

NEWS AND NOTICES

1. A **Local** Scholarship from the **LCRTA** (Lake County Retired Teachers Association)

This scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior to recognize ability and achievement, contribution to the community, and a desire to pursue a career in education. One scholarship of \$1500 will be awarded in the spring to a senior planning to major in Education. The money will be given after completion of one semester of college education. Send your contribution check to **LCRTA, P.O. Box 8107, Gurnee, IL 60031**. Mark the memo line on your check "LCRTA Scholarship." Please see our website for more information and an application form at **www.lcrta.com**

2. A **State** Foundation / Scholarship from the **IRTA** (Illinois Retired Teachers Association)

In 1985, after identifying a large number of former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and rising inflation, the IRTA established the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation, Inc. The initial purpose of the Foundation was to build an endowment to provide assistance to retired educators. Since that time, the Foundation has assisted retired educators with living expenses, provided scholarships to aspiring teachers, worked to protect the rights of the elderly, and provided grants to educators.

Send your contribution check to **LCRTA, P.O. Box 8107, Gurnee, IL 60031**. Mark the memo line on your check "IRTA Foundation."

3. If you have any **changes** in your address, e-mail, or phone number, please contact Dave Dier at (847) 526-5599 or his e-mail at **dier@writeme.com**. There will be a new Directory printed this spring; so if you have any up-dates or changes, let Dave know about them ASAP! Thanks.

4. Organizations depend on the three "M's" for their existence."Membership, Money, and Momentum."

Membership: No organization can exist without a body of dedicated members who can be relied upon to carry out the mission and business of the group. Maintaining a minimum "base" membership, therefore, is a prerequisite for maintaining the group's health and continued influence. As older members either die or relocate, the task, therefore, is to recruit new blood from the ranks of newly retired teachers—a task that is particularly difficult because lists of retiring teachers are jealously guarded hence difficult to come by.

Money: Obviously dues are charged to support the organization for postage, speakers' fees, scholarships, awards, prizes, printing costs, etc.

Momentum: It's probably a factor in most organizations that as the business of the group is "settled in" and running smoothly (momentum), complacency creeps in, and the high-level of productivity inevitably begins to taper off. The membership leaders need to encourage members for their efforts and contributions—and continue to seek new idea and approaches.

5. This past February 1st (2018), when all of us over 61 got a compounded 3% increase from TRS, let's remember that it was your IRTA that brought the lawsuit that made that possible: **Doris Heaton v. Pat Quinn: "Crisis is no excuse to violate the Constitution."** The IRTA's own Doris Heaton and Pamela Keller were plaintiffs in this challenge to Senate Bill 1 which would have reduced automatic annuity increases (AAs), placed caps on pensionable salaries, increased the retirement age, and made other changes that diminished pensions. The Court unanimously ruled that Senate Bill 1 was unconstitutional.