The Big Freeze

Margo Bryerton, 56, a Verizon network service manager based in Syracuse, NY, had a rude awakening when she came to work on December 5, 2005. That day, Verizon announced it was freezing its pension plan. As part of a move expected to save the company $3 billion over 10 years, the telecommunications giant announced that managerial workers would no longer earn pension benefits after June 30 this year.

Because of the way such traditional defined benefit pensions are calculated—generally as a percentage of the salary earned during the last several years of service—the freeze will take a big bite out of Bryerton’s anticipated pension. The 17-year veteran says that if she retires at 65, she’ll have about $300,000 less than she expected. “I have a job I love and make pretty good money,” she says. “But I no longer have financial security.”

The move to freeze pensions at solid, profitable companies like Verizon—and at others, including IBM, Sprint, Nextel, Tribune Corp., Lexmark, Alcoa and Russell Corp.—is the latest sign of pressure on traditional guaranteed pension plans. “It’s an entirely new phenomenon for healthy companies to freeze their pensions,” says Alicia Munnell, director of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College.

In 2003, 41 percent of workers with pension coverage had defined benefit pensions, down from 83 percent in 1980, according to the latest data released in February by the Boston College center. For the last several years, employees in struggling industries such as airlines, steel, coal and textiles have watched as their firms declared bankruptcy and terminated their plans altogether. And more may be in trouble, particularly in industries such as auto parts.

Not only that, new regulatory and legislative changes now in the works could encourage companies to freeze their pensions—or get out of the pension business altogether. And questions are being raised about the funding of pensions for public sector employees.

Additionally, an area not to ever be overlooked was the prevention of any legislation being passed that would be detrimental to retired teachers. Our major priorities continue to be health insurance, COLA increases, equity, and the actuarial soundness of KTRS to assure payments of future retirements and medical benefits. In the coming months and years we must remain very diligent in our efforts to prevent any legislation that could torpedo or weaken our pension program. Kentucky, like most other states is experiencing budgetary stress. The big picture is that pension funding is not keeping pace with rising liabilities, such as health insurance, Medicaid, and cost of living increases. Our legislators normally meet to take formal action once each year, January through April. However, committee activities are continuous throughout the year with Interim Joint Committees and related subcommittees meeting at least monthly to address issues in preparation for the general session. Therefore, in addition to expression appreciations to our legislators for past support we must continually stay in contact with them and keep them aware and informed of our needs. We must remain alert and ready to protect the long-term integrity of our retirement system. Increasing our membership continues to be one of our top priorities with a goal of 27,000 for the coming year. We can certainly meet and exceed this challenge.
Health insurance for all retired teachers remains a major concern this year. The fact that many state associations continue looking for ways to reduce their losses rather than increase their growth.

I am extremely pleased with the addition of Janie Caslowe to our office staff on a part-time basis. As you know, on June 30, 2005, Betty Hester retired. This necessitated hiring a replacement. Although there have been some changes in responsibilities, Brenda and Janie are working together to continue making improvements in the delivery of services to our members.

This year we increased the value of our N.O. Kimbler scholarships to $1,100 each for all 16 public community and technical colleges in Kentucky. We continue to receive many letters of appreciation from both the recipients and the colleges.

Health insurance for all retired teachers remains a major concern this year. The state legislature made provisions in the budget (HB 380) to keep the system actuarially sound while allocating a portion of the employer contribution that would have been deposited in the pension fund to the medical insurance fund instead. Thus, the retirement system will continue providing health insurance for retired teachers through December 31, 2008. Also, retired teachers are scheduled to receive effective July 1, 2006, a 2.3% COLA and effective July 1, 2007, a 2.1% COLA.

In March the KTRS Trustee’s Nominating Committee nominated the incumbent “Active Teacher Trustee,” Laura A. Zimmerman (Lexington), for another term. Ms. Zimmerman has provided excellent service to both active and retired teachers during her tenure on the Board of Trustees. Wanda Meaux (Richmond) was also nominated as a candidate for the “Active Teacher Trustee” position.

Robert M. Conley (Paintsville) was nominated for another term for the “Lay Member Trustee” position. Mr. Conley has provided excellent service to both active and retired teachers during his tenure on the Board of Trustees. Orson Oliver (Louisville) was also nominated as a candidate for the “Lay Member Trustee” position.

As we move forward, two (2) issues that will impact future teacher retirees and us are mandated social security and health insurance coverage. As we continue to build on the excellent relationship we have with Gary Harbin, his staff, and the KTRS Board of Trustees, along with the respect KRTA enjoys with members of the General Assembly, we should be able to meet the challenges ahead.

Our association continues to grow and prosper. Much of the credit for this success belongs to the many dedicated volunteer leaders we have at the local, district and state levels. I wish I could thank each of you personally. Since I cannot, please accept my written, “Thank you.” I could not be associated with a finer group than Kentucky Retired Teachers.
Safe Haven: Accident-Proof Your Home

Dave Farmer

Even in your own home, you and your family are at risk for injury. Just walking
down dark basement stairs in soft socks sets the stage for a fall. So does climbing
atop an unstable chair to reach high objects or to change a light bulb. “Falls are
the most common accident in the home,” says Liberty Mutual Executive Vice
President Paul Condrin. In fact, reports Alan C. McMillan, president of the National
Safety Council, in 2002 falls and other home accidents—burns, electrical injuries
and more—accounted for more than eight million disabling injuries and 33,000
deaths. Equally startling, more than four million children under the age of 14 are
injured at home each year. But the vast majority of these accidents are preventable.
All it takes is some knowledge about home safety.

“Better identification of hazards and increased attention to regular home
maintenance can go a long way toward reducing the number of injuries and losses,”
Condrin said. That’s why Liberty Mutual and the National Safety Council teamed
up to produce a special educational program—“Home Safety: How to Make Your
Home a Safe Haven.” This important and interactive program includes an
educational booklet and your choice of a 10-minute video or a CD-ROM you
customize to your personal situation. But what can you do to make your home
safer right now? Following the guidelines outlined below is a great place to start.

Evaluate Your Space

The first step in making your home a safer place is to take a tour, looking for
potential dangers. Then you need to know how to correct them. Examine every
room—your kitchen, living areas, bedrooms, baths and utility room. Be sure to
check the garage, too. To help you start, the Home Safety program recommends
you:

• Reduce your risk for falls by keeping stairs and halls well lit and by installing and
  using sturdy handrails. Use slip-resistant backing for all area rugs.

• Ensure electrical safety—replace frayed or damaged electrical cords, avoid
  overloading sockets and never run cords under rugs or hang them from nails.

• Lessen the risk for fire by having your chimney and fireplace inspected and cleaned
  annually. Dispose of ashes in a proper metal container—never in a paper bag
  (even if the ashes seem cold).

7 Steps for a Safe Basement

The lower level of your home should be as free of hazards as your main living
areas. Check for:

1. Burned-out light bulbs in the stairwell. It’s easy to get tripped up on the stairs
   if they lack adequate lighting.

2. Broken or loose handrails. Basement stairs should be equipped with a sturdy
   handrail.

3. Clutter on the stairwells. To prevent falls, avoid putting anything at the top or
   bottom of the stairs, such as boxes or holiday decorations.

4. Area rugs without proper backing. Throw rugs can slide right out from under
   you, so make sure all your carpeting is secure and slip-resistant.

5. Faulty valves or switches. All equipment must be in working order—in case
   you need to turn off your gas, electricity or water. Be sure all adults in the household
   know how to operate them.

6. Non-insulated water pipes that can freeze or burst. Use foam pipe covers on all
   exposed pipes.

7. Protruding nails. Check that nails in exposed wood are not loose or sticking
   out.

Prevent Kitchen Mishaps

• Shut cabinet drawers and doors to prevent trips and falls. Also, if you have kids
  or frequent young visitors, install child safety locks.

• Turn cookware handles inward on the kitchen range to avoid tip-overs and spills.

• Use an approved step stool—not a kitchen chair or other makeshift option—to
  reach objects in high cabinets.

• Avoid wearing loose fitting clothes that could catch fire while cooking.

• Keep household cleaners and other chemicals away from children and food. Be
  sure these products stay in their original, labeled containers to avoid confusion.

• Lessen the risk for fire by having your chimney and fireplace inspected and cleaned
  annually. Dispose of ashes in a proper metal container—never in a paper bag
  (even if the ashes seem cold).

By following these simple guidelines, you can dramatically reduce the chances of
having a serious accident in your home. The time that you invest now will be well
worth it if you can prevent hazards before they strike.

Dave Farmer is an agent with Liberty Mutual Group in Louisville. Liberty Mutual is the
nation’s eighth-largest provider of personal lines of insurance products in the U.S. The
company sells full lines of coverage for automobile, homeowners, valuable possessions
and personal liability insurance. Please call 1-800-430-2482, ext. 243 for a no obligation
quote.

Vital Records Information

Many of you may have the need to obtain vital statistic records regarding births,
deaths, marriages, and divorces. These records can be obtained from the
Commonwealth of Kentucky, Office of Vital Statistics, 275 East Main Street,
1EA, Frankfort, Kentucky 40621. The Vital Statistics Law of Kentucky,
providing for and legalizing the registration of births and deaths, was
enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1910, and became effective
January 1, 1911. Since that time, the Office of Vital Statistics has been
charged with maintaining birth and death records. The Office of Vital
Statistics has no records of births and deaths occurring prior to the above date
except delayed records of births for persons born before 1911 which have
been established by affidavits and documentary evidence. Central
registration of marriages and divorces began in Kentucky in June 1958. The
Office of Vital Statistics has no records of marriages and divorces prior to that
date. However, copies of marriage certificates prior to June 1958 may be
obtained from the county clerk in the county where the marriage license was
issued. Records of divorce proceedings are available from the clerk of the
circuit court in the county that granted the decree.

The Office of Vital Statistics is a state agency and therefore is only open from
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., eastern time Monday through Friday. They are
closed on major holidays. To contact the Office of Vital Statistics, you can
call (502) 564-4212, or contact them at the address listed above. Records
can be obtained in person, by mail, or by phone. Requested records can
generally be obtained in person within one hour of making the request.
Ordering records by phone requires a credit card and records are generally
processed and mailed within five (5) days. When ordering records by mail,
be advised that vital statistics can take up to 30 working days for processing
and sending the requested certificates. The cost of certificates range from birth
certificates at $10 per certificate and death, marriage, and divorce
certificates at $6 per certificate. For questions about the services provided
by the Office of Vital Statistics or for ordering records, please contact the
Office of Vital Statistics at (502) 564-4212. As always, please contact the
KRTA LEGALINE should you have
any legal questions or should you need a referral for an attorney in your area
of the state.

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Buckman, Farris & Rakes
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Shepherdsville, KY 40165-0460
krta@buckmanandfarris.com
Companies are clearly passing on traditional pensions and 401(k)s—benefits ceasing to accrue, "it's going to be $37,000. With the plan frozen and employees' contributions to 401(k) plans on a 20-cents-per-dollar basis, up to 6 percent of salary (Before April 2005 the company contribution had been 50 cents per dollar.) Competitive pressures certainly play a role in pushing companies to freeze pensions and offer 401(k)s. But the changing work force, one in which younger employees don't expect to stay with a company for long periods, is also having an impact.

"From an attraction perspective, companies find employees are only interested in 401(k)s," says Cecil Hemmingsway, a managing principal at the consulting firm Towers Perrin. "So I think as time goes on, we'll see more come to the conclusion that they don't need to offer defined benefits plans."

Legislation now moving through Congress may also have the effect of encouraging companies to freeze defined benefit pensions. Some of the measures are intended to make sure companies adequately fund their pensions. But in general, the legislation could give less protection to workers and more to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC), the federal agency that insures pensions and pays benefits when companies can't meet their obligations.

In the proposed legislation, companies with underfunded plans would be required to fully fund pensions sooner—within seven years—and pay higher premiums to the PBGC (the Senate bill would give struggling airlines 20 years). Under the House plan, a company would be forbidden from paying out lump sums if the funding for its pension plan fell below 80 percent. And under both bills, if funding fell below certain levels, benefit accruals would cease.

"While I think the legislation well-intended, by putting more pressure and more funding requirements on companies that sponsor plans, they're really encouraging companies to freeze pensions," says Don Fuert, a partner at Mercer Human Resource Consulting. New regulatory changes in the arcane world of accounting could have a similar effect. The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), which issues guidelines for publicly held companies, is reviewing a new standard for pension accounting.

Under current practice, companies are allowed to "smooth" the investment results from pensions. That means that a bad year (or a good year) in the markets doesn’t wind up unduly skewing the company’s results. But it also means that companies are’t necessarily reflecting the true market value of their pension assets from year to year. Experts believe the FASB may recommend a new rule that requires companies to record annual pension fund fluctuations in their profit and loss statements. "So if IBM's $50 billion pension plan has a 10 percent loss in a year, a $5 billion loss would flow straight into the company’s income report," says Jack VanDerhei.

That sort of volatility doesn’t play well on Wall Street, or in the executive suite. Many experts believe that if the liabilities show up on the bottom line, shareholders—and the CEOs beholden to them—may push for companies to drop their plans. Also facing increasing scrutiny are benefit costs for the public sector—workers for states, cities, schools and other government entities, who tend to enjoy comparatively generous pensions. Governments that are generally strapped and reluctant to raise taxes may be increasingly less willing to support public pensions. Alaska, for example, has replaced its pension with a 401(k) for new state employees and teachers, and similar legislation has been discussed in Colorado. And California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last year embarked upon a high-profile—and unsuccessful—campaign to replace the traditional pensions of California’s public employees with a 401(k)-style plan. "With public employees, the day of reckoning is more in the distance," says Boston College’s Munnell.

As the great pension shift continues, the worst impact is being felt by workers in their late 40s and 50s, workers like Margo Bryerton whose long-term plans were made based on expectations of a pension that is no longer a reality. Bryerton chose to work at Nynex—Verizon’s predecessor company—because, she says, "I believed that if I did the best I could for them, they would do the best for me." By Bryerton’s account, Verizon has broken a promise, devastating her dreams of retirement security. She has a 401(k), and plans to keep contributing to it, but she won’t be able to close the gap between the pension she expected and the pension she’ll receive. "I don’t have enough time to catch up," she says.

PRE-CONVENTION 2006

District Presidents’ Meeting

KRTA Vice-President Patsy Young conducted the District Presidents’ meeting on Tuesday morning prior to the convention.

There was a review of the Fall Workshop schedule (see Page 17). Dr. Wagoner discussed the upcoming KTRS Trustee Election and urged members to vote for two incumbents Laura Zimmerman and Robert M. Conley.

A. District President’s Responsibilities

Hold a minimum of four meetings every year following the Council meetings. Hold one meeting on membership; materials are available in the KRTA office. Serve as contact person (or appoint someone) for the Fall Workshop. Welcome and introduce the program. Promote attendance at the workshop. Arrange for a committee to attend the KTRS Pre-Retirement Seminar held in your district to help with registration and refreshments. Make a 5-minute presentation promoting KRTA. Receive and distribute information during the sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly and serve as phone contact for the district with KRTA lobbyists. Complete the District Association Recognition Program Form and mail it to the KRTA office.

B. District Leadership Meetings

Emphasis was placed on the purpose of the leadership meetings; that is, to follow the Council meetings so that information from the Council can be shared with local associations. The Council meetings will be June 5, September 5, December 4, April 16, and June 4. District presidents should continue to encourage locals to send their president, president-elect, and the insurance, legislative, and membership chairs to the four district leadership meetings.

Arrange for lunch for the meetings.

District presidents were reminded to send the Reimbursement Request to the KRTA office after each of the four leadership meetings. KRTA will pay $6 per local leader who attends the meetings (up to five).

C. Pre-Retirement Seminars

These are set up by KTRS. Ann Crosswell is conducting them. She welcomes the help from KRTA district volunteers and is glad to give time on the program for a KRTA presentation. Someone from the office will contact the district president to verify who should receive the packets. Generally, the local district is responsible for coffee and may also provide rolls or donuts, if desired—unless the refreshments must be ordered from the facility. In that case, KTRS will take care of them.

Suggestion: Locals could appoint a committee to take care of the Pre-Retirement Seminars to be sure the seminars are covered. As many retirees as can are encouraged to attend to promote KRTA—and take plenty of white cards.

Seminar Script: A script is available for the presenter. Patsy emphasized the main points of the script and encouraged District Presidents to use it at seminars.

Emphasis: Active teachers may join KRTA as Associate members. Those nearing retirement may also complete an Automatic Dues Deduction card to be held until their retirement.

Local President’s Handbook

District presidents should review the Local President’s Handbook with local presidents at the first district leadership meeting. A copy of the revised handbook will be sent to each local and district president in June of each year.

State Committee Reports

Reports from the Health & Insurance, Membership, and Legislative Committees (see page 6) were given.

KTRS Board of Trustees’ Meeting Report

President-Elect Tara Parker said she had enjoyed attending the KTRS Board of Trustees’ meetings. In her opinion, they are a very hard working board and KTRS is a good steward of our money. She gave an overview of the meeting of March 20, 2006.

AARP/KRTA Specialist’s Report

Bob Estes announced the winner of the 2006 State AARP/KRTA Grandparent Essay Contest. Sixty-seven counties in Kentucky participated in this essay contest. The winner and district results can be seen on page 11.

Other Business

Patsy Young reminded everyone that May 11, 2006, was National Day of Service. She encouraged everyone to share local service projects of retired teachers with the districts.

The Presidents’ meeting for 2007 will be on Monday, April 16. The Convention will follow on Tuesday, April 17.

Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council joined the Presidents’ meeting to hear the fall workshop schedule, workshop contacts, and the pre-retirement seminar schedule.

After a joint lunch the Council’s meeting was conducted by KRTA President Neal Tucker. Members for the new term from each district will be as follows:

- First - Jim Frank
- Second - Gus Swanson*
- Third - Mike Irby
- Fourth - Jack Waff
- Fifth - Saundra Epley
- Jefferson - Melanie Wood*
- Northern - June Grooms
- Eastern - Mark Crain*
- Big Sandy - Emma Lou Isaac
- Upper Ky. River - Mary May
- Up. Cumberland - Sally Smith*
- Mid. Cumberland - Larry Morrow*
- Cen. Ky. West - Jean Harney
- First - Jim Frank
- Second - Gus Swanson*
- Third - Mike Irby
- Fourth - Jack Waff
- Fifth - Saundra Epley
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- Northern - June Grooms
- Eastern - Mark Crain*
- Big Sandy - Emma Lou Isaac
- Upper Ky. River - Mary May
- Up. Cumberland - Sally Smith*
- Mid. Cumberland - Larry Morrow*
- Cen. Ky. West - Jean Harney

*Indicates those members who are new

The Council agreed to form a partnership with Pre-paid Legal Services, Inc. and the Franciscan Health Care Center.

The contract was reviewed for the 2007 conference. It will be held at the Executive West Hotel on Monday and Tuesday, April 16-17, 2007.
**Health & Insurance Report**

Irene Erskine, co-chair of the Health/Insurance Committee, presented the report. Members under 65 have the same health insurance as active teachers. Coverage is provided through the State Personnel Cabinet. Benefits, including those for prescription drugs, depend on the plan chosen by the individual. The Retirement System pays a portion of the premium based on the member’s length of service.

For members 65 and over, Medicare is the primary insurance paying 80% of covered medical expenses.

KTRS Medicare Eligible Health Plan (MEHP) is the secondary payer of covered medical expenses and pays 80% of the remaining 20% of covered expenses. The prescription drug program is administered by Medco. Prescriptions can be obtained using the mail delivery program or retail drug program at local pharmacies. Retired teachers basically don’t sign up for Medicare Part D. Irene suggested that retired educators need to go to the Social Security office 3-4 months before turning 65 to sign up for Medicare Part B. Medicare monthly payments are currently $88.50. Please remind everyone that KTRS has a new book with much information.

Irene reviewed several KRTA endorsed programs to benefit our members:

- Long Term and Home Health Care through Mutual Of Omaha
- HEAR in America Hearing Instrument Plan
- Dental Plans - COMPBENEFITS through Weilage Benefit Specialists

**Membership Report**

Ms. Virginia Shaw was back at the convention this year in fine form! She expressed appreciation to each one who made a special effort to reach the goal. She reported that was 25,555. We today’s meeting, April said she liked Ernie our membership goal “We’ve made our goal. She stated that everyday and that our membership count by office. Some of the affected our membership—illness and death of members. She spoke of the passing of one of our loyal members, Burnette Wortham. Ms. Shaw compared the KRTA Percentage of Local Members in Rank Order for the months of January and February, 2006. She discussed the infamous “pink sheet” and announced that our 2006 Goal will be 27,000 members. She emphasized the Guidelines for Implementation. Her suggestion is to encourage everyone to increase our goal for this year reached 25,496 as of 18, 2006. Ms. Shaw Trooper’s thought on for this year—evangelastically!” membership changes can find out your calling the KRTA items that have shipment are: attrition, retirement, illness and death of members. She spoke of the passing of one of our loyal members, Burnette Wortham. Ms. Shaw compared the KRTA Percentage of Local Members in Rank Order for the months of January and February, 2006. She discussed the infamous “pink sheet” and announced that our 2006 Goal will be 27,000 members. She emphasized the Guidelines for Implementation. Her suggestion is to encourage everyone to increase membership by “Getting them before they leave school to retire.”

Bob Anderson and Ernie Trosper serve as additional co-chairs of the Membership Committee. They assist Ms. Shaw and Harold VanHook with the tremendous job of working with all local and district associations to reach their goals.

**Legislative Report**

**Accomplishments of session just ended:**

1. COLAs—annual annuities were approved; that is, the .8% for 2006 and .6% for 2007, giving a total of 2.3% and 2.1%, respectively. Those figures are based on the consumer price index, as are Social Security increases.

2. The Teacher Retirement bill (HB 555) passed. Ninety-one million dollars was needed for the repayment schedule for the borrowed health insurance funds from FY 2004 - 2006. It also increased the disability income limitation for past retirees to $40,000 per year.

3. KTRS is to study the feasibility of using pension obligation bonds.

**Other positives are:**

Teachers’ pay is on the path to achieving equity with the seven surrounding states. During the 2007 - 2008 school year salaries will increase $3,000. This should postpone retirement for several folks who are thinking about retiring. Therefore, KTRS contributions will increase.

**2006 Session:**

See page 12 for the complete Legislative Program.

**Items 1, 2 and 3** deal with the System and the governance of the System.

**Item 4** deals with COLAs.

**Item 5** deals with supporting increases in the minimum annual annuity, keeping retirees above the federal poverty level.

**Items 6 & 7** deals with insurance for the under 65 group. We would like to see them take a look at self insurance.

**Item 8** deals with the issue in which city and county entities provide insurance for their active employees. Then when they retire, they are put in the State pool. Legislation has been proposed to either put everyone in the pool when they are active or pay a fee for their retirees to be a part of the State pool.

**Item 9** deals with supporting an increase for survivors of active contributing members and disability retirees.

**Item 10** deals with the critical issue of Mandatory Social Security. Stay alert; it would be detrimental to our System.

**Item 11** deals with our resolve to support legislative efforts of AARP/NRTA which are not in conflict with the position of KRTA.

**Leadership Role You Need to Take:**

We need to have some mechanism to thank legislators for what they’ve done for retired teachers. Emphasize to your locals to have them come to your meetings and thank them.

**What a familiar sight around Frankfort—**

Bobby Humes and Ray Roundtree’s

Bobby says, “We like to win . . . and we [KRTA] got HB555 through.”
As is the tradition, the president’s district honored him with an afternoon reception. This year members and friends met in the Edinborough Room for cake and punch arranged by the hotel.

It was nice to relax and chat on Tuesday afternoon before the convention reception in the evening. Neal enjoyed meeting with friends to celebrate a great year. Thanks to the Second District for hosting this celebration!
General Assembly 2006

NRTA's Aronson Focuses on Nation's Pension Woes

Nancy Aronson, Senior Legislative Representative for NRTA in Washington, paid a visit to the KRTA convention and put into perspective all the tales being circulated around the country concerning attacks on public pensions.

According to Aronson, “The traditional or defined benefit plans are being attacked by conservatives who would like to see public pensions ‘pay their own way’ (which they are). The media does not understand and this issue is being misrepresented. Worried? We should be!”

Defined contribution plans are being represented as “good for employees.” This is happening not only in the public sector but IBM and many other large employers have decided to abandon their DB plans.

The issue is not whether state and local employees should have access to DC plans—many already do. They are good for providing supplemental, tax-deferred retirement savings. Ninety percent of state and local employees are covered by DB plans, and 25% are not covered by social security—nearly half of the public school teachers in the nation.

The alarm has been sounded: Thirty states have some concern about retirement security. Kentucky is among the “two alarm” group; that is, there’s a significant threat to pensions. Talk to your legislators!

Thanks, Nancy, for bringing your message to Kentucky!

Note: For more on this subject, see Jonathon Miller’s and Gary Harbin’s messages included in this issue.

Executive Secretary Harbin Sheds Light on the State of KTRS

When Gary Harbin, Executive Secretary of the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System, stepped to the podium, one could feel the confidence and pride he has in one of the finest retirement systems in the nation for teachers.

After the System was excluded from social security in 1935, KTRS was formed outside of social security in 1938 as a comprehensive retirement plan. Benefits include:

1. Defined benefit plan with lifetime guaranteed retirement benefits*
2. Life insurance benefit of $5,000
3. Annual cost-of-living increases (COLA)
4. Retiree medical benefits

*In reiterating why the defined benefit plan is so important, Mr. Harbin shared these details:

- Teachers’ contributions and employer match are invested and provide benefits

In his capacity as an ex officio member of the KTRS Board of Trustees, State Treasurer Jonathon Miller stopped by the KRTA convention on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Miller has been fighting for retired teachers because he believes it is “our moral obligation to fulfill the compact we have with them.” He briefly summarized the benefits retirees gained from the recent session of the General Assembly.

In addition, Mr. Miller explained the difference in a “defined benefit plan (DB)” and a “defined contribution plan (DC)—retirement plans being debated around the country. Kentucky retired teachers’ annuities are based on the DB plan; that is, based on a defined rate not on how much has been contributed. Under the DB plan, retirees draw the annuity for lifetime; under the DC plan, the annuity runs out when the defined contribution is depleted.

Mr. Miller reminded the conference some people want to change the retirees’ plan to the DC plan. A bill introduced by Sen. Carroll would have given retired teachers security through an “inviolable contract.” That bill failed during this session, but Mr. Miller hopes it will be reintroduced during the next session of the General Assembly.

Thanks again, Mr. Miller, for stopping by to keep us informed!

Treasurer Miller Frames Needs for Retired Teachers’ Security

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Thanks again, Mr. Miller, for stopping by to keep us informed!
**ARCHER AWARDS**

**LOCAL AWARDS**

**25 SILVER WINNERS**

Barren  Estill  Martin
Bath  Franklin  McCracken
Boyd  Gallatin  Montgomery
Breckenridge  Grant  Muhlenberg
Breckinridge  Hardin/Larue  Pike
Butler  Hopkins  Shelby
Campbell  Livingston  Warren
Crittenden  Logan  Woodford

**42 GOLD WINNERS**

Bell  Hancock  Ohio
Boone  Hart  Owen
Bullitt  Henderson  Pendleton
Breathitt  Jackson  Pulaski
Caldwell  Knott  Rowan
Calloway  Lee  Scott
Carlisle  Lincoln  Simpson
Carter  Lyon  Spencer
Christian  Marshall  Todd
Clark  McCreary  Union
Fleming  Meade  Washington
Fulton  Metcalfe  Wayne
Grayson  Monroe  Webster
Greenup  Nelson  Wolfe

**18 BRONZE WINNERS**

Bluegrass  Kenton
Boyle  Knox
Casey  Laurel
Floyd  Madison
Graves  McLean
Harlan  Oldham
Harrison  Perry
Jefferson  Taylor
Johnson  Whitley

Carla Hahn and Bob Anderson
prepared for the Awards Program
DISTRICT AWARDS

4 GOLD WINNERS
- Middle Cumberland
- Fourth

2 BRONZE WINNERS
- Big Sandy
- Central Kentucky East
- Fifth
- Jefferson
- Upper Cumberland
- Upper Kentucky River

4 SILVER WINNERS
- Central Kentucky West
- Eastern
- Northern
- Third

Established in honor of Virginia Shaw and her continued work with membership, the Shaw Award was presented to Middle Cumberland District for their success in reaching 90% in each local. Accepting the award is Eunice Sayers.

New Officers’ Lineup

On July 1, the newly elected officers will begin their tenure. Tara Parker will be at the helm as president. Tara has served as president of the Capital City/Franklin County RTA. She brings to KRTA a variety of experiences—from teaching to counseling, from serving as principal to commissioner of Vocational Tech Ed, from Registrar to Dean of Instruction, from Vice Chancellor to Manager of Workforce Development. Prior to retiring she was Consultant for Special Projects for the Cabinet for Families & Children.

Patsy Young has served as president of the E’Town/Hardin/Larue RTA. She received AB, MA and Rank I degrees from WKU and served education for 34 years as an English teacher and assistant principal at Central Hardin H. S. Patsy is active in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and the White Mills Christian Church. She enjoys reading, travel, and entertaining friends in her home. This year she will serve as president-elect.

The newest officer, Billy Triplett, is from Knott County in the Upper Kentucky River District. He graduated from Morehead State with a BS degree and received an MS degree from University of Louisville. He then returned to Morehead to earn Rank I certification. He has been a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, instructional supervisor, and technology coordinator. Presently he is an adjunct faculty member to Hazard Community & Technical College. Billy said, “I am proud to be a member of KRTA, obviously the best association in the nation. I feel we must continue in this spirit and serve when called upon.” He will serve as vice-president.

If there are multiple KRTA members in your household, you are now receiving only one copy of News. Over 4,000 members are family members residing in the same household. By sending only one copy to your household, we can save KRTA dues dollars. If you want to continue receiving multiple copies of the newsletter, just let us know.

Thanks, Nominating Committee, chaired by Irene Erskine
Bell County Boy Wins State AARP/KRTA Grandparent Essay Contest

Louisville, KY. Twelve-year-old John Cody Caldwell of Stony Fork, Kentucky is the winner of this year’s AARP/KRTA Grandparent of the Year Essay Contest. His essay is a tribute to his grandfather, James Ray Caldwell, also of Stony Fork.

“I know children have fathers,” writes John Cody. “But my father was never around. My grandfather is my father figure, someone I can look up to. Grandpa is the most important man in my life,” says young Caldwell.

AARP Kentucky and the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA), in an attempt to call attention to the relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren, joined forces five years ago to create the annual “AARP Kentucky Grandparent of the Year” essay contest. Schools decide at the beginning of a new school year if they will participate and the assignment is made each Fall. Judging is based on grammar, form, neatness, creativity, expression and the characteristics of the grandparent. The judging is conducted by local members of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association. The state winner is chosen by a panel composed of AARP Kentucky and KRTA representatives.

This year, over six thousand 5th graders from 159 schools in 67 counties participated.

AARP Kentucky and KRTA are strong advocates for grandparents’ rights and work to provide solutions faced by people left with the challenges of raising their children’s children. 35,818 Kentucky grandparents report they are responsible for meeting the basic needs of their grandchildren.

John Cody Caldwell and his Grandpa James Ray Caldwell were honored at the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA) annual convention April 19 in Louisville. John Cody received a $100 savings bond and he and his grandfather will also receive an expense-paid trip to the state Capitol in Frankfort later this year.

My Grandfather

By John Cody Caldwell
Right Fork School

When I was a baby my grandfather was afraid to hold me. One day when my mother and grandmother were busy, I began to cry. My grandmother picked me up and placed me in my grandfather’s lap. From then on he never let me out of his sight.

I know children have fathers; but my father was never around. He never cared enough about me to stay around. As a result, I had to depend on my grandfather to show me the way of life.

While my mother works, my grandparents care for me. Growing up around Grandpa is fun. He’s my best friend and the person I confide in most. I’ll always remember the long walks we share! As we walk, we pick up cans to keep the environment clean. He also teaches me about the trees and the land.

My grandfather is my father figure, someone I can look up to. He is always there through sickness, birthday, holidays, or anytime I need him through good and bad times. When I had my tonsils removed, Grandpa brought me ice cream. You see? Grandpa is the most important man in my life.

My grandfather teaches me right from wrong. He told me to “never lie to God.”

He taught me to ride a bike, fish, hunt, and garden. I remember once, about a week before my birthday, my grandfather took me to town and bought me a blue bicycle with all the works. Then he took me to McDonald’s. This was the best day of my life!

Sometime, I help my grandfather work. He taught me to be patient and do my work right. Sometimes when I mess up or lose a tool, Grandpa gets angry with me but he never stays mad for long.

During the summer, I help Grandpa in the garden. We plant tomatoes, corn, beans, and my favorite, peppers.

To me, there is no reward big enough to repay my grandfather for all the love and support he has shown me. In my eyes, it took someone special to be both a father and a grandfather to me when I had no one.

Without my grandfather, who knows where I would be and under what physical conditions I would be living.

If my Grandpa had not fixed a house so I could live near him, I might be living on the street.

My grandfather, James Ray Caldwell, is a good person who never depended on anyone. He has always given to others and never asked for anything in return. He deserves Grandparent of the Year. I hope I win because I want to thank him for giving me so much in life.

I love my grandfather for all he does for my family and me. He is my grandfather, my hero, and my mentor.

My Grandfather is a Grand . . . Daddy.

AARP KY State President Bill Harned introduced essay winner, John Cody Caldwell and his grandfather, James Ray Caldwell.

E-Mail Alert!
Please keep your e-mail address updated with KRTA if you want to receive legislative reports.
krt98@aol.com

District Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upper Ky. River</th>
<th>Harlee Weems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Cody Caldwell</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid. Cumberland</td>
<td>Alissa Collett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Hali Miller</td>
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<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Katie Yaeger</td>
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<td>Third</td>
<td>Ashlyn Carey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Mitchell Forde</td>
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<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Clint Joiner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Ky. East</td>
<td>Jarod Wylie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Sandy</td>
<td>Trenton Horsley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>James Hardy</td>
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Deadline Dates for Submitting Articles to the KRTA News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006 Issue</th>
<th>Deadline Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>July 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>October 8</td>
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You may send them to bmeredithky2@aol.com or Brenda Meredith, KRTA 7505 Bardstown Rd Louisville KY 40291

Any picture submitted with an article must be an original.
The songs “Impossible Dream” and “You Raised Me Up” brought life to his message that we can still be an influence.

His words: “Begin with the end in mind; I have a dream; Hold hands and stick together” (Stephen Covey, Martin Luther King, and Robert Fulton, respectively) were words that struck home to the youngest and oldest dream; Hold hands and stick together” (Stephen Covey, Martin Luther King, and Robert Fulton, respectively) were words that struck home to the youngest and oldest that we can still be an influence.

The songs “Impossible Dream” and “You Raised Me Up” brought life to his message as he encouraged us to recall “who cared for you—who pushed you?”

Gary encouraged teachers to keep on pushing as he asked the audience to do two things: “Think about someone in this room who has helped you and go tell them.” As people began to move about, grasping hands or giving a loving hug, the session ended with Gary saying, “Thanks for raising up and encouraging young people across the state.”

And... thanks, Gary, for taking time to join us in Louisville.

**KRTA 2006 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

An appropriate way to evaluate KRTA’s success in the 2006 General Assembly is to relate legislation passed to the various items in the KRTA Legislative Program.

**ITEM 1:** Keep the administration of the Teachers’ Retirement System as it is presently constituted.

Result: No change or threats of change were made in the administrative structure of KTRS.

**ITEM 2:** Evaluate all proposed legislation relating to the Teachers’ Retirement System and oppose any legislation that would endanger the actuarial soundness of the system.

Result: No legislation was passed that endangers the actuarial soundness of KTRS.

**ITEM 3:** Promote full funding of the Teachers’ Retirement System by the state and oppose any effort to reduce or withhold the state’s contribution to the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System for matching member contributions and/or other statutory appropriations to the system for the purpose of balancing the budget for other general fund expenditures. Oppose any effort to appropriate or borrow retirement system funds. Oppose any effort to direct the investment of retirement system funds.

Result: Concerning the pension fund, KTRS was fully funded including the supplemental appropriation and sick leave provisions. However, the retirement system is allocating a portion of the employer contribution that would have been deposited in the pension fund to the medical insurance fund instead. No attempts were made to require the system to make venure capital investments.

**ITEM 4:** Continue to support cost of living adjustments (COLAs) that reflect the actual increase in the cost of living being experienced by retirees.

Result: The Ad Hoc COLAs of 0.8% and 0.6% added to the 1.5% base COLA provides a 2.3% COLA effective July 1, 2006, and a 2.1% COLA effective July 1, 2007. Unfortunately, these COLAs do not keep pace with the Congressional Budget Office’s (CBO) projected increases in the CPI of 3.6% in 2006 and 2.5% in 2007.

**ITEM 5:** Support increases in the present minimum annual annuity for teacher retirees that at a minimum reflect the actual increase in the cost of living being experienced by retirees.

Result: The minimum annual annuity will be increased by the same cost of living adjustments as all other annuities.

**ITEM 6:** Support legislation enhancing the adequacy and accessibility of health insurance coverage for retirees below age 65.

Result: The Ad Hoc COLAs of 0.8% and 0.6% added to the 1.5% base COLA provides a 2.3% COLA effective July 1, 2006, and a 2.1% COLA effective July 1, 2007. Unfortunately, these COLAs do not keep pace with the Congressional Budget Office’s (CBO) projected increases in the CPI of 3.6% in 2006 and 2.5% in 2007.

**ITEM 7:** A self-insurance program or some variation of self-insurance for all state employees and retirees below age 65, including retired teachers, should be considered as a way of addressing the state health insurance plan’s long term problems of adequacy, accessibility and affordability.

Result: The 2004 Extraordinary Session did establish a self-insurance program for all state employees and retirees below age 65. The state’s new health insurance program begin January 1, 2006. The state awarded contracts to Humana and Express Scripts to be the third party administrators for the program. It remains to be seen if the self-insurance program will give the state the means to provide consistent, stable, adequate, accessible and affordable coverage to all individuals in the state health insurance pool.

**ITEM 8:** Support legislation requiring state and local entities that have retirees participating in the state insurance program bring active employees into the program.

Result: No bills were introduced during the 2006 session that specifically addressed this issue.

**ITEM 9:** Support an increase in the amounts paid to survivors of active contributing members and disability retirees.

Result: There were not improvements in survivor or disability retiree benefits.

**ITEM 10:** Oppose efforts at the federal level to impose mandatory social security for members of the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System.

Result: KRTA continues to work with the Coalition to Preserve Retirement Security (CPRS) to stop efforts to implement mandatory social security and repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

**ITEM 11:** Support the 2006 legislative priorities of AARP/NRTA state legislative committee and/or other groups representing senior citizens, which are not in conflict with the position of KRTA.

Result: KRTA supported AARP/Kentucky’s efforts to pass legislation in the areas of predatory lending, grandparent right’s and telecommunications. Be sure to express you appreciation to your Senators and Representatives. Thanks are also due Gary Harbin and the KTRS Trustees and staff for their cooperation and support.
The Delegate Assembly of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association met on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, at 2:15 p.m. in the Queen of Scots Room of the Executive West Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by President Neal Tucker.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
Minutes were approved and filed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS by Virginia Shaw; Ray Roundtree and Bobby Humes; and Irene Erksine (See page 6)
After a motion by Bobby Humes and second by Aaron Beals the Delegate Assembly approved the adoption of the 2006 Legislative Program.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (Roberta Fugate)
After a motion by Aaron Beals and second by Virgil Osborne, the Delegate Assembly approved the adoption of the 2006 Resolutions. (See page 15)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Irene Erksine)
The Committee presented the following slate:

- President: Tara Parker
- President-Elect: Patsy Young
- Vice-President: Billy Triplett

There being no further nominations, President Tucker called for a vote to elect the officers by acclamation. (See page 10)

OTHER BUSINESS (Bob Wagoner)
Executive Director Dr. Bob Wagoner presented the Director and Treasurer’s Reports. Since there were no questions, the reports were filed.

Dr. Wagoner stated that our financial and fiscal assets are very good. Some challenges are ahead of us, but two most important ones are maintaining medical health insurance benefits and a sound pension fund. We have a good relationship with our legislators. We need to elect people who support our goals. He encouraged everyone to examine candidates to find out their stand on retired teachers’ issues.

Dr. Wagoner encouraged members to vote for Robert Conley and Laura Zimmerman in the upcoming May KTRS Board of Trustees’ Election. We need knowledgeable and experienced people to serve. He asked delegates to share this message with their locals. He also encouraged delegates and all members to utilize the resources of KRTA.

RECOGNITION OF OUT-GOING PRESIDENT
On behalf of the organization, Tara Parker presented an engraved plaque to Neal Tucker for his dedication and tremendous leadership to KRTA during the past year serving as president. She praised Neal for his tireless efforts and genuine ‘sharing and caring’ platform. She reminded us that with Neal we got a “two fer;” that is, two for the price of one—because with Neal we got his wonderful wife Dorris.

The General Assembly adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The 2007 Convention will be held on April 17.

Plan for Excellence

| Explain the benefits of belonging to KRTA |
| eXtraordinary effort to retain current cash members |
| Contact new retirees before they leave school |
| Encourage the use of the Automatic Dues Deduction Card |
| List goals and a membership plan |
| Let the community know about KRTA—not just “retired teachers” |
| Enhance member participation with interesting & entertaining programs |
| Nurture newcomers at local meetings |
| Commit to reaching all potential members in the county |
| Empower all local members to help with membership |

Guidelines for Implementation
- Encourage use of White Cards
- Postmark these by November 3, 2006
- Enrollments November 3, 2006 - January 17, 2007 must be with Cash Form and a Check
- Carla must have these by January 15, 2007
Retired Teacher Volunteerism Up

In 1947, when Dr. Percy Andrus, NRTA founder, proclaimed her motto “To serve not to be served,” I am sure she had no idea the impact that retired teachers would make on their communities. This year Kentucky retired teachers reported 451,001 volunteer hours valued at over $8,136,058. The KRTA staff expresses its thanks and appreciation to all who participated and reported volunteer hours. Information and names received will be used to participate in state and national volunteer programs.

What I spent is gone! What I kept is lost!
But what I gave away will be mine forever!
— Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus
WHEREAS, The Kentucky Retired Teachers Association, being the only organization in the State that has as its sole purpose the improvement of the welfare of retired teachers in Kentucky and

WHEREAS, The Kentucky Retired Teachers Association, meeting in its Annual Convention at the Executive West Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky, on April 19, 2006, desires to voice certain areas of concern, interest, and appreciation.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That:

1. We reaffirm, upon the occasion of their passing, our appreciation to Frances S. Miller, President of KRTA in 1997-1999 and KRTA/AARP Liaison 1998-2002, and Robert Kelley, President of KRTA in 1991-92 and chair of the Health & Insurance Committee, for their devotion and leadership. Both will be sorely missed.

2. We declare sincere appreciation to our Executive Director, Dr. Robert Wagoner, whose professional leadership, commitment, and complete loyalty continue to direct the Association in achieving its goals, while aiming toward greater accomplishments for the future. His service in other organizations confirms his interest in and focus on local, state and national concerns of all retired teachers.

3. We commend Dr. Wagoner for his continued commitment to serve us as Legislative Agent and extend thanks to Hobby Humes and Ray Roundtree, Legislative Co-Chairs, and Frank Hatfield, Executive Director Emeritus, serving as volunteer lobbyists.

4. We voice sincere appreciation to Betty Hester, recently retired Deputy Executive Director for Communications. We express thanks to Janie and Brenda for accepting these positions with their expanding responsibilities.

5. We congratulate Janie Caslowe deemed by the Executive Council to be Deputy Executive Director for Member Services, and Brenda Meredith, Deputy Executive Director for Communications. We express thanks to Janie and Brenda for accepting these positions with their expanding responsibilities.

6. We express our sincere thanks to Carla Hahn, Mary Wagoner and the entire headquarters staff, without whose assistance Kentucky’s retired teachers would be less informed. We applaud their unsurpassed patience, efficiency, and competence.

7. We declare sincere gratitude to Gary Harbin, Executive Secretary of the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System, his staff, and Board of Trustees for professional leadership in providing quality service to all Kentucky retired teachers and diligence in developing and promoting a legislative program that enhances benefits to all members. As we continue to build on the excellent relationship KRTA has with these competent people, we anticipate growth.

8. We respectfully call upon Governor Ernie Fletcher to support legislation to meet the needs of Kentucky retired teachers who have given so much to their profession with expectations of good health benefits upon retirement.

9. We appreciate the efforts of the members of the 2006 General Assembly to pass legislation favorable to retired teachers and declare our sincere thanks for their support. With anticipation and gratitude, we urge their continued support.

10. We commend Immediate Past President Irene Erskine who continues to perform remarkably in all areas of interest and benefits for retired teachers. We appreciate her special concern for the unique role our organization plays in working for the common good of our retired educators.

11. To our President, Neal Tucker, we compliment his genuine concern for each member of our organization by promoting “caring and sharing” as we work together for the common good of each. Neal has had an impressive, commendable, remarkable performance in all areas of interest and benefits for retired teachers.

12. We acknowledge the steadfastness of the Executive Council in promoting the general welfare of all KRTA members: Emma Lou Isaac, Jim Frank, Mary Buck, Mike Irby, Jack Waff, Sandra Epley, Rick Tatum, Jean Harney, Harold McClaren, Tom Mathews, Ike Slusher, Mary May, Faye Logan, and June Grooms. We extend thanks to the outgoing members for their service and greetings to those new members who have accepted the growing challenges that lie ahead.

13. We extend thanks and gratitude to Irene Erskine and Carolyn Falin, Co-Chairs of the Health and Insurance committee, as monitors of our health and insurance needs and cognitive evaluators of services and benefits.

14. We gratefully acknowledge Robert Estes, AARP/KRTA Specialist for Kentucky, who provides retirees with current information from AARP, continues to work with the Grandparent Essay Contest, and promotes the Veterans’ History Project.

15. We congratulate Virginia Shaw, Harold VanHook, Bob Anderson and Ernie Troser, Co-Chairs of the Membership/Pre-Retirement Committee, in their continued tireless efforts to increase membership, which currently numbers 25,207 with 19,484 using automatic dues deduction. We appreciate their determination and untried enthusiasm.

16. We commend the participating local and district retired teachers’ associations for their endless volunteer services which include programs that benefit our youth, give assistance to the aging, volunteering in local schools, and numerous other community programs.

17. We thank Attorneys Eric Farris and David Carby for their diligence in contesting the long-term care rate increases requested by Life Investors Insurance Company of America. Their commitment to the welfare of the members of KRTA is commendable.

18. We extend appreciation to the Nominating Committee for excellent leadership shown in nominating outstanding officers:

Irene Erskine, Chairperson
Ernie Troser
Larry Morrow
Robert Fugate
Maude Teegarden

19. We congratulate the 37 local retired teachers’ associations with achievement of at least 90 percent membership in KRTA (including 6 with 100 percent) to win the M. L. Archer Award.

20. We memorialize our 780 colleagues who have departed this life since April 19, 2006, desires to voice certain areas of concern, interest, and appreciation.

21. We extend a special thank you to those who assisted in making last night’s reception and this meeting a success. We offer special thanks to members of the Reception and Registration Committees.

RECEPTION

Melanie Wood
Joyce Cecil
Shannon Royal
Patsy Young
Marianne Humphries
Tara Parker
Neal Tucker
Irene Erskine

REGISTRATION & LUNCHEON

Karim Anderson
Linda Hume
Janie Caslowe
Brenda Meredith
Mary Estes
Jan Roundtree
Carla Hahn
Dorris Tucker
Frank Hatfield
Bob Wagoner
Margaret Hatfield
Mary Wagoner

We wish to express our thanks to the Executive West Hotel for its gracious hospitality and the use of its facilities.
Meet Our Newest Partner for Identity Theft Protection

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America. In Kentucky, someone was victimized by this crime every 4.8 hours last year. Victims spend an average of 600 hours and $1495 to restore their good name and/or credit (USA Today Jan. 14, 2005). Would you know what to do if you were hit with identity theft?

The Identity Theft ShieldSM offers you peace of mind if you become the victim of identity theft. The service offers four areas of help, before, during, and after the incident.

1. Credit report through Experian. Allows you to make sure your financial records are accurate.
2. Personal credit score and analysis. Know your credit score and how it affects your ability to borrow.
3. Continuous credit monitoring (via Experian). When activity occurs on your credit file, a credit alert will go directly to you. Activities that will warrant an alert include change of address, new accounts opened, derogatory notes, public records (bankruptcy, liens), inquiries by creditors or other authorized parties. You will be notified regularly if there is no activity.
4. Identity Restoration. Our licensed investigators will work on your behalf to help correct identity theft issues you have with affected agencies and institutions, including credit card companies, financial institutions, all three credit repositories, Federal Trade Commission, Social Security Administration, Department of Motor Vehicles, U.S. Postal Service, law enforcement personnel, and other organizations that may be affected. The restoration service covers all areas of identity theft, not just credit.

You are welcome to contact me to find out more about the epidemic problem of identity theft or obtaining coverage with the Identity Theft ShieldSM. Also, if you have been a victim of this crime, send me a letter or email about your experience.

Steven Deaton
Independent Associate
Pre-Paid Legal Services
sfdeaton@prepaidlegal.com

The cost of insuring retirees under 65 went from $165 per month in 1997 to $286 in 2004. The cost this year will be $430 . . . even at a $26 m. savings. Rates are expected to increase to $469 and $520 in the next two years, respectively. The cost of providing insurance for the retirees 65 and over is $315 this year or total $90 m.

Mr. Harbin and KTRS has joined with other retirement systems to form the Public Sector Healthcare Roundtable to address retiree health care costs on a national level. Their work can be followed at www.healthcarroundtable.org.

Retired teachers have a significant economic impact in every county in the state. The membership consists of 71,839 contributing members. Retirees and their beneficiaries and survivors number 38,257—receiving benefits of $86 m. each month. Mr. Harbin emphasized the positive impact this makes on the Commonwealth. KTRS is a strong economic force—for members, school districts, and state and local economies:

For members: Retirement security for a lifetime with a retirement benefit and medical benefit
For school districts: Benefit to attract and retain quality teachers; reduced payroll costs as teachers retire and new teachers are hired (a difference of $23,500 per position on average)
For state & local economies: $86 m. paid by KTRS each month; $13 m. in medical benefits; 93% of KTRS retirees live in Kentucky
KTRS distributes hundreds of millions of dollars annually—projected to be $1.203 b. in FY 2006.

Thanks, Mr. Harbin, for your interest in and hard work for retired teachers—today and tomorrow!
Let’s start now, share the success of KRTA, the benefits of being a member of KRTA, and what an annual $15 membership in KRTA can accomplish, and try to reach every non-member and new retiree to get them on board for they, too, are benefiting from our successes.

I hope you attended the KRTA state convention, April 18-19. If not you certainly missed the opportunity to be stimulated and motivated, to catch up on KRTA activities, to become more knowledgeable of what is happening for retirees, and to just enjoy visiting with friends and colleagues—renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. Our member reception, on Tuesday evening, again proved to be great fun for everyone. We enjoyed lots of refreshments, food and punch, and hundreds of very nice door prizes drawn by tickets and given free to attendees. This event has become a huge success for our convention. Thanks to all local and district RTA members who provided the many gifts. We could not have this event without your help.

This year’s presenters were outstanding, informative, and motivational. Gary Harbin, Executive Secretary for the Kentucky Teacher’s Retirement System (KTRS), gave a very thorough presentation covering the current status, and some known and projected needs of our retirement system. Nancy Aronson, Senior Legislative Representative for the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA), addressed retirement systems nation wide, federal pension legislation and how unfunded liabilities can cause problems for retired educators. Gary Grieser, a well-known fellow retired educator, now a humorist, inspirational speaker and an accomplished vocalist, filled our minds with relaxing humor and challenging thoughts for more purposeful living.

Our association has been built on a rock, not as a house on sand. It is the result of the combined efforts of the many professional educators who, though retired from active teaching, have continued to use their knowledge and wisdom to help others. This has resulted in the development of an outstanding organization that has become extremely effective in addressing the needs of and advancing the life style for the retirees of our profession.

KRTA functions as a team and every member is on that team. Accomplishment depends on the involvement and strong support of our members. During the years that I have served, it has been my good fortune to have the strong support of highly competent fellow officers, council members, state committees, district and local leaders, and an Executive Director and staff, to support and provide help and leadership that has resulted in strong growth and continuing accomplishments for KRTA.

It is noteworthy to always keep in mind that we are an independent association with the sole purpose to look out for the welfare of our members. We do this in a very professional manner by operating within an atmosphere where all opinions are given due consideration, where the right of any member to know is respected, where a consensus is achieved without acrimony, and where mutual respect prevails. We do not engage in negativity and internal animosity or conflict, thus maintaining the dignity and respect of membership and likewise our association—an association for which we can all be proud and happy to claim membership. After all, we are still professionals serving and leading, not only within our own organization, but continuing our service to all people of our great commonwealth, using our life-long accumulation of knowledge and wisdom to better the lives of all—still teaching, still helping to advance our students, the citizens of Kentucky.

Your state officers, council members, committee members, and executive staff remain committed and ready to work with districts, locals, KTRS, state government, and all entities that share KRTA’s concern for the welfare of retired teachers. The support and effort of every member is needed to protect the long-term integrity of our retirement system.

My deepest appreciation to every member, particularly to our executive staff, fellow officers, council and committee members, for all the encouragement, support, and help you have provided. You are the ones who make KRTA so successful. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president and experience one of the most rewarding periods of my professional years. I look forward to continuing to serve as long as I can benefit KRTA.
Welcome to JFVS…
Do you know who and what we are?

Frank is a retired teacher with two children active in high school and college activities. He helps part-time in a landscaping business and is an elder in his church. But his widowed mother has just been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. How will this situation affect his family life as his care-giving demands increase?

Jill is a retired school administrator and has enjoyed her free time, but she’s contemplating a return to the workforce and needs guidance about employment options that are right for her at this time in her life.

Helen is very social, is mentally agile and has time to volunteer for worthy causes, but she physically is unable to drive a car or walk long distances.

These people and 7,000 more walk through the doors annually at Jewish Family & Vocational Service (JFVS), located at the corner of Dutchmans and Cannons Lanes. JFVS is a nonprofit comprehensive human services organization founded in 1908, serving the entire community with programs focusing on family, work, education, older adults, immigrants and refugees.

Services of particular interest to the KRTA membership are:

- **CAREER SERVICES** – Assessment of interests and professional one-on-one consultation will help you explore career options and initiate the possibility of a new career action plan.

- **COLLEGE ADEvisEment** – A one-stop center offering a total package of college advisement, scholarship/financial aid planning, internships, major selection and career assessment.

- **KLEIN OLDER ADULT SERVICES** – Licensed professionals work to maximize independence, ensure safety and preserve the dignity of older adults, while supporting family members through the challenges presented by the aging process.

- **COUNSELING SERVICES** – As we see in the news everyday, circumstances can change a person’s life in an instant. JFVS is here to help.

At JFVS, we believe this slogan best describes our services and the commitment we have to those we serve throughout all stages and events in their lives. Please call upon us if we can be of service to you and your family, and consider our volunteer opportunities to help us continue to offer the highest-quality services to those in need. Please contact JFVS at (502) 452-6341 or e-mail us at beverlybromley@jfvs.com. Our web site is www.jfvs.com.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

KRTA OFFICE
231-5802 (from Louisville)
1-800-551-7979 (from outside Louisville)
(502) 231-0686 (fax)
krt98@aol.com (e-mail)      www.krta.org (web site)

KRTA LEGALINE
1-800-232-1090
krt@buckmanandfarris.com
Buckman, Farris & Rakes      Shepherdsville, Kentucky

KRTA FINANCE & INVESTMENT INFO
1-800-927-0030
Hank Hensley      Louisville, Kentucky

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE
1-866-899-5796 or 502-553-7630

DENTAL INSURANCE
COMPBENEFITS
Contact Weilage Benefit Specialists (Third Party Administrator)
1-866-WBS-PLUS (1-866-927-7587)

AUTOMOBILE & HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE
425-8450, ext. 243      (from Louisville)
1-800-225-8281      (from outside Louisville)
Liberty Mutual Insurance Company

HEARING INSTRUMENT PLAN
244-5378      (from Louisville)
1-800-286-6149      (from outside Louisville)

HOME SECURITY SYSTEM
Protection First   502-412-7037   1-800-915-4741

KY TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
1-800-618-1687   or      www.ktrs.org

COMMONWEALTH CREDIT UNION
1-800-228-6420   or      www.ccuky.org

AARP/KRTA SPECIALIST
Bob Estes 502-245-4513

ORDER FORM

KRTA MEMBERSHIP PIN

Please place an order for _____ @ $2.50.

Enclosed please find my/our check in the amount of $__________.

Please send pins to:

_____________________________
_____________________________
_____________________________
_____________________________

Send completed Order Form to:  KRTA
7505 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40291-3234

Quips, Quotes & Puzzles

George Carlin’s Views On Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we’re kids?
If you’re less than 10 years old, you’re so excited about aging that you think in fractions.
“How old are you?” “I’m four and a half!”
You’re never thirty-six and a half.
You’re four and a half, going on five!
That’s the key.
You get into your teens, now they can’t hold you back.
You jump to the next number ... or even a few ahead.
“How old are you?” “I’m gonna be 16!”
You could be 13, but hey, you’re gonna be 16!
And then the greatest day of your life you become 21.
Even the words sound like a ceremony . . . YOU BECOME 21.
YESSSS!
But then you turn 30.
Oooohh what happened there?
Makes you sound like bad milk.
He TURNED; we had to throw him out.
There’s no fun now.
You’re just a sour-dumpling.
What’s wrong?
What’s changed?
You BECOME 21, you TURN 30 , then you’re PUSHING 40.
Whoa!
Put on the brakes .. it’s all slipping away.
Before you know it, you REACH 50 and your dreams are gone.
But wait!
You MAKE IT to 60.
You didn’t think you would!
So you BECOME 21 , TURN 30 , PUSH 40 , REACH 50 and MAKE IT to 60. You’ve built up so much speed that you HIT 70!
After that it’s a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday!
You get into your 80s and every day is a complete cycle;
you HIT lunch; you TURN 4:30; you REACH bedtime.
And it doesn’t end there.
Into the 90s, you start going backwards . .
“I Was JUST 92.”
Then a strange thing happens.
If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again.
“I’m 100 and a half!”
May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!
JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2006

IN MEMORIAM

ADAIR COUNTY
Michael D Campbell
Martha C Howard
Coo Phipps
Ethel F Scott

ALLENS COUNTY
Pearl M Sikes

ANDERSON COUNTY
Onita B Morgan
Bonnie J Perry

BUTLER COUNTY
Joe Mills
Glennie M Dawson

BREATHITT COUNTY
Mary Morley

BOYLE COUNTY
Patricia T McNeal

BOONE COUNTY
Brennie Brunner

BELL COUNTY
John G Barber

BATH COUNTY
Mary Woodson

BARREN COUNTY
Bonnie J Perry

ALLEN COUNTY
Ethel F Scott

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Lola Clark
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Leon Smith

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Carvin Hadley

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
Lewis P Williams

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William Adams

BOYD COUNTY
Lucille R Harris

BOYLE COUNTY
Edith Merritt

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Alvah Rawlings

FLOYD COUNTY
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HARRISON COUNTY
Armande Pierre

HENDerson COUNTY
Harry Varner

HOPKINS COUNTY
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JEFFERSON COUNTY
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JEFFERSON COUNTY
Betty J Walker
Elizabeth Weber
Elizabeth Will

JEFFERSON COUNTY
Gertrude Williams

JOHNSON COUNTY
Earl Macoubrie

KESSLIN COUNTY
Estil Chaney

KENTUCKY
Marie Colgan
Helen E Gels
Doris M Kron
Helen E Gels

MADISON COUNTY
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Amon E Thurner

MALLAR COUNTY
Daisy L White

HARRISON COUNTY
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HARLAN COUNTY
Gerald Vincent

HOPKINS COUNTY
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HENDerson COUNTY
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KNOX COUNTY
Luther H Gaddis Jr

LEITCHER COUNTY
Reneva Bradley

LOGAN COUNTY
Fredia Baker

MADISON COUNTY
Ruth W Davis
Rufus O Harris

MCCracken COUNTY
Virginia C Foster

MARTIN COUNTY
Shirley Haws

MCCracken COUNTY
Margaret L Robinson

MIDDLEBOURG
Wynneuse Anderson

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Patsy Gilliam

MORGAN COUNTY
Morgan Wheeler

MUHLENBERG COUNTY
Gertie Lovell

NELSON COUNTY
Hazel Geoghegan

OWEN COUNTY
William R True

PERRY COUNTY
Mable R Jones

PIKE COUNTY
Edith Belcher

PULASKI COUNTY
Zella Sears

ROWAN COUNTY
Katherine Caudill

SPS COUNTY
Edith Belcher

TODD COUNTY
Phyllis Wilson

WARREN COUNTY
Michael T Bardin

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Genoa A Prather

WAYNE COUNTY
Irene R Kennedy

WHITLEY COUNTY
Lola Douglas

WOODFORD COUNTY
King Richeson

OUT OF STATE
Mary L Arterburn - TN
Christine Blewits - VA
Della Elliott - MS

WYOMING COUNTY
William M Haight Sr - VA
Ruth Harris - GA
Josephine Hopson - FL

WVWOOD COUNTY
Lavaris Johnson - TN

We're Sorry!
Mary Merrill of Grayson Co.
was incorrectly listed in Graves Co. in the March issue.

Lizzelle K. Pye's name was misspelled in the
December issue.