



JUNE 2024

IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

From the President Jeanne Handeland

Thank you to the units who hosted district meetings this year. We appreciate the time and effort put into the planning for the meetings. District meetings began both literally and figuratively like a whirlwind. We heard tornado sirens in both Denison and Chariton. It was disheartening to see semis overturned in the ditch and median on I-80. Our hearts go out to the Union County chapter who hosted the District 4 meeting in Creston. Greenfield suffered many losses to lives and property. A dear member from Corning lost her home to a tornado just after our meeting. Thankfully, she was still in Creston and uninjured. I can't imagine how difficult it would be to lose a lifetime of memories, but we thank God she was safe.

The health topic this year was financial health—protection from financial loss due to scams. Billions of dollars are lost each year from scams, and many times senior citizens are targeted. Romance, grandparent, government official, sweepstakes winner, tech support and phishing for information are some typical scams. Signs that it may be a scam include: they contact you, they dangle bait—money or a prize, they want personal information, they want to be paid in gift cards or cryptocurrency, etc. In the future artificial intelligence has the potential to create an image, video, or voice of someone to make the scam even more believable. Some easy ways to avoid being scammed—don't answer your phone if you don't recognize the phone number. Let it go to voice mail. Check out the email address to be sure it's the correct address. Often the address used is only one or two letters different from who they are pretending to be. Even the IRSPA president's name has been used to solicit gift cards. **WE WILL NEVER ASK YOU TO PURCHASE GIFT CARDS FOR US.**

Paul Strid explained the benefits that are available to IRSPA members, and John Hieronymus gave us information from this legislative session and the status of IPERS. Bob Swanson gave membership information to each unit present, and each unit that met their membership goal received a certificate.

Jean Hoffman has been working with Vilocity to improve and update the IRSPA webpage. It is important that the information about your unit is up to date with officers, your program, and



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constitution and bylaws. She is going to include some documents you may find helpful when it is your turn to host a district or state meeting.

This year a PH Balance Scholarship will be awarded in Districts 1, 2 and 6 which will complete the cycle of awarding a scholarship in each of the six districts. The scholarships will be given during district meetings in May 2025. Two volunteers are needed from District 1 and 6 to evaluate the applications in April 2025 (District 2 already has two volunteers). Please let Jean Hoffman know if you are willing to do that. Email her at 42teacher@gmail.com. She would also appreciate your help in contacting guidance counselors in Districts 1, 2 and 6 to let them know about the scholarship. More information can be found on our webpage—irspa.org. Under the "About" tab and then select Scholarships.

Each year a vice president is needed to fulfill a 4-year commitment—vice president, president-elect, president, and past president. Your travel expenses are reimbursed. There is a board meeting in April and July in Des Moines, the day before the state meeting in October and the six district meetings. If something comes up and you are unable to attend a meeting, that is understandable. What I have enjoyed about my time on the board (aside from my opportunity to serve) is the chance to see all parts of Iowa and spending time together with the other board members who are now like family. We are still in need of a vice president. Please consider serving as vice president. We would also welcome you to serve as co-officers. A district coordinator is still needed in district 1 and 5.

We continue to encourage our members to read the newsletter electronically to help reduce expenses. Our plan is that the president will email the link to the district coordinator who will then email that link to someone in each of their units who will send it on to their members. The link will take you to the webpage with one click. You can always go to the webpage (irspa.org) to read it, and the newsletters go back to June 2017. If you want to receive a copy in the mail, we are happy to deliver it to you that way. It would be great to hear your preference. So far, only 100 or so members have indicated they want to continue receiving it by mail.

Looking ahead our annual meeting will be held on October 2nd and 3rd at the Best Western in Clear Lake. This is located just off I-35. There are lots of fun things to check out in Clear Lake and Mason City. Be sure to register for the meeting and pay for your meals by September 15th. One hotel room for the president of each unit or their designee and mileage for one car will be paid. If your unit has five or more attending, mileage for a second car will be paid. It would be great to have representation from every unit! Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and we'll see you in October!

Jeanne Handeland, IRSPA President



CRAWFORD COUNTY IRSPA

The Crawford County Chapter of IRSPA held their regular meeting at the Bella Sera Restaurant in Denison on Friday, April 27th. Guest speaker was Joan Mosher of Harlan who took the members back to their Golden Book memories as she relayed the history of the 1942 origin of the famous children's books. Members brought a favorite copy of a Golden Book which became table decorations. Some of the books were family favorites for their children and grandchildren as well as students in the classrooms.

Appropriately clad in a bright red suit and hat from the 40's, she read a latest Golden book... Everything I learned came from a Golden Book. Each page was superimposed on a page from an original Golden Book.

Joan Swenson of Kirov and Judy Obrecht of Harlan were hostesses.

President, Annette Boeck presided and the main business was the upcoming district meeting in Denison on May 7th.

A highlight of each meeting is to respond to roll call with a special request. This month was "what favorite person would you like to have lunch with?"

Betty Nobiling



DEARSPA IRSPA

DEARSPA is focusing on nature this year. We kicked off our year with a "meat"ing where we had fun just seeing each other. Our program was Charcuterie boards. We had fun putting our own individual charcuterie cup together. The nephew of two of our members and a former student of many of us was seriously hurt in February when a branch fell from a tree hitting him on the head. In support, we wore our Moeding Strong T-shirts and sent him a picture along with our well wishes. Going along with our nature theme we will be visiting a flower shop, several nature centers, a historic farmstead, the peony farm in Milford, and a summer ride on the Queen at the Lakes.



www.irspa.org

Check it out!



CHEROKEE COUNTY IRSPA

A YEAR IN REVIEW FROM CHEROKEE COUNTY IOWA
RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

AUGUST:

The August meeting of the Cherokee Iowa Retired School Personnel Association took place on Friday, August 11th, 2023, at the Methodist Church in Cherokee. Speaker Courtney Hatch and her daughter Kora shared their passion of being wildlife rescuers—anyone, besides Courtney, go bats for bats?

Correspondence was received from Derek Goth. Derek was the recipient of our \$1000 Lynn Rhoads Memorial College Scholarship.

OCTOBER:

The IRSPA chapter met at the Cherokee Public Library on October 13th. Tyler Hahn, the head of the Cherokee Public Library, shared some of our library's history as well as information about some of the many committees he is involved with statewide.



Cherokee Public
Library

Through parliamentary procedure, The Cherokee County Iowa Retired School Personnel Association changed the chapter's 6 meeting months to April, May, August, September, October and November (no summer meetings—and less chance of the winter weather interfering with meeting dates).

NOVEMBER:

The Cherokee IRSPA group met on Friday, Nov. 10th, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cherokee. The program was given by Kayla Mayer, an employee of the Cherokee Public Health. She gave an overview on their duties and areas of assistance to the community. The Public Health department provides care to preschool age children, especially those who are not receiving health care. They provide education as well as service to their clients of all ages. This includes dental health, medical, shots, substance abuse, mental health, etc. Kayla provided answers to questions about shots for those of us who are retired. It is a good source of information for any of us.

DECEMBER:

The December IRSPA meeting took place at the Sanford Museum and Planetarium. Planetarium personnel presented a program on the "North Pole"

which included a slide show. A Christmas brunch was catered by the local Family Table and was enjoyed by all who chose to take part in the feast. Members brought school supplies and children's winter weather apparel to be given to and used by the local Cherokee Elementary School. Pantry offerings were also brought to be given to Mid Sioux Food Pantry. All were placed under IRSPA's Christmas "Gnome" tree.



APRIL:



After a 3-month winter hiatus, the Cherokee group met at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee. Carmen Henke, the newest member of the Cherokee chapter, gave a beautiful slide show presentation on her trip to Italy which she had taken with her church group last November. Thank you, Carmen.

MAY:

The IRSPA group met at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cherokee. The guest speaker was Amy Brunsting with her 3-year-old mini Aussiedoodle therapy dog, Fletcher. Amy explained therapy dogs play a different helping role than service dogs and emotional support animals. Therapy dogs with their human teammate (often the dog's owner), volunteer in clinical settings. These locations include such places as hospitals, mental health institutions, hospices, schools and nursing homes. The dogs provide comfort, affection, and even love in the course of their work. Therapy dogs are trained to be comfortable in new environments and to interact with different people. Fletcher has taken several specialized training classes to handle the job of a therapy dog. Thank you to the Denison IRSPA Unit for a job well-done at their District Meeting. It was a highly informative and enjoyable, day—and we even got to take home the bacon!!!



Karen Thomsen

District 2

WEBSTER COUNTY IRSPA

After our winter hiatus, our March presenter got us moving and grooving! One of our unit members, Diane Larson, leads a B.A.S.E. exercise class in Fort Dodge. Balance-Agility-Strength-Endurance are the goals of this class. She got us moving our arms and legs the way she has her class participants do in the 50 minute sessions twice weekly. Diane invited us to join her in her class or join the other class in town. As it turned out, 8 of us signed up for the bi-weekly workout!



B.A.S.E. Instructor Diane Larson (seated) with some of Webster County Unit's members. Other members attend an afternoon class.

Our April presenters were three speech students from Fort Dodge Senior High. They even came to our luncheon meeting to perform on a day they had no school!! All three students were All-Staters and shared their work that earned them that distinction. We always enjoy these performances and feel a degree of pride in their excellence.



Grant Behrens, Fort Dodge Speech Student, delivers an amusing and entertaining reading from a children's book. Little did anyone know at this event that Grant was going to be one of our scholarship winners this year!

In May, we met our two \$1000 scholarship winners who attend school in Webster County. This year both students are from Fort Dodge Senior High and each will be attending the University of Northern Iowa. Katie Radamaker plans to become an English teacher and Grant Behrens plans to

teach History. These are two of the more than 40 scholarships we have awarded in the last 25 years.

We paid our final tribute to the seven members who passed away this year. Rose Buda-Clausen and Judge Brown read the obituaries for each member. Rose researches and writes each obituary that is shared.

Our meeting year has come to an end. Committees and officers will continue to work during the summer. We will resume in August. When the kids go back to school, we will go to lunch!!

Cheri Maehl



Scholarship winners, Grant Behrens and Katie Radamaker will use their \$1000 scholarships at the University of Northern Iowa next fall.



Rose Buda-Clausen reads an obituary of one of the seven members while President Janet Carlon lights a candle in honor each person.

District 2

BOONE COUNTY IRSPA

The Boone County Retired school personnel Association met at The United Methodist Church in Boone on April 9th. Sixteen members were present.

Members brought hygiene items to the meeting to donate to the Toreador Food Pantry.





CEDAR RAPIDS IRSPA

We began our new year in September 2023, meeting at the American Legion in Marion, Iowa. Our officers: Treasurer – Anne Angerer, President – Bob Gilchrist, – Mary Muehl - Secretary and Vice-President- Sunny Story.

Other leaders include Membership – Kathy Shelton, Arrangements – Cindy Monroe, and Book Club - Linda Meyer. Many members help with set up and clean up at each meeting.

We had an irregular meeting year for 2023-2024 in that we had to cancel or shorten meetings because of weather concerns, holidays or a presenter who did not show up.

Nevertheless, we had a good year with sessions describing programs that enhanced educational opportunities for both students and the community. The first presenter was Judy Mitchelen, a former teacher from Vinton-Shellsburg. She spoke about the Sew Powerful organization. It is a nonprofit in Zambia helping moms with the goals they have for their children – education, food, safe water, health, and good jobs. Volunteers in several countries make school uniforms, and cloth purses that hold reusable hygiene pads, soap, and farm fresh food. You can find out more at www.sewpowerful.org.

Another presenter was Art Staed, Iowa State representative in the Cedar Rapids area. He spoke on the bills in the 2-year cycle for moving bills through the legislature. There were approximately 55 bills that dealt with education this session. Representative Staed spoke about several of them and explained what passing them would mean for Iowa schools. Many are part of the current “Culture War” trend that were supposedly designed to protect children’s innocence, such as the gender identity bills, limiting school librarians to one per district, and banning certain books.

Dale Todd from the Cedar Rapids City Council spoke on a variety of topics. Mr. Todd briefly described growing up, his family, and their emphasis on voting. Nowadays, he said, most people don’t know what the issues are and don’t vote. Next, he spoke on the homeless population and stated that the city is working to unify the efforts of several agencies that aid the homeless. Mr. Todd said ef-

forts are made to find out what each person needs rather than being judgmental and critical.

Katie Rosenberger, from the Catherine McCauley Center in Cedar Rapids, spoke about the education programs offered for everyone. Education classes can be taken online or in person in English, Literacy, Math, Computer Skills, Citizenship and GED preparation. Volunteers are always needed, especially tutors. Tutor orientation is offered monthly. Contact information is located at www.cmc-cr.org or 319-363-4993.

Dr. Ruth White from the Scholastic and Personal Success at the Cedar Rapids Schools described the Program designed to instill pride in and understanding of African American culture as a tool to encourage academic achievement and positive behaviors. Students start in their first year to build a personal plan. They spend summers at Mt. Mercy College to become acquainted with college life. The program has a 98% success rate. Contact them at (319) 389-4644 or the academysps@gmail.com.

We will have a normal meeting at the end of May and hold summer get-togethers at Thomas Park in Marion during June, July, and August. Bring your own lunch and visit with your friends and colleagues.

Mary Muehl, CRISPA Secretary



Left to right: Treasurer Anne Althoff, President Bob Gilchrist, Secretary Mary Muehl, Vice President Sunny Story

www.irspa.org
Check it out!

District 2

HUMBOLDT AREA IRSPA

April

The Humboldt Area IRSPA met on April 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Since we hadn't met since October, 2023, the members enjoyed beginning the meeting with time to visit and enjoy snacks brought by Cindy Reher.

President Anita Fagen-Miller reminded the members that dues and volunteer hours should be turned in by or at the May meeting. She also gave the details concerning the District 2 meeting at Marshalltown. District 2 will host the IRSPA state meeting October 1 and 2 in Mason City.

Lisa Rasmussen, who operates Lofty Lou with her daughter Sarah, presented the program. This creative team creates eclectic art, jewelry, photography, beaded creations, and other mixed media pieces. Lisa operates out of a converted corn crib on the family farm. Even though Sarah lives in Boston, the mother/daughter duo travel to art shows selling their creations to appreciative customers.



Lisa Rasmussen (on right) is with member Nancy Imman. Lisa, a local artist, explained the history behind her and her daughter's art business Logo LoftyLou. She also brought samples of her art work.

May

The Humboldt Area IRSPA's May meeting was held at 9:00 a.m. on May 7th at the newly remodeled Humboldt Community Center. The members brought items for the Humboldt Community School District's F.U.E. L. program that offers food, hygiene items, and clothing to students and their families. The state meeting, legislative matters, and membership recruiting were discussed.

President Anita Fagen-Miller introduced Candy Carlson who presented a program about the famous Sally, Dick, and Jane reading series.



Candy Carlson

Treats were furnished by Mary Lou Perry, Nancy Inman, and Carolyn Ford; members brought their own beverages.

All the members remembered and could relate to the whole language approach to reading instruction. Candy's presentation had many fun facts such as in the 1950's 80% of first grade students learned to read from this series. The "look, look, look and see, see, see" lines generated many nostalgic laughs. Nostalgia led to a great discussion about present day educational issues.

Submitted by Toni Hood

IRSPA Leaders Bring New Training Home



On April 15th, Past President Jean Hoffman and President Elect Beth Hieronymus joined leaders from 19 retired educator associations across the country in Charlotte, North Carolina for a Train-the-Trainer Conference sponsored by the National Retired Teacher Association. Much of the information focused on addressing the concerns voiced by our own members about recruiting members and increasing leaders within our organization.

Jean and Beth will be sharing some of what they learned at the IRSPA Annual Meeting on October 2nd and 3rd in Clear Lake. All Units are encouraged to send at least 2 people to participate in a training called 7 Membership Touches. Participants will collaborate on ways to intentionally create seven "touches" that can lead to increased membership and social connectedness with the Association.

District 2

HARDIN COUNTY IRSPA

In March, we were delighted to hear a program presented by the Iowa Falls-Alden HS speech students and their coaches. Individual speeches were given to demonstrate different categories in which the students have performed; some have qualified to go on to the state competition. Also present for this meeting was Judge Brown, our District Two Coordinator.

Verv Davidson, one of our own members, gave an excellent April "Patriotism" program. He reminded us that patriotism includes taking pride in our country and following its laws. Verv proudly served in the US Navy. Traditionally, we have asked him to lead our



Verv Davidson, Hardin County IRSPA member and Navy veteran, inspired us with his "Patriotism" program.



Judge Brown, District 2 Coordinator, attended the Hardin County March IRSPA meeting.

"Pledge of Allegiance" as we open each meeting.

Member, Lois Nassen, led us in singing the song "M-O-T-H-E-R," dedicated to the beloved memory of her own mother, also a retired teacher. Our May guest speakers were from the Iowa Falls-Alden HS sharing about their Farm Studies program, including much hands-on experience. We had a single applicant for our scholarship, although a second student applied AFTER the deadline. This year's scholarship will be awarded to an Iowa Falls-Alden senior at their awards ceremony later this spring. Installation of officers was held for president, Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, and secretary, Marlene Reece. Out-

going president, Jill Fraser, collected the final tally of volunteer hours for this school year.

A reminder was given that we can now accept "Friends of Education" memberships for individuals having any interest in the schools. IRSPA membership is not limited to only former school employees. Members Maurice Gaulke, Mary Lou Kirkdorffer, Marlene Reece attended the District 2 meeting in Marshalltown on May 8th.

We will have an EXEC BD meeting to make plans for 2024-2025 year on June 20, at 9:00 AM.

Marlene Reece, Secretary

District 3

CEDAR VALLEY IRSPA

Cedar Valley Retired Teachers met May 28, 2024 for a luncheon tour of the Girlhood Home of Carrie Lane Chatman Catt. We all had a great time learning about Carrie Lane Chapman Catt's girlhood home and museum. Below is a picture of those who attended along with Charlotte's guest, Ann Walker. Our next meeting will be on June 25, at 12:00 Noon at Riceville's 10th Hole Restaurant.



Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the September Newsletter are due no later than Friday, August 16,

Get info to Toni Hood, at

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Cell Phone: 515-269-3823

District 3

JACKSON COUNTY IRSPA

The Jackson County Retired School Personnel held their May 3 meeting in Bellevue. First a delicious lunch was at 11:30 at La Casa de Pancho. Thirteen members attended the meeting. The program was at the old Button Factory which is now the site of BIG, a very impressive program started at Bellevue High School. The juniors in high school told about their projects which they work on first period. The BIG facebook page says: "We believe real world learning opportunities build passionate and engaging experiences for students."

The first group showed us a slide show about Aquaponics. They have a growing bed for plants and the fish fertilize the plants. They will also have a fish fry for sixth graders. The next group was working at Mill Valley. They do many projects to help the residents, such as Easter eggs and doing their nails. Next we got to hear from a group who constructed a meeting table that was beautiful with golden oak stain and clear coat poly. The next group worked on the reconstruction after the building had flooded. They used baseboards from a barn and put frames around corrugated tin metal to make sides that can be removed if there is another flood. Another group showed how the soundproof recording room was made and showed interviews which can be viewed on Spotify.



A short business meeting followed. The scholarship for \$500 will be given to one of several seniors who applied. The plans for the District Convention were reviewed. It will be May 9 at the Methodist Church in Maquoketa from 8:30 to 1:45. Lunch will be catered by Kalmes. President Nancy Wagoner has organized it and several will help set up the tables on Wednesday at 2:30.

Roberta Rosheim

District 4

COUNCIL BLUFFS IRSPA

The Council Bluffs Retired School Personnel met on March 20, 2024 at the Council Bluffs Country Club with 34 members and 3 guests in attendance. We have two new members: Charles Kimmish and Barb Burns.

Dr. Brent Hoelsing, Superintendent of Lewis Central Community Schools, discussed current legislation. Topics included AEA, schooling funding, teacher salaries, open enrollment, arming staff members and school start dates.

Carol Huffman was presented a flowering plant for her past dedication as the CBRSP treasurer. Carol has moved and will be transferring her membership to a Nebraska group.



Pam Ryan looks over a wreath.

The Council Bluffs Retired School Personnel met again on April 17, 2024 at the Council Bluffs Country Club with 49 members in attendance.

We have one new member, Sandie Smith which brings our membership to 72. Members signed retirement cards which will be sent to Council Bluffs and Lewis Central retirees. Raffle tickets were sold for our Scholarship Fundraiser. A good time was had by all in attendance as there were many fun and unique items donated which included baked goods and other food items, craft items, plants, wine, quilt and gift cards. A total of \$879 was raised from the sale of tickets which brought this year's total donations to \$1025. Our Scholarship is given annually in May through the Community Foundation for Western Iowa.



Dee Engstrom signs cards for new retirees.



JoAnn Tews gives Phyllis Vanfossan a bag of goodies.

Julie Dillehay, Secretary



DAVIS COUNTY IRSPA

Davis County Retired School Personnel met on March 5 at The Kay Burchette Cultural Center for their first meeting after winter break. The program was presented by Davis County High School Speech and Drama students under the direction of Joy Orwig. The students showcased some of their entries for District and State Contests.



Davis County Retired School Personnel met on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Bloomfield Fire Station with 23 members present. Wayne Scott presented a program about beekeeping. He shared about how he got started in beekeeping and how the beehives are populated and maintained.



We also heard speeches from Breanne Ricardo and Ruby Piper. They are 5th graders who won the local Optimist Oratorical Speech Contest. Their original speeches were written to the theme of "How



Do You Change the World with Optimism." They will be competing in the district contest in the near future.

Our next meeting will be May 7th at Southfork Meeting Room. The program will be Tourism/Welcome Center presented by Joye Lore Lawson.

Twenty three members of the Davis County Retired School Personnel met on Tuesday, May 7 at the Southfork Meeting Room.

Our program was presented by Joye Lore Lawson on Davis County Tourism and the Davis County Welcome Center. Joye provided us with tourism materials that are available at the Welcome Center. We also enjoyed a quiz on trivia and facts about our local Welcome Center. We learned that The Davis County Welcome Center was Iowa's First Official State Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is entirely staffed by 46 volunteers and their gift shop currently features arts and crafts from 52 local vendors.



DCRSP would like to thank Lyle Stirling for serving many years as our president. Lyle will be passing the torch to Debbie Van Horn beginning with our August 23rd meeting which will be our Retirees First Day of School Celebration.



Becky Shively
Public Relations for DCRSP

This is the link to view IRSPA newsletters online at irspa.org

<https://irspa.org/index.php/news/newsletters>

The IRSPA newsletter will continue to be mailed to members. If you do not want a mailed copy and prefer to read it online, email rmswanson1936@gmail.com.

You can access the online copy at IRSPA.ORG under the "News" tab.

District 5

JASPER COUNTY IRSPA

Hello to all our fellow retired school personnel! Well here we are, winding down our 50th year celebration of retired school personnel shenanigans!

Our March meeting was well attended and our program was the director of one of our local daycare centers. We learned quite a bit about Early Childhood Education and child care in Iowa and specifically in the Newton area. As usual our snacks and social time were a highlight!

In April, we had our spring luncheon which was provided by the half of our membership that didn't bring soups, salads, breads and desserts for our fall luncheon! Afterwords we were entertained by our local Bell Choir which boasts several of our own members and then some young talented NHS Chamber Choir students sang some incredibly beautiful songs! We have one meeting left this school year and for that we are going on a road trip. While we know from this publication that many of our fellow IRSPA groups do road trips frequently, we do not. This will be a first for us for quite sometime! We will be venturing to the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City. After we learn all they have to share with us... we MAY just have to stop at the 'famous' Goldies Ice Cream Shop in the same area!

Until next time, everyone have a fabulous summer!
Denise and Lana co-presidents



As the Bell Choir played "Goldilocks & The 3 Bears" member Linda narrated the story!



NHS Chamber Choir performance



District 6

JEFFERSON COUNTY IRSPA

The beautiful carol O Holy Night was beautifully sung and accompanied by pianist Zach Reider, the vocal music teacher at Fairfield High School, but have you ever heard O Come All Ye Faithful jazzed up and accompanied by drums? As odd as the idea of a religious carol jazzed up may sound, the Fairfield High School Jazz Choir pulled it off—and the members of the Jefferson County School Personnel really loved it. Those and other Christmas songs that Mr. Reider and his group sang, sometimes with some dancing added, was a perfect ending to a good meal at the Addington Place, our present location for our meetings.

It's now March, and the Health report from the article "Stay Warm & Avoid Falls" from ConsumerReports On Health (January 2020) was given at the Christmas meeting in Fairfield before we really needed it and—hopefully— don't need in March. However, there are a couple of key points in it that still might be useful to those of you in some unlucky areas in Iowa.

Probably two of those points are well-known to most of us by now: layers are better than just one heavy coat and avoid scarves that could trip you up or get caught in a car door. However, there are a couple points that are not so well-known. One is to wear wool or synthetic socks to better keep your feet dry and warm—not cotton, which will absorb the moisture and trap it right next to your feet. A second point not so well-known involved cleats and spikes that can be clipped over shoes. They are good to help you get a grip on ice and help prevent falls. However, do NOT wear them inside on smooth floors. Besides making you rather unpopular with the owner of the floor, those cleats and spikes can cause you to fall on that type of surface.

Michele Weber, secretary

Jefferson County members visit while waiting for others to arrive.



The FHS Jazz Choir



JOHNSON COUNTY IRSPA

As usual Johnson County had a busy end of winter and spring awakening.

At the end of January, Tami Bonnett, Development Director, from the Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity spoke at our monthly luncheon on the great work Habitat has done in Johnson County. They choose deserving families with the Women Build in Iowa City. Our member and past Iowa Legislator was honored this year for the MARY MASCHER WOMEN BUILD project. Since 2005 influential woman in the community have been recognized. Several of our members volunteered with Habitat's Women Build home. As Mary stated, "As an educator in the Iowa City Schools, I recognized the importance of safe, affordable housing so students could achieve academic success. While serving in the legislature... I focused on affordable homes and low interest loans so families could live close to their neighborhood businesses and schools. It is truly a privilege to be the Women Build honoree this year."

We are so fortunate to have Mary as an active LIFE member who also served on our Program Committee this year.



We are so fortunate to have Mary in our group. As a Retired Legislator of 28 years, she has rich contacts within our community and has gotten many programs arranged.



**February meeting at Blackstone's
The State of Mental Health in our
schools**

In February, Kari Vogelgesang from the University of Iowa College of Education, spoke to us on The State of Mental Health in our Schools. She told us about the Scanlan Center which is the state's hub for school based mental health, research, training, professional learning and clinical services.

Our social event

took place at the Brush and Barrel. What a fun and relaxing time we had learning to paint like Monet at The Brush and Barrel in Coralville. With a little instruction and a little help, we felt like pros and took pride in our finished products! The wine helped, too.



Brush and Barrel "final projects" from Monet's collection of Water Lillies. Back row: Mike Petersen, Jon Noel, local President, Sally Hall, John Hieronymus, State Legislative contact, Dave Ulrick, local treasurer. Front row: Karin Petersen, Nancy Porter, Newsletter, Beth Hieronymus, State President Elect

The March meeting brought us Liz Preciado-Genelle, executive director of 10,000 Villages. This is so named because it is a Fair Trade -People and Planet First Mission of eco-friendly, sustainability, social justice and income and gender equality store in downtown Iowa City. A visit to this store is worthwhile. You won't be disappointed in the quality or variety of handmade goods from around the world. Your dollars go for a great purpose. It is the only such store in Iowa. We also went out for a lunch date at Barrett's, a neighborhood bakery and cafe, in Coralville as our social event.

April brought us Juli Johnson Seydell who is the Director of Parks and Recreation. Our pool at City Park developed a massive leak and loses too much water daily. The repair job is way too expensive. We will have a new pool after much planning and input from the community. This is the last year the City Park pool as it will be in operation. As Iowa City Director, she oversees 46 parks, 40 miles of trails, 1600 acres of open space, two Rec Centers and Oakland Cemetery.

On April 9, a group of us visited the Street Rod Golf Cars Factory in Montezuma. What a ride! No rides are given in these specialty built carts! You may order your own special for \$40,000 or so. These cars are only built in three factories across the nation remaking golf carts to drive on streets.

May was our annual picnic and planning for the future- meeting at John and Beth Hieronymus' Home. They have such a beautiful house, gardens and forest that walking around and enjoying the outdoors is such a pleasant experience. We were able to fill most of our positions for offices next year. Thanks to all who step forward and continue to help make IRSPA viable and fun and educational!!



Phil Conaway, Fred Stark, listen to John Hieronymus talk about his trees that he and his dad planted.

Nancy Porter

District 6

DAVENPORT AREA IRSPA

After a break in January, we resumed our meetings in February. We are always thankful for the Davenport Schools Museum committee for finding interesting artifacts, pictures and articles to share on the museum table when we arrive. Our local chapter is in the process of establishing a scholarship and we have a committee working out the details. Our speaker at this meeting was Bill Mueller, author of the books "Time to Ship Another Steer" and "Come Drive With Me". He shared many interesting and humorous stories.



**Author Bill Mueller
in February**



**Singer Travis Hosette
in March**

In March, our members were entertained by Travis Hosette - who sang in the style of Frank Sinatra. In April, our slate of officers for the next 2-year term was announced and voted on....it was unanimous! We were lucky to have 4 of our board members, whose terms ended this May, volunteer to continue for the next term. We had 2 others volunteer to be co-vice-presidents. So we again have a great group of people to lead our local chapter. Our speaker was from AARP - Lorraine Bowans.

In May, we had our last luncheon and business meeting until the fall. We traditionally do a necrology ceremony- honoring those members who passed away in the past year. We also installed our slate of officers for 2024-2026... Chryss Hartman and Laurie Marple (co-presidents), Deb Kelly and Sandy Liagre (co-vice-presidents), Dean Breneman (treasurer), and Cheryl



**Lorraine Bowans from
AARP in April**

Sly (secretary).

Our musical entertainment was from CASI - The Bob Gaston New Horizon Band. Two of our DARS-PA members play in this band!

We hope everyone has an enjoyable, healthy and safe summer!

Cheryl Sly - secretary



Our May necrology ceremony



The New Horizons Band in May

District 6

DES MOINES COUNTY IRSPA

Des Moines Co. RSPA had a great year! Bethany Lutheran Church in Burlington continues to graciously allow us to meet at their gathering room, and delicious food comes from Two Chics Catering. Programs this year included presentations from United Way, Hospice, and Hope Haven Development Center, along with a silent auction to benefit our scholarship fund. We were treated to Christmas music from Burlington's Silver Singers, and finished off the year with a fascinating field trip - our first- to the amazing Anne Frank Pen Pal Museum in Danville.

Once again, our hard working scholarship committee chose two very talented students to receive awards.

Our group is fortunate to have members who assist others during meals, bring our name tags, and help tidy up! We are also grateful to those who call members for luncheon reservations each month! We are looking forward to the fall, when our first program will teach us about services offered by Senior Life Solutions!

Kim Smith, Secretary



LEE COUNTY IRSPA

Lee County Retired School Personnel recently met at the St. Paul United Church in Keokuk. Guests were recognized and a delicious lunch was served to approximately 30 members. The program was presented by Katie Geltz and Kyla Muston. Geltz is speech coach at the Keokuk High School and leads a group of students in competitive acting. Muston is a member of this class and will graduate from KHS in May. Both ladies shared



information about the growing club and their objective. Members of the class produce short films, documentaries, and there is also mime group. Recently, 2 of their productions have received an Honorable mention at the state competition. Many of their productions can be found on U-

Tube under K-Pride Productions.

A silent auction was held with proceeds going towards the scholarship fund. Retired personnel will meet again April 3, 2024, 12 noon, Ft. Madison United Methodist Church.

Lee County Retired School Personnel recently met in Ft. Madison for their April meeting. Approximately 30 retirees were in attendance. Members bring various items to be auctioned by our Pam Strong. Monies collected from the auctions go toward scholarships given to graduating seniors in Lee County.

Sandy Brown, Director of PAW Animal Shelter in Ft. Madison presented the program. Brown, director for 14 years shared that at present 203 dogs and 83 cats were housed at the no-kill shelter. PAW serves Ft. Madison, Keokuk, Lee County and the surrounding area.

PAW is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit which operates on donations, small grants and memorials. All donations are 100% tax deductible. PAW also is supported by donations of recyclable cans and bottles. These items can be left in Ft. Madison, 2031 48th St. or in Burlington at the SCC campus the 3rd Saturday of every month. Last year, PAW earned \$82,000 because of these donations.

Linda Wheeler, daughter of the Leon and Wanda Link, shared about the conception of the shelter. The Links of Ft. Madison began the crusade to create this no-kill shelter in the mid-70s. The Links raised funds through auctions, garage sales, and a bank account where money could be

deposited for the shelter. Mr. Link invested the funds until it was feasible to build. The land was leased for \$200/year. Construction services were mostly donated. The entity was created as CASI, Community Animal Shelter Inc. for the shelter. Mr. Link had passed but Mrs. Link paid the bills until PAW representatives came with an offer to take it on. The agreement was made that it would continue to be a no-kill shelter. Neither the city nor county had any part of the success of the shelter. Kudos to Mr. & Mrs. Link, what a heartfelt vision they had.

The PAW shelter can be reached at 319-372-2274 and is open 1-4 pm, 7 days a week. All animals available for adoption are fully vetted.



Brown and Maddie

Approximately 30 Lee County Retired School personnel met recently for their May meeting. Mitzi Jessen, chair of the scholarship committee, shared that a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to 3 Lee County students majoring in education. Recipients will be announced after the presentations have been made. Ed Bazow presented the program on the history in and around Keokuk. The Honey War was a bloodless territorial dispute in 1839 between the Iowa Territory and Missouri over their border.

Most of his Bazow's presentation was based from Keokuk Librarian, Merissa Lewiston, who researched and compiled information titled, "Lost Towns Near Keokuk, Iowa." Buena Vista, 1875-1914, was located three miles west of Keokuk in the southern part of Jackson Township. Buena Vista was a flag station on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. Floral Hill would have included 7 streets: Des Moines Ave, Willard, Lloyd, Olive and Harold Streets, Missouri and Floral Avenue. It is unclear as to why this area did not develop as expected. Finally, Messingerville, 1855-1914, was 8 blocks in size. The area included parts of Washington Street, Hickory Terrace, Plank Road, and Eicher Street. Hickory Terrace was originally called Hornish Street. As the group met on May 1, Ed provided trivia and events that had occurred on May Day. New Officers were elected for a 2-year term; Jill Cox, President, Judy Walrath, Vice President, Judy Bartachek, Treasurer, and Tonya Ferguson, Secretary. Their next meeting will be June 5, Meyer's Courtyard, Keokuk, 12:00 noon. The program will be presented by Andrea Mott on Rising Stars Children's Choir.

Jill Anderson-Cox

District 1 Annual Meeting



On May 7th, 29 IRSPA members from across the state and District 1 gathered in Denison for the District 1 yearly meeting. The Crawford county unit served as hosts.

Registration, pastries and coffee began the day. Annette Boeck, Crawford county unit president, welcomed everyone. The pledge of allegiance was led by Judy Evers, vice president. Beth Hieronymus, state president elect, welcomed everyone and introduced the other state officers and committee chairs.

Jean Hoffman, past state president, gave an update on the PH Balance scholarship.

Paul Strid, AMBA representative, gave updates on AMBA and other insurance programs.

John Hieronymus, our legislative representative, gave information about the stability of IPERS and changes to AEAs and education in our state. All these reports were very informative.



Jean Hoffman told about the Parent in Heaven

The members then broke into focus groups and discussed new ideas in each area. One participant from each group reported to all when we met as a large group. Before lunch, we had a great presentation about bees by Kelly Sonnichsen, Crawford County naturalist. Kelly had many interesting facts about bees, including how the bees won't go outside in the rain. She supplements with sugar water or they would starve. The nature center has a bee hive that Kelly orders bees for and it can be viewed by visitors. She gave out samples of honey made from wildflowers, which is darker in color and from other flowers, which is lighter in color.

After lunch, we were entertained by the Musical Monarchs, a 5th grade singing group from the Denison elementary school. They sang five songs and played kazoos. They did a great job!

Then Neil Shultz, a retired law enforcement officer, from Des Moines, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on "Protecting Yourself from Fraud and Scams." This was information for all so we can avoid being taken advantage of.

We then welcomed Jessica Adams, Alzheimer's Association representative. She spoke on brain and body health. Her presentation was informative and very helpful in recognizing cognitive decline.

Annette then thanked everyone for coming and wished the participants safe travels as they returned to their homes. On their way out of the door everyone was given a pound and a half of bacon compliments of Monogram Foods and Smithfield Foods.

I think all who attended agreed it was a great day!

Submitted by Judy Jepsen

District 2 Annual Meeting

The District 2 meeting was held in Marshalltown on May 8th at the Hope UMC. Thirty eight members attended. Carole Permar gave a welcome, and Phil Tetzloff acted as Marshalltown MC. Beth Hieronymus opened the meeting by introducing the State board members and telling us that the online website is in the process of being updated. She encouraged members to sign up to get the newsletter online.

The group broke into 4 small groups to discuss duties of various officers and committees. We discussed various topics such as membership (how to reach out to prospective new people), membership goals of getting 5% new members next year, various programs that are interesting to people, and also details of various officers' jobs. After small group discussion the



Beth Hieronymus — introductions of state board members

four groups shared with the large group what they had discussed. Awards were given to Big 4, Carroll-Greene, Hardin, and Boone County Units for meeting their membership goals this past year



Big 4, Carroll-Greene, Hardin, & Boone Units met membership goals this year

Doug Wike from AARP, was the first speaker. His topic was "Fraud." One of the top scams is identity theft. Half of all phone calls are robot or scam calls. Fraudulent scams cost people like us \$43 billion in 2022. Top take-aways from his presentation were: 1. Monitor your credit report often (maybe even weekly). 2. Use Gel pens when you write checks and never mail checks from your home mailbox. 3. Register on the "Do No Call" list at least every 5 years or more often. 4. Protect your pins and passwords by not using the same password for multiple things. Use phrases as a password, and make them long (12 characters).

The second speaker was Angie Eastman from Marshalltown. She works at the the Community Y teaching Enhanced Fitness (similar to Silver Sneakers) and Rock Steady Boxing for Parkinson's patients. She also works at Youth Shelter Services (YSS) and works with medication management for people with mental health issues.

Jean Hoffman told about the Parent in Heaven (PH) scholarship that IRSPA gives to a student each year. We need to contact the HS counselor, and the students will fill out and return the application by April 1st of 2025. District 2 is to make two baskets to be auctioned off at the Oct. 2-3 state meeting in Mason City to earn money for the scholarship.

Lunch was a potato bar, salads, and desserts provided by the church ladies. Billy Wilson provided musical entertainment during the meal.

Paul Strid gave a presentation about the AMBA benefits, and John Hieronymus, state legislative chair, gave an IPERS update. He said there have been changes in education this legislative session and we need to keep informed. The election will have a big impact on what happens next year and in the future. As retired school personnel, we have potential influence for IPERS and also for education if we stay informed and use our influence. Two interesting Facebook pages are Iowans for Public Education discussion Group and Don't Touch My IPERS were mentioned by the audience. They appear to be run by very knowledgeable people and have good information.

An invitation to the state meeting was given by Mason City people. The state meeting will be at the Best Western in Mason City on October 2-3. Registration will be in the June newsletter.

Rita Smith, Marshalltown



Small group session of Presidents/V. Presidents/Pres. elect



Small group session with secretaries and treasurers



Small group session working on program ideas



Small group session with Membership people

District 3 Annual Meeting

The Jackson County Unit held the District 3 Meeting in Maquoketa on May 9. President Nancy Wagoner conducted the meeting.

Amber Matthiesen from Iowa State Extension talked about "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" This made everyone stop and think about all the "stuff" we have in our house and who really wants it.

Stovall, AARP, presented a presentation on Fraud. We all need to be observant and up-to-date on all the scams happening now. With the technology we have today, everything is consistently changing.

The last speaker of the day was Jane Schmidt. Her talk was on "Living with a Purpose. We need to look into our lives and examine our values, strengths, and passions."



District 4 Annual Meeting Creston Area Spring Meeting

Members of Creston Area Retired School Personnel Association hosted the District 4 annual meeting on a stormy Tuesday, May 21st, in the fellowship hall of Creston's United Methodist Church.



CARSPA members hosting the meeting are: Jim Tussey, Angie Ford, Cindy Moss, Jody Emerson, Jane Briley, Deb Lilly, Peg Lewis, Marisue Lewis, Charlotte Roberts and Diane Burgmaier.

Twenty-two of the originally expected thirty-seven members and state officers attended. Following registration, all enjoyed a variety of muffins, nut bread, cinnamon rolls and breakfast drinks provided by the members.

Diane Burgmaier, co-president of CARSPA, welcomed those present, and co-president Deb Lilly led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeanne Handeland, State President, introduced State Officers and Committee Chairs. Focus groups shared ideas, and summary reports were given to all.

Entertainment was provided by CARSPA member Jane Briley. She gave an oral presentation enhanced by visual slides on "Creston's Bluegrass Palace." Eighteen counties in southwest Iowa comprised the Bluegrass League. In 1889 the first of Creston's Bluegrass Palaces was made of huge bales of pressed hay and straw of different sizes to look very much like bricks, which covered a framework of wood. Each county decorated a room of the Palace to represent the products of its soil. The people attending the celebration met at the Palace after the harvest was complete and summer was ended. The last Bluegrass Palace was built in 1891; the depression occurred in 1892. Jane shared many interesting facts and pictures about "Creston's Bluegrass Palace."

Jean Hoffman spoke about features of the IRSPA website. She asked each local unit to tend to By-laws and Constitution to address what is to happen to unit money if the unit dissolves. She also asked units to post on the website what its program topics are for the year. Jean also spoke about features of the pH Scholarship.

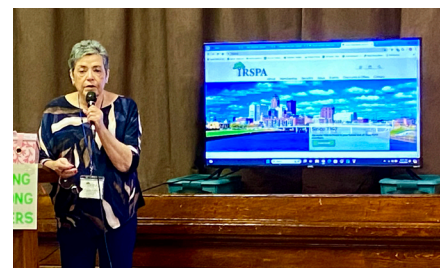
Before lunch local musician Nancy Gates and several members of her family entertained us with singing and piano and violin music.

After lunch to conclude the meeting, reports were given on IPERS updates, AMBA, and an AARP representative updated us on current hacks to be watchful of.

Door prizes were then awarded.



State President Jeanne Handeland welcomes everyone.



Jean Hoffman speaks about IRSPA website and pH Scholarship.

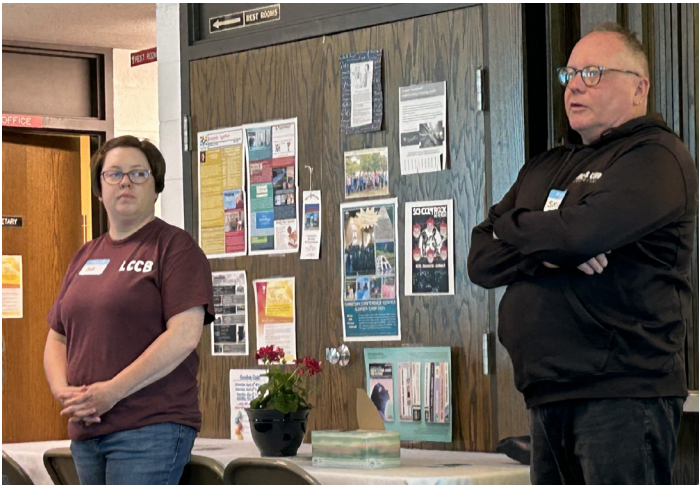
by Angie Ford

District 5 Annual Meeting

Lucas County hosted the District 5 Meeting on Wednesday, May 22 in Chariton. The Morning Program was presented by Lucas County Conservation Director Skylar Hobbs and Lucas County Naturalist Jodi Ogden.

Skylar and Jodi spoke to us about how the reconstruction of Pin Oak Lodge is progressing and the many hurdles they have jumped through since a tornado went through Lucas County on March 5, 2022.

Thank you to all of the State Officers, Committee Chairs, and Guest Speakers who attended the meeting and helped make it a great day.



Lucas County conservation director, Skylar Webb and naturalist, Jodi Ogden discussed the rebuilding of Pin Oak Lodge after being destroyed by a tornado in 2022.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your heartfelt donations to the PH Balance Scholarship during the district meetings in May. We will be awarding three scholarships this next year during the May district meetings to a deserving 2025 graduate in Districts One, Two and Six. At that point a scholarship will have been awarded in all six districts. We will then work at awarding two per year after that. Thank You for your growing and heartfelt support of this scholarship. Donations or memorials can be made at any time by sending a check made out to IRSPA - PH Balance and sent to Bob Swanson, 3221 Cheyenne Blvd, Sioux City, Iowa 51334.

Jean Hoffman

District 6 Annual Meeting

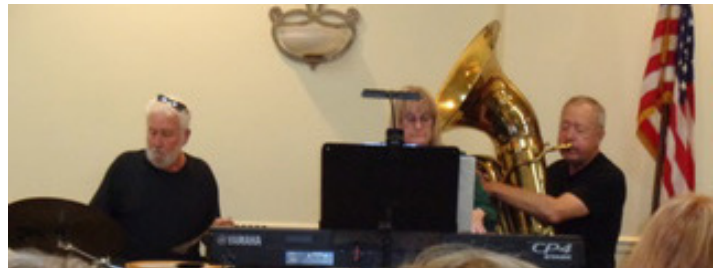
The Clinton County Unit of District 6 hosted the 2024 spring district meeting at Rastrelli's Italian Restaurant in Clinton on May 23rd.

Lots of delicious food, good conversation, shared information, and pleasant surroundings were enjoyed by the group.

Our state personal and other speakers visited with us about brain health, scholarships, our newsletter, AARP, IPERS, and Alzheimer's.

A special guest speaker, Randy Meier director of the Clinton County Sheriff's SENIORS vs CRIME program gave helpful reminders how to avoid being "scammed." Great examples of several scams used by these operatives to lure people out of their money were shared. Questions were asked by the group followed by answers and discussion from Mr. Meier.

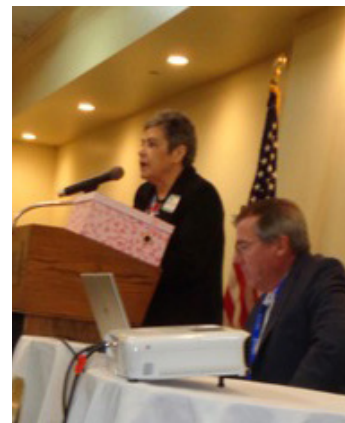
It was delightful to be entertained by a musical trio consisting of Lee Stofer on his tuba, Kurt Prebyl on the drums, and Glenda Prebyl on her keyboard. A lot of "head nodding" and "toe tapping" was noticed in the attentive crowd as the lively music flowed over the room.



The day went by quickly. After our evaluations were completed and door prizes awarded, all patrons seemed to leave with a smile on their face.

We will see our next District 6 meeting will be hosted by the Muscatine Unit on May 8, 2025.

Sharon Leonard Pres.
Clinton County Unit



It's News to Me . . .

by Toni Hood

In keeping with AARP founder Ethel Percy Andrus' motto, "To serve, and not to be served," I encourage IRSPA units to profile any member(s) who deserve recognition for their volunteer activities or interesting hobby. I'm sure our readers will be inspired by these profiles. The diamond industry has standards known as the "5 C's." Our diamond members are: Car- ing, Curious, Colorful, and Catalysts for Change. Let's give a big diamond salute to our stellar volunteers.

PIC TIPS:

📷 Try to have a member(s) in each submitted pic- ture; a picture of an object or an activity, while inter- esting, doesn't resonate with other unit members.

📷 If a speaker or non-IRSPA member is featured, include a unit member in the photo.

📷 Each picture should have a caption. Include member names unless there are too many to list.

📷 Always consider sharing your article with your local newspaper. Most publications are grateful for more news, and this is free publicity for membership recruiting. Send a duplicate email to your local paper when you submit an article.

If everybody recruited one new member, our membership would double.

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 (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.



Dear AMBA,

I am a newly retired school personnel employee and am interested in getting involved with my local unit. I attended a meeting this spring with a friend who retired a couple of years ago. I was really impressed with the number of retirees that attend these meetings. They had a fun program. We got to hear the high school singers and had a very inter- esting guest speaker. I was amazed at how much cama- raderie there was amongst old friends and teachers. We enjoyed a nice lunch. They also mentioned that there are opportunities at the state level to volunteer as an officer. I learned that by becoming a member of the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association (IRSPA) I would have access to many valuable benefits such as something called Pass- port or My AMBA Discounts. I am all about saving money and was hoping you could share some information about Passport.

Sincerely,
Penny Pincher

Dear Penny,

It is great to hear you are excited about getting involved with your associations in your retirement. Saving money while on a fixed income is very important and the Passport program is a great way to allow you to do that. My AMBA Discounts provides you with:

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS ON

shopping & services

Having a Passport Membership means you can enjoy discounts *wherever* and *whenever* you shop! Enjoy Passport's selection of hot deals and members-only savings.

- Online as well as in-store savings
- National merchants, including electronics and car manufacturers
- Entertainment savings at theme parks, movie theaters, and more!

A membership for Passport is \$81; however, joining the IRP- SA with an annual membership of \$15 allows you to have access to Passport for free.

Become a member of the IRSPA and sign up for the Pass- port Program online. You can also save money on the go with Passport Mobile. Please note that if you have any questions about signing up for MyAMBA Discounts and the Passport Program please reach out to Paul Strid, our AMBA representative. Thank you for your inquiry,

AMBA

Paul Strid

AMBA Senior Benefits Representative

PH. 708-347-7081 • email: paul.strid@amba.info

Nominations Committee Announces Candidates for IRSPA Co-Vice Presidency



Show your support and vote for Vice President on the IRSPA Executive Board. This is an elected position and requires an election ballot. Officers so elected shall take office following the close of the Annual Meeting and serve until their successors are elected.

Chryss Hartman and Laurie Marple are candidates for Co-Vice Presidents.

Chryss Hartman

- Retired 2015
- Taught Elementary Vocal Music for 34 years, Pre School -1 year, Kindergarten-1 year and 4th grade Language Arts for 1 year.
- Member of the Davenport Education Association and ISEA for 34 years serving as the building representative and secretary of our local association.
- Choir Leader for children's and adult church choirs for over 15 years.
- Volunteer Youth Group Leader and Sunday School Teacher for over 20 years.
- Piano Teacher for over 14 years.

Laurie Marple:

- Retired 2015 after 38 years.
- Taught Preschool Handicapped & Kindergarten
- Assistant Cub Master - 9 years.
- Founding Member of NS Soccer Club
- Committee Co-Chair for Festival of Trees - 7 years.
- Delta Kappa Gamma Member - 22 years
- State DKG Leadership Seminar - 2012
- National DKG Leadership Sem. - 2018
- Pres. of local DKG Chapter - 2012
- President of IA State DKG Society 2019-2021

How to Cast Your Ballot

- Those casting ballots must be members of IRSPA.
- This is an elected position and requires an election ballot.

Ballot Options for 2024 Election

1. Newsletter Ballot. This ballot may be duplicated if there is more than one individual receiving the newsletter at the same address. If the newsletter is received via e-mail, then the ballot needs to be printed and sent as directed.
2. Digital Ballot. This is the link to the digital ballot:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PHS7F3T>

Exercise your right and responsibility to vote for those who serve this organization.



IRSPA VICE PRESIDENT BALLOT

SELECT ONE

_____ Laurie Marple and Chryss Hartman

_____ (write-in)

A write-in candidate is accepted.

Printed Ballots must be postmarked by July 15, 2023, and mailed to:

Linda Miller, Nominations Chair,
205 E. Harlan Street, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641



**Use this link to vote for the new
IRSPA Vice-President:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PHS7F3T>



**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 th 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 Legislative – John Hieronymus 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 7th 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 7th 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

Clear Lake

Surf Ballroom & Museum – The Surf Ballroom is a Historic Rock & Roll Landmark.
www.surfballroom.com

Buddy Holly Crash Site – 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.

Clear Lake Arts Center –
clearlakeartscenter.org – A cultural complex offering visual arts exhibitions, a gift shop, and a sculpture garden.

Central Gardens of North Iowa – A public garden with nearly three acres of themed flower beds, ponds, stream beds, and art. –
centralgardensnorthiowa.com

Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County Freedom Rock Veterans Memorial– Main & 8th Streets –
www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=133116

Mason City

Lime Creek Nature Center – a 440-acre public conservation education facility – cerrogordo.gov/conservation/lime_creek_nature_center

Charles H. MacNider Art Museum - Includes a permanent collection of American art and the famous Bil Baird puppets – <https://macniderart.org>

Frank Lloyd Wright Stockman House & Interpretive Center – Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and constructed in 1908, the Stockman House is the first Wright-Designed Prairie School-style house in Iowa. –
www.stockmanhouse.org

Frank Lloyd Wright's Historic Park Inn Hotel & City National Bank – The only remaining hotel designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Now functioning as a boutique hotel, restoration was completed in 2011. –
www.wrightonthepark.org

Meredith Willson Boyhood Home – Restored 1895 modified Queen Ann house that was the birthplace of the composer. Located adjacent to the Music Man Square. – themusicmansquare.org

River City Sculptures on Parade – Permanent and rotating sculptures are displayed along a 1.9 mile self-guided walking tour – www.sculpturesonparade.com

Rock Crest-Rock Glen Historic District – the largest collection of Prairie School Architecture in a natural setting in the world.

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 25th St. 641-357-8954

Holiday Inn Express - 3041 4th St. SW 641-424-1200

Quality Inn - 410 5th St SW 641-243-4222

Hampton Inn & Suites - 2111 4th St SW 641-435-7500

Country Inn & Suites - 4082 4th St SW 641-432-1770

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 • Phone: (712) 858 - 4592

IRSPA CONTACTS

Past President:

Jean Hoffman
1460 470th Ave., Estherville, IA 51334
(712) 209-1780 - 42teacher@gmail.com

President:

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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
Phone: 641-229-6701

Newsletter

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104

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Breffe, Bob	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
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Custer, Pat	Randalia, IA	West Union Area Unit
Decker, Betty	Fort Madison, IA	Lee County Unit
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Hill, Patricia	Fort Dodge, IA	Webster County Unit
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Wall, Helen	Donnellson, IA	Lee County Unit
Walz, Paul	Burlington, IA	Des Moines County 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 _____

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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 _____

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