



MARCH 2026

IOWA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

From the President Anne Cowley

It's not too hard to think spring is just around the corner when the temperature hit 75 degrees here in Sioux City on Monday, February 9. Needless to say, we set a record! It was only 62 degrees back in 1954. We did have our fair share of below 0 degrees in January but we are devoid of snow on the ground and we sure could use some of that white stuff. With spring comes the thought of teachers retiring across the state. Please be on the lookout for mention of these retirees in your local newspaper or school board minutes. Ask them to join you at one of your meetings. Also remember those who may have retired two or three years ago. They may be ready to join IRSPA. We feel there are many benefits to joining a local unit: social interaction, lifelong learning through programs and trips, legislative advocacy that protect IPERS and leadership opportunities to name a few.

We are still in need of a district coordinator for District 4. It isn't very time consuming and you are reimbursed for your expenses. If possible, you would visit each unit once a year, help them with their district meetings and assist with the state meeting every six years. One of the best benefits, to my thinking, is the chance to work with other fantastic board members. A few members of IRSPA joined ISEA along with AFL-CIO local members to lobby for IPER at the Capitol on February 4. Please look for John Hieronymus' article in this newsletter. Our legislative lobbyists are busy keeping us informed of legislation that IRSPA may want to support or disapprove. That is another ben-



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efit of membership is IRSPA.

We also have another very important opening - that of Vice President. It is extremely important that we have this position filled. This year we have two President-Elects so someone does not have to do this job alone. Two heads are sometimes better than one. Please think about this very important job.

Our Executive Board meets on March 24-25 this year. We will be discussing IPERS, the emergence of AI, the two openings I mentioned, the membership grant applications that we have received and the district meetings that will be held in May. Please try to attend the one in your district. IRSPA pays mileage for one car. These meetings will be listed somewhere in this newsletter. I do hope many of you will attend. I look forward to meeting you all in person. Remember, if you live in District 1 or 2, I would love to come to one of your meetings. My information is at the top of this newsletter. - Anne

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

*Articles for the
June Newsletter are due no
later than Friday, May 29, 2026*

*Get info to Toni Hood, at
E-mail: tonihood@myctl.net
Home Telephone: 515-332-5819
Cell Phone: 515-269-3823*

Website: www.irspa.org

District 1

DEARSPA IRSPA

DEARSPA is "off" during the winter months, yet the officers have been busy with a couple of projects. It is a continuous endeavor keeping our membership current and growing.

Thank you to the State IRSPA for their generous program to help fund local units working to increase membership. We did discuss ways to work at new membership, submitted a plan, and are now working to carry it out to fruition hoping to increase our membership. Thank you again.

We are also hosting the district one meeting in May. It will fall on Cinco de Mayo so we hope to celebrate with a Cinco de Mayo theme. We have a wonderful humorous speaker lined up that all will enjoy. The meeting will take place at the Senior Citizens Center in Spirit Lake.

More information will be coming out soon. We hope to see representation from all of our units.

Submitted by Jean M. Hoffman

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District 2

WEBSTER COUNTY IRSPA

December is full of Holiday "Magic" and our meeting didn't disappoint. We met at Trinity United Methodist Church, were served a delicious meal, and had a short business meeting. Eleven students from the Ft. Dodge Senior High Vocal Music Department, who were selected for the All-State Music Festival, entertained us with selections from the Festival.

Then they sang Christmas carols, encouraging all of us to join in. A great, festive meeting!



Ft. Dodge Senior High students entertain us with selections from All-State Music Festival.

The book committee helped spread Christmas Cheer to children in our area by giving away books to the Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center (DSOAC) and the Christmas giving program at Kemna Auto of Ft. Dodge. We gave away approximately 700 books. The Webster County Unit does not meet in January or February. Our next meeting is March 2, 2026. But I want to share some earlier activities we were involved in.



Schulze and committee members, Darlene Thomas and Mary Rosburg help load supplies before heading to school.

Summer is a quiet time for most committees in the Webster Co. Unit, but Barb Schulze's School Supplies Committee has

been busy delivering toilet paper and paper towel tubes to Fort Dodge's Butler School along with stickers, boxes of new crayons and \$20 gift cards for each classroom teacher to be used for classroom purchases.

As if that wasn't enough, the committee also delivered a big bag of toilet paper and paper towel tubes to Fort Dodge's Duncombe School too but with an added surprise! Barb has Thrivent insurance and receives a \$250 rebate due to her Thri-

vent membership. That rebate can only be used for a community project. So Barb called her friend, Leslie Nagel, Duncombe School nurse and asked what the school really needed this year. Leslie quickly responded "UNDERWEAR"!! So Duncombe School also received \$250 worth of various sizes of underwear and socks!



Nurse Nagel (left) is joined by the School Supplies Committee: Mary, Barb and Darlene. They are joined by unit member Cheri Maehl (photographer of the day) and Gavin Piper, student teacher.

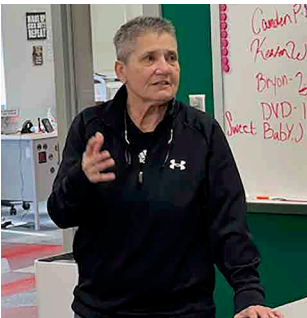
While at Duncombe School, the photographer noticed a familiar face exiting the office area. It was one of our \$1000 scholarship winners from May, 2022, Gavin Piper (see photo). Gavin was beginning his student teaching experience that day!! The Webster County Unit is proud to have helped Gavin toward his professional goal!

Submitted by Deb Larson

District 2

BOONE COUNTY IRSPA

The Boone County Retired School Personnel Association met at the United Methodist Church in Boone on February 10th. Fifteen members were present. Following a delicious lunch served by United Methodist Church Women, members traveled to the Boone Community School's Futures Alternative School to tour the facility and deliver personal hygiene products to support the Treador Food Pantry as part of an ongoing BCRSPA service project.



Kim Kitterman, director of Boone School's Futures Alternative School, leading members of the Boone Retired School Personnel Association on a tour of the Futures' building.

The next meeting will be at the United Methodist Church in Boone on April 14th, 2026.

Submitted by Sue Duffee

District 2

HARDIN COUNTY IRSPA

HCARSP calls on several of our members to make presentations to the group as guest speakers. Photos included here include two from member Dennise Smith's Iowa River Day Camp. Dennise was our guest speaker for November. The third photo is

Stephanie Meyer presenting about her family's SONSHINE FARMS project. Stephanie demon-



strated the spread of their message through her diagram of family and community connections, reminding us all that our influence goes much

farther than we imagine.



We are gathering pop tops for Ronald McDonald House throughout the year. Each month we have an additional "project" such as replenishing school supplies in March. HCARSP tries to make sure our distributions go to as many different communities as possible

throughout the year as part of our public service and awareness efforts.

As many other groups, we take a winter "break" from our December meeting until regrouping in March. Remember to mark your calendars for our District 2 annual meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2026! Watch for registration forms coming to each president/co-president by USPS.

Submitted by Marlene Reece



District 4

COUNCIL BLUFFS COUNTY IRSPA

The Council Bluffs unit met on November 19th at the Council Bluffs Country Club. We welcomed two new members Sheri Stinson and Mike Phelan. We also welcomed a special guest, Anne Crowley, IRSPA State President. Anne invited everyone to the State meeting to be held on October 7-8 in Sioux City. The state is also looking for a Vice President and a new District 4 coordinator. Anyone interested should contact Anne. Thank you, Anne, for attending our meeting.



Anne Crowley State President



Martha Bonine

Our speaker was Martha Bonine who took us on a trip of a lifetime to Antarctica. She has dreamed of going to Antarctica since she was in 4th grade and did a science project on the Adelie penguins. Martha shared some of the many experiences she had on her trip which included helping with scientific experiments, observing seals, whales and penguins. She brought along her red parka with a fluorescent green hood that all participants wore on their trip.

The colors make it easier to be seen on the white background of Antarctica. She also brought a weather balloon that she was given when the scientists found out she was an educator. Weather balloons are released at the same time throughout the world and the data is recorded in Norway. Martha has written a children's book, "A Magical Summer Day, an Antarctica Tale" which will be published this spring.

Geri Frederiksen explained the Building the Party Care Packages for the Homeless project she is working on for the Council Bluffs area. Care packages include various items such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, stocking caps, gloves, scarves, hand warmers, thermal blankets and snacks. Members donated \$260 and many signed up to contribute items. With the generosity of the community 200 packages were made. The packages were distributed by volunteers with the support from New Visions Homeless Services and the Council Bluffs Police Department's Homeless Outreach Program.

We continued to collect Kleenex for our schools. Thirty large boxes and 14 small boxes were donated and distributed in November. We are on winter break until March 18th.

Submitted by Julie Dillehay, Secretary

ATTENTION:

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

EXAMPLE

To: tonihood@myctl.net (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.

www.irspa.org

Check it out!

District 5

JASPER COUNTY IRSPA

Greetings from Newton, Jasper County District 5 IRSPA! We last reported that our upcoming November Soup/Salad luncheon was on our horizon and since that writing indeed, we did have that rou-



tinely anticipated event. As always it was a hit and our awesome hospitality committee

had these fun Thanksgiving/Turkey glasses for each of us. (See pics) There's something about seeing a bunch of your retired teacher pals in silly glasses that is just plain hysterical, causing hilarity to ensue! Boy, we love to have fun! And, because we love fun and hanging with each other, even though we don't have a formal meeting we get together in December for "Cookies and Carols". Again, our creative hospitality committee comes up with a great Jeopardy type game which is highly competitive, along with a few other games and we sing Christmas carols and trade Christmas cookies! (See pics and note the 3 hospitality gals.)



Even though we don't have a January meeting, we continue to gather for monthly lunch and game playing. We are so grateful to have such a fun loving group who genuinely enjoy being together laughing, learning and playing.

We have one more non formal meeting coming up in February which is simply lunch at a favorite deli. Then in March

we are back to formal meetings with terrific programs. You know we will share that next time. Until then, stay hopeful!

- Lana Wohlers and Denise Bontrager
Co-presidents



District 6

MUSCATINE AREA IRSPA

Hello from Muscatine!

The Muscatine Area Retired School Personnel Association (MARSPA) gathered for its fall sessions of meetings in September, October and November.

This year we held our first series of "Field Trips". In October we had our first "Field Trip" to the Stanley Center for

Peace and Security. The Stanley Center for Peace and Security is a non-profit organization based in Muscatine that strives to deal with global challenges



Becka Jones, Lou Jasper and Diana Oldfield painting pottery at Picasso's Paint Your Own Pottery.

such as climate change, nuclear weapons and violence through education and innovative ideas.

Its new headquarters has taken on the "Living Building Challenge"™. Our group was treated to a tour of the "Living Building" and its connection to the history of the area, climate and, the local and global communities which it serves. To learn more go to: livingbuilding.stanleycenter.org



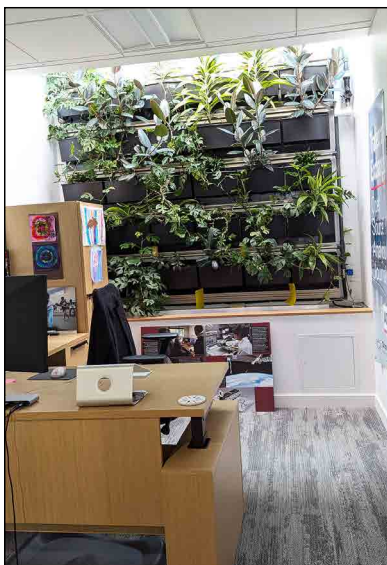
The Living Atrium at the Stanley Center for Peace and Security.

Our second "Field Trip" in November was to "Picasso's Paint

Your Own Pottery" where the group enjoyed painting various items of pottery.

We are in the process of creating a membership drive flyer that will be distributed to our districts new retirees in the spring. We are reforming and defining our scholarship application. Our Volunteer Hours chairman continues to gather hours for Youth, Education and Community.

Our group will have informal lunch gatherings in the months of January, February and March. Our next formal MARSPA meeting will be held April 16, 2026. The program will be "Home-Fit, Aging In Place" with AARP volunteer Lorraine Bowans. Submitted by Cindy Meister - Past Co-Secretary



Office space featuring a Green Wall and natural light at the Stanley Center for Peace and Security.



DAVENPORT AREA SCOTT COUNTY IRSPA

Our local unit met in December, and then again in February. This year, the luncheon meetings are held at the Connick-Collins event center in Davenport. Our attendance is usually between 65 and 80 members. We always begin with



Singers from North Scott High School

a catered lunch with a business meeting to follow. Then each month we have a speaker or some kind of music entertainment. One of our Davenport

Schools museum committee members always has a nice table display of historical artifacts, as well.

In December, we were dazzled by a group of singers from North Scott High School. They had wonderful voices and entertained us with many holiday songs.



In February, we had a speaker who was a Master Gardener. She gave us some good tips and advice on how to do vegetable container gardening. We are presently looking for candidates to volunteer as DARSPA board members - they will be installed at the May meeting.

Submitted by Cheryl Sly

WEBSITE UPDATES

Website Updates At this time of year many of you are making plans for the next year. Please remember to send your new programs to 42teacher@gmail.com so that I can update them on the website. Having this information on the website may save printing for your unit as well as provide a place to peruse and find ideas for your unit. No need to reinvent the wheel. With IPERS under attack right now, keep an eye on the Legislative tab under the ABOUT page for updates There is a contact link there for you to contact John Hieronymus, our legislative chairperson, directly with any questions you may have. Also remember to send photos of interesting activities from your unit to 42teacher@gmail.com to be posted on the IRSPA Facebook page. "Like and follow" to receive all new posts. - Jean Hoffman

Proud Sponsor of PH Balance Scholarship



**SECURITY
NATIONAL
BANK**

District 6

JOHNSON COUNTY IRSPA

Linda Schreiber, Master Gardener, took it upon herself to approach the City Government of Iowa City to use Master Gardner students to change the landscape of the downtown area, much in need of appropriate plants and better use of spaces.

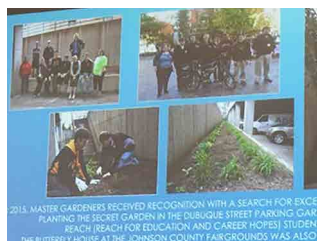
Linda presented the November program. This impressed most of us and increased a desire to partake in beautifying our own environments.

One person can make a difference. Linda makes a beautiful difference!

Our President, Mary Mascher has regularly arranged, for the last several years, our December Activities working with the University of Iowa in the Music Education Department. This year was no exception. With the inclusion of special guest, Representative



ADVENTURES IN GARDENING
JOHNSON COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
2023-2024 L. Schreiber, L. Mascher, L. Schreiber, L. Schreiber
November 11, 2023 at the City of Iowa City



contact her with concerns.

Mary Mascher conducts the meeting with Representative Elinor Levin at her side. The sextet from the U of Iowa makes for fun sing along and great entertainment.

Linda Graham, our treasurer,

and communication helper smiles. From left to right: Mary conducts the meeting, The sextet from U of I Music Ed Department, Representative Elinor Levin is a responsive legislator. Mary



Mascher is our President and received the Outstanding Alum award from U of I in 2024. She rode a Corvette in the 2025 homecoming Parade!



District 6

JOHNSON COUNTY IRSPA

In January Sheriff Brad Kunkle spoke to us about the condition of the Johnson County Jail and sheriff's office. After losing several votes over the years to make repairs, we have a dire situation with our jailhouse needs. Meeting spaces, storage spaces all need upgraded and increased in size. The walls are cracked, the water pipes leak and the foundation is crumbling. Too



Judith Knabe



Nancy Millice and Nancy Porter

many prisoners have to reside in crowded cells even with many being transported to other counties, which is a big expense. Education is needed to replace the current jailhouse. It is inadequate in space and structure. See JC website for more information. Nancy Millice, and Judith Knabe are new members join-



Sheriff Kunkle



Alesa Case and Linda Miller

ing with an invitation from Nancy Porter. Sheriff Kunkle, Alesa Case sits with Linda Miller, our District Coordinator.

District 6

JOHNSON COUNTY IRSPA

JCRSPA is proud to say we will receive Grant Money from the state for a program for increasing membership. With Mary Mascher as Leader, we met with our Superintendent Degner and have plans for a gathering with potential Retiring teachers from the ICCSD.

Using a room in the CAO for a meeting place, and help communicating with educators, Superintendent Degner has more than lived up to his recognition as a Top Leader Superintendent in the state. Communication is so important and now we have a much better means of spreading the word!

Our committee is more than ready to meet the Potential Retired Educators.

A group of about 40 people met at the Labor Center in Des Moines and gathered information for IPERS Lobby Day at the Capitol. With help from the Iowa State Education Association and several other Labor Unions, we had plans established.

It's good to have a plan because so much time is set aside for meetings and special groups and guessing where your Representative might be. We were special. State Auditor Rob Sand met with us in his office. With many deer heads decorating his walls, he visited with us for some time reinforcing how he understood the importance of IPERS.

Rob is running for Governor. Minority Whip Janice Weiner met with us in her office. (Her decorations included pictures of Presidents Biden and Obama.) We were pleased with their response but must keep vigilant.

It was a successful day and well worth the time and effort.

Submitted by Nancy Porter



**Rob Sand, State Auditor,
Running for Governor.**



**Minority Whip,
State Senator
Janice Weiner**



**Representative Adam
Zabner invited members
in the Chamber for a pic-
ture: Nancy Porter, John
Hieronymus, Kristi Keast,
Dave Ulrick,
Beth Hieronymus.**

District 6

LEE COUNTY IRSPA

Thirty-two Lee County Retired School Personnel recently held their March meeting at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Keokuk. The meeting was opened with the Collect followed by a delicious meal. The program was presented by Joe Morgan, retired from Armour Dial/Conagra. Many may know Mr. Morgan from his successful photography business. Currently, he serves as a board member of the Keokuk-Hamilton Dam Museum and is the archivist for the same. Upon approval from Congress, planning for the dam began in 1905 under the direction of Hugh L. Cooper, a self-taught engineer. Estimated cost at the beginning of the project was 6 million. Upon completion, the cost had risen to \$25 million. Ironically, the Panama Canal was being constructed at the same time. Cooper brought workers in from 26 other countries, mainly from Italy. Fifteen different camps with 2,600 workers were built to house the workers according to ethnicity. Each camp had a bunk house, medical care, and a person who could prepare food that they were accustomed to. A coffer dam barrier was constructed to hold back the water so the workers could construct a solid foundation into the bedrock. Construction began in 1910 and ended in 1913. Workers were paid .25 cents-hour, lineman, .38 cents-hour and engineers, 40 cents per-hour. Only 25-30 individuals died during the course of the construction. After completion, all of Cooper's workers placed a coin from their country of origin in a time capsule never to be opened.

Mr. Morgan encouraged the audience to tour the Keokuk-Hamilton Museum located at 418 Main Street in Keokuk.

Submitted by Jill Anderson-Cox



**Ir Members, Joan Courtney, Ruth
Buelt, Gretchen Kirchner, Sally Barrett,
Joe Morgan, District 6 Coordinator,
Linda Miller**

LOCAL MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN.

BY BETH HIERONYMUS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR.

BY JOHN HIERONYMUS

Did you know the work of IRSPA will not happen without local involvement? This isn't rocket science but it is true. Local members volunteer in our schools and communities. They raise money for scholarships and grants. They inform our colleagues about legislation that impacts seniors and public education.

If you belong to a local unit, attend a meeting and learn what is happening in and around your area. If you are not part of a local unit, consider joining one. The directory found at www.irspsa.org shows where our locals

can be found. Annual dues are typically around \$5, and membership opens up new opportunities to volunteer, meet colleagues, continue learning through speakers and outings.

What? There is no local in your area! Contact any of our leadership team about how to start one in your area. IRSPA's motto is "Proud to Serve" and joining a local unit is one way to make a difference for your community and yourself.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Lobbying to Protect IPERS

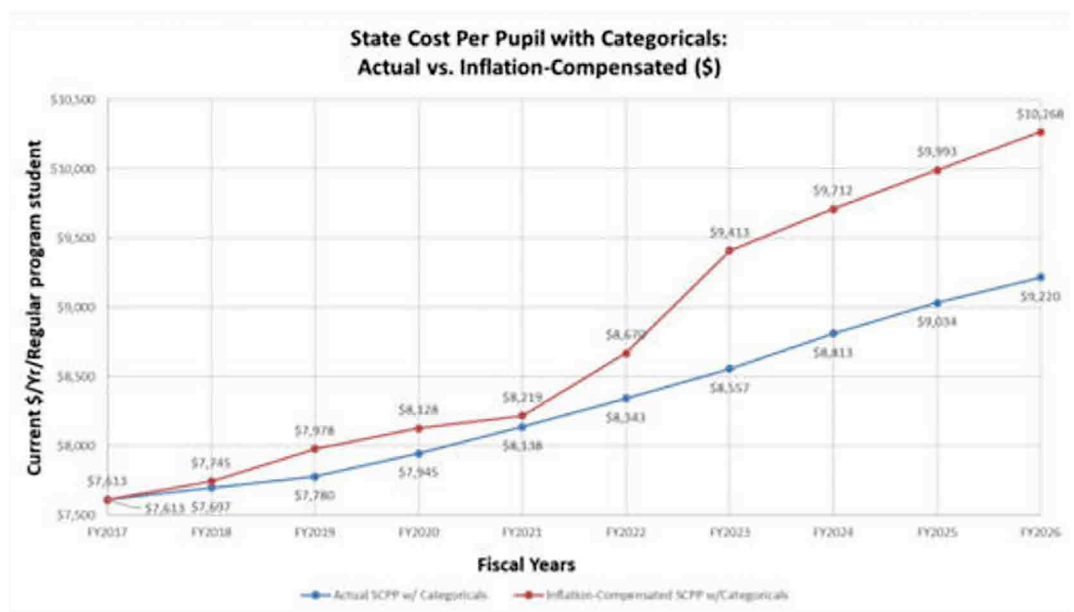
Thank you to all IRSPA members who were able to lobby at the Capitol on February 3rd in conjunction with the Iowa Coalition for Retirement Security. In total, there were over twenty participants. In addition to meeting with our representatives, we met as a group with Minority leader in the House, Brian Meyer and minority leader in the Senate Janice Weiner. We were also able to meet with State Auditor and democratic candidate for Governor, Rob Sand. All three of the leaders were supportive of not making changes to IPERS. Be sure to contact your representatives and share with them what IPERS means to you and your county. You can find the amount of money IPERS distributed in your county on the IPERS website. Remember to tell them that IPERS is good for Iowa.

Supplemental State Aid (SSA)

Governor Kim Reynolds recommended 2% growth in state aid to schools. The Sen-

ate Education Committee passed a bill for 1.75% growth. Senator Herman Quirmbach, ranking member of the Senate Education Committee has put out a graph showing how state aid has been far below inflation. His numbers are based on funding since Fiscal Year 2017, when Governor Kim Reynolds assumed office, and the chart below highlights the funding gap since then with inflation.

Together, with the voucher program, the state is starving our public schools out of existence. Tell your Senator to vote to amend the bill for percentage that aligns with or exceeds inflation.



IRSPA Merchandise

Need to spruce up your wardrobe when volunteering at community events? IRSPA has a variety of short and long sleeve T-shirts, Polos and Sweatshirts available for sale from now until April 11th to meet your needs.

Visit our online store. Once at the store, you can click one of the sample photo to see the colors available. Full color and one-color logos are available for most of the products.

Once you have selected your items, you will need to create an online account with your email address and a password of your choosing before checking out. You will also be asked to select your method of delivery. Free delivery is available for distribution at each of the District meetings this May. Paid postage to your home is also available.

Sport some IRSPA merchandise at your local meeting or whenever you are out in the community. Make IRSPA visible to all as one way to grow membership. Orders can also be placed from our webpage at www.irspa.org. Order yours today for delivery this May!



ORDER BY APRIL 11
PICK UP AT DISTRICT MEETING, OR HAVE IT SHIPPED



[Home / Shop](#)



\$20.00
Gildan 5000 Heavy Cotton T-Shirt



\$20.00
Gildan Heavy Cotton 5000 T-Shirt



\$23.00
Jerzees 29LSR Dri-Power Long Sleeve 50/50...



\$23.00
Jerzees 29LSR Dri-Power Long Sleeve 50/50...



\$28.00
Paragon 100 Saratoga Performance Mini...
FULL COLOR LOGO



\$25.00
Port & Company - Core Fleece Crewneck...
FULL COLOR LOGO



\$25.00
Port & Company - Core Fleece Crewneck...
ONE COLOR LOGO

SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT'S 2026 MEETING

Consider a road trip to your district's annual meeting instead of your local's May meeting.

District 1
 May 5,
 - Spirit Lake

District 2
 May 6,
 - Iowa Falls

District 3
 May 7,
 Dubuque

District 4
 May 21,
 - Perry

District 5
 May 20,
 - Centerville

District 6
 May 19,
 - Ft. Madison

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

*Articles for the **June** Newsletter are due no later than **Friday, May 29, 2026***



Get info to Toni Hood, at
E-mail: tonihood@myctl.net
Home Telephone: 515-332-5819
Cell Phone: 515-269-3823

NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR:

Vice President: The term is from October 2026 - 27 with an automatic move to President Elect for 2027 - 28 and then to President for 2028 - 29 followed by Past President from 2029 - 30.

If you would like to nominate a candidate (with his/her permission), please contact your District Coordinator:

District 1

Jeanne Handeland
4181 230th Street
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District 3

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Diane Johnson

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rmke811@gmail.com

District 6

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erfda48@yahoo.com

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

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

UPDATED IRSPA CONSTITUTION

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association (IRSPA)

October 2025

Approved May 20, 1976; Amended May 26, 1977; Amended October 18, 1979; Amended November 5, 1981; Amended May 5, 1983; Amended October 9, 1986; Amended October 5, 1989; Amended October 2, 1991; Amended October 2, 1992; Amended October 5, 1994; Amended October 3, 1996; Amended October 2, 1997; Amended October 5, 2000; Amended October 7, 2004; Amended October 5, 2005; Amended October 4, 2012; Amended October 6, 2016; Amended October 5, 2017; Amended October 4, 2018; Amended October 5, 2023; Amended October 2, 2025

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be Iowa Retired School Personnel Association. The acronym **IRSPA** may be used in place of the full name of the association.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be the promotion of the educational, social and economic welfare of its members.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active Member. Any retired employee of the nation's schools shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Associate Member. Associate membership may be offered to non-retired school personnel and spouses/or significant others who are interested in and support the objectives of IRSPA. They may become associate members upon payment of stipulated dues as set forth in Standing Rules, shall be eligible to assume active membership with all rights and privileges except the right to vote, or hold state office.

Section 3. Public Librarians. Membership shall be extended to retired public librarians with associate membership offered to their spouses.

Section 4. Life Membership. Life membership shall be open to any member eligible for active or associate membership upon payment of \$300 dues.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

Section 1. Annual Dues. The annual dues of members and associate members of the association shall be determined by the Executive Board and approved by a majority vote of members present at the Annual Meeting. Members will be notified of any proposed change in the newsletter just prior to the Annual Meeting.

A. Dues are for membership from October 1 through September 30.

B. Dues paid after April 1 shall be given credit as having paid dues to October 1 of the following year.

Section 2. Terminated Membership. A member whose dues remain unpaid after two years shall be dropped from membership.

Section 3. Reinstated Membership. A member whose membership has been terminated for non-payment of dues may be reinstated in good standing upon payment of dues for the current year.

ARTICLE V – ORGANIZATION OF UNITS

Section 1. Unit. A unit of the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association may be organized in any Iowa area in which members can conveniently meet.

Section 2. Affiliation. A written application for affiliation with the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association together with the constitution of the local unit, which shall in no way conflict with the state association constitution, shall be sent to the President of the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association.

Section 3. Unit Membership in State Association. Twenty-five percent of the members in a local unit must be members of the state association.

Section 4. Attendance at District Workshop. Each local unit is encouraged to send representatives to the District Workshop.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

A. Elected Officers of this organization shall be President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Past President, and Secretary.

B. The President shall appoint the Treasurer, District Coordinators and Newsletter Editor and they shall serve on the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Elections

A. The Vice-President shall be elected annually and Secretary shall be elected in the odd numbered years.

B. Names of the members of the Nominating Committee shall be published in the Association Newsletter in time for members of Iowa Retired School Personnel Association to submit names of qualified nominees to the committee.

C. Officers so elected shall take office following the close of the Annual Meeting and serve until their successors are elected or appointed.

Section 3. Eligibility

To be eligible to hold an office in the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association, a person must be a member in good standing in a local unit, the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association and NRTA, AARP's Educator Community.

Section 4. Nominations, Elections, and Term

A. The Nominating Committee shall be all District Coordinators.

B. The nominations approved by the Nominating Committee and the candidates' pictures and profiles shall be included in the June Newsletter.

C. A ballot shall be sent to each member in the June Newsletter. There will be a space for a write-in candidate for both Vice-President and Secretary. There will be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

D. All paper ballots must be postmarked by the July 15th deadline and mailed to the chair of the Nominating Committee. The ballots shall remain sealed until counted by at least two of the Nominating Committee by August 15th. Online ballots must be sent by the July deadline. In case of a tie, the tied candidates will participate in a draw, overseen by the Nominating Committee Chair.

E. When there is only one candidate for any elected office, that candidate will be appointed by the Executive Board.

F. When there is no candidate for a vacant office, one may be appointed by the President and/or Executive Board with his/her approval.

G. Officers so elected or appointed shall take office following the close of the Annual Meeting and serve until their successors are elected or appointed.

Section 5. Duties of Officers

A. Duties of the President.

1. Serve as chairman of the Executive Committee and Executive Board.
2. Preside at all meetings of the Association.
3. Call special meetings.
4. Appoint committees.
5. Become acquainted with the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association and NRTA programs, leaders, materials, and goals.
6. Attend Executive Board Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings.
7. Cooperate with the President and President-Elect to develop programs and plans for the following year.

B. Duties of Secretary

1. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee, the Executive Board, and of the Association, and submit a copy of these to the state officers and Unit Presidents as quickly as convenient.
2. Maintain the records of the organization as its Historian, i.e. working with the Iowa AARP to maintain a file of IRSPA records.

C. Duties of Treasurer

1. Receive and keep a record of all monies paid into the Association.
2. Pay all bills authorized by the president.
3. Make a quarterly financial report to the elected officers of the State Association.
4. Make an annual financial report at the Annual Meeting.
5. Work closely with the Membership Chair.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees. Standing Com-

mittees of the organization shall be:

- A. Benefits
- B. Budget & Finance
- C. Constitution & Bylaws Public
- D. Health-Care Advocacy Relations (Publicity)
- E. Legislative
- F. Membership
- G. Nominating
- H. Public Relations
- I. Scholarship
- J. Supportive Services

Section 2. Other Committees. Such other committees as the Executive Committee or Board deems necessary or expedient.

Section 3. Committee Chairs. The Chair of these committees shall be appointed by the president.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The regular meeting of the Association shall be in October of each year and shall be known as the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Committee, the AARP Representative to the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association, and Chairs of the Standing Committees.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called whenever the President or the Executive Committee deems it necessary.

Section 4. Quorum. Twenty-five active members shall constitute a quorum at any Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Executive Committee. The Officers of the Association and the Treasurer, the District Coordinators, and the Newsletter Editor shall be the Executive Committee of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Committee, the AARP Representative to the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association, the AMBA Representative to the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association, and Chairs of the Standing Committees.

Section 3. Quorum

A. Five members constitute a quorum for the Executive Committee.

B. Ten members constitute a quorum for the Executive Board.

Section 4. Duties of the Executive Committee

A. Conduct the business of the Association during the interim between meetings.

B. Fill vacancies in elected offices. If because of a death or disability, an officer is unable to complete a term, the Executive Committee by majority vote shall fill the unexpired term. In case of a vacancy in the Presidency, the President-Elect shall fill the unexpired term, and the office of the President-Elect shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X – AFFILIATIONS

The Iowa Retired School Personnel Association maintains a close relationship with the Iowa State Education Association and is affiliated with the National Retired Teachers Association.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of its Iowa Retired School Personnel Association members present at the Annual Meeting. The written notice of the proposed amendments, the time and place of the meeting, shall be presented to the members not less than two weeks before the final vote.

ARTICLE XII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

In all matters not specifically expressed in this Constitution, the parliamentary authority shall be *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*.

ARTICLE XIII - DISSOLUTION

Disposition of assets in the event of dissolution of the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association shall be transferred to AARP Foundation as part of the National Retired Teachers Association.



LIVE LIFE, UNINTERRUPTED

KEEP LIVING YOUR WAY.

You can, with these benefits and discounts from IRSPA & AMBA:

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- Long-Term Care
- Emergency Ground and Air Transportation Coverage
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Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

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Newsletter

Iowa Retired School Personnel Association

3221 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104

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Rockwell City, Iowa 50579
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~ WE REMEMBER ~

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Argotsinger, Margie	Council Bluffs	Council Bluffs RSP
Armstrong, Michaela	Coralville	Johnson County
Devick, Dennis C.	Woodward	No unit
Foss, Lulubelle	Eldridge	Davenport Unit
Haskins, Shirley	Sioux City	Sioux City Area
Honohan, Nancy	Iowa City	Johnson County
Kaisand, Jesse Hanson	Union	No unit
Lyons, Claudia	Burlington	Des Moines County
McGinnis, Don E.	Cedar Falls	Black Hawk
Maher, Fred	Council Bluffs	Council Bluffs RSP
Mannhardt, Rochelle	Bettendorf	Davenport Unit
McCullough, Becky	Burlington	Des Moines County
Melrose, Diane	Charles City	Big Four
Moehlman, Carl	Mt. Pleasant	Henry County
Rees, Bill	Sigourney	KCRSP
Smull, John	Burlington	Des Moines County
White, Joan	Burlington	Des Moines County
Zabloudil, Myrna	Burlington	Des Moines County

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