



RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

SINCE 1926

VOL. LXXXII | NO. 2

FALL 2026

NEWS BULLETIN

CELEBRATING **100 YEARS** 1926-2026



RTAC Board

The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago Hotel. Our special event hosted 300+ members and guests. The Grand Ballroom was the perfect site for an event that included fresh floral centerpieces with white flowers at each table and the *Lakeside Jazz Mob*, an eight-piece band with a pianist who welcomed us as we entered this iconic location.

President Maria J. Rodriguez welcomed attendees to the auspicious celebration. Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund Executive Director Carlton W. Lenoir, Sr. presented

President Rodriguez with an engraved crystal plaque commemorating RTAC's 100 years of advocacy and service on behalf of retired Chicago Public School educators and CTPF Annuitants.

Four RTAC centenarian members also attended and were recognized and presented with wrist corsages. The centenarians who attended were: Jenice Bowie, Alene Fishbein, Edith Hannah, and Dolphin Pierce. Ms. Muriel Cole was not able to attend.

The event menu included an elegant mixed green salad with a variety of embellishments, entree choices of chicken, salmon, or potato



RTAC President Maria J. Rodriguez, CTPF Executive Director Carlton W. Lenoir, Sr., CTU and IFT President Stacey Davis Gates, and CPS Board Member Emma Lozano



Retiree Jo Ann Owens, Retiree Julia Roberts, Treasurer Hubert C. Jackson Jr., Immediate Past President Louella B. Preston, First Vice President Rita M. Naughton, and Executive Director Arlene R. Crandall



Latinos 2000 Retiree Group

gnocchi and concluded with an elegant gluten free raspberry mousse bar as well as coffee and tea service.

Each attendee also received an RTAC magnifier w/light and pen as a memento of the event. A commemorative pop-up banner was provided in the reception area, where attendees could take photos. RTAC hopes that you will enjoy the selection of photos in this Fall 2026 News Bulletin.

We believe that our founders would have been impressed with the elegance of the event and the positive feedback that we received from the attendees.

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)

111 N. Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, IL 60602-2949 | <https://rtac.org>

Since 1926, the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC), an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c) 4 organization, has worked to protect the pensions of retired Chicago Public School (CPS) educators and CTPF Annuitants. RTAC is not governed by or a part of CPS, the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF) or the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU). RTAC members in good standing are welcome to attend Board of Directors and Committee meetings. For the current schedule of meetings, see <https://rtac.org>.

RTAC NEWS BULLETIN

The *News Bulletin* is a benefit of RTAC membership and is published three times per year. RTAC welcomes submissions on topics relevant to members. Material will be published as space allows, and may be edited. Send typed submissions to office@rtac.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Maria J. Rodriguez
President

Patrick M. Keating, Sr.
Secretary

Rita M. Naughton
First Vice President

Hubert C. Jackson, Jr.
Treasurer

Carlene Lutz
Second Vice President

Louella B. Preston
Immediate Past President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arlene R. Crandall

ELECTED DIRECTORS

2025-2026

Roy Coleman
Bernie S. Eshoo
Rosalie Fruchter

Juanita R. Jordan
Raphael A. Juss
Mary E. Puente

2026-2027

Therese Boyle
Lillian H. Degand
Maria Fresco-Giffels
John C. Lillig

Elizabeth Mackie
Debra C. Nelson
Elaine L. Schain

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

PAST PRESIDENTS

Vaughn J. Barber

Edward A. O'Farrell

Linda R. Williams

John A. Butterfield

Ethel Philpott

Marcella L. Morrison

Zygmunt Sokolnicki

RTAC SERVICE DIRECTORY

RTAC Office hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during CPS school days 1-312-750-1522

RTAC E-mail office@rtac.org

Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF)
425 S. Financial Place, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60605-1000 1-312-641-4464

CTPF Health Insurance Information 1-312-641-4464

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Annual Membership Jan. - Dec. \$50

Lifetime Membership \$300

President's Message

Maria J. Rodriguez, RTAC President

Spring Luncheon Highlights

On May 12, 2026, RTAC held its Spring Luncheon at the downtown Chicago Hilton, drawing the largest retiree attendance since before the pandemic. Invited guests included four RTAC Centenarians, CTPF Retirees and Trustees, and key stakeholders, including:

- Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund Executive Director Carlton W. Lenoir Sr.
- Chicago Teachers Union and Illinois Federation of Teachers President Stacey Davis Gates
- Auxiliary 16 Retired Chapter President Tonya Tolbert
- Chicago Principals and Administrators Association President Kia Banks

The luncheon honored RTAC's 100 years of service to its members. The celebration filled the Chicago Hilton's Grand Ballroom with a strong sense of unity and shared purpose. It also marked the first time all key stakeholders were invited and came together at an RTAC luncheon. There were also more than fourteen reserved tables filled with retirees and their guests, representing schools and retiree groups from across the city.

Strengthening Membership and Advocacy

RTAC has been experiencing a decline in membership since before the pandemic. The first group of Tier II retirees began their exodus on January 1, 2021. Many recent retirees are unaware of the importance of joining retiree organizations, whether they join RTAC, CTU Retiree Functional Group, or Auxiliary 16 Retired Chapter. While retiree organizations in other states are demonstrating what is possible when members work together around shared goals and advocate collectively:

- California, Minnesota, Ohio, and Rhode Island are very active and have increased their retiree memberships.
- These organizations are also building alliances to protect retiree benefits.

Retirees across the country are advocating for independent forensic audits of their pension funds. They are demanding full transparency regarding fees being paid to Wall Street. Conflicts of interest are skyrocketing as transparency is plummeting. "Pension Fight Club" is a first-ever documentary about our nation's public retirement system. The 2026 documentary is directed by Doug Orchard. More information can be found at <https://pensionfightclub.com>.

Moving RTAC Forward

RTAC, like other retiree organizations, must embrace modern technology and welcome fresh ideas to recruit and prepare future retirees for the political challenges ahead that may affect our hard-earned pension benefits and health insurance.

Our strongest defense remains the same: **knowledge and unity.**

Leadership and Elections

This Fall, RTAC members will elect eight directors for the 2027-2028 biennium and one director to fulfill a one-year term. We are recruiting forward-thinking RTAC members who will bring new ideas to our organization with a willingness to help guide RTAC through much-needed change so our next generation of retirees can carry the torch.

- Additional details are included in this News Bulletin.
- Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month, with the exception of July.
- May and October RTAC Business Meetings are held during RTAC'S luncheons.

We thank the RTAC directors who have elected to step down and express our deep gratitude for their service.

Modernizing Member Support

RTAC's 20-year-old website was a labor-of-love when it was developed. However, we look forward to upgrading our website in the very near future to better serve our retirees. We are in dire need of forward-thinking members with computer skills, texting and messaging experience, and familiarity with social media to help us communicate effectively with retirees and grow our membership.

CTPF Health Insurance

The Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund will mail Open Enrollment information to your home for both Medicare and Non-Medicare recipients. Information is available on their website: <https://www.ctpf.org> or by calling CTPF at 312-641-4464.



Maria J. Rodriguez

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria J. Rodriguez".

Maria J. Rodriguez
RTAC President (2026-2027)
Mobile 773 960 7173

RTAC Spotlight on Springfield

By Matthew Maloney, RTAC Legislative Advocate

The General Assembly concluded its Spring 2026 session by approving a Fiscal Year 2027 budget amid significant financial uncertainty. Lawmakers were able to pass another balanced budget, doing so against the backdrop of slowing revenue growth, inflationary pressures, rising pension obligations and the expectation of reduced federal support in the coming years. While discussing RTAC priorities it is important to get the whole picture of the political climate with budget and other pressures coming from various sectors. The difficult budget decisions made this spring are unlikely to be the last.

Governor Pritzker signed off on a \$55.9 billion spending plan that continues the state's commitment to making its full actuarially required pension payment while preserving the fiscal discipline that has resulted in multiple credit rating upgrades over the past several years.

The state was able to provide a boost to the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF). Public K-12 schools are receiving \$9.2 billion through the EBF formula, which includes the legally mandated \$350 million annual increase. Higher-need school districts will be prioritized for this new money. The budget faced criticism for not including more dollars for K-12 education and flat funding for the health care subsidy for the enrollees in the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund.

To close the remaining budget gap, lawmakers adopted a combination of targeted revenue measures rather than major tax increases. New revenues include taxes and fees affecting sectors such as social media companies, digital advertising, fantasy sports, cryptocurrency, and certain online activities as well as corporate net operating losses. There were no broad-based tax increases which are unpopular especially in an election year.

Legislative discussions throughout the session increasingly focused on the long-term sustainability of Tier 2 pension benefits. Policymakers from both parties acknowledge that federal Social Security "safe harbor" concerns will eventually require legislative action to ensure benefits remain compliant with federal standards.

While no comprehensive Tier 2 reform package advanced during the regular session, the issue remains one of the most significant unresolved fiscal challenges facing Illinois over the next several years. Stakeholders broadly agree that delaying reforms could substantially increase future costs.

Despite those improvements, lawmakers recognize that Illinois continues to face substantial fiscal headwinds. Revenue growth has slowed while costs continue to rise. Inflation has increased the cost of delivering government services, statutory increases for education continue, pension contributions grow annually, and Medicaid expenditures remain under pressure. Compounding these challenges is continued uncertainty surrounding federal funding, particularly for health care and other human service programs that Illinois relies upon.

Legislative leaders repeatedly emphasized throughout session that Illinois simply does not have the financial capacity to replace significant reductions in federal funding. Lawmakers are preparing for additional budget pressure during future fiscal years, making long-term structural planning increasingly important.

One issue that remains unresolved is the future of Illinois' Tier 2 pension system. While there is broad agreement that modifications will eventually be necessary to maintain compliance with federal Social Security Safe Harbor requirements, lawmakers again stopped

short of approving a comprehensive Tier 2 reform package during the Spring session. Instead, discussions will continue over how to balance retirement security for employees with the state's long-term fiscal responsibilities.

Governor Pritzker included several pension-related proposals within his budget package, including extending the state's pension buyout program and directing additional surplus revenues toward reducing pension liabilities. Those measures were approved.

Illinois has made measurable progress in improving its fiscal condition over the past several years. Nevertheless, the state continues to carry one of the nation's largest unfunded pension liabilities while facing growing pressure from slower economic growth, federal funding uncertainty and increasing demands on state resources. Those realities suggest that pension policy and budget sustainability will remain among the General Assembly's highest priorities when lawmakers return to Springfield.

There is much unfinished business as the lawmakers look to the fall and into next year. The balancing act of new spending versus how to pay remains a challenge.

As legislators prepare for the fall veto session and eventually the Fiscal Year 2028 budget, difficult conversations surrounding spending priorities, pension funding, federal uncertainty and long-term fiscal stability are certain to continue. The choices made over the next several years will play a significant role in determining whether Illinois can continue its recent fiscal progress while meeting its obligations to taxpayers, retirees and the public services upon which residents depend.

Executive Director's Message

Arlene R. Crandall, RTAC Executive Director

On December 9, 1925 the Chicago Board of Education's Superintendent William McMaster informed 70+ teachers that they were being terminated due to being age 70 or above.

Dr. James E. Armstrong and a small group of retired principals acted to reverse the Board's action. Initially they failed in the Circuit Court of Cook County. However, they ultimately prevailed in the State of Illinois' Supreme Court. The 70 teachers plus another 20 who were terminated in June 1926 became eligible for reinstatement.

Dr. Armstrong served as RTAC's first President from 1926 until his death in 1936. He and nine colleagues were given space at the Chicago Principals Club located at 185 S. Wabash so they could pursue RTAC's mission there. The group published *Memos* through 1944 to enable retired Chicago Public School educators to continue staying in touch with one another and to advocate on their behalf. The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago launched its News Bulletin in 1945 and continues to publish three times per year through to the present. Then as now RTAC's purpose is to protect retired certificated Chicago Public School educators' pensions and their ancillary benefits. Some of the more significant recent actions are:

1) Beginning in the latter part of the 20th century, RTAC collaborated with other organizations to overturn the federal Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). Those two legislative measures, which were passed in the late 1970s, limited public agency retirees who had also worked in the private sector to receiving only 30% of their full Social Security benefits. That battle was finally resolved in late 2024, when federal legislation was passed to pay

the full 100% due to those pensioners or whose spouses had 40 quarters of employment during which they contributed to Social Security.

2) In the first decade of the 21st century RTAC fought for over 3,600 retirees whose pensions were being assaulted by the Chicago Board of Education. RTAC spent over \$97,000 in legal fees to collaborate with the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund in that battle which was successfully resolved in favor of the affected retired Chicago teachers in 2012.

3) In 2012, RTAC members were joined by Chicago police, fire, and other civil service agencies which fought and defeated Amendment 49 to the Illinois Constitution which would have negatively impacted our 3% Automatic Annual Increase that enables us to continue to address our ongoing rising cost of living.

4) From 1995 through 2016, RTAC fought to reclaim the City of Chicago's pension levy which was diverted from the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund to meet the Chicago Public School district's increasing budgetary demands. The levy was finally restored to CTPF in 2017.

5) More recently, RTAC worked to enable retired teachers who still wanted to contribute to the education of Chicago's youth so that they might be able to serve as "guest" teachers (previously known as "substitutes") for up to 140 days per year through June 2027. This also had the positive effect of partially addressing the teacher shortage in certain key academic areas.

— Arlene R. Crandall



Arlene R. Crandall



Celebrating Our Centenarians

1. Jenice Bowie
2. Edith Hannah
3. Dolphin Pierce
4. Alene Fishbein

2027 Medicare Health Changes

May Affect CTPF Annuitants

By the time you read this you will have begun to learn that there are significant changes occurring to your Medicare and supplementary health insurance plans. The Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund is planning to provide informative webinars and in person presentations in Fall 2026 for the calendar year 2027. It is worth your time to access these informational opportunities. Be sure to retain the publications that you will receive from the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund, Express Scripts and the U.S.

2027 Medicare book as a reference to address queries you might have before the year 2027 begins and as it progresses. You should have everything in your possession by no later than mid October 2026. Please remember that if you wish to make any changes to your medical supplement plans available through the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund that you will need to do so on or before October 30, 2026. This deadline is earlier than the deadline for Medicare which is generally the first week in December.

RTAC's 2026 FALL ELECTION SLATE

The RTAC Nominating Committee interviewed five candidates who applied by the April 30, 2026, deadline to serve as Directors of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago for the 2027–2028 biennium. The five candidates were presented and slated at RTAC's August 5, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Three of the eight Director positions for the 2027–2028 biennium remain vacant. RTAC individuals who were members as of April 1, 2026, are encouraged to self-nominate as candidates.

Slated Directors



ROY COLEMAN

During Roy Coleman's 20 years as an RTAC Director, he established and maintained RTAC's website RTAC.ORG, which provides information about pending legislation, special activities of interest, and volunteer and employment opportunities. In 2012, he alerted RTAC members to the danger of the Illinois Legislature's Amendment 49 which would have adversely affected our automatic annual 3% salary increase. In 2020, he was instrumental in enabling RTAC to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by working to establish RTAC Zoom meetings and seminars using equipment secured with a grant from the National Retired Teachers Association.



BERNICE ESHOO

Bernice Eshoo is a retired CPS educator who served as a teacher librarian throughout her career. In addition, between 2012 and 2018, she served three terms as a Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund Trustee representing active educators. She focused upon protecting the interests of active teachers and safeguarding their retirement security. Her primary focus as an RTAC Director is to protect the stability of our CTPF pensions and advocate for the affordable, high-quality health care that RTAC members deserve and need. She provided support for the legislation that enables CPS retirees to serve as 'substitutes' in the Chicago Public Schools for up to 140 days per year through June 2027.



ROSALIE FRUCHTER

Following her 2002 retirement after 40 years of teaching in the Chicago Public Schools, Rosalie Fruchter joined RTAC as a life member. Throughout her career, which culminated at Dixon Elementary, she was recognized with numerous awards that acknowledged her leadership roles in the teaching of reading. Rosalie's service as a RTAC Director during the biennium

In addition, there is one vacancy for a one-year Director term in 2027.

Individuals wishing to self-nominate should request the required Directorship Application and Conflict of Interest forms by e-mailing office@rtac.org or calling (312) 750-1522. Completed forms must be submitted **electronically** to office@rtac.org no later than **3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2026**.

2025-2026, has included thoughtful insight on the issues the organization addresses. She has strengthened RTAC's outreach to the Illinois General Assembly by maintaining contact with her State Senator and Representative. Rosalie stresses that our pension and health insurance protect our lives as retirees and enable us to maintain our economic support of our local communities.



JUANITA R. JORDAN

Juanita R. Jordan has served as a RTAC Director for the past 12 years. Following her retirement from CPS, she began the second phase of her career as an Adjunct Professor of Education at St. Xavier University where she focused on preparing student teachers for our profession. She has held leadership roles at a variety of educationally focused organizations, including her local school Board. She is in regular contact with her Illinois General Assembly legislators to keep them apprised of the need to appropriately fund Illinois public education from Kindergarten through the post-secondary level. She also promotes RTAC membership to new retirees so they can participate in actions that will protect our pensions and ancillary benefits.



RAPHAEL A. JUSS

Raphael A. Juss began his service as a RTAC Director in 2007. He served as Chairperson of the Social Committee for many years. In that capacity, he was instrumental in securing favorable pricing for RTAC's semiannual luncheons, including RTAC's 100th Anniversary Celebration on May 12, 2026, which was held at the iconic Hilton Chicago Hotel.

Raphael also previously served as RTAC's Second Vice President. During his tenure as Chairperson of the RTAC Legal Committee, he was involved in reviewing the services of our legislative advocates. As chair of the Insurance Committee, he also worked to secure insurance coverage at favorable pricing. In addition, he provides assistance to RTAC members needing guidance with a variety of other issues.



RTAC 2026 Spring Luncheon/Business Meeting



1. Linda R. Williams, a RTAC Past President and Maria J. Rodriguez, RTAC President 2. Queen Jackson and Mary Ector 3. Hubert C. Jackson Jr., RTAC Treasurer 4. RTAC Staff Diana Uchida and Margie Maricich 5. RTAC Service Committee 6. NSPDK, MU Chapter Retiree Group 7. DKG Kappa Retiree Group 8. Maria J. Rodriguez, RTAC President and RIM Retiree Group 9. Carolyn Palmer and Courtney Avery 10. Linda R. Williams, RTAC Past President, Carlton W. Lenoir, Sr., CTPF Executive Director, Juanita Jordan, RTAC Director, and Louis Pyster 11. Retiree connects with Howard Heath 12. Schurz H.S. Retiree Group 13. Chicago Teachers Union Group 14. Arlene R. Crandall, Executive Director and David Oliver 15. Lakeside Jazz Mob 16. Unforgettables Retiree Group



17. Maria J. Rodriguez, RTAC President's Speech 18. RTAC Directors Bernice S. Eshoo and Raphael A. Juss, Pledge of Allegiance 19. RIM Retiree Members 20. Julia Roberts, Retiree 21. Mamie Harris, Retiree 22. Maria J. Rodriguez, RTAC President and Carlton W. Lenoir Sr., CTPF Executive Director 23. Richadine Murry, Retiree, Maria J. Rodriguez, RTAC President and Sharon Dale, Retiree 24. Hilton Chicago Hotel, Grand Ballroom

2026 CTPF Health Insurance Webinars & Seminars

The Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF) is providing webinars and in-person seminars to assist CTPF Retirees to learn about the 2027 Health Insurance plans for which they may enroll.

Medicare Webinars:

Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, October 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Non Medicare Webinar:

Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Open Enrollment In-Person Seminars:

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at the Hilton/
Oak Lawn (9333 S. Cicero Ave. Oak
Lawn, IL 60453)

Medicare Seminar: 9:30 a.m.

Non-Medicare Seminar at 1:30 p.m.

Registration is required and will open
on Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Open Enrollment Vendor Week:

During Open Enrollment, CTPF vendors
host information sessions for members
who want to learn directly from health
insurance plan vendors. Dates and
registration information will be posted
on the CTPF Calendar. Visit [Open
Enrollment Central](#) for more information.



LEGAL DEFENSE FUND GIFTS

February 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

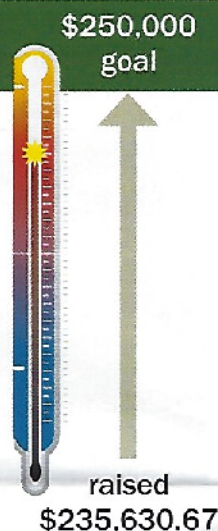
RTAC has established a legal defense fund for the purpose of initiating legal action to protect CTPF Pension benefits.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS (DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE)

Anderson, Donald H.	Frantz, John J.	Lattyak, Dorothea & Jerome	Rappe, Mary Margaret
Blyth & Associates	Holmes, Rosemary & Warren	Maloy, Lorraine A.	Remahl, Daniel F.
Butman, Sharon D.	Jackson, Hubert C. Jr.	Moscinski, John & Donna	Rossino, Paula
Clarke, Nancy	Jamell, Stanislaw F.	O'Callaghan, Sheila H.	Stapleton, Jack Sr.
Fowler, Rachel	Kane, Pam	Radzicki, Thomas	Whiting-Smith, Josie

OTHER DONATIONS

Ammons, Arrie Jr.	French, Judith A.	Macola, Carol Ann	Moynihan, Kathaleen
Dooley, Maric	Loredo, Natividad	Miller, Janice I.	



WELCOME NEW RTAC LIFE MEMBERS

If a current member recruits a New Life Member, both names will be entered into a drawing for a special prize. Winners will be announced at a future RTAC luncheon.

February 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

Denise M. Alferes	Krystal J. Grover-Webb	Sandra McCarthy	Josephine I. Robinson	Nora Tesmond
Susan Baez	Darlene I Hall	Ora Mickel	Margarita Gerena	Sherri A. Walker
Audrey Benes	Jeannie Howell	Cynthia J. Miller	Rodriguez	Laura L. Williams
Donella Carter	Correan B. King	Patricia Mueller	Martha E. Rubio	Beverly R. Woods
Gail Davis	Joanna Knabe	Daniel P. Mugavero	Maria C. Sanchez	
Lynn Dudley Singleton	Dorothy J. Lacy	Jo A. Owens	Camilla Y. Scott	
Evelyn Echols	Vicente Lopez	Barbara Ann Relford	Dawne Sulski	

November 1, 2025 - January 31, 2025 (omitted from Winter 2025/2026)

Gladys Allen	Cathleen A.	Gwendolyn Jeanette	Therese D. Johnson	Jacqueline K. Neiman
Arnetta Bowden	Cunningham	Ginocchio	Susan Kajiwarra-Ansai	Laura Paull
Rosalyn Cohen	Andrea Maria Donovan	Elaine Henton	Linda Kelly	Noel Rosado
Patricia Costello	Kathleen Frazier	Johnetta Jackson	Lavonia Lonzo	Toni Straight
		Crockett		



RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

Membership Application/Change of Address Form

**Moving?
New Address?**
Don't miss out! Use this
form to share your new
address and stay
in touch!

Please use this form to join the Retired
Teachers Association of Chicago
(RTAC)

- ☐ Become a life member
☐ Renew your annual membership
☐ Change your address

GENERAL INFORMATION: PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Last Name

First Name

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Non-CPS e-mail address: _____

(Your CPS e-mail address is terminated when you retire.)

Year Retired: _____ Position: _____

From: _____

(Name of Chicago Public School where you last worked or served as an Administrator)

Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____

(Last 4 digits only for verification purposes — your confidentiality is assured.)

JOIN OR RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

Today's date: (mm/dd/yy) _____ / _____ / _____

Zelle payment to: office@rtac.org and fax form to 312-750-1502

Or mail check: My check number _____ dated _____ made payable to RTAC.

☐ Renew my annual membership – \$50 through December 31, 2026

☐ Enroll me as a new annual member January–December – \$50

☐ Enroll me as a life member – \$300

Signature: _____

(Print name)

Please mail this form and a check to: RTAC, 111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, IL 60602-2949

Did a current RTAC member refer you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list name of referring member: _____

If a current member recruits a new Life Member, both names will be entered into a drawing for special prizes. Winners will be announced at a future RTAC luncheon.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

If the address listed above is new, please complete the section below:

☐ Effective date for new address: (date: mm/dd/yy) _____ / _____ / _____



MAKE A DONATION: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A donation to the Legal Defense Fund, the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (CRTAF), or RTAC helps support RTAC's advocacy and member services while providing a meaningful way to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. All donations of \$20 or more will be recognized in print. Return this form with your payment to: RTAC, 111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, Illinois 60602-2949. *When contributing to more than one fund, please make separate payments through Zelle to office@rtac.org or write separate checks*



RTAC LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (LDF) DONATION

RTAC established a Legal Defense Fund to pay legal fees for a lawsuit when the Illinois General Assembly enacts legislation which diminishes CTPF pensions and/or ancillary benefits. *Donors contributing \$100 or more are acknowledged as President's Circle Members in the News Bulletin. Donations of \$20 or more will be recognized in the News Bulletin. LDF donations are NOT tax deductible.*

☐ Enclosed is my check number _____ in the amount of \$ _____ dated _____ payable to RTAC LDF.

Donor's Name: _____ ☐ Check box if this gift is anonymous

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND (CRTAF) DONATION SEE: CRTAF.ORG

CRTAF is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 1986 to assist retired CPS teachers and administrators in challenging financial circumstances. CRTAF donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. *Donations of \$20 or more per honoree will be recognized in the News Bulletin.*

☐ Zelle payments can be sent to office@crtaf.org.

☐ Enclosed is my check number _____ in the amount of \$ _____ dated _____ payable to RTAC LDF.

Donor's Name: _____ ☐ Check box if this gift is anonymous

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Please indicate purpose of gift ☐ congratulate ☐ celebrate ☐ memorialize ☐ general purposes

Honoree's Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (RTAC) DONATION

RTAC is a not-for-profit, 501(c)4 organization established in 1926 to protect and enhance the pensions of retired CPS educators. RTAC donations are NOT tax deductible. *Donations of \$20 or more per honoree will be recognized in the News Bulletin.*

☐ Zelle payments can be sent to office@rtac.org.

☐ Enclosed is my check number _____ in the amount of \$ _____ dated _____ payable to RTAC LDF.

Donor's Name: _____ ☐ Check box if this gift is anonymous

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Please indicate purpose of gift ☐ congratulate ☐ celebrate ☐ memorialize ☐ general purposes

Honoree's Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND GIFTS

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Ammons, Annie, Jr.	Linda O'Conner
Anderson-Bryant, Brenda	John H. Jones
Barnes, Mildred C.	Diane Foster-Perry
Cosme, James & Mary	James Bailey Mary Connelly Raffaello La Mantia
French, Judith A.	Mary Sharon Reilly
Guardi, Constance P.	Betty Camit John Fitzgibbons Willia Carr Parker Virgie Robinson Bernard Spillman Pauletta Saxton
Hill, Harold	Elizabeth Hill Aselena Jackson
Hill, Trudy	Amelia M. Bishop Timuel M. Black Sandra J. Crosby Tony Crowe Marilyn LeBoy Betty Smith
Holmes, Rosemary & Warren	James C. Chandler Dores Cook Willis Cook Betty F. Smith Rhonda Veal Bessie Walker
Lattyak, Jerome & Dorothea	Debra S. Hogan Effie Vinson
Maloy, Lorraine A.	Erv Maloy Weldon Beverly
Massey, Jayne	Maureen Fiore
Merwin, Peter Mathew	William J. Keenan
Moscinski, John & Donna	Kathleen Daniels James Foley James Thompson
Natividad, Loreda	Sara F. Saltzman

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Newton, Johnnie M.	June Finch William Finch William Gwynn Gladys Ray Bernard Spillman Melvin Walker Odessa Wilson
Pasko, Stanley & Julietta	Donna Scotti
Pasko, Stanley	Rita Baker
Remahl, Daniel	Marcia Zurawski
Renz, Mark	Weldon Beverly Powhatan Collins Bernard Dawson John Hahn Walter Pilditch Melanie Wojtulewicz
Stork, Anna	Ruth Becker Marge Buzzini Vernita Cole Sharon Joy Jackson Bea Mack Terri Zeman
Stringfellow, Sylvia A.	Vernice Washington

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous (2)	General Purposes
Anderson, Donald H.	General Purposes
Behof, Barbara	General Purposes
Dooley, Marie	General Purposes
Gipson, Wanda J.	General Purposes
Kane, Pam	General Purpose
Kent, Barbara	General Purposes
Macola, Carol Ann	General Purposes
Rosen, Sandra	General Purposes
Rossino, Paula	General Purposes
Semisch, Martha	General Purposes
Svendsen, Karen A.	General Purposes

RTAC GIFTS

FEB. 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Billups, Vanice	Addie A. Ware
Frantz, John J.	Milton Albritton Giacomo Mancuso Kathleen Sedlack Gladis R. Thomas
Loreda, Natividad	Sara F. Saltzman
Pruchnicki, Carol	Par Golden Mal Golden Michaelina Rojck Michael Pruchnicki
Remahl, Daniel	Ben Ward
Rossino, Paula	Jane Anarangelo Katherine Hill I Janeefa Muhammad
Rowe, Essie	Shirley A. Tyler
Tocwish, Victor	Mary A. Johnson

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous (3)	General Purposes
Anderson, Donald H.	General Purposes
Anderson-Bryant, Brenda	General Purposes
Curtis, Elizabeth A.	General Purposes
Dever, Judy	General Purposes
Dooley, Marie	Celebrate RTAC's Centennial
Doss, Linda E.	General Purposes
Kane, Pam	General Purposes
Macola, Carol Ann	General Purposes
Rhodes, Sonja	General Purposes
Rubin, Diane	General Purposes

Looking for a perfect gift?

Honor a friend or loved one with a donation to RTAC and/or CRTAF or recognize someone truly special with a lifetime membership to RTAC.



2026 RTAC Spring Luncheon/Business Meeting
1. RIM Group 2. Auxiliary President Tanya Tolbert
3. Latinos 2000 4. Rose Marie Echols

IN MEMORIAM



Robert V.
Cunningham

Robert V. Cunningham

RTAC sends its sincere condolences to Robert V. Cunningham's family after learning of his passing on April 21, 2026. Robert joined RTAC following his 2001 retirement. He was elected to serve on the RTAC Board as a Director in 2010. Robert enjoyed his full career as an upper elementary English and Social Studies teacher from 1970

through 2001. He shared his musical talents in the five school communities where he taught. His career also included 12 years as an adjunct professor of English at Thornton Community South Suburban College. Prior to his career as an educator, Robert served in the United States Army Security Agency as a Specialist 4th Class. He also was a licensed, ordained minister.

During his tenure as a RTAC Director, Robert Cunningham shared his experiences and talents on various RTAC committees. His gentlemanly style and outlooks enriched the organization's proceedings throughout his three two-year terms. The RTAC Board of Directors sends its sincere condolences to his wife Norma as well as his entire family. May his spirit always serve as an inspiration to those of us who remain.



Eva Nickolich

Eva Nickolich

RTAC was saddened to learn of the passing of RTAC Director Eva Nickolich on May 6, 2026.

Eva enjoyed a multi-faceted career-first as a high school Latin and History teacher and later as an administrator/officer in the Chicago Public Schools which spanned 42 and half years. Her last assignment was Deputy

Chief Education officer in District One which concluded in 2003. Eva was active in a wide range of charitable, professional, and religious associations. She served as the president of the Ella Flagg Young Association. Her Chicago Public Schools experiences beyond the classroom included serving as a programmer, assistant principal, high school principal, and district administrator. Her experiences in the Chicago Public Schools contributed to her success as an engaged and reflective member of RTAC's Finance and Membership Committees where she served during her tenure as a Director. The RTAC Board sends its condolences to Ms. Nickolich's family and friends as well as her former colleagues.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Click here for additional volunteer opportunities.

This list is only a part of the full list of volunteering opportunities available to RTAC members. For a full listing, [click here](#).

The "Other Opportunities" page may also list requests for volunteers for specific events like the Chicago Marathon, election workers and docents for various museums. [Click here](#) for the latest listing.

Occasionally RTAC receives an employment opportunity for retired teachers. These are usually part time paid positions. [Click here](#) to check the "Jobs" page to see if there are any employment opportunities currently available.

Agency	Location	Contact Person	Phone
AgeOptions	Near West Suburbs		708-383-0258
Alex Haley Academy	Chicago South	Karen Demots	773-371-3661
Alzheimer's Association	West Suburban	Erin King	847-779-6952
American Cancer Society	West Suburbs	Marni Fredrickson	708-484-8541x231
American Lung Association of Chicago	Chicago Central	Alexis Lewis	312-628-0234
American Red Cross (Illinois)	Northern Ill.	Phillip Leo	708-305-8473
Blind Service Association	Chicago Central	Theresa Togtman	312-236-0808
Brookfield Zoo	West	Regi Mezydlo	708-485-0263x366
Cabrini Connection (Mentor Tutor)	Chicago Near North	Daniel Bassili	312-467-2889
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)	Cook County	LaDora Robinson-Locke	312-467-6987
CCIS (Cnsl for Int'l Stdnts)	Chicago-North Suburbs	Sylvia Alvino	847-328-7516
Center for Economic Progress	Chicago Central	Nina Limbeck	312-630-0288x1
Chicago Hopes for Kids (Literacy)	Chicago-Near West	Morgan Oliver	312-690-4240
Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Chicago		312-294-3160
ChildServe at Bryant E. S.	Harvey	Jennifer Collins	773-867-7362
Community Animal Rescue Effort	Skokie	Heather Brown	847-705-2653
Council for Jewish Elderly	Chicago	Anne. L. Simon	773-50 64
Court's Special Advocate (Child Advocacy)	Cook County	Imogene Harris	312-433-6997
CPS STEM Exhibition	Chicago	Carrie Kaestner	312-248-4498
Cycle	Chicago	Melinda Brand	312-664-1194x14
Erie Neighborhood House, Little Village	Chicago	Jailine Santiago	773-542-761x2804

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Agency	Location	Contact Person	Phone
Fabyan Villa Museum and Japanese Garden	Geneva	Lynn Dransoff	630-377-6424
Field Museum	Chicago	Megan Bradley	312-665-7505
FreshStart (GED Tutors)	Southwest Suburbs	Donna Thomas	708-205-1334
GiGi's Playhouse in Fox Valley	Fox Valley	Katie Vaughan	630-778-7529
Ginkgo Organic Gardens	Chicago North		773-404-7114
Glessner House Museum	Chicago Near South	Clare Schaecher	312-326-1480
Howard Area Community center	Chicago Rogers Park	Kirsten Pomykala	773-262-6622x264
Ill. Parents Anonymous (Parental Counseling)	Chicago	Melinda Crosby	312-649-7301
International Visitors Center of Chicago	Chicago	Lexy Sobel	312-254-1800x102
LaRabida Children's Hospital	Chicago Jackson Park	Judi Blakemore	773-256-5985
Lincoln Park Community Shelter	Chicago-North	Fawn O'Brien	773-549-6111x216
Literacy Connection	Northwest Suburbs	Karen Oswald	847-742-6565
MetroMentors	Wheaton	Gregory O'Donnell	630-784-4810
Museum of Science & Industry	Chicago Jackson Park	Penny Aulston	773-753-2595
National Hellenic Museum	Chicago Central	Hannah Imber	312-655-1234x27
Peace Hospice & Palliative Care	Chicago-Beverly	Alyssandra McKaye	773-233-1010
Polish Museum of America	Chicago Near Northwest		773-384-3352
Prairie Avenue House Museum	Chicago Near South	Michael Soet	312-326-1480
Recording for the Blind	Chicago, Orland Park & Naperville	Joanne C. Ruxin	312-236-8715
Roseland Community Hospital	Chicago Roseland	Jennifer Seldon	773-995-3470
Second Sense	Chicago Central	Kathy Austin	312-236-8569
Substance Newspaper	Chicago	C. Blumenthal	312-736-1702
Triton College (Literacy)	River Grove	Carol Di Fatta	708-456-0300x3407
University of Chicago Hospitals	Chicago Hyde Park	Nancy Frazier	773-702-5673
Woman Made Gallery	Chicago Near Northwest	Pamela Callahan	312-328-0038
World Relief Chicago	Chicago-North	Kathryn Waldron	773-681-8554
Youth Service Project	Chicago Humboldt Park	Esther Prins	773-772-6270



RETIRE TEACHERS SINCE 1926 ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

2026 FALL LUNCHEON/BUSINESS MEETING

You are cordially invited to join RTAC friends and Board Members

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 11:15 a.m.)

MACY'S CHICAGO ~ WALNUT ROOM

111 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602

The building is handicapped accessible. Discounted self-parking (\$16 with RTAC parking validation sticker) is available at Randolph and Wabash Interpark (Northwest corner of intersection). Valet parking (\$20) at Macy's Wabash/Washington entrance.



1926-2026

2026 RTAC FALL LUNCHEON/BUSINESS MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Use this form below to register for the 2026 RTAC Fall Luncheon/Business Meeting. **Reservations are limited.** Each RTAC member is entitled to pay for one RTAC non-member. To ensure that you (and one non-member) will be one of the attendees, please send your reservation and payment (Zelle or a check made payable to RTAC) today to reserve your luncheon reservation. The **final RSVP deadline** is **Wednesday, September 30, 2026** or when the RTAC office receives 200 paid reservations, **whichever occurs sooner.**

MEMBER INFORMATION

Member's Name: _____ Group Name: _____
(if applicable)
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

2026 RTAC FALL LUNCHEON/BUSINESS MEETING

Send Zelle payment to office@rtac.org: Date _____ in the amount of: \$ _____ to cover:

OR mail your check: Number # _____ dated _____ in the amount of: \$ _____ to cover:

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION/S REGARDLESS OF YOUR PAYMENT METHOD.

☐ one member ticket = \$55 OR ☐ one member ticket (\$55) plus one non-RTAC member ticket (\$60) = \$115.

Member Name: _____ Non-member Name: _____

Member's Meal ☐ Chicken ☐ Fish ☐ Vegetarian Non-member's Meal ☐ Chicken ☐ Fish ☐ Vegetarian

WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE WALK-INS OR MEAL CHANGES. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR ZELLE OR CHECK PAYMENT FOR THE EVENT NO LATER THAN Wednesday, September 30, 2026 TO: RTAC 111 N. WABASH AVENUE, SUITE 2010, CHICAGO, IL 60602-2949.

All tickets will be held at the door. No REFUNDS for any reason. No exceptions.

RTAC members who only want to attend the official business portion of the event must register in advance by submitting the bottom portion of the luncheon reservation form on or before **Wednesday, September 30, 2026**. Registrants will be admitted to the business meeting upon presentation of a photo ID.

Member Name (please print): _____



RETIRED TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)
111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010
Chicago, IL 60602-2949

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FALL 2026 NEWS BULLETIN

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RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC) PURPOSE

To serve as the primary advocate for retired Chicago Public School teachers and CTPF Annuitants to empower them by engaging in activities and services that will promote their well-being with particular emphasis on the maintenance and enhancement of their pension benefits.

Member Spotlight: Dr. Vanice Billups

A Century of Advocacy, A Lifetime of Gratitude



Congratulations to the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC) for 100 years of effective and efficient service dedicated to its mission of protecting Chicago Public School teachers' pensions and ancillary benefits. It has maintained its focus to support Chicago's retired educators for the past century.

Our hard-earned pensions are constantly under attack; but RTAC's ongoing vigilance has protected us and provided stability to our lives. I am proud to be a contributing member of this very outstanding organization.

After my husband passed (who was a retired Chicago Public School principal), I went from being a passive RTAC member to becoming an active participant and supporter of RTAC's efforts on our behalf. I am proud to be a member of an organization that continues to battle for us so that our retirement years are stable.

RTAC's leadership has solid, well established values with the flexibility to adapt to change as it continuously addresses the challenges that would undermine our well-being. It continuously supports us and comes forward to divert actions that would harm us.

Since I retired, I have been aware of the many actions that RTAC undertook and prevailed to enable me and my fellow retirees to enjoy our retirement years.

— Dr. Vanice Billups, PhD
RTAC Member