, bureaucrats or legislators.
8. Be sure to thank them for their time and assure them that you will be reading the papers to see how they have responded to your message.

PENSION NOTES

WALTER PILDITCH:

THE OVERALL ECONOMY

As the year 2010 ended, there was continued concern about the general direction of our economy. There appeared to be signs of weak consumer confidence including the fear of a slowing recovery and some deflation in prices. Oil prices are gradually increasing and there is still mixed news on housing. Unemployment continues with a 9.6% rate at the beginning of the quarter and this is up slightly once again. Our overall economy progress is rated at a 2.0% on an annual basis. In addition, the consumer price index increased at an annual rate of 2.7%, showing a gradual increase over the past year.

Overall production capacity ranks at 74.7% at this time, somewhat higher than a year ago, but lower than the past five years.

Continuing from the third quarter of 2010, there is a positive performance in the US equity market. Large cap stocks did better than small cap stocks while mid caps did their best advance in about a year. International equity showed a double digit increase in the third quarter and growth stocks did better than value stocks.

Our United States dollar continues to depreciate against other world currencies. Looking at the world picture, as we have done in past issues of this *News Bulletin*, we now have news that Ireland has suffered massive debts caused by a banking and property collapse. It remains to be seen if these events have a lasting effect on our country.



Walter Pilditch

CHICAGO PENSION FUND

The total overall value of our fund stands at \$9.4 billion representing a half billion dollar increase over the past quarter. This amounts to a return of 9.4% increase making us just under the industry wide results. While our local equity investments are doing well, the international equity measures are lagging as measured by benchmarks.

As to fixed income, the picture looks good. Noticing the progress of individual funds, New Amsterdam Partners and Piedmont are doing better than their index measure. Two other local equity funds, Waddell and Reed as well as Zevenbergen are ahead of their benchmarks.

Noting mid caps, Channing is doing the best and this is measured by their stock selections. Small cap stocks DFA and Ariel are doing better than the Russell measure and Attucks shows up well as one of our minority-owned funds. In addition Apex is doing well.

In international equity, Ernest Partners is the only manager to better their benchmark. Other funds in this area all underperformed this past quarter. In the field of fixed income LM Capital and Western both performed well. As to our infrastructures only Macquarie showed positive quarterly results. Two hedge funds had positive results, K2 Advisors (2.8% rise) and Mesirov (0.1% rise). Ending this report with an overall comment, some progress is being accomplished although there are certain bumps in the road ahead. It will take many months and perhaps years to make up the gains needed to regain our overall value of about three years ago.

MARY SHARON REILLY

At this time, the proposals have not been sponsored or assigned numbers. Be sure to follow legislation on the RTAC Website

- Increase the maximum total payment for health insurance rebate to \$100 million.



Mary Sharon Reilly

CTPF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- Automatic annual increase of 3% beginning one year following retirement. Allow 2.2 benefits for all teachers without the cost to upgrade; allow refunds of 2.2 upgrade costs to all teachers.

Continued on page 7

PENSION NOTES

JAMES F. WARD

ROOM FOR OPTIMISM

It was the RTAC Luncheon of October 27, 2010, at the Palmer House. Over a thousand retired Chicago teachers attended because they are aware of the current crisis of funding and possible reduced pension benefits. It only shows that teachers are by nature informed and active and will look out for themselves. It may seem like what the kids call a “bummer” to continuously stress our current crisis. For balance, I present some encouraging facts regarding our pension system.

In 1889, Otto Bismarck of Prussia initiated the first pension plan. Financed by a tax on workers, it was designed to provide a pension annuity for workers who reached the age of 65. At the time, the life expectancy for the average Prussian was 45 years. In 1895, Chicago Teachers formed one of the first U.S. pension plans now called the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund. It was formed 40 years before Social Security and has not missed a payment through two big wars, numerous small wars, one cold war, the Great Depression, Women’s Suffrage, the Civil Rights Movement, 20 U.S. Presidents, 9/11, and the financial meltdown of 2008-2009. From this perspective our current crisis appears a bit smaller.

Furthermore, we are not alone. In 2010, pension plans were legally changed in 19 other states as well as Illinois. Statutory changes included reduced benefits, higher employee contributions, restrictions on early retirement, and replacement of defined benefit plans with defined benefit/defined contribution hybrid plans in Michigan and Utah. We have had a defined benefit plan since 1895 with a pension defined as a percentage of final average salary.



James F. Ward

Some systems were worse off than we were. For example, in Colorado and Minnesota, projections showed them running out of assets without corrective action. They both solved their problems through legislative action based on shared input and sacrifice. Our reduced health insurance rebate starting January 1, 2011, might be viewed as part of our “shared sacrifice.” Let us hope that other stakeholders will be as patient and understanding as retirees when final solutions are formulated.

As John F. Kennedy once said, “A rising tide lifts all boats.” The economy seems to be starting back on an upward slope. The United States is still a huge economy where 4.6% of the world produces 25% of world output. Our economy is bigger than that of Japan, Germany, and China combined. I believe that pension obligation bonds may provide a partial solution to our underfunding. These bonds allow local or state governments to borrow at low rates for the pension fund that earns higher rates over the long term.

Lastly, from a social viewpoint, what are the odds of default? What would the city and state do if our pension fund actually ran out of money? I think our statesmen will not let that happen. The very last expenditure a government would omit would be police benefits. Police and teacher benefits have always been high legislative priorities. You know legislators definitely will not default on legislator pensions. On that optimistic note, let us return to the task at hand and fix the current problems. Make a date with your legislator today! JFW. urokward@yahoo.com

Continued from page 6

- Additional tax levy .1%.
- Provide for ad-hoc lite increase for those on pension prior to 1980.
- Provide for dependent beneficiary (parent, disabled child) eligibility for a survivor pension.

- Provide minimum survivor benefit payable upon death of teacher or pensioner which occurred prior to 12/31/86. Change definition of service credit granted to a day for a day.
- Repeal SB 1946.
- Receive amount equal to 20% of what the state appropriates TRS. [Suburban Pension system]

AID FUND

by *Steven A. Kailes,*
President Teachers Aid Fund, Inc.

The Aid Fund has been very fortunate this year. We have received several bequests which have made it possible to increase our allotments to our clients by 3%. Our clients are usually burdened with extraordinary medical expenses. And then added to that, increases in rent. We are all happy to do our part aiding our fellow teachers

The benefactors will be remembered and memorialized on the plaque we are establishing.

Bequests to the Aid Fund can easily be made and, if one chooses, with no extra paperwork. I welcome people to speak directly to me if they have any questions.

I also urge people to call me or our Executive Director, Bob Bures, if they know of someone who might be needing financial help and is reluctant to apply. We will handle this most discreetly without mentioning your name.

CRTAF: THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES

Do you know a retired teacher in really difficult financial circumstances? Bank on their back? Car Payment late? Can't pay the mortgage? Medical bills piling up? Maybe it's even YOU!

If you or a friend are in such need during these difficult times, call CRTAF today for an application or fill out the application below and send it to the RTAC office.

CRTAF AID FUND APPLICATION

Please send an application to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone _____ / _____ - _____

This is for a friend.

This is for me.

Send to:
CRTAF - Suite 1500
20 East Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-2235
312.939.3324

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please use this form to change your permanent address or call the RTAC Office (312-939-3327)

Name: _____

NEW Address _____ Apt. _____

NEW City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

NEW phone () _____ - _____ Effective date (mm/dd/yy): ____/____/____

Email address: _____

If you live elsewhere for part of the year, please circle the issues JANUARY MAY SEPTEMBER you would like to have delivered to your part-time address: _____

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO
CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND, INC.
FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

In amounts of \$10 and over

(from August 19,2010 to December 9, 2010)

DONOR:

IN MEMORY OF:

Laurence Laughlin

Charmaine Biedess
(Garrity)

Michael O'Shea Ashley
John A. Butterfield

Sharon Daly
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Kay Horowitz, longtime
member of the Mather
High School family

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CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND, INC
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Jane Yakushiji
Michael O. Ashley

General Purpose
Happy 65th Birthday
Michael O'Shea Ashley
Carmen DeVito's
retirement from CPS

Rose-Marie Kochman

General Purpose
General Purpose
General Purpose
General Purpose
General Purpose
General Purpose
General Purpose

Karen A. Svendsen
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Anonymous
Sylvia Franklin
Frank C. McClenahan
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Rita Pedone
 Martha Semisch
 Miriam Alpert
 Anonymous

General Purpose
 General Purpose
 General Purpose
 General Purpose

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO
 RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of CHICAGO
 FOR THE GENERAL EXPENSE FUND
 NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE. In amounts of \$10 and
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Dr. and Mrs. Mort
 Elenbogen
 Barbara Galvin
 Bondy Estate
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Leslie M. Brevard
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Sharon Daly
 Elizabeth Bondy
 Sydney C. Thoma-z
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DONOR:
 Dolores Di Pego

IN MEMORY OF:
 June Kakacek on the
 first anniversary of her
 death

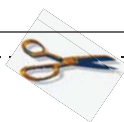
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 Theana Brotsos Vavasis
 Lotty Blumenthal

Helen Brych
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 James E. Thorpe
 John Zvetina
 Pat Egan
 Betty Jensen
 Al Korach

DONOR:
 Leslie Lynn
 Anonymous
 Ronald F. Smith
 Ann E. Glen
 Sara L. Simon
 Flora Moreno Soto

OCCASION:
 General Purpose
 General Purpose
 Special Intention
 General Purpose
 Service Committee
 General Purpose



DONATION FORM

**Retired Teachers Association of Chicago
 20 East Jackson Blvd. Suite 1500
 Chicago IL 60604-2235**

My enclosed check (no money orders please!) for \$_____ is to cover checked items below:

- Political Education Fund (not tax deductible; make check payable to RTAC COPE)
- Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (Federal tax deductible; make check payable to C.R.T.A.F.)
- Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (not tax deductible; make check payable to R.T.A.C.)

The minimum donation is \$10 for each name listed.

(PLEASE PRINT) Donor _____

This donation is made (please check below):

- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____
- Happy birthday/anniversary to: _____
- Celebrating: _____
- On general principles.
- Anonymously; please do NOT publish my name.

OPTIONAL: Please notify the following that this donation has been made.

Name: _____ Address: _____

New Life Members

RTAC welcomes the following Life Members and applauds their commitment to lifetime membership in the only organization that is safeguarding our pension rights and benefits. Their membership makes us stronger and better able to make our voice heard.

*JULIANA ARRINGTON
DENNIS W. BALES
DIANE H. BARNETTE
LESLIE R. BARRON
MARIA A. CABRERA
LINDA W. CARTER
MARTHA J. COLEMAN
AGNES I. CYRIAQUE
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LINDA SMITH
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GLORIA STUDNICKA
AVRUM H. WARSHAWSKY*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to:

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of CHICAGO

20 East Jackson Blvd. Suite 1500

Chicago, IL 60604-2235

Enclosed is my check or money order (payable to RTAC) for \$ _____

____ RENEW MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (January 1 - December 31)\$30.00

____ ENROLL ME AS A NEW MEMBER\$30.00

____ ENROLL ME AS A LIFE MEMBER \$200.00

____ Lifetime membership at age 85 or over..... FREE

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone _____

Retired In Year _____ Position _____ School _____

Social Security Number _xxx-xx-_____ (Only need last 4 digits)

(For verification purposes - your confidentiality is assured.)

Non-CPS E-mail address _____

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT



A BRIGHT IDEA: If you are a Life Member or up to date on your dues payments, why not clip out the application form above and give it to a former colleague who hasn't joined RTAC yet. There is strength in numbers and we need all the strength we can muster now!

STROKE: REMEMBER THE FIRST THREE LETTERS: S-T-R

During a barbecue, Ingrid stumbled and took a little fall. She assured everyone that she was fine. They offered to call paramedics, but she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the afternoon.

Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital; at 6 p.m. Ingrid passed away. She had suffered a stroke at the barbecue. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today.. Some stroke victims don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within three hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was recognizing the stroke, having it diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within three hours.

First, remember the '3' steps, S-T-R-, the first three letters of the word STROKE. Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE coherently, for example, "It is sunny out today."

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

[Courtesy of Frank Tavano, Ph.E.]

‘Keep Shining’

Dr. Darren R. Weissman: Author, Physician, Visionary

What’s your dream? Mine is to awaken humanity one person at a time through the infinite power of love and gratitude. I’m challenging you to shine. We’re all one family, one race...the human family, the human race. As the late great Reggae icon Bob Marley stated, “One love...One heart... Let’s get together and feel all right.”

The journey of transformation begins the moment you choose to love yourself for exactly who and where you are. Begin today by embracing everything and everyone with deep gratitude. Choose to find meaning and value in the journey rather than the destination.



You’ll soon discover that the colors and flavors of your life deepen, opening your palate and passion to an extraordinary way of be-ing and living with purpose. Dreams become reality for those that choose to take action. The attitude of gratitude is love in action. Keep shining! --Darren

[“Infinite Love & Gratitude,” Dr. Darren R. Weissman From *The Peaceful Daily* submitted by **Ned L. McCray**]



Ned L. McCray

FALL LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS...



The Beasley group was prepared to party.



Former Faculty members of Beasley Academic Center Magnet School festooned two tables at the Fall Luncheon with balloons to celebrate the joint birthdays of former principal Dr. Ollie McLemore and Dr. Carmen Palmer. "All of [RTAC President] Barber's children attended Beasley. President Clinton visited Beasley and mentioned it in a national debate. "I'm the principal he brought to Inauguration Week in Washington," Dr. McLemore said. She also was executive director of the Illinois Commission of Brown vs. the Board of Education at the 50th Anniversary Memorial.



Ruth Bohrer, who taught at Reinberg School, enjoying luncheon events



*Newly elected RTAC President **Steven A. Kailes** visited with Past President **May M. Hunter***



The Real Winner of the Four Seasons Hotel weekend at the Spring Luncheon was Emelda Estell. However, instead of enjoying her prize herself, Emelda gave the luxury weekend package to her daughter and son-in-law for their 4th anniversary.

THE SPEAKERS....



Pension Fund Director Kevin Huber and Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis pledged solidarity and cooperation in the battle to preserve our pension and health benefits. Both urged members to address their legislators personally during this pension crisis.



*Executive Director **Bob Bures** urged, "Vote for the one who will do the best for your pension.... Gov. Quinn wanted to attend our Fall Luncheon, but I told him, 'Only if you'll sign a pledge not to sign any negative legislation to our pension.' We can't wait. Look at their records, call them, ask them what are they going to do about us."*

EXCERPTS FROM SOME OF THE LUNCHEON SPEECHES

Kevin Huber – There is serious national pension envy. The *Tribune* and *Wall Street Journal* called us "privileged."

Our Pension Trustees thought it better to lower the [health insurance] rebate from 70% to 60%. Nobody's arguing our position; everyone's arguing the taxpayers' position.

I'm urging everyone to go to their legislators; it's hard for them to go against what they promised; [when they see] a "face."

Pension Fund holdings earned 13.5% last year. It's a revenue problem, not an investment problem. They want to take \$1.2 billion from our pension fund. It happened in 1995 also—the cost to the Pension Fund was \$2.1 billion. That's \$3.3 billion of money we should have but we don't. This is a revenue matter.

Predictions: I see continued attacks on the health insurance subsidy because it is not guaranteed [by the Constitution]. We must work hard to fight this. [Regarding the 3% COLA (cost of living adjustment)] "They are

not thinking of lowering it. They *are* thinking of taxing you, though. They raised the retirement age to 67 for new hires. They don't expect us to work to 67. We just can't collect our pensions 'til [we are] 67. We want to stabilize the health insurance rebate.

Karen Lewis – Thank you for your years of service to the children of the CPS. Go to your legislators.

We need to be involved. Tell them who you are, that RTAC and CTU sent you to them. We need to put a face, need to tell our stories. So many don't know what it's like to walk a picket line out in the cold. [They are] Asking us to give up tenure—the things we worked for. Now it's very easy to lose your job if you're not "grateful." You know what I mean.

We need to tell our stories. Younger members need to know the struggle and sacrifice we made. I want to work with RTAC. We need to have a real project— [make a] video tape of and our activities. Yes, we'll work with you. Thank you for all you have done for us and for our students. I admire you all."

THE WINNERS....



Sheree Levinson, Lake View, 2005 \$100, Palmer House weekend; Liz Weaver, Hoyne, 2007 \$100; Mildred Brainer, Von Humboldt, 1983, \$50, wine; Dale McFadden; Linda Kozik, Englewood, 2006; Rhue Rhyme, Parker Community Academy, 2009; Wilma McKenney, Crane, 1993; Katie Heffernan, Dist. 1 Social Worker, 2000; Constance Guardi, Juarez, 2001; Mary Jenig, Graham, 1993; Daphne Baldie (seated); Dolores DiPego, Belding, 1987.

[Unless otherwise noted, the recipient won a bottle of wine.]



The new RTAC officers gathered for a photo with Past President Vaughn J. Barber (second from right). From left, James F. Ward, Secretary, Veronica Chemers, Second Vice President, Arthur E. Keegan, Treasurer, Marcella L. Morrison, First Vice President, Vaughn Barber, and President Steven A. Kailes.



Special guests at the luncheon were the Hon. Eugene Moore. Recorder of 'Good' Deeds and his assistant Darlene Williams-Gurnett

HOW TO LOCK YOUR CAR AND WHY

I locked my car. As I walked away I heard my car door unlock. I went back and locked my car again three times. Each time, as soon as I started to walk away, I would hear it unlock again.

Naturally alarmed, I looked around and there were two guys sitting in a car in the fire lane next to the store. They were obviously watching me intently, and there was no doubt they were somehow involved in this very weird situation .

I quickly chucked the errand I was on, jumped in my car and sped away. I went straight to the police station, told them what had happened, and found out I was part of a new, and very successful, scheme being used to gain entry into cars.

Two weeks later, my friend's son had a similar happening. While traveling, my friend's son stopped at a roadside rest to use the bathroom. When he came out to his car less than 5 minutes later, someone had gotten into his car and stolen his cell phone, laptop computer, GPS navigator and briefcase. He called the police and since there were no signs of his car being broken into, the police told him he had been a victim of the latest

robbery tactic--there is a device that robbers are using now to clone your security code when you lock your doors on your car using your key-chain locking device.

They sit a distance away and watch for their next victim They know you are going inside the store, restaurant, or bathroom and that they now have a few minutes to steal and run. The police officer advised manually locking your car door by hitting the lock button inside the car--that way if there is someone sitting in a parking lot watching for their next victim, it will not be you.

When you hit the lock button on your car upon exiting, it does not send the security code, but if you walk away and use the door lock on your key chain, it sends the code through the airwaves where it can be instantly stolen.

This is very real. Be wisely aware of what you just read and please pass this note on. Look how many times we all lock our doors with our remote just to be sure we remembered to lock them--and bingo, someone has our code and whatever was in our car. (*Snopes Approved*)

[Courtesy of Director Art Keegan]

Service Committee

LOWER AGE FOR FLOWERS

At the urging of first vice president and chairman of the Service Committee **Marcella L. Morrison** the RTAC board of directors adopted a resolution to send flowers to RTAC members beginning on their ninetieth birthday. Formerly, flowers were sent only after members attained the age of 100.

The Service Committee meets monthly and send out over 100 cards to members age 85 and up. Currently, there are 23 members on the service committee. New members are always welcome.

WELCOME, JOHN LEWIS



A frequent visitor to RTAC Board meetings., retired P.E. teacher John Lewis said he became an RTAC Life Member immediately after retiring in 2003. He attends because "I am retired and this is where you should be to find out information regarding our pension." He is married to Karen Lewis, CTU President.

SOME WINTER PASTIMES ON.... **THE CHICAGO SCENE**

THINGS TO DO 'TIL SPRING ARRIVES SUGGESTED BY MARION HOFFING

MILLENNIUM PARK

February 4 – 27

Dance your way through the month of February on the ice or on the stage at the free Chicago Winter Dance festival in the award-winning Millennium Park.



Marion Hoffing

Ice Skating and Games

Saturdays & Sundays, February 5 -27 (except Sunday, February 20), 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. Early morning lessons and demonstrations. open to Chicagoans and visitors of all ages and skill levels. Instructions provided by IceReach and the Chicago Ice Dance Foundation.

DANCING AND DANCE LESSONS ON-STAGE AT THE JAY PRITZKER PAVILION

Saturdays & Sundays, February 5 – 27

Enjoy dance lessons, live music and DJ sets, plus the extraordinary view from inside the retractable glass doors of the Pritzker Pavilion stage at this indoor dance party series.

LURIE GARDEN HANDS-ON WORKSHOP:

Seed Savers Swap

Saturday, February 12 10 a.m.

1st Floor Garland Room

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 312.742.TIXS (8497). (Media: jhurwitz@cityofchicago.org or 312.742.1149)

THEATER

The Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an opportunity to experience Chicago's vibrant off-Loop theater scene with an innovative and exciting look at the many theater companies that call Chicago home. The Storefront Theater, located across the street from the Chicago Cultural Center at 66 East Randolph Street, and the Studio Theater, its companion theater in the Cultural Center. For tickets, call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or visit www.dcatheater.org.

CAFÉ SOCIETY

Wednesday, February 16, 1 p.m. Randolph Cafe
Every third Wednesday of the month, the public is invited to gather at the large table in the Randolph Café to discuss a pre-selected current event or issue. Café Society is a fun and engaging place to take a break to engage in real conversations about real issues. The up-to-the-minute topics are chosen a few days in advance, and discussions are facilitated. For the month's topic and suggested readings, visit www.thepublicsquare.org, or call 312.422.5580.

DAME MYRA HESS MEMORIAL CONCERTS

Wednesdays 12:15 p.m. Preston Bradley Hall

The celebrated series of weekly concerts feature solo and ensemble classical music performed by emerging artists. The concerts are broadcast live on WFMT (98.7 FM).

February 2	Claremont Piano Trio
February 9	Amber Wagner, Soprano, Craig Terry, Piano
February 16	Anna Bulkina, Piano
February 23	Henry Wong Doe, Piano

All City High School Concert Band

Thursday, February 17, 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon
Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall
The 48th Edition of the Chicago Public Schools All-City High School Band offers an exciting mixture of music.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO READING

By Dr. Teddy B. Osantowsk

One of the biggest factors causing low test scores and high drop-out rates is poor reading ability. Some students are disengaged due to boredom or lack of understanding. Instead of the status quo, why not try a different approach?

We have heard or read of “fix-its” such as: after-school tutoring programs, charter schools, smaller class sizes, single-sex education programs, and higher salaries for teachers. The draw-backs are: after school-tutoring extends the school day leading to fatigue; charter schools cannot serve the vast numbers who need help with reading.

Smaller class sizes will still use the same current teaching methods not beneficial for all students; single-sex education programs prevent social interactions between genders as society requires; higher teachers salaries do not guarantee that present instruction methods will be successful.

What is a solution to our increasing number of students with lower reading achievements at all grade levels? Existing programs or methods do not use a structured phonics program to teach reading. Most teachers have a lack of training in using phonics in the classroom. Phonics cannot be taught as a hit-or-miss method. Phonics instruction must be sequential with each level building on the previous levels. It must not be a memorization process, but a method which can be transferred to ALL academic subjects and used, independently,

Dr. Teddy B. Osantowski moved to Henderson, Nev., from Illinois in 1999. She distinguished herself as an outstanding educator in Illinois and was a college instructor at Prairie State College. She established the Dr. Teddy B. Osantowski Textbook Fund, through the Prairie State College Foundation, to help needy students buy textbooks. She was Director of Special Education for the Posen-Robbins School District in Illinois. She taught in the Chicago Public Schools:

outside the classroom.

Which phonics program is best for use in a school district? One that is: developed for pre-school learners to high school learners; not memorization but has association with the learner; cost effective and easy to learn; aligned with the state’s Standards; geared to all learning styles; supportive of diverse populations; and research-based so that the school district has proof before wasting time and money to determine the program’s effectiveness.

Using phonics in the classroom gives students the tools to attack word sounds and word meanings and engages the use of eyes, hands, bodies, writing tools and voices, simultaneously, as they use their minds. By keeping students thoroughly engaged, progress is quicker and greater on measurable goals thus eliminating off-task behaviors.

With a growing Hispanic population and growing numbers in special education, it is paramount that teachers use phonics with reading programs so that no learner is “pulled-out” of the regular classroom to receive reading help. Learners can be given supplemental instruction on a one-to-one basis with the teacher, a teacher assistant, a “paired” classmate, or a parent’s help in the home. Testing of comprehension occurs on the spot as the tester can determine immediately whether or not the reader is having difficulty with the text.

Phillips High School and Kershaw, Gompers, and Marquette Elementary Schools.

She created and has presented her “Hands-on Phonics in Reading” (HOPIR) program at local, national, and international conferences. Presently, it is being used to improve the reading scores of a local school. It is geared toward non-readers of all ages, but is highly effective for remedial learners also.

FRIENDS GONE AHEAD

Requiescant in pace

Name	Date	Age	Retired	School	Service
Lewis C. Adams	July 20	78	1994	Tilton	35
Vern L. Aldridge	Sept. 29	72	2002	Dunbar	24
Mary E. (Woodruff) Allison	Oct. 27	93	1983	Bass	21(6)
Arlene P. (Mackie) Anderson	Sept. 4	73	2001	Washington	40
Mildred (Letfwich) Armstrong	Aug. 20	89	1984	Woodson South	36
Sarah L. Austin	Oct. 5	67	2002	Bethune	16
Christine (Richard) Barry	July 29	81	1987	Corliss	19(6)
Beulah L. (Dorsey) Bell	Sept. 17	82	1988	Reavis	38
Mary Anne (Harding, Davis) Bell	Aug. 31	92	1989	Dodge	26
Merlin J. Benrud	Sept.12	90	1978	City College	19
Elizabeth M. (Gerlach) Bandy	Oct.1	91	1984	Dist. 1	31
Aurelia T. (James) Boston	Sept. 30	87	1983	Reavis	23
Paul L. Bowles	Nov. 5	84	1990	Simeon	24
Laura (Washington) Bowman	Oct.21	73	1993	Drake	37
Beola J. Bowsky	Sept. 23	76	2000	Stevenson	28
Irving M. Brauer	Oct.8	88	1987	Research & Eval	37
Donald C. Breitenreiter	Nov. 19	74	1993	Washington	38
Edna A. (Dixon)Bryant	Aug. 28	94	1982	Skinner	30
Mary (Kurlandsky) Bryskier	Aug. 28	92	1981	Marshall	24
Jerome F. Burgess	Nov. 22	63	2005	Curie	34
Margaret (Taylor) Burroughs	Nov. 21	95	1979	Dusable	27
Lois (Crim) Butler	Nov. 9	75	1999	CVS	38
Harold O. Byrd	Nov. 21	82	2000	Earl	17
Genevieve (Harty) Callaghan	Nov. 10	90	1985	Lowell	20
Hirama B. (Cheatham) Cannon	July 24	95	1979	Bogan	11
Marie (Dvoracsek) Cantwell	Sept. 8	89	1988	Amundsen	38
Shoshana (Feinkuchen) Chady	Oct.5	73	2005	Frazier	13
Charlene M. Chandler	Nov. 5	83	1994	District 5	9
William J. Collins	Aug. 14	82	1989	Yates	35
Harriett (King) Cohan	Oct.23	83	1992	O'Keefe	38
Mary D. Cosgrove	Nov. 12	88	1993	Mitchell	30
Mary D. Cunningham	Aug. 12	83	1988	Hughes	30
Susie (Bell) Curry	Aug. 2	83	1985	Roentgen	24
Fred G. Czerwionka	Aug. 2	94	1978	Ravenswood	12(1)
Martha Dalle	Oct. 30	78	2003	Morill	11
Sharon M. (Oleszkiewicz)Daly	Sept. 19	68	2003	Kennedy	37
Gladys E. (Hamilton) Davis	May 1, '09	87	1989	Brownell	35
Metta (Talmy)Davis	Sept. 6	88	1988	Disney	22
Clemine L. (Hall) Derrick	Oct. 31	90	1990	Cassell	24
Mary E. Dillingham	Sept. 19	81	1995	Harlan	40
Richard G. Dokus	Sept. 21	78	1987	Tonti	22
Arlene P. (Robinson) Douglas	Nov. 4	75	1999	Shoop	27
Eleanor (Holtzman) Drew	Aug. 29	88	1982	Stockton	23
Sidney Enkowitz	Nov. 23	89	1985	Funston	15
Jean (Lownie) Ervin	Sept. 23	88	1980	Hope Middle	22

[Numbers in parentheses indicate service outside CPS.]

Name	Date	Age	Retired	School	Service
William A. Ewan	Nov. 2	89	1981	Austin	26
Dena (Maxson) Faires	Oct.1	100	1971	Herzl	25(4)
Mildred (Crear) Farnum	Nov. 6	92	1979	Lewis	31
Blossom (Vigdor) Fefer	Nov. 28	88	1984	Jackson	13
Karen A. (Pekie) Filkey	Nov. 24	66	2000	Region 1	28
Mildred (Thomas) Fields	Oct. 31	73	2002	Julian	39
Mary G. (Corkery) Flickinger	Nov. 20	90	1987	Stock	31
Ronald V. Flores	Nov. 29	69	1997	Mather	27
Clyde B. French	Sept. 22	84	1992	Fort Dearborn	26
Philomene (Joseph) Frinkle	Aug. 27	88	1988	Jensen	31
Dorothy (Jessen) Funk	Oct. 29	96	1976	CVS	21(3)
Hendrene Gansevoort	July 30	102	1972	Hughes	43
Virginia M. Gibson	Sept. 12	79	1993	Beale	33
Margaret (Finley) Goggin-Bourgeois	Oct.12	85	1991	Central Office	43
Verna D.(Nelson)Goren	Aug. 5	80	1999	Washington	19
Roberta L. Greenlaw	Aug. 13	88	1993	Sumner	38
Howard Goldberg	Oct. 26	82	1991	J.N. Thorp	29
Sandra M. Golden	Nov. 25	66	2010	Dulles	43
Esther (Franckel) Golub	Nov. 14	91	1980	Clinton	33
Gertrude (Rosenblum) Gordy	Nov. 10	98	1977	Hayt	21(5)
Joseph S. Gullo	Nov. 24	86	1989	Dist. 9	38
Harriet Harlin	Oct. 30	86	1988	Taft	33
Edwina (Gray) Head	Nov. 24	78	1987	Reed	23
Marjorie M. (Foos) Heffernan	Nov. 27	87	1986	'Whitney	20
Curt F. Hennecke	Aug. 14	74	1994	Hubbard	40
Margaret (Fairbairn) Hogan	Sept. 28	88	1985	Edgebrook	10
John Jackson	Sept. 11	77	1993	Wentworth	38
Ruth (Jelenk) Jacobs	Sept. 9	95	1982	Cather	24
Bernice (Ables) James	Aug. 3	83	1985	Field	33(3)
Frederick B. Jansen	Nov. 8	83	1993	Hanson Park	34
Charles E. Johnson	Sept. 21	90	1987	Barton	40(5)
David L. Johnson	Sept. 8	65	2003	Hartigan	35
Alice D. Jones	Oct. 30	83	1993	South Shore	31
Ellen F. Jones	Nov. 15	79	1997	Burnham	40
Johnel Jones	July 31	78	1992	Englewood	33(3)
Mary Kardelis	Aug. 28	87	1993	Hamilton	25
Basil S. Karras	Oct.11	84	1982	Brentano	25
Marilyn J. (McDonald) Keane	Nov. 29	80	1995	Solomon	14
Loretta (McCarthy) Kemmer	Oct.12	82	1987	Eberhart	35
Agnes (John) Kemp	Aug. 7	95	1986	Haugan	23
Francis A. Kennedy	July 29	77	2002	Robeson	30
Ellen (Madigan) Koen	Sept. 21	84	1991	Central Office	38
Albert J. Kucharczyk,	Oct.5	80	1993	Prosser	29
Valorie Susan Kuehlman	Sept. 28	59	2008	Brunson	34
William R. Lamar	Nov. 24	78	1994	Whitney	38
Mary (Keane) Lawler	Oct. 31	94	1981	Bur. of Guid.	29
Frances (Kelly) Leist	Sept. 27	84	1986	Steinmetz	24
Margaret E. Liddy,	Oct.26	97	1984	Howe	46
Elizabeth Loughborough	Nov. 18	96	1977	Gage Park	34(3)
Merle B. (Blumson) Luftig	Nov. 26	67	2007	Hamilton	39

[Numbers in parentheses indicate service outside CPS.]

Name	Date	Age	Retired	School	Service
Givia McFarlin	Nov. 13	88	1994	Overton	38
Alpharet (Moore) McKenzie	Nov. 7	94	1986	Fuller	9
Jeanne (Bourgeois) McGown	Aug. 17	84	1989	Mason	19
Geraldine (Martin) McKinney	Aug. 5	71	1999	Haley	38
Mary A. Miles	Sept. 29	65	2002	Calumet	36
Kathryn (Walker) Miller	Aug. 8	80	1996	Libby	20
James R. Moore	Oct.12	73	1993	Linne	35
Cecil H. Mowery	July 27	85	1986	Gresham	36
Edward B. Mueller	Oct. 29	91	1985	Taft	24
Ruth (Larson) Murray	Aug. 19	102	1974	Bogan	38(2)
Lois Mutchler	Sept. 26	91	1983	Norwood Pk	33(5)
Emma R. (Harmes) Nessman	Nov. 17	83	1989	Kenwood	27
Marie (Wygodski) Nordenberg	Oct. 31	79	2000	Barry	44
Lillie (Logan) Nunnery	Oct. 6	85	1987	Twain	35
Versye E. O'Berry	Nov. 16	94	1986	Gage Park	16
Orlando A. Orpen	Aug. 30	79	1993	Owen	35
Lucile F. (Rice) O'Toole	Oct. 30	97	1972	Black	26(2)
Reva E. Parsons	Nov. 5	86	1984	Deneen	33
Madeleva C. Peyton	Nov. 5	88	1984	Sullivan	14(2)
Mayme (Dewoina) Pietrzak	Oct.4	90	1983	Schubert	29
Elizabeth (Broome) Pittman	Nov. 13	76	1993	Einstein	38
Betty L. (Barr) Plate	Sept. 26	76	1998	Hearst	18
Eddie Poole	Aug. 18	77	1988	South Shore	29
Mildred R. (Snipes) Pope	Nov. 20	96	1979	DuSable	29(6)
Richard C. Portee	July 23	84	1988	Calhoun	37
Alphanette (White) Price	Aug. 9	75	2000	Du Sable	18
Martha L. Prikopa	Sept. 10	95	1980	Taft	19(1)
Rose B. Pruitt	Aug. 7	89	1993	Chalmers	27
Janice E. (Kincaid) Rhodes	Nov. 5	67	2004	Calhoun	36
Joseph Clifton Risby	Sept. 12	79	1993	E.F. Young	38
Lois (Fallon) Rochford	Sept. 2	85	1987	Spalding	11
Anne T. Rothfuchs	Nov. 22	72	1999	Taft	40
Annette (Premack) Rubin	Aug. 25	77	1994	Henry	30
Morris Ruben	Nov. 2	88	1982	Pupil Service	24
Robert H. Ruddy	Nov. 8	76	1993	Pasteur	33
Patricia J.(Hills) Ryan	Sept. 6	77	1994	Twain	32
Shirley (Satek) Schaeffer	Aug. 4	80	1988	Tonti	23
Joyce G. Schwartz,	Sept. 23	84	1993	Emmet	26
Roberta (Mark) Sered	Nov. 16	74	2007	Boone	28
Agnes M. (Cusentino) Shortino	Nov. 2	99	1977	Hayt	18
Shirley Temple Sims	Sept. 13	63	2008	Ward	24
June (See) Small-Vanarkel	Aug. 11	85	1985	Raster	22
Thomas J. Solon	Aug. 23	80	1991	Sawyer	38
Delano Spencer	Sept. 25	74	1997	Smyth	38
Raymond J. Spink	Nov. 8	76	1994	Jones	38
Nettie (Key) Stokes	Aug. 16	85	2001	Corliss	44
Hazel M. (Rayson) Stringer	Oct. 15	84	1987	Gershwin	26
Adele (Rutka) Striupaitis	Nov. 2	59	2007	Ward	34
Camille R. Taglia	Aug. 23	70	1993	Grant	31
Wilbert Ruben Theodore,	Oct.19	64	2006	Lenart	35
Eddie Thomas	Aug. 25	81	1990	May	37

[Numbers in parentheses indicate service outside CPS.]

Name	Date	Age	Retired	School	Service
Richard Lysakowski	Aug. 23	87	2000	Foreman	29
Sharon L. (Young) Lywitzki,	July 29	65	2005	May	22
Dorothy Marie (Mundy)Macke	Aug. 18	83	2006	Altgeld	14
Mae (Hollenbeck) Mayer	Aug. 15	87	1990	District	30
John A. Mazzone	Nov. 9	84	1986	Kelvyn Park	27
Robert E. McBroom	Nov. 7	86	1989	Sbarbaro	38
Mary Jo (O'Brien) McDermott	Oct. 30	95	1979	Therapist	28
Givia McFarlin	Nov. 13	88	1994	Overton	38
Alpharet (Moore) McKenzie	Nov. 7	94	1986	Fuller	9
Jeanne (Bourgeois) McGown	Aug. 17	84	1989	Mason	19
Geraldine (Martin) McKinney	Aug. 5	71	1999	Haley	38
Mary A. Miles	Sept. 29	65	2002	Calumet	36
Kathryn (Walker) Miller	Aug. 8	80	1996	Libby	20
James R. Moore	Oct.12	73	1993	Linne	35
Cecil H. Mowery	July 27	85	1986	Gresham	36
Edward B. Mueller	Oct. 29	91	1985	Taft	24
Robert Murray	Nov. 28	83	1993	Canty	36
Ruth (Larson) Murray	Aug. 19	102	1974	Bogan	38(2)
Lois Mutchler	Sept. 26	91	1983	Norwood Pk	33(5)
Emma R. (Harmes) Nessman	Nov. 17	83	1989	Kenwood	27
Marie (Wygodski) Nordenberg	Oct. 31	79	2000	Barry	44
Lillie (Logan) Nunnery	Oct. 6	85	1987	Twain	35
Versye E. O'Berry	Nov. 16	94	1986	Gage Park	16
Orlando A. Orpen	Aug. 30	79	1993	Owen	35
Lucile F. (Rice) O'Toole	Oct. 30	97	1972	Black	26(2)
Reva E. Parsons	Nov. 5	86	1984	Deneen	33
Madeleva C. Peyton	Nov. 5	88	1984	Sullivan	14(2)
Mayme (Dewoina) Pietrzak	Oct.4	90	1983	Schubert	29
Elizabeth (Broome) Pittman	Nov. 13	76	1993	Einstein	38
Betty L. (Barr) Plate	Sept. 26	76	1998	Hearst	18
Eddie Poole	Aug. 18	77	1988	South Shore	29
Mildred R. (Snipes) Pope	Nov. 20	96	1979	DuSable	29(6)
Richard C. Portee	July 23	84	1988	Calhoun	37
Alphanette (White) Price	Aug. 9	75	2000	Du Sable	18
Martha L. Prikopa	Sept. 10	95	1980	Taft	19(1)
Rose B. Pruitt	Aug. 7	89	1993	Chalmers	27
Janice E. (Kincaid) Rhodes	Nov. 5	67	2004	Calhoun	36
Joseph Clifton Risby	Sept. 12	79	1993	E.F. Young	38
Lois (Fallon) Rochford	Sept. 2	85	1987	Spalding	11
Anne T. Rothfuchs	Nov. 22	72	1999	Taft	40
Annette (Premack) Rubin	Aug. 25	77	1994	Henry	30
Morris Ruben	Nov. 2	88	1982	Pupil Services	24
Robert H. Ruddy	Nov. 8	76	1993	Pasteur	33
Patricia J.(Hills) Ryan	Sept. 6	77	1994	Twain	32
Shirley (Satek) Schaeffer	Aug. 4	80	1988	Tonti	23
Eileen (Seppi) Schiavone	Nov. 28	89	1986	Oriole Park	36
Joyce G. Schwartz,	Sept. 23	84	1993	Emmet	26
Roberta (Mark) Sered	Nov. 16	74	2007	Boone	28
Agnes M. (Cusentino) Shortino	Nov. 2	99	1977	Hayt	18
Reginald Simon	Nov. 30	69	1993	Belding	38

[Numbers in parentheses indicate service outside CPS.]

Name	Date	Age	Retired	School	Service
Shirley Temple Sims	Sept. 13	63	2008	Ward	24
James R. Sirois	Nov. 24	66	2005	Franklin	33
June (See) Small-Vanarkel	Aug. 11	85	1985	Raster	22
Thomas J. Solon	Aug. 23	80	1991	Sawyer	38
Delano Spencer	Sept. 25	74	1997	Smyth	38
Raymond J. Spink	Nov. 8	76	1994	Jones	38
Nettie (Key) Stokes	Aug. 16	85	2001	Corliss	44
Hazel M. (Rayson) Stringer	Oct. 15	84	1987	Gershwin	26
Adele (Rutka) Striupaitis	Nov. 2	59	2007	Ward	34
Ruth A. (Hill) Swanson	Nov. 23	91	1981	Earle	17
Camille R. Taglia	Aug. 23	70	1993	Grant	31
Wilbert Ruben Theodore,	Oct.19	64	2006	enart	35
Eddie Thomas	Aug. 25	81	1990	May	37
Edward J.Tobin	Oct.18	91	1990	Henderson	43
Robert C. Todd,	Oct.13	80	1998	Gillespie	40
Vivian (Grandsart)Topping,	Sept. 22	82	1988	Garvy	37
Otmara J. Villa	Aug. 14	89	1984	Chase	10
Socorro F. Vilorio	Aug. 18	94	1989	Prescott	17
Rose E. Vlcek	Oct.13	76	1997	McKay	15
Betty Ann (Dolin) Wainer	Nov. 23	82	1993	Sullivan	28
Gloria W. Wallace	Aug. 16	74	1993	Whistler	36
Ida J. (Broxton) Washington	Sept. 22	84	1988	Manierre	38
Ella B. Watkins	Sept. 9	78	1998	Burke	17
Joyce N. Wdowik	Aug. 28	64	2003	Brennemann	35
Alfred Wiesmeyer,	Oct.18	77	2001	Disney Magnet	46
Chester Williamson	Nov. 2	81	1988	Williams	28
Naomi L. Winslow	Aug. 30	73	2003	Brown	12
Robert H. Wojda	Oct. 31	77	1993	Hirsch	27
Mary A. (Sullivan) Younker	July 26	85	1988	Simeon	22
Margaret (Monckton) Zale	Sept. 5	85	1985	Sayre	35
John P. Zvetina,	Oct.3	72	1993	Marshall	38

[Numbers in parentheses indicate service outside CPS.]

A MOTHER'S PETITION

*As I set alone in my room,
I think about my baby child;
The son of my elder years
Whom I love so dear.*

*This child, my friend, who was loaned to me, is ill.
With a disease of infinite unmercy.
I ponder what do I do? Where do I go?
My mind said, "Go deep within yourself."*

*Prayer is the answer to all things.
So I go to my father with a wounded heart;
Asking, my father to cover him with his loving mercy,
To touch this child, with his salvation and healing
powers.*

*My God is a Good God,
He is like no other God;
He is the creator of the universe,
All power is in His hand.*

*God of my youth,
God of my elder years;
God of my heart and my life,
I love you my God, my Father.
Thank you!*

[Composed for a friend's dying son]



Letters

Where's our rebuttal?

In a letter addressed to Director Ned L. McCray, a member wrote:

Hello, Ned,

Thank you for working so diligently on all the committees and as past president of RTAC. As per our conversation at the luncheon, could you PLEASE bring up the following at the next meeting:

We as an organization should put out a rebuttal for all the negative publicity and explain OUR viewpoints regarding our pensions. Many retirees are living at or near poverty level and do not have "lucrative" pensions.

Talk to Kevin Huber, Karen Lewis and tell them also that there needs to be coordinated rebuttals given to all the negative publicity. Perhaps a professional Public Relations consultant could be helpful in producing a positive ad, radio spot, internet options such as You Tube, Facebook and newspaper ads.

Maybe we could also bring to the public's attention the benefits, pensions and perks of "our legislators."

Thank you,

Alice Bab

In Praise of President Barber

Dear RTAC:

I repeat: Hurray for our PRESIDENT, Vaughn Barber! He's got guts! Yes he has!!

We need to remind our downstate people that if it wasn't for CHICAGO, this state would have been bankrupt years ago! Furthermore, if they are really serious about cutting expenses, let them start by reducing THEIR OWN PENSIONS by 50%!!

I really like that V[ol.]67N[o.]3 cover!! I think maybe our PRES should have been astride a HUGE HORSE!!!

Really like News Bulletin's look!!! A thousand, nay, a million kudos to our dedicated staff at RTAC who work so hard for all of us!

Joe Eckl

Retirement: busy, exciting, rewarding

I retired in 2006 ending 18 years of teaching at Edward Coles Language Academy. After [a total of] 35 years of teaching, I am proud to say that my professional career included teaching in the Catholic School System, the Chicago City Colleges and the Chicago Board of Education. I consider my 22 years of teaching in the Chicago Public Schools as exciting and rewarding. My teaching experiences really prepared me for the next phase of my life—RETIREMENT!

Retirement is the time in my life when I can fulfill many desires. One of my desires was to own my own business. I have been able to accomplish this goal by operating an Avon home-based business. I am an Avon representative and unit leader with about 25 ladies and men working under my leadership. As an Avon Unit Leader, I am still teaching because I am training people to operate a successful business.

Because teaching is in my DNA, I have started an organization: Encircling Education. The organization is designed to assist teachers, train parents and work with students to reinforce basic skills.

Another desire I had was to travel, travel, travel! To fulfill this goal, I operate an on-line travel agency.

So, Fellow Retirees, it's time to live our lives to the fullest extent. If you want to have your own business and make a little money, call me @ 773-374-5180. If you want to travel near or far, call me @773-374-8988.

Finally, Fellow Retirees, let's give back to make our school system the best in the nation: Volunteer. Call me @773-374-5180 OR e-mail me @ Shawthorne1194@comcast.net.

Retirement Should be a time of activities that include fun, exciting and rewarding experiences. It's time to LIVE!

Sarah Hawthorne

HELP FIGHT SPAM

Never use "CC" for copies;
use "BCC" (blind copy) instead
--V.K. Brown, Editor Emeritus

Volunteer Opportunities

Many retired teachers find that working for a worthy cause as a volunteer is extremely satisfying. The following organizations are among those who have asked us for help in recruiting. The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago does not endorse any organization; potential volunteers must make their own decision.

AARP Illinois Center	Chicago	Beverly Moore	312-458-3604
Abraham Lincoln Center	Chicago Near South	Hannah Katz	773-451-3360
Alternatives For The Older Adult	Outlying Counties	Tracee Keefer	800-798-0988
American Lung Association of Chicago	Chicago Central	Alexis Lewis	312-628-0234
Centro Loyola	Chicago North	Daniel Loftus	312-226-7887
Chicago Botanic Gardens	Glenco	Judy Cashen	847-835-6800
ChildServe at Bryant E. S.	Harvey	Jennifer Collins	773-867-7362
Corazon a Corazon (Heart to Heart)	Chicago Southeast	Amanda Koss	773-221-0620
CPS Student Science Fair	Chicago	Angela Dumas	773-553-6318
Forest Preserve District	Western Suburbs	Chris Linnell	630-942-6169
Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance	Chicago West	Kirsten Akre	773-638-1766x24
Guild For the Blind	Chicago Central	Kathy Austin	312-236-8569
Howard Area Community Center	Chicago Rogers Park	Kirsten Pomykala	773-262-6622x264
Kids Voting	Chicago	Ellen Solomon	312-332-3107
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing	Chicago	Lindsey Ravizza	312-347-7600
Madison School	Skokie	Hillary Schab	847-414-8920
Mercy Home for Boys and Girls	Chicago Central	J. Brown/E. Dordek	312-738-7554
Metropolitan Tenants Organization	Chicago	Rebecca McDannald	773-292-4980x223
Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care	Center North Suburban	Elizabeth Grantner	847-556-1982
Misericordia Home	Chicago	Therese Loftus	773-273-4163
North Shore Senior Center (Senior Advoc)	Northfield	Paul J. Luzwick	847-784-6000
Oakton Community College	DesPlaines & Skokie	Rita Stewart	847-635-1434
Oriental Institute, U of C	Chicago Hyde Park	Cathy D or Terry F	773-702-1845
Polish Museum of America	Chicago	Near Northwest	773-384-3352
Prologue Adult Education (Literacy Tutoring)	Chicago North	Christina Mang	773-728-7221
Read to Learn	Northwest Suburbs	Lesley Goldberg	847-718-7224
Refugee Program (Language Tutoring)	Chicago North	Kaylee Sonnek	773-553-1930
Smith Village	Chicago South	Sarah Jewett	773-474-7300
Substance Newspaper	Chicago	C. Blumenthal	312-736-1702
The Art Institute's Ryan Education Center	Chicago Central	Karin Jacobson	312-443-3798
The Chicago Lighthouse	Chicago	Dick Carlson	312-666-1331x3141
The Learning Center	Chicago Lawndale	Sr. Monice Kavanaugh	773-277-3111
The University of Illinois Extension	South Suburbs	Karen Meyer	708-449-4320
Travelers & Immigrants Aid	Chicago	Brian Harvey	312-629-4500x5011
Triton College (Literacy)	River Grove	Carol Di Fatta	708-456-0300x3407
Woman Made Gallery	Chicago Northwest	Pamela Callahan	312-328-0038
Working in the Schools	Chicago	Liz Murphy	312-368-9487

The above list is only a part of the full list of volunteering opportunities available to RTAC members. For a full list, visit [HTTP://RTAC.ORG](http://RTAC.ORG) and surf to "volunteers". The "Other Opportunities" page on the RTAC website may also list requests for volunteers for specific events like the Chicago Marathon, election workers and docents for various museums along with occasional requests for information on the history of the Chicago Public Schools.



SATELLITE DOINGS FLORIDA

By Jean Wise



The third Retired Teachers luncheon in Southwest Florida will be held at the Creekside Restaurant located in the Villages of Country Creek in Estero, Florida, on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. The Villages is located on Corkscrew Road midway between I 75 and Route 41. This is the same location as last year. Social Hour will begin at 11:30 a.m.

A highlight of this year's luncheon will be a presentation by **Walter Pilditch** on pension issues and updates. Walter is a past president of RTAC and cur-

rently serves as a trustee on the pension board. He will certainly give current information that will be of interest to all retirees.

All retired Chicago teachers, principals, and personnel are invited to attend as well as spouses and friends.

Reservations may be made with Rosemary McMahon, this year's hostess by phone 239-591-2879 or by e-mail RM9706@aol.com after January 24, 2011.

SAN DIEGO

By Sam Dolnick

On Tuesday, October 12, 2010, the San Diego Satellite met for a luncheon/business meeting at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Carlsbad, California. Forty-two notices were mailed; fifteen people responded. As the postal service did not return any mail from the non-responders indicating non-delivery, it is assumed, that for one reason or another the recipients were not able to make the event.

Participants were Dorothy Benshop, Jack/Frances Blumenthal, Sam Dolnick, Sylvia Kayser, Nancy Lewis, Paul/Carol Mooney, Barbara Perkins, Ellen Perry, Evalyn/Arthur Schiff, Clem/Rose Schulman, and John Wilson.

To our surprise and pleasure, Vaughan Barber, president of RTAC, and his wife, who happened to be visiting in San Diego, dropped in and had lunch with us. Vaughan brought us up to date on the shenanigans of the CPS in withholding funds from the pension of-

office that they are legally obligated to supply. He also mentioned that the medical reimbursement for 2011 will be reduced from 70% to 60%. Hopefully the legislature, during their lame duck session, will supply sufficient funds to bring the reimbursement back up to 70%, but the outlook is dim.

The next luncheon/business meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at the Olive Garden Restaurant on Carmel Mountain Road as it appears to be in the center of where our retirees are living. We welcome any drop ins. If any of our colleagues, in San Diego County, are not receiving reservation notices, please contact Sam Dolnick at 5706 Baltimore Drive, Unit 348, La Mesa, CA 91942, 619-697-4854, samdolnick@juno.com to be added to the list.

With warmest regards to everyone!

Sam Dolnick

Guess who came to lunch....

While vacationing in the San Diego area, RTAC President Vaughn J. Barber (standing in back row third from left) and his wife Blanche (standing at left wearing striped top) paid a surprise visit to the San Diego Satellite meeting October 12. Seated in the front row second from left is Sam Dolnick our San Diego correspondent. Vaughn said he learned of the meeting by reading the RTAC News Bulletin. "I knew we were going to be there at that time," Vaughn said.. "They were very nice; they didn't know we were coming." They all enjoyed a delicious Olive Gardem lunch.

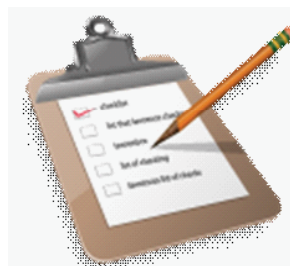


MEET THE NEW DIRECTORS



Elected for two-year terms at the Fall Luncheon, Hubert C. Jackson, Jr. and Louella Preston. Hubert wants to make all retired teachers aware of how much RTAC has done and is doing for us. Louella, who also serves as Trustee for the Village of Niles, would like to help increase coordination with our state legislators to further RTAC goals.

YOUR ASSIGNMENTS:



1. Register for RTAC ALERTS (see page 4)
2. Register for CTPF ALERTS (see page 4)
3. Contact Project Vote Smart through the RTAC Website (RTAC.Org) or call 1-888-868-3762. Get your legislators' names and contact them by phone, mail, email or **in person**. Use "Points to Review With Your Legislators" (see page 5) and **DO SOMETHING** to save our pension!



*The Officers,
Board of Directors and Staff
of
The Retired Teachers
Association of Chicago
wish you and yours
a Happy, Healthy and
Prosperous New Year*