



Boone Retired Teachers Association News



An Illinois Retired Teachers Association Affiliate
Serving Boone County's Retired Teachers

Visit us at: www.boonerta.weebly.com

April John Majernik, Editor 2024

APRIL 16 LUNCHEON AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The first BRTA meeting of 2024 will be a noon luncheon at the First Methodist Church, 610 Bonus Avenue in Belvidere on Tuesday, April 16.

The program will be presented by Cindy Poulter who has an interesting presentation involving unusual obituaries from Boone County.



The luncheon cost is \$14.00 per person. Make checks payable to BRTA and send to Diane Wilke, 6453 Broadview Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 by Tuesday, April 9. Use the form at the bottom of this page to make your reservation.

Please make sure your reservations **arrive** by the above deadline so that adequate food and seating arrangements can be made. If you suspect your check may be late in arriving, please call Diane (her land line 815.547.7664) by the deadline so your reservation will get into the count.



The IRTA tirelessly works to protect your pension. In order to do so, it needs your support through your membership.

Numbers make a difference. Be sure your IRTA dues are paid and encourage your fellow retirees to be dues paying members. Let's all make our retired teacher voices' heard.

2024 MEETING DATES

Please put the following meeting dates and times on your calendar. Be sure to watch for meeting information updates in future newsletters or on the BRTA website, www.boonerta.weebly.com

April 16 - Noon Luncheon -- First Methodist Church
Program: Cindy Poulter – Unusual Boone County Obituaries

May 21- 10:00 am Brunch -- Immanuel Lutheran Church
Program: Mike Doyle – Belvidere Chrysler

June 18 - 5:30 pm Dinner -- First Methodist Church

September 17 - 5:30 Dinner – First Methodist Church

October 15 - Noon Luncheon -- First Methodist Church

Nov. 19 - 10:00 am Brunch -- Immanuel Lutheran Church

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair, Mark Luthin reports that our 2024 paid-up memberships total 65 of which 23 are life members. There are 174 names on our membership list. That means there are 109 retirees who were members in the past that have not yet paid dues for 2024. Are you one of those? To find out contact Mark...m.luthin@comcast.net.

APRIL 16 LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM – First Methodist Church – Noon

Name _____ Guest _____

Phone: _____ Reservations at \$14.00 per person.....\$ _____ Total Enclosed

Check payable to: Boone Retired Teachers Association **Mail to:** Diane Wilke, 6453 Broadview Ave., Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: 815—547-7664 (land line)

RESERVATIONS DUE BY TUESDAY, APRIL 9

OFFICERS FOR 2024

The following individuals have consented to serve BRTA in the following capacity. Please give them your support during their term.

President – Vivian Penny (815-601-4164)
President – Donna Brookbank (815-519-6017)
Secretary – Terri Reel (815-985-5429)
Treasurer – Mark Luthin (815-543-7412)

2024 BRTA BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

The following individuals have agreed to chair a BRTA committee for 2024.

Membership – Mark Luthin (815-543-7412)
Legislative – Mary Lang (815-243-2514)
Scholarship – Val Graham (815-547-8200)
Information Services – (Newsletter/Web Site)
 John Majernik (815-332-9402)
Community Participation – Gail Davidson
 (815-262.9031)
Foundation/Sunshine – Robyn Riccardo
 (815-544-3261 or cell 815-355-4415)
Historian – Sue Grover (815.298.7694)
Reservations – Diane Wilke (815-547-7664)
Retirement Education – Mary Lippe
 (815-547-5530)

HAS THERE BEEN A CHANGE?

Membership Chair, Mark Luthin, wants to be sure the BRTA membership records are up to date. If you have had an address, phone number or email address change, please let him know as soon as possible after that change has been made.

Send him an email at m.luthin@comcast.net or give him a call: 815-543-7412.

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

----Nelson Mandela

DID YOU KNOW

This newsletter is available by email (It will be in color!). To get yours by email, contact John Majernik at johnmajer@aol.com

CON ARTISTS ARE MASTERS OF TRUST

You can learn a lot about trust from the people who violate it for a living. “A hood planning a bank holdup might case the treasury for rudimentary facts, but in the end he depends on his gun. A con artist's only weapon is his brain,” says celebrity con man Frank Abagnale, author of the memoir *Catch Me If You Can*. So what do Abagnale and other con artists know that you don't? For starters, how to earn the confidence of strangers in seconds flat.



Numerous studies show that mirroring body language increases empathy. It makes salesmen more likely to close deals, and it allows con men to build subconscious bonds with their victims.

Mirroring creates a feeling of familiarity and belonging, and most importantly to scammers, it breaks down mental defenses by allowing access to their victims' physical space.

And speech can be manipulated just as effectively as body language to build a quick sense of familiarity between scammer and victim.



FRIENDS OF IDA LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Wednesday, April 10 (Pre-Sale...Members Only)

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

(\$5 memberships available that evening)

Thursday, April 11 from 10:00 am to 7:30 pm

Friday, April 12 from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Ida Public Library

320 N. State, Belvidere

APRIL BRAIN EXERCISE

We are now in the season of Spring. How much do you know about this season? The answers can be found on Page 4.

1. What is the official birth flower of March?

2. Finish this statement: March comes in like a lion and out like a... _____
3. What are the official birth flowers of April?
_____ and _____
4. What is the birthstone of April? _____
5. Finish this statement: April showers bring... _____
6. What Roman god is March named after?

7. What day do Americans mistakenly believe is the start of spring? _____
8. What color is associated with the April full moon? _____
9. What country uses the blooming of cherry blossoms to determine the start of spring?

10. What spring flower is more nutritious than most vegetables in your garden? _____
11. In which country did the Easter Bunny tradition originate? _____
12. What is the best-selling Easter candy? _____
13. Where does the biggest St. Patrick's Day parade take place? _____
14. What bird is associated with spring in North America? _____
15. What does 'vernal' mean? _____

BRTA NEEDS YOUR INPUT

- Would you be willing to provide centerpieces for one of our meetings...centerpieces could be loaned and retrieved after the meeting or they could be donated as door prizes—your choice.
- We are looking for individuals to give the invocation at one of our meetings.
- Do you have ideas for future meeting programs?
If you have an interest in any of the above needs, please contact President Penny or any board member. This is your organization and we want it to meet your needs.



One hundred years from now it will not matter what your bank account totaled, the sort of home you lived in or the kind of car you drove.

But the world may be a better place because YOU were important in the life of a child.

Author Unknown

PENSION PROTECTION

One of the best ways to protect your TRS pension is to belong to BRTA and IRTA. The main purpose of these two organizations is safeguarding the TRS pension system. Please urge your fellow retirees who are not members of these groups to become members. The legislature notes membership figures when these organizations lobby for our pension. If numbers are small, they feel the issue isn't important to the majority and do not consider the requests something to be concerned about.



2024 BRTA DUES ARE NOW DUE

Yearly local dues are \$7.00, Lifetime \$100
Dues can be paid by writing a check payable to BRTA and sending to Mark Luthin, Treasurer, 2159 Crestway Ct., Belvidere, IL 61008.
Not sure if your 2024 dues have been paid?
Email Mark at m.luthin@comcast.net
or give him a call at 815.543.7412

YOU CAN HELP

For our meal functions to run smoothly, it is important that all reservations arrive by the deadline date. Please do your part by making sure your reservation arrives by the due date. Your prompt reservations are greatly appreciated. Thank You.

BRTA NOVEMBER MINUTES

The Boone County Retired Teachers met at Immanuel Lutheran Church on November 21, 2023 at 10 am. Thirty-two members and two guests were present.

President Kathy Prindiville called the meeting to order with members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Margaret Osbakken gave the invocation with a poem by Chief Yellow Hawk, and then she read Native American narratives. Margaret concluded with leading BRTA members in prayer.

Following the brunch, President Prindiville thanked the Immanuel servers for the meal.

The Secretary's minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer, Mark Luthin, reported there is \$1,970.45 in the checking account, not including \$28 of dues paid in November. The Scholarship fund has \$3,431.36, including \$144 collected in the October School Bus.

Committee Reports:

Mark Luthin, Membership, reported there are 176 members, with 23 being Life Members and 153 dues paying.

Val Graham, Scholarship, stated she would be needing volunteers to sign up to read the 2024 scholarship applications.

Mary Lang, Legislative, had a three-part report including correspondence at the National level to U.S. Rep Darin LaHood concerning a possible government shutdown and an assault weapons bill. Rep. LaHood would not commit to how he would vote, if the bill came up for a vote. Correspondence went to Sen. Dick Durbin concerning the military promotion hold up. A resolution to consider military nominations in a group was referred to the Senate Rules Committee. At the State level bills that had passed were reported on. Third, Mary also updated members on the Social Security Fairness Act.

Mary's report was very informative, and the full report can be read on the website.

Gail Davidson, Community Participation, reported the April 16, 2024 BRTA meeting is tentatively set to be at the First United Methodist Church. April plans are yet to be finalized. President Prindiville thanked all the officers and committee chairmen for their work during her term as president.

CO-VP, Vivian Penny introduced AMBA Advisors Steve Huber and Nancy Perlman who presented a most timely program, "Aging in Place." AMBA will do personalized meetings to help members with this process, if it is their desire.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Terry Reel, Secretary


Following the meeting Vivian Penny led the group with the BRTA pop quiz and Quiz Bowl.

YOUR THOUGHTS

Have you paid much attention to the table decorations at our meetings? Do you think they add to the enjoyment of the meeting? Would you like to see them continue? Would you be willing to sign up for a specific meeting and provide the table decorations? The BRTA board would like your input. Please pass your thoughts on to a board member.

APRIL BRAIN EXERCISE ANSWERS

- 1) Daffodils; 2) Lamb; 3) Sweet peas and daisies;
- 4) Diamonds; 5) May flowers; 6) Mars; 7) March 1;
- 8) Pink; 9) Japan; 10) Dandelions; 11) Germany;
- 12) Cadbury Crème Eggs; 13) New York City;
- 14) Robin; 15) Spring



ZONTA SALAD LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 7
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
\$15.00 per person
Belvidere Moose Club
575 Beloit Road