

SEPTEMBER 2024



## IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

### From the President **Jeanne Handeland**

There was a sign at the Iowa Great Lakes that said, "This summer should get a speeding ticket!" Isn't that the truth? Here in north-west Iowa, we've had a break from the heat and humidity which has been a welcome relief. After the tornadoes during district meetings, we endured lots of wind, rain, hail storms, and flooding in June. Let's hope for a calm fall season and a late frost for our farmers.



**President:**  
**Jeanne Handeland**  
4181 230th St.,  
Wallingford, IA 51365  
(712) 260-0943  
Email: [jhandy@rvtc.net](mailto:jhandy@rvtc.net)

The Executive Committee of IRSPA met on July 31st at PolicyWorks in West Des Moines. John Cacciatore, one of our lobbyists, shared a summary of the previous legislative year and what may be ahead for us after the election. Be sure to read his article elsewhere in the newsletter and be sure you are registered to vote this fall. John Hieronymus, our legislative and IPERS representative, presented updates on IPERS.

Robert Swanson, IRSPA treasurer, gave the treasurer's report and proposed budget for 2024-2025. Once again, the expense of mailing the newsletter was addressed. The last newsletter that will be mailed out will be the December issue UNLESS you inform us you would like to receive a printed copy. Some of you have already done that, and that is great. We are more than happy to mail you a copy if that's what you want. Please notify Robert Swanson by phone, email, or mail if you desire a mailed copy of the newsletter. His contact information: 3221 Cheyenne Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51104, 712-252-1446, [rmswanson1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanson1936@gmail.com). We certainly appreciate Bob for all the work he does for IRSPA.

Jean Hoffman, public relations chair, has been updating the [irspa.org](http://irspa.org) website. This is an on-going

process. Please send your new officers, a pdf copy of your program and your unit's constitution to Jean at [42teacher@gmail.com](mailto:42teacher@gmail.com) to be placed on the webpage. Thank you to those of you who voted in the vice president election, and congratulations to Chyrss Hartman and Laurie Marple for winning the election as co-vice presidents. They are from the Davenport area, and we appreciate their willingness to serve. They will be installed at the annual meeting.

Make plans to attend the annual meeting this October 2nd and 3rd at the Best Western in Clear Lake. Your registration is due by September 15th. One hotel room is provided for each unit president or designee and mileage for one car (a second car if the first car is full) in hopes that each unit will be represented.

As I was gathering my volunteer hours from my calendar, I came across this quote from Maya Angelou that I jotted down back in February: "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." What a beautiful thought on this cloudy morning.

Hope to see you in October!

Jeanne Handeland, IRSPA President

**THE DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER  
IS THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE  
BY MAIL UNLESS YOU NOTIFY:**

**ROBERT SWANSON:**  
**3221 Cheyenne Blvd.,**  
**Sioux City, IA 51104**  
**712-252-1446**

**[rmswanson1936@gmail.com](mailto:rmswanson1936@gmail.com)**

**THE ONLINE EDITION CAN BE FOUND AT  
[IRSPA.ORG](http://IRSPA.ORG) UNDER THE "NEWS" TAB!**

## District 1

### DEARSPA IRSPA

The group has had a fun summer of touring several highlights in our area. The Peony Farm in Milford was an absolute fragrance filled delight. We met for lunch and then had a tour of the peony farm. Because of the early blooming this year we went in May.

Our July meeting took us to the Dickinson County Nature Center and Westport #5 one room schoolhouse in Spirit Lake. Judy Grethen and Donna Lauritsen's father had attended that very same school in his childhood so it had special meaning for them and for some of us it brought back memories of our own one room schoolhouse days.



**Donna Lauritsen and Judy Grethen enjoyed Westport #5 school that their dad had attended in his youth.**



**Judy Grethen and Carolyn Brown check out an osprey nest**

In August we visited the Pearson Art Center, had lunch on the lake and later took a ride on the Queen on Lake Okoboji. One thing we have noticed about doing more sightseeing in and around our counties is the increased attendance. That is a win-win!

Jean Hoffman

## District 2

### BOONE COUNTY IRSPA

The Boone County Retired School Personnel Association met at the United Methodist Church in Boone on June 11th. Fourteen members and guests were present. Bev Olofson presided.

Following a delicious lunch served by United Methodist Church women, Mrs. Ann Kissel presented a very interesting program on the HiSet and HSED programs at the DMACC campus in Boone.

Submitted by Sue Duffee



**Mrs. Ann Kissel speaking at the IRSPA in Boone**

## District 2

### HARDIN COUNTY IRSPA



Hardin County Area Retired School Personnel executive board met at The Coffee Attic on June 20th to review plans and policies for the coming year. Programs are being confirmed for the first Friday of each month (except January & February) for the school year 2024-2025. Present at this meeting were Past President - Jill Fraser (she was the photographer), President - Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, Treasurer - Helen Wall, Secretary - Marlene Reece, and Vice President - Carolyn Crosser. Meetings continue in the historical Edgewood building in Iowa Falls, where the ladies of the board serve an outstanding catered lunch each month. We're hoping to have several prospective new members as our guests at the first meetings this fall.

Marlene Reece, Secretary

**www.irspa.org**  
**Check it out!**



## WEBSTER COUNTY IRSPA

Community projects are at the core of our Unit's reason for being. Just as our members supported the educational community at their worksites, so do they support the Webster County community.

Our 100 members fully support all the activities which enhance our community. First and foremost, our members donate money to provide for two \$1000 scholarships to students who attend school in Webster County who want to enter the field of education. We have supported scholarships for 23 years!

Second, our group has supported the local community food pantry annually with bags and bags of food and paper products. This year alone, we donated nearly \$1000 in money and products!



**Unit member, Deb Larson, volunteers at the Lord's Cupboard in Fort Dodge, to help sort and pack foods. Our Unit donates food, product and money annually to the Lord's Cupboard.**

Our third project is one we have done for about 15 years. We collect new and gently used children's books during the year, then distribute them through organizations that give away toys and clothes to children in need at Christmas. Through the years, we have given away more than 10,000 books! Each child receives two books selected for age and gender. Members donate books as well as we buy books for needed age levels. We store

**Members of the Book Committee meet in September and December to work on books. These members are finding two books for each child according to their age and gender.**



books in tubs on shelves in a generous member's large, heated and air-conditioned garage. We have about 1700 books in storage right now.

Another project is our School Supplies Project which started in 2010. School supplies are purchased by the committee and delivered to Webster County elementary schools on a rotating basis. This year we are giving \$200 worth of gift cards to the schools in addition to some supplies. We also collect toilet paper and paper towel tubes to give to schools for art and STEM activities. The committee delivers garbage bags of tubes to schools and early childhood centers during the year. Distributions are dependent on when the committee chairperson's garage gets too full!!



**The members of the School Supplies Committee purchase school supplies for elementary students in Webster County. This year they delivered school supplies and gift certificates to Southeast Valley Elementary at Dayton. From left to right: Angie, the school secretary, and committee members Norene Carpenter, Mary Rosburg and Barb Schulze, chairperson.**

Finally, our group supports an 1857 schoolhouse at the Fort Museum grounds in Fort Dodge. The Border Plains School which had been in use until 1959 is now a visitor attraction at the museum and the site of the spelling bee during Frontier Days. Our annual donation has supported the maintenance of the building for 45 years. Any donations received in memory of members and friends of the unit are added to the annual donation.

Our unit is proud of our continued support of the community in such a variety of ways.

Cheri Maehl

**Website: [www.irspa.org](http://www.irspa.org)**



## COUNCIL BLUFFS IRSPA

Dallas Country Area Retired School Personnel will celebrate the beginning of a new school year with our annual "We Didn't Have To Go Back To School" brunch in September. Besides our members, we will invite all retired school personnel to join us in looking forward to a new school year.

At the same time we will be looking back at the horrific events of the past year when a young gun man attacked students returning from the holidays and killed sixth grader, Ahmir Jolliff and principal, Dan Marburger. We will be approaching this upcoming year with a feeling of uncertainty knowing that at any time lives can be changed forever.

Following the events of January 4, members rushed in to help in many ways. They donated money to aid the victims, were there for the staff with caring messages and hugs, and supported the students who were left without the structure of a school day when Perry Schools closed for nearly a month by helping at the local recreation center that became a free day care center for many of them.

Remembering sixth grader, Ahmir Jolliff, we raised over \$500 that we donated to the Sixth Grade staff in his memory. They used it to buy playground equipment to celebrate his love of interacting with his classmates.



Treasurer,  
Cindy Jafvert,  
presenting  
the check in  
memory of  
Ahmir Jolliff  
to the 6th  
grade team at  
Perry Middle  
School

Honoring Dan Marburger, a principal many of us had worked with, we raised money to buy a bench as a memorial. Sometime in September, it will be placed in front of the High School that he served so admirably next to a tree that honors his mentor and former Perry High principal, Gene Brady. Together the two of them were the only principals to serve Perry High in the last 50 years.

Lastly, we raised awareness of the National Me-

morial to Fallen Educators on the campus of Emporia State University in Kansas. Dan was remembered there at the annual rededication ceremony held June 21, and several school members were there to support his wife, Elizabeth, who gave a moving tribute to her husband.

The new year looks to be interesting and informative with a wide variety of programs planned by the officers.

Sue Leslie, Secretary



## COUNCIL BLUFFS IRSPA

The Council Bluffs Area Chapter will begin our year on September 18th with a new luncheon at noon at the Council Bluffs Country Club. We are looking forward to visiting with our many friends that we haven't seen over the summer as well as welcoming new retirees. We will begin our year by reviewing the IRSPA web site with an emphasis on Supportive Services/ Volunteer Hours.

Our annual scholarship was awarded to Dylan Wyatt from Glenwood High School. Dylan will be attending the University of Nebraska – Omaha. He hopes to become a professional pilot. The selection for our scholarship is made by Southwest Iowa Educational Foundation.



Dylan Wyatt  
Glenwood High  
School

Officers and committee members for the coming year are: Beverly Fletcher, President, Diane Johnson, Vice President, Julie Dillehay, Secretary & Newsletter, Nancy File, Treasurer & Reservations, Lee Cooper, Legislation, JoAnn Tews and Darlene Schwarzkopf, Membership, Carol Mattox, Courtesy, and Beverly Fletcher & Nancy File, Program Book.

Julie Dillehay Secretary



## DES MOINES IRSPA

The Des Moines Area Retired School Personnel Association (DMARSPA) meets monthly at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Clive, Iowa. Every year we award several scholarships to students who are studying to become educators in K-12 subjects. This year we were able to award three \$2500 scholarships. Recipients are invited to join us at one of our meetings to introduce themselves.



**Nelson Rhomberg accepts DMARSPA scholarship**

In May, Stephanie Harrington from Master Gardners presented a program about Community Gardners. She talked about volunteers who work area gardens including the fair grounds and area schools. Our own Mary Smith earned her 1,000 hours award.

Nelson Rhomberg, a 2024 scholarship recipient from UNI, was introduced. It was agreed that he is a worthy choice. He was adopted from Haiti at the age of 15 with no educational background. He plans to be a middle school physical education teacher.



### June 2024 DMARSPA meeting

At our June meeting, we enjoyed an informative presentation by Matt Walsh about his book Robert D. Ray, *The Good Governor*. At the end of the Vietnam War, Ray was dismayed by the plight of the Vietnamese who fled their country to avoid recriminations by the communist government that was taking over. He was the only governor in the country who agreed to take significant numbers of the "Boat People." Over the following years he also agreed to accept Tai Dam people who were escaping Laos and the Hmong who were escaping repressive regimes in Cambodia.

If you would like more information about Governor Ray, you can contact Matt Walsh at [mrwalsh@dmacc.edu](mailto:mrwalsh@dmacc.edu).



**DMARSPA members gather at our July 2024 meeting.**

### July 2024 DMARSPA meeting

At our July meeting, Sherry Wilkinson gave us a presentation about Terrace Hill, the Governor's residence, and her experiences volunteering there. The mansion was built between 1866 and 1869 by B. F. Allen, a multimillionaire, for \$250,000. Allen lost his fortune in the depression of 1873 and sold the building to Fredrick Hubbell for \$55,000. Hubbell founded the Equitable Life Insurance Company. All of the Hubbell children were born at Terrace Hill. Frederick died in 1930. His last child, Grover, died in 1956. After Grover's death, Terrace Hill remained empty until it was donated to the State of Iowa as the Governor's Mansion in 1971.

Submitted by Joelle Snyder

## ATTENTION:

When submitting articles for the newsletter, please put your District name and number in the Subject line of the email.

**EXAMPLE**

To: [tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com) (Toni Hood)|

Cc:

Subject: District 6 - Clinton County

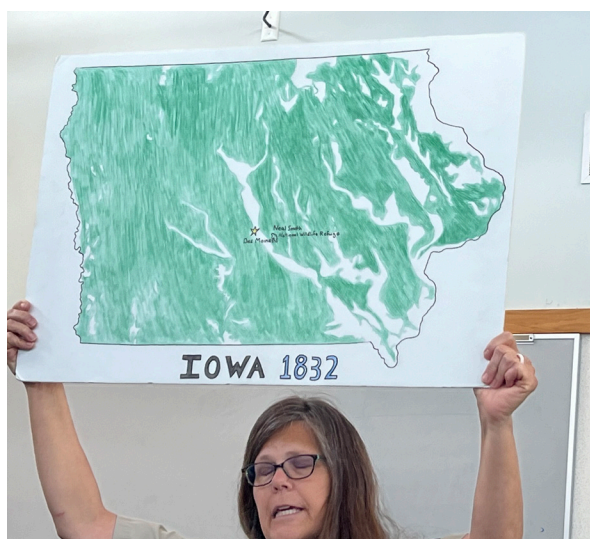
This will keep everything more organized and cut down on confusion or your email getting overlooked.

Thank you! DPI Printing Inc.



## JASPER COUNTY IRSPA

Greetings to you all! And just like that, it's a new school year and a new year for our Retired School Personnel Association! When we last reported, we said that our May meeting was a first (in a long time) road trip to the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge and that we might have had to stop at the famous Goldie's in Prairie City for ice cream. Guess what? We DID! The program was informative and fun ... the ice cream was delicious! I hope the pictures included can adequately show the stark difference between Iowa prairies in 1832 vs now!



As we begin our new year we are full of hope. Hope for great new programs, for new members and continued friends and fellowship, for tasty new snacks, for members' good health and hope for our country!

Denise and Lana  
co-presidents



## LEE COUNTY IRSPA

Meyers Courtyard in Keokuk was the setting for the last Lee County Retired School Personnel meeting until September 2024. As usual, the Meyers served their delicious fried chicken. President, Mary Meyer welcomed Jan Atkinson and Teresa McAuliffe as first-time visitors. Scholarship Chair, Mitzi Jensen shared that three \$500 scholarships were given to Lee County graduating seniors majoring in education related studies. Recipients were Landon Rudd, Central Lee, Abigail Killoren, Keokuk and Nathan Bowen, Ft. Madison. Scholarship monies are raised from donations and auctions that are held at the meetings. The audience was entertained by The Rising Stars Children's Choir under the direction of Andrea Mott. Sarah Vigen accompanied musically with Taylor Pitford assisting with set-up. The choir was started by Andrea and Sarah in October 2022 with 6 students. Students in the choir range from grades 3-7. There is a waiting list to join. Mott shared that they are looking for a larger practice venue to accommodate the growing number of requests. The Rising Stars Children's Choir exists to provide free music education and performance experience that cultivates creativity, personal expression and social growth.



Jill Anderson-Cox

## Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the December Newsletter are  
due no later than **November 15, 2024**

Get info to Toni Hood, at

E-mail: [tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com)

Home Telephone: 515-332-5819

Cell Phone: 515-269-3823

## District 6

## KEOKUK COUNTY IRSPA

KCRSP met on Wednesday, March 20, at Hope Lutheran Church in Sigourney, Iowa. Twenty members were present. The speaker for the meeting was Donna Grossman, who runs an upholstery business in Sigourney. She attended the National Upholstery Association Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. She loves reupholstering antique furniture and is willing to share her knowledge with anyone who is interested in learning the craft. Grayce Williams sent a Thank You card to our group for the \$500.00 Scholarship she received from KCRSP. Our organization annually gives a scholarship to students majoring in education.

KCRSP met on Wednesday, April 17, at Hope Lutheran Church in Sigourney. Twenty-five members were present. Three students from Sigourney High School, accompanied by their principal, Shannon Webb, shared information about the programs and classes they are involved in at school. Cameron Wilson discussed the 3-D printing that is done in technology classes at SHS. He is going to ISU next year to major in computer science and technology. Reagan Clarahan talked about her work in the FFA chapter at school. She received the Star Over Iowa Award at the State FFA Convention. She is Southeast District FFA Secretary and discussed the Greenhouse project the local chapter operates and the Facebook page the local chapter has. Taylor Rozenboom discussed the new coffee shop open to the community at SHS. It is operated by the FCCLA classes at SHS.



**Taylor Rozenboom,  
Cameron Wilson, and  
Reagan Clarahan**

KCRSP met on Wednesday, May 15, at Hope Lutheran Church in Sigourney. Twenty three members were present. Debi Fritz, a local physical therapist and Yoga Instructor, presented a program on her mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Her group, consisting of people of all ages, worked on constructing a church for the local people, helping a dentist by taking blood pressure for locals who had never seen a dentist before, providing groceries for those in Haitian Refugee



**Debi Fritz**

Camps, and serving the people in any way they could. After her presentation, our Treasurer, Linda Crouse, announced that thirty seven members have paid dues this year. Vicki Griner, our Membership Chair, will be contacting retirees in Keokuk County about joining KCRSP. Our Scholarship recipient for this year is Zeola Coble, a graduate of Pekin High School, who will major in Elementary Education at William Penn University this fall. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18, at Hope Lutheran Church in Sigourney, at 2:00 P.M.

Officers for KCRSP are: President, Sandy Steinke; Vice-President, Luann Eakins; Secretary, Mary Williams; and Treasurer, Linda Crouse.

## District 6

## DAVENPORT AREA IRSPA

Our unit has been busy all summer planning for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. Our executive board met in June to make initial plans and then in August, our board met with all the committee chairs. We have interesting programs coming up...including speakers and musical entertainment. Our plans for a new scholarship are getting finalized and we are happy to start this new endeavor.



**This year's officers: Dean Breneman, Sandy Liagre, Deb Kelly,  
Chryss Hartman, Laurie Marple, Cheryl Sly**

We were lucky to have four of our 2022-2024 board members agree to serve another two years as co-presidents (Laurie Marple and Chryss Hartman), treasurer (Dean Breneman), and secretary (Cheryl Sly). Our past vice-president, Judy Shannon, decided to not serve in her position again...but wanted to spearhead the new scholarship committee, so we are thankful for her continued service in our unit. We have two new co-vice-presidents...Sandy Liagre and Deb Kelly. We are proud of Laurie and Chryss for also stepping up to be on the ballot for IRSPA co-vice-presidents.

Submitted by Cheryl Sly - Davenport Unit Secretary



## JOHNSON COUNTY IRSPA

District 6, Johnson County has been focusing on the 2024/25 year activities. We found a new meeting place with better accessibility. Programs and outings were planned with a look to encourage new members to attend.

Using the lovely home of Beth and John Hieronymus as a meeting place, both May and June, the executive board was very productive.

Co presidents: Jon Noel, Cathy Schiele

Secretary: Kathy Wyatt - Hanes

Treasurer: Dave Ulrick

ISPA President elect: Beth Hieronymus

Committees: Call and Membership: Lynette Adams, Auditor: Patricia Burger, Scholarship: Linda Ferguson, Social: John Hieronymus, Newsletter: Nancy Porter

Directory: Dave Ulrick, Online Communication: Cathy Schiele, Program Committee: Mary Mascher, Kathy Wyatt- Hanes, Mike Petersen, Jon Noel, John Hieronymus.

We are adding the important statement to our By-laws concerning finances going to Kirkwood Community College Foundation for use as scholarships. Our preference is students in education scholarships. Should we have to dissolve our organisation this desire will be reflected in our ByLaws.

Thank you to all who help our JCRSPA be the fun and educational program it is. Whether it's 'talking shop' or just visiting, Educators are the best to interact with, especially during retirement!

June's activity was a trip to the Fireside Winery near Williamsburg. Carter Guse was great with his guitar and voice as the featured entertainer. It was hot but fun!

Nancy Porter



Mary Mascher waves 'hi', Laura Conaway, Dave Ulrick, treasurer, Sally Hall, Elaine Tarnutzer, Merin and Marla Swesey using fan and patio roof to keep cool.

# NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

*Please e-mail articles & pictures if  
at all possible to avoid retyping.*

*Articles for the **December**  
Newsletter are due no later than  
**Friday, November 15, 2024***



*Get info to Toni Hood, at*

**E-mail: [tonihood@q.com](mailto:tonihood@q.com)**

**Home Telephone: 515-332-5819**

**Cell Phone: 515-269-3823**



Fireside Winery in June: John sits across from Beth Hieronymus, Phil Conaway sits across from his wife: Laura, next to Phil is Mary Mascher, Dave Ulrick, Sally Hall. Elaine Tarnutzer, Merin Swesey

# State and District Meeting Rotation from 2025-2030

The charts below are subject to change. Dates are set; locations may vary.

State meetings are held the first Wednesday and Thursday of October.

They rotate from District 1, 5, 3, 4, 2, to 6.

| IRSPA ANNUAL MEETING ROTATION                  |                                                |                                                |                                                |                                                |                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 2025<br>District 6<br>SE Iowa<br>October 1 & 2 | 2026<br>District 1<br>NW Iowa<br>October 7 & 8 | 2027<br>District 5<br>SC Iowa<br>October 6 & 7 | 2028<br>District 3<br>NE Iowa<br>October 4 & 5 | 2029<br>District 4<br>SW Iowa<br>October 3 & 4 | 2030<br>District 2<br>NC Iowa<br>October 2 & 3 |

District meetings are held the first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and the third Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of May. They rotate from north to south and east to west.

| IRSPA DISTRICT MEETING ROTATION 2025 - 2030 |                                                  |                                                   |                                             |                                           |                                           |                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| District                                    | 2025                                             | 2026                                              | 2027                                        | 2028                                      | 2029                                      | 2030                                              |
| 1                                           | May 20<br>Sioux City Area<br>Woodbury Co.        | May 5<br>DEARSPA<br>Dickinson &<br>Emmet Co.      | May 20<br>Cherokee<br>County<br>Cherokee    | May 2<br>Crawford<br>County<br>Denison    | May 17<br>Sioux City Area<br>Woodbury Co. | May 7<br>DEARSPA<br>Dickinson &<br>Emmet Co.      |
| 2                                           | May 21<br>Humboldt<br>County<br>Humboldt         | May 6<br>Hardin County<br>Area<br>Iowa Falls      | May 19<br>Carroll &<br>Greene<br>Counties   | May 3<br>Boone County<br>Boone            | May 16<br>Webster<br>County<br>Fort Dodge | May 8<br>Mason City Area<br>Cerro Gordo Co.       |
| 3                                           | May 22<br>Cedar Rapids<br>Area<br>Linn County    | May 7<br>Dubuque Area<br>Dubuque County           | May 18<br>Oelwein Area<br>Fayette<br>County | May 4<br>Waterloo<br>Black Hawk<br>County | May 15<br>West Union<br>Fayette County    | May 9<br>Jackson County<br>Maquoketa              |
| 4                                           | May 6<br>Council Bluffs<br>Area<br>Pottawattamie | May 21<br>Decatur County<br>Leon                  | May 4<br>Dallas County<br>Perry             | May 18<br>Clarke Area<br>Clarke Co.       | May 1<br>Creston Area<br>Union County     | May 23<br>Council Bluffs<br>Area<br>Pottawattamie |
| 5                                           | May 7<br>Des Moines<br>Area<br>Polk County       | May 20<br>Appanoose &<br>Wayne County             | May 5<br>Marion County<br>Knoxville         | May 17<br>Mahaska<br>County<br>Oskaloosa  | May 2<br>Wapello County<br>Ottumwa        | May 22<br>Davis County<br>Bloomfield              |
| 6                                           | May 8<br>Muscatine Area<br>Muscatine<br>County   | May 19<br>Lee County<br>Fort Madison or<br>Keokuk | May 6<br>Des Moines<br>County<br>Burlington | May 16<br>Henry County<br>Mt. Pleasant    | May 3<br>Keokuk County<br>Sigourney       | May 21<br>Jefferson County<br>Fairfield           |



**Iowa Retired School  
Personnel Association  
2024 Annual Meeting  
& Conference  
October 2-3, 2024**

***Wednesday, October 2, 2024***

|                   |                                                                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.   | Visit Clear Lake and Mason City to explore historical, artistic, and cultural sites. |
| 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Registration                                                                         |
| 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.  | Registration                                                                         |
| 5:30 p.m.         | Social Hour                                                                          |
| 6:00 p.m.         | Dinner                                                                               |
| 7:00 p.m.         | Musical Entertainment                                                                |
| 8:00 p.m.         | Reminder to Visit Silent Auction - Jean Hoffman                                      |

***Thursday, October 3, 2024***

|                        |                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.       | Room Check-out                                                                                        |
| 8:00 a.m. - 11:59 a.m. | Memorial to deceased members                                                                          |
| 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.       | Registration and Morning Refreshments, including Coffee and assorted pastries (compliments of IRSPA)  |
| 9:00 – 9:15 a.m.       | Welcome and Pledge / Introductions                                                                    |
| 9:15 – 9:45 a.m.       | Speaker – Beth Ann Schumacher – “The Chautauqua – Lifelong Learning – 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Style” |
| 9:45 – 10:00 a.m.      | Break                                                                                                 |
| 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.     | “7 Membership Touches” – Jean Hoffman & Beth Hieronymus                                               |
| 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.     | AARP – Connie Eastman<br>Legislative – John Hieronymus<br>AMBA – Paul Strid & Garrett Mowery          |
| 11:30 – noon           | Group Pictures by District                                                                            |
| Noon                   | Luncheon                                                                                              |
| 1:00 p.m.              | Annual Meeting                                                                                        |



**Iowa Retired School  
Personnel Association**  
2024 Annual Meeting  
& Conference  
October 2-3, 2024

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
IRSPA Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Meeting &  
Conference** will be held  
at the Best Western  
Holiday Lodge,  
2023 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.,  
Clear Lake, Iowa 50428

There are no fees for the Conference except for meals.

**Banquet – 6:00 pm – Wednesday Evening**

Buffet Menu: Roast Beef with Au Jus sauce, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Roasted Red Potatoes, Oven Roasted Vegetables, Garden Salad, Dinner Roll with butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Iced tea, Lemonade, and Water, and Coffee Station. *(This price includes beverages, tax, and gratuity.)*

\_\_\_\_\_reservations @ \$29 per guest = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (I request a gluten-free option. \_\_\_\_\_)

**Lunch – 12:00 pm Noon – Thursday**

Menu: Soup, Salad, Sandwich Bar with Croissants, Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham, Lettuce, Sliced Tomatoes, Condiments & Pickles, Cream of Potato Soup, Caesar Salad, Pasta Salad, Assorted Dessert Bars, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Water, and Coffee Station. *(This price includes beverages, tax, and gratuity.)*

\_\_\_\_\_reservations @ \$24 per guest = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (I request a gluten-free option. \_\_\_\_\_)

**TOTAL PAYMENT = \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please return your Conference Registration with your meal reservations and a check made out to IRSPA by Sept. 15, 2024, to Barbara Anderson, 1 N. Regency Ct., Mason City, IA 50401**

**ROOMS:** Contact Best Western Holiday Lodge, 2023 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N., Clear Lake, Iowa at 641-357-5253 before September 1, 2024. Ask for the **“Iowa State Retired School Personnel Group Block”** at the time the reservation is made to receive the special group rate.

## Things to see and do in Clear Lake and Mason City

| <b>Clear Lake</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Mason City</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <p><i>Surf Ballroom &amp; Museum</i> – The Surf Ballroom is a Historic Rock &amp; Roll Landmark.<br/>www.surfballroom.com</p> <p><i>Buddy Holly Crash Site</i> – A stainless steel guitar and a set of three stainless steel records mark the exact spot where the plane carrying Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and JP “The Big Bopper” Richardson came to rest following their final concert at the Surf Ballroom.</p> <p><i>Clear Lake Arts Center</i> –<br/>clearlakeartscenter.org – A cultural complex offering visual arts exhibitions, a gift shop, and a sculpture garden.</p> <p><i>Central Gardens of North Iowa</i> – A public garden with nearly three acres of themed flower beds, ponds, stream beds, and art. –<br/>centralgardensnorthiowa.com</p> <p><i>Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County Freedom Rock Veterans Memorial</i>– Main &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Streets –<br/>www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=133116</p> | <p><i>Lime Creek Nature Center</i> – a 440-acre public conservation education facility – cerrogordo.gov/conservation/lime_creek_nature_center</p> <p><i>Charles H. MacNider Art Museum</i> - Includes a permanent collection of American art and the famous Bil Baird puppets – https://macniderart.org</p> <p><i>Frank Lloyd Wright Stockman House &amp; Interpretive Center</i> – Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and constructed in 1908, the Stockman House is the first Wright-Designed Prairie School-style house in Iowa. –<br/>www.stockmanhouse.org</p> <p><i>Frank Lloyd Wright’s Historic Park Inn Hotel &amp; City National Bank</i> – The only remaining hotel designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Now functioning as a boutique hotel, restoration was completed in 2011. –<br/>www.wrightonthepark.org</p> <p><i>Meredith Willson Boyhood Home</i> – Restored 1895 modified Queen Ann house that was the birthplace of the composer. Located adjacent to the Music Man Square. – themusicmansquare.org</p> <p><i>River City Sculptures on Parade</i> – Permanent and rotating sculptures are displayed along a 1.9 mile self-guided walking tour – www.sculpturesonparade.com</p> <p><i>Rock Crest-Rock Glen Historic District</i> – the largest collection of Prairie School Architecture in a natural setting in the world.</p> |

If needed Motel / Hotel accommodations in addition to Best Western Holiday Lodge (No group block reserved)

### Clear Lake Mason City

Fairfield Inn & Suites - 1401 Bayou Rd. 641-357-8585  
 Lakeside Inn - 1603 South Shore Dr. 319-569-3538  
 AmericInn by Wyndham - 1406 N 25<sup>th</sup> St. 641-357-8954  
 Holiday Inn Express - 3041 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW 641-424-1200  
 Quality Inn - 410 5<sup>th</sup> St SW 641-243-4222  
 Hampton Inn & Suites - 2111 4<sup>th</sup> St SW 641-435-7500  
 Country Inn & Suites - 4082 4<sup>th</sup> St SW 641-432-1770

# IRSPA State Conference Information Update

## Wednesday Evening Music

We are excited to welcome musicians Sam Crosser and Melissa Dorenkamp, entertain us with jazz music for Social Hour on Wednesday and dinner music during our meal. Sam hails from Osage and plays music throughout North Iowa, adapting his repertoire of light jazz, soft rock, funk, and gospel for a variety of events. Melissa, from Clear Lake, provides the vocals. They are a favorite in the North Iowa area.

## About our Thursday Morning Speaker

### The Chautauqua - Lifelong Learning - 19th Century Style

Take a journey back into the latter part of the 19th century and learn about the beloved Chautauqua movement that took the Midwest by storm. Learn about the impact of the original "Mother Chautauqua" in New York on the new ventures in the Midwest by investigating the birth and demise of the famed Clear Lake Chautauqua (1875 - 1914) right here in north Iowa.

Beth Ann Schumacher received both her BA and MA in history and political science from the University of Northern Iowa. Her Master's thesis focused the Clear Lake Chautauqua. She also has additional graduate hours in Civil War history from Virginia Tech. She has been teaching in Iowa since 1977 and was a social studies teacher and department chair at Clear Lake High School from 1980 until May of 2015 when she retired. She was also the coach for the Mock Trial team, coordinated the Iowa Bar Association Law Related Education Programs including the Know Your Constitution Program in Clear Lake, judged National History Day projects, was the faculty advisor to the high school Model United Nations delegation from 1986 – 2015 and faculty chair for Model UN in the state of Iowa for over 10 years. Due to her service and active work with her students, she was given the Garst Memorial Service Award in 2016 by the Iowa United Nations Association.

She received the Wartburg College Educator of the Year Award in 1994, was named a C-Span Educator of the Year in 1997, received the Carver Excellence in Iowa Education Award in 1998 and was named the Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction for Iowa in 2006. In addition, Mrs. Schumacher was named as the Educator of the Year by the Clear Lake Area Chamber

of Commerce in 2013 and named as a Distinguished Alumni by the Clear Lake Alumni Foundation in 2014.

Schumacher has published two books, edited a third and currently is working on a book focused on the papers and diary of Lt. Thomas Howard of Clear Lake who served with Company B of the 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry in the American Civil War.

She continues to be an active member of American Battlefield Trust with a passion for Civil War history and has often been a presenter at the Trust's National Teacher Institutes. She is the president of the Clear Lake Historical Society working to build the community's interest in its own local history. She also serves the Historical Society as its primary archivist and education coordinator.

**Please return your Conference Registration with your meal reservations and a check made out to IRSPA by Sept. 15, 2024, to Barbara Anderson, 1 N. Regency Ct., Mason City, IA 50401**

## RETRACTION

Kathy Wyatt-Hanes was inadvertently listed in the December, 2023 "We Remember" column. This was discovered when she unsuccessfully attempted to vote online. As we all know, deceased people cannot vote in the United States-LOL! She is currently a very active member of the Johnson County Unit.

**Our apologies, Kathy.**

## Your Vote Matters

As retired educators, we are in a great position to stay informed about the proposed changes that impact IPERS, Social Security, and public education. We can impact legislation by attending forums and coffees for area legislators at times when our colleagues still working in the public schools can't.

The November election could have an impact on legislation passed in the next session. Be sure you are registered to vote. The voter law passed in 2021 includes taking people off the registered voter list if they did not vote in the last Presidential election or any general election since.

To check your status as a registered voter, go to the Secretary of State website [SOS.iowa.gov](https://sos.iowa.gov). If your status is not "active" then you can reinstate your active status on the website up to 15 days before the election. Remember, you need a valid Iowa Driver License or non-operator ID card AND must be at the correct polling place for your address to vote.

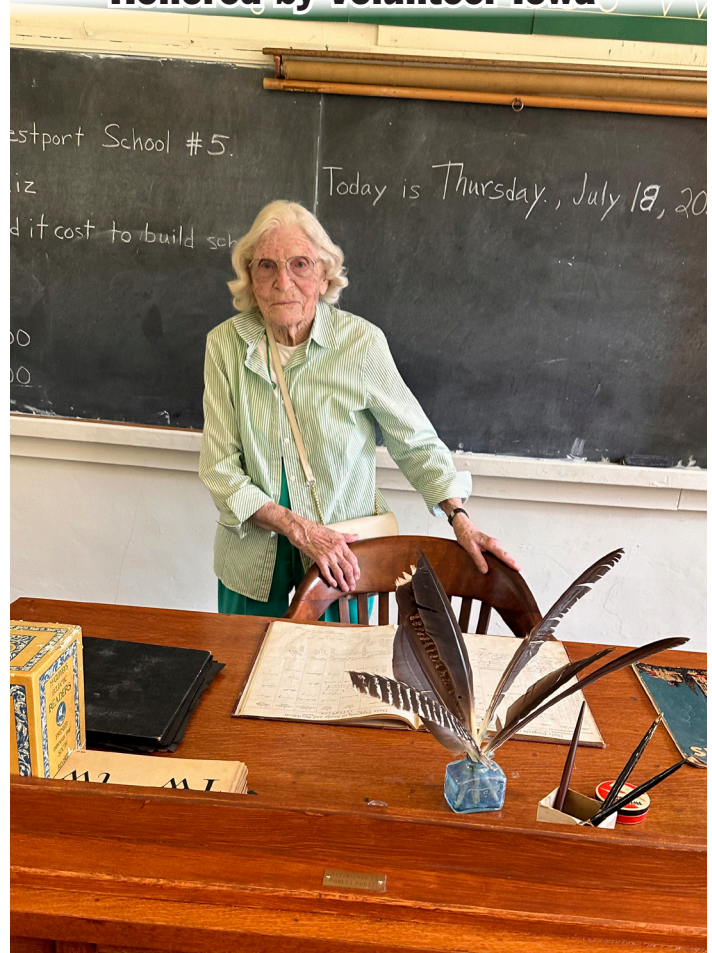
There have been many changes to public education in Iowa.

- In 2017 the law was passed to make it illegal for school boards to negotiate for nearly all the provisions in contracts.
- Oversight for home schooling has disappeared.
- Annual increases in funding for public schools have been consistently less than inflation.
- Funding for community colleges and universities has deteriorated.
- A voucher program has been put in place to pull students out of public schools and put them in private schools using tax dollars that would have gone to local public schools.
- The AEA system is being dismantled.

If these changes concern you, then consider who is supporting them and vote for candidates that will support public education.

*-John Hieronymous, Legislative & IPERS representative*

## DEARSPA Member, Leah Streeter, Honored by Volunteer Iowa



*Leah Streeter points out highlights of the Westport #5 School that is near the Dickinson County Nature Center in Spirit Lake.*

Leah Streeter, a member of DEARSPA, was honored with an award from Volunteer Iowa which was presented by Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg in June. The Length of Service award was presented for thirty years of service with the Dickinson County RSVP program. She has been a Pen Pal to area 3rd and 4th graders, volunteers at Lakes Regional Healthcare, the Dickinson County Nature Center Westport Schoolhouse, and serves on various boards and groups. She was a charter member of IGLRSPA and served as secretary for thirty years. IGLRSPA and EARSPA joined forces this past year forming DEARSPA and Leah continues to be a dedicated member attending all of our events. Her interest in education is unwavering and she is a true asset to our group. She has offered interesting information to our many excursions this past and is a treasured and valuable member. She truly lives up to the motto of IRSPA - To Serve and Not Be Served!

## *Little Swan Lake Winery*



Little Swan Lake Winery is a family owned and operated business located 1-1/2 miles north of the small town of Superior in Northwest Iowa. In May of 2002 our doors opened to the public. The tasting room, our remodeled 1920's barn, features 35 different wines all produced on site, a selection of gourmet cheeses, and buffalo meat from our own herd which roams nearby. Our vineyard consists of two acres of northern cold hardy grapes. The gift shop features clothing and wine related items. We are dedicated to producing the finest and most enjoyable wines and invite you to spend an hour or an afternoon with us.

Our newest addition, our bed and breakfast, opened in September of 2011. This renovated grain elevator is a great place to relax and enjoy the beauty that is Little Swan Lake!

Scott and Diane Benjamin and Family



Little Swan Lake Winery offers a 10% discount on bottled wine to IRSPA members when you show your membership card or the ad from the newsletter. Offer good at the winery only.

[Lslwinery.com](http://Lslwinery.com) • Phone: (712) 858 - 4592

## **IRSPA CONTACTS**

### **Past President:**

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### **President Elect:**

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### **Vice President:**

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### **Secretary/Historian:**

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### **Treasurer:**

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### **Newsletter Editor:**

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515-332-5819 Home; 515-269-3823 Cell  
tonihood@q.com

## **Hawkeye Buffalo & Cattle Ranch**



<https://www.facebook.com/hawkeyebuffaloranch/>

Hawkeye Buffalo & Cattle Ranch is a family farm in northeast Iowa. Our heritage dates back to 1854 when my great-great-grandparents settled in a sod house just a mile from our farm. The bison have returned, and we invite you to connect with the land, our family, and our farm.

Tours include an informative lesson on the history of buffalo in Iowa and a chance to feed the buffalo. Tours are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. With an IRSPA membership card or showing your copy of the IRSPA newsletter with the Hawkeye Buffalo advertisement, the **cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.** Tours are set up on an as needed basis so you must call in advance to set up your tour. The Buffalo Ranch is southwest of Fredericksburg next to Split Rock Park and Campgrounds at 3034 Pembroke Ave. Visitors often get a chance to see other wildlife too - deer, sandhill cranes, hawks, songbirds, and occasionally eagles. Buffalo meat is also sold on location.

Check us out at [Hawkeyebuffalo.com](http://Hawkeyebuffalo.com)  
Phone: 641-229-6701

# Newsletter

## Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.  
Sioux City, IA 51104

**PRSRT STD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**Rockwell City, Iowa 50579**  
**Permit #145**

## ~ WE REMEMBER ~

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>City</u>      | <u>Unit</u>          |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Allen, Bernita  | Chariton, IA     | Lucas County Unit    |
| Breffe, Bob     | Fort Dodge, IA   | Webster County Unit  |
| Cole, Loryl     | Boone, IA        | Boone County Unit    |
| Garrels, Sue    | Marshalltown, IA | Marshall County Unit |
| Gerking, Janel  | Sioux City, IA   | Sioux City Area Unit |
| Ginapp, Nancy   | Marshalltown, IA | Marshall County Unit |
| Harris, Terry   | Peosta, IA       | Dubuque Area Unit    |
| Kvopil, Rachael | Bettendorf, IA   | Davenport Area Unit  |
| McCoy, Patricia | Bettendorf, IA   | Davenport Area Unit  |
| McMorran, Ruth  | Bettendorf, IA   | Davenport Area Unit  |
| Monk, Janet     | Sioux City, IA   | Sioux City Area Unit |
| Ocker, Sharon   | Sioux City, IA   | Sioux City Area Unit |

PLEASE NOTE: Send relevant notices, change of address, and/or subscription cancellations to rmswanson1936@gmail.com

### LEGISLATIVE FUND

Contributions to the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association legislative fund for the improvement of retirement benefits are being accepted for the current year (Oct. to Oct.) Please make your contributions as generous as possible.

\$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Member of Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL EITHER FORM TO:

Robert Swanson, IRSPA Treas. • 3221 Cheyenne Blvd.,  
Sioux City, IA 51104 • Make Checks payable to IRSPA

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I.

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Member of Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$15 • LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$300