



News

A KRTA ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION

Kentucky Retired Teachers Association
Serving Retired Teachers Since 1957

Express



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Dear KRTA Members,

We hope you are enjoying your membership in the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association and take pride in the impact we continue to make together, protecting your hard-earned retirement benefits and serving communities across the Commonwealth. Because of your support, KRTA has remained a strong and effective voice for retired educators, delivering advocacy, resources, and meaningful local engagement.

On behalf of the Executive Council and Delegate Assembly, I want to share an important update regarding our annual membership dues.

After careful consideration and in response to rising inflation-driven costs, our leadership has approved a modest adjustment to ensure we can continue to serve you at the level you expect and deserve. Effective July 1, 2026, annual membership dues will increase from \$20 to \$25.

This \$5 increase will help us maintain the strength of our advocacy efforts in Frankfort, continue delivering timely updates and resources, and protect the programs that support Kentucky's retired educators. It is important to note that this is the first dues increase since 2008, reflecting our long-standing commitment to keeping membership affordable.

We understand that many of you are also managing the impact of rising costs, and this decision was made thoughtfully and with great care. Our goal is simple: to protect the future of KRTA and ensure we remain a strong, effective voice for retired teachers across the Commonwealth.

ADD (Automatic Dues Deduction) members do not need to take any action. The \$25 deduction will occur in November as usual. Cash members will receive an invoice of \$25 due July 1, 2026.

Thank you for your continued support, your service to Kentucky's students, and your ongoing commitment to this organization. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Greg Roush
Executive Director

Convention 2026

The Kentucky Retired Teachers Association welcomed over 350 retired members and guests to the 2026 annual convention in April. The convention (April 20-21, 2026) was held at the Holiday Inn East in Louisville, Kentucky. The District Presidents and the Executive Council met on Monday, with both having summaries of the past year and plans for the coming year. The Membership and Health & Insurance Workshops were both informative and exciting! Dora Moore from TRS presented the Health & Insurance Workshop. Dora is well-informed and ready to share her knowledge with all TRS members. Mike Caudill led the Membership Workshop. The opening evening included a dinner, door prizes, and entertainment by the Eastern High School Chamber Singers under the direction of Katie Jordan.



Gary Harbin, Executive Secretary for the Teachers' Retirement System of Kentucky, delivered TRS updates, which remain a main topic of interest within our organization. Mr. Harbin's presentation delivered very favorable news regarding the state budget and TRS investments. Joel Escovitz, Senior Director of Social Security at the AARP Policy Institute, presented the topic Social Security at 90: A Bipartisan Roadmap for the Program's Future. President Elect Charlotte Benton presented the Frank R. Hatfield Volunteer of the Year Award to Greg Gierhart. AARP Kentucky Volunteer, Sherry Adkins, introduced the winner of the Grandparent Essay Contest, Mia Marie Rupe, from Augusta Independent School in Bracken County. Mia and her teacher each received \$500. Mia also received a plaque in recognition of her achievement. The Cathy G. Gullett State Volunteer Leadership Awards were presented to those who have volunteered in a state-level position for 10, 15, and 20 years of service to KRTA. Those recipients will be listed in the July KRTA NEWS.

After lunch, President Elect Charlotte Benton and Vice President Meg Judd presented the legendary "big check" for volunteers' hours, worth \$20,063,395.06. The afternoon inspirational speaker was Merlyna Valentine. Mrs. Valentine took us on her personal journey to learn to be resilient and achieve her goals. Lisa Petrey-Kirk and Ellie Thompson organized skits, and fun-loving volunteers from across the state participated, making it a roaring success!

PowerPoint presentations, videos, and pictures are available on the KRTA website under the 2026 Convention section. Just click [here](#) to access the website.

2026-27 Officer Forms Needed ASAP

▶ Click [here](#) for Local Officer Forms

Click [here](#) for District Officer Forms

To make the distribution of the 2026-27 Local President's Handbook in July possible, we need your updated officer forms. New forms must be submitted even if your association has the same officers as the previous year.

Forms may be sent by mail or emailed to info@krta.org.

