2016 General Assembly Budget Deal Funds Teacher Pensions

$973 Million Contribution Represents Leap Forward in Restoring Fiscal Responsibility

Kentucky legislators and Governor Matt Bevin worked together to enact a bi-partisan budget deal that finally begins to restore fiscal responsibility to the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System (KTRS).

Under the budget agreement, KTRS will receive $498.54 million in pension fund contributions in fiscal year 2017 and $474.72 million in fiscal year 2018. The amount allocated for KTRS falls slightly short of the required annual contribution, but is a giant leap forward in terms of catching up on the state’s missed payments.

Retired teachers should appreciate the leadership and commitment of Governor Bevin and members of the General Assembly who supported this fiscally responsible solution. Hard working Kentucky teachers make their pension contributions from every paycheck, and we should be pleased that lawmakers are catching up on past due bills.

It’s clear that lawmakers put politics aside and took the time to examine the facts and listen to constituents. As a result, HB303 (the budget bill) reflects a clear understanding that the fiscally responsible path forward is to pay down past due obligations. Lawmakers resisted the temptation to just stick the bills in the drawer for another year or to switch to 401(k)-type retirement plans, which has worsened funding levels in other states.

Hopefully, all retired teachers have taken the time to write “Thank You” notes to the governor and their representative and senator for taking the “first step” in putting the retirement system on a path back to a strong financial footing.

KTRS benefits are critical to the financial security of retired teachers. These earned benefits are the main source of income for most retired teachers in Kentucky because they do not receive Social Security benefits.

(Continued on page 6)
PERSONALLY SPEAKING...

Bob Wagoner
Executive Director

KRTA: Why?

The question is often asked. Do we need the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA)? The answer is yes! KRTA is the only organization in the state whose sole purpose is to improve the welfare of Kentucky’s retired educators. It is a professional organization with a membership approaching 31,000 working together to help guarantee financial security for retired teachers during retirement. There are hundreds of volunteers giving of their time and talents to insure that retirees have a better economic, social and professional life during their retirement years.

Does KRTA have a significant meaning to you? Should there be a close relationship between every retired educator and KRTA? KRTA is vitally important to each retired educator in Kentucky. Without KRTA many of the quality of life improvements for retired teachers over the past years would not exist.

In the coming year KRTA is going to move forward with some important concerns. I request that you become knowledgeable of each and pledge your commitment, cooperation, and support to your local, district and state KRTA.

Membership

The strength of KRTA is its membership. There are about 44,174 retired teachers in Kentucky. Approximately 70 percent of these are KRTA members. Where is the other 30%? Our membership goal for 2016 is 31,617. Can this goal be reached? Yes! With some extra effort from each of us, it can become a reality.

The right and best first question we must ask ourselves is not how we recruit new members? It is how do we attract members? The key to gaining and retaining new members must begin not by worrying about our methods of recruiting but rather with the quality of our programs and services.

Do you know a retiree who is not a KRTA member? If so, you need to contact that person and sell them on the importance and advantages of belonging. The annual $20 dues will be one of the most profitable investments a retiree can make toward improved economic, social and professional life during their retirement years.

(Continued on page 6)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE...

Cathy Gullett

When elected to the KRTA Officer Team I didn't realize how quickly the time would pass!! I also didn't realize how many wonderful friends I would make. My husband and I truly enjoyed traveling the state with the travel team in 2015 and I am humbled and beyond excited by the opportunities that the year as president will bring—especially getting to meet members from across the Commonwealth.

I tell those not involved in KRTA how much I love the volunteer spirit of KRTA. Membership meets each new challenge with a determination to preserve the integrity of retirement. All challenges are met with a spirit of teamwork, with a smile and with a positive attitude—a giving attitude. I would be negligent if I did not thank the membership for sharing that spirit with the families of my Johnson County local in July of 2015. Deadly, devastating flash flooding ravaged our county and YOU, the members of KRTA, opened your hearts and your pocketbooks to provide over ten thousand dollars for relief to the area. Be assured that the entire amount was used by the Johnson County and Paintsville Independent School Systems to benefit families with school age children.

The kindness was overwhelming and accepted with heartfelt appreciation. I urge you to read the materials regarding the Kimbler/Bourgard Fund and consider building that fund to enable the benevolent spirit to provide a safe haven for members who may find themselves in need.

During my term in office one of the happy challenges will be to celebrate a birthday as KRTA turns 60 in 2017! The birthday provides a perfect opportunity to communicate the organization's successes while diligently working together to maintain defined benefits and the governing structure of KTRS. While membership is grateful for the strides made to fund KTRS, there is always the need to be aware of the legislative climate and continue to let the collective voice of retired teachers be heard.

Another challenge for KRTA is to increase membership and encourage younger retirees to become involved. The Fall Workshops are the most opportune time to introduce new members to the benefits and importance of active participation in KRTA. Please make a special effort to involve the “newbees” and younger members in all local and district activities.

As Fall Workshop time approaches, here’s a hint for this year’s theme—watch for the Eagles! Winston Churchill once said, “When the Eagles are silent, the Parrots will chatter.” The voice of KRTA will NOT be silenced. The 2016-2017 KRTA Officers: President-Elect, Romanza Johnson (Third District); Vice President,

(Continued on page 4)
Sneaky Signs of Heart Attack

Chest pressure—squeezing, fullness or pain (typically in the center of the chest and lasting more than a few minutes; discomfort may come and go).

Pain or discomfort in other areas of the upper body—including one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.

Shortness of breath—with or without chest discomfort.

Breaking out in a cold sweat

Nausea

Lightheadedness

If any of these symptoms are experienced, call 911.

Understanding Stock Market Indexes

No doubt you’ve seen headlines reporting that a particular stock index is up or down. But do you know what an index is, and how understanding the nuts and bolts of a specific index may be helpful to you?

An index is simply a way to measure and report the fluctuations of a pool of securities or a representative segment of a market. An index is developed by a company that sets specific criteria to determine which securities are included in the index based on factors such as a company’s size or location, or the liquidity of its stock. For example, the S&P 500 is an index made up of mostly large-cap U.S.-based companies that Standard & Poor’s considers to be leading representatives of a cross-section of industries.

The company that develops the index tracks the performance of its components and aggregates the data to produce a single figure that represents the index as a whole. Virtually every asset class is tracked by at least one index, but because of the size and variety of the stock market, there are more stock indexes than any other type. It’s important to note that the performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific security. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index.

Comparing apples to oranges

Since indexes encompass a wide range of securities, it’s important to know what segment of the market a particular index covers. For instance, a composite index follows a specific stock exchange. The Nasdaq Composite Index includes all the stocks listed on the Nasdaq market. Conversely, sector indexes track securities in a specific industry.

Even indexes that include the same securities may not operate in precisely the same way. Generally, indexes tend to be either price-weighted or market capitalization-weighted. If an index is price-weighted, such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the impact of each stock on the overall average is proportional to its price compared to other stocks in the index. With a price-weighted index, the highest-priced stocks would have the most impact on the average. For example, a 1 percentage point drop in the price of a stock selling for $80 per share would have more impact on the overall index’s performance than a 1 percentage point drop in the price of a stock that had been selling for $40 a share.

If an index is market capitalization-weighted or market value-weighted, such as the Nasdaq Composite Index or the S&P 500 Composite Index, the average of the index is adjusted to take into account the relative size of each company’s (market cap) to reflect its importance to the index. Stocks with a larger market capitalization have a greater influence on how the index performs than stocks with a smaller market capitalization. For example, if the stock of a $10 billion market-cap company drops by 1 percentage point, it will drag down the index’s performance more than a 1 percentage point drop in the share price of a $1 billion market-cap company.

Though an index adheres to a set of guidelines for selection of the securities it includes, the company that oversees the index generally reviews the security selection periodically and may make occasional changes. For example, some indexes may rebalance if an individual security grows so large that it dominates the index. Others have a limit on how much of the index can be devoted to a particular sector or industry, and may rebalance if the proportion gets skewed.

Indexes are worth watching

Stock indexes can provide valuable information for the individual investor. If checked regularly, an index can provide information that may help you stay abreast of how the stock market in general, or a particular segment of it, is faring. However, understanding the differences between indexes and how each one works will help you make better use of the information they provide. All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful.
Membership Update
Betty Hester

On May 16, the Membership Committee, together with two or three from each district, came together at the Ramada Inn to brainstorm and learn about attracting and recruiting the younger retirees. Mary Beth Dixon, NRTA Advisor, directed the session with “chocolate tasting,” a PowerPoint presentation, and handouts. These suggestions that we think will help local associations grow their associations and enhance the leadership responsibilities will be presented at the Fall Workshops.

The Committee discussed the upcoming 2016-17 membership year and voted unanimously to adopt the goal of 31,617. The goals for each local and district were presented and will be looked at/compared around January 20, 2017. This is the basis of the “Yes We Did” Award and is open for all locals and districts. As locals work toward their goals, remember that changes in the potential occur each month because of new retirees and deceased retirees. A call to the office to get your numbers will help you keep on task to know how much harder you need to work to reach that goal.

This is an especially difficult task for the large associations. Keep in mind that the “Top Hat” Award was designed to take this into consideration and is given for the greatest increase in members (top 10 locals and top 5 districts).

Good luck to each of you as you work to grow your association and enlist the help from the “younger retirees.” If we can be of any assistance, don’t hesitate to call.

Jeff Hester
North American Life Plans, LLC

Life insurance is an important financial tool because it can be used to address many different concerns and objectives.

**Personal needs**
1. Pay off car loans, credit cards and other debts
2. Pay off or reduce your home mortgage
3. Fund burial and other final expenses
4. Replace income lost due the death of a wage earner
5. Fund the costs to replace domestic services of a stay-at-home spouse or caregiver
6. Create an education fund
7. Protect future insurability
8. Ensure a retirement income “completion fund”
9. Enhance an estate to provide for the children of a prior marriage
10. Satisfy divorce-related obligations such as alimony or child support
11. Create a fund to provide care for a loved one with special needs

**Estate and charitable needs**
12. Pay legal and administrative costs incurred at the insured’s death
13. Provide a source of liquidity to pay state and/or federal “death taxes”
14. Mitigate the impact taxes can have on assets owned in trust
15. Supplement any income shortfall of a total return or income trust
16. Replace loss due to IRD tax incurred by annuities, IRAs and qualified plan assets
17. Diminish the impact of marital deduction limitations of a surviving resident noncitizen spouse
18. Increase the value of transfers of generation-skipping, annual exclusion and exemption gift amounts
19. Freeze the value of a highly appreciated estate asset received by a surviving heir
20. Create a fund to produce an income stream to non-charitable beneficiaries during the term of a testamentary charitable lead trust
21. Leave a charitable legacy
22. Replace wealth left to a charity
23. Equalize inheritances between business heirs and non-business heirs

**Business needs**
24. Collateralize a business loan
25. Fund a buy-sell agreement
26. Stabilize a business at the death of a key employee or owner
27. Fund post-retirement health care costs
28. Offset a loss to a business caused by the death of a key employee
29. Establish a fund to retain key employees
30. Facilitate an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) repurchase obligation

If any of these needs apply to you or your family members, please call North American Life Plans at 1-888-362-1214 for a free consultation by a KRTA-endorsed representative.

Shirley Dick Wolf (Middle Cumberland District); Past President, Patsy Rainey (Central Kentucky West District); myself, President, Cathy Gullett (Big Sandy District) and the rest of the travel team can’t wait to “fly” your way this fall. With a volunteer spirit, teamwork and communication, KRTA will “SOAR” to its 60th birthday!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as KRTA President. I look forward to meeting YOU! Enjoy your summer!

(Continued from “President’s Message” page 2)

Jeff Johnson, State Manager
North American Life Plans

**KRTA NEWS is Changing!**

In an effort to better serve you, there will be three electronic issues of the KRTA NEWS Express. You will receive them in January, June, and September. The printed editions of KRTA NEWS will arrive in your mailboxes in March, July, and November.

I hope you enjoy these additional communications!

Brenda Meredith, Editor
Money Smart for Older Adults

We have over fifty million Americans aged sixty-two and older living independently today. Older adults are prime targets for financial exploitation both by persons they know and trust and by strangers. Financial exploitation has been called “the crime of the 21st century” with one study suggesting that older Americans lost at least $2.9 billion to financial exploitation by a broad spectrum of perpetrators in the past five years.

A key factor in some cases of elder financial exploitation is mild cognitive impairment which can diminish an older adult’s ability to make sound financial decisions. This epidemic is under the radar. The cases tend to be very complex and can be difficult to investigate and prosecute. Eiders who lose their life savings usually have little or no opportunity to regain what they have lost. Elder financial abuse can result in the loss of the ability to live independently; decline in health; broken trust, and fractured families.

Awareness and prevention is the first step. Planning ahead for financial wellbeing and the possibility of diminished financial capacity is critical. Reporting and early intervention that result in loss prevention is imperative.

Money Smart for Older Adults is designed to provide you with information and tips to help prevent common frauds, scams and other types of elder financial exploitation.

What is elder financial exploitation? Financial exploitation is a form of elder abuse. Elder abuse can take many forms, alone or in combination, including physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, abandonment, and self-neglect.

Financial exploitation is the fraudulent or otherwise illegal, unauthorized, or improper actions by a caregiver, fiduciary, or other individual in which the resources of an older person are used by another for personal profit or gain; or actions that result in depriving an older person of benefits, resources, belongings, or assets to which they are entitled. Elder financial exploitation is the theft of money, property or belongings.

Who is at risk for elder financial exploitation?
Anyone can be the victim of financial exploitation. Financial exploitation crosses all social, educational, and economic boundaries.

Why are older adults at risk of financial exploitation?
The following circumstances or conditions, especially in combination, can make an older adult more vulnerable to financial exploitation.

Older adults may:
• Have accumulated assets, and a regular income
• Be trusting and polite
• Be lonely and socially isolated
• Be vulnerable due to grief from the loss of a spouse, family member, friend or pet
• Be reluctant to report exploitation by a family member, caregiver, or someone they depend on
• Be dependent on support from a family member, friend or caregiver to remain independent
• Fear retaliation by the exploiter
• Be receiving care from a person with substance abuse, gambling or financial problems, or mental issues

“Money Smart for Older Adults”
-From the 4th Annual Mayor’s Senior Symposium, Marul Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

For more information on Money Smart for Older Adults visit:
https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/OlderAdult.html and
KTRS pension benefits are particularly important to older retirees in the state who are single and rely on KTRS to be self-sufficient. More than 90% of KTRS female retirees over age 80 are single, and some 70% of male retirees over age 80 are single:

Kentucky teachers consistently pay into their retirement plan during their working years. The average monthly retirement is about $2600. KTRS pays benefits to some 50,000 retirees and beneficiaries. Nearly all of these retirees live in Kentucky and contribute to the state's economy by spending their pension benefits. State and local pension benefits in Kentucky supported $5.4 billion in total economic activity along with some 42,000 jobs that paid $1.6 billion in wages and salaries. Kentucky retired teachers also make significant contributions to their local communities, volunteering nearly 940,000 hours valued at nearly $19 million in 2015.

(Continued from “KRTA: Why?” page 2)

providing for their own well being. Our 2016 membership goal can and will be exceeded with your help.

Are You Paying Attention?

Now is a critical time for our future and the future of our children and grandchildren. Why? Because more than at any other time, this year’s election will shape the future of Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare programs at the national level. At the state level it will be our pension and health insurance programs. This election could determine if we continue to live in a society that makes room for caring and compassion or abandon such “bleeding heart” concepts in the never ending need for bigger corporate entities, greater profit and higher paid CEO’s.

Now more than ever it is important that each retired educator pay attention to what the candidates say, and accurately interpret the “code” for what it is these candidates say they will do if elected. It is important that we compare the record with the promises made by our elected officials. More now than ever it is important we make the correct choices of who we support and for whom we vote. Why? Because I know from experience in dealing with legislative issues that no amount of future effort on the part of KRTA will undo the damage that can be done by a government that is openly hostile to your interests.

It is important more now than ever to pay attention to the world of politics and participate in the process. Now more than ever we have less time to recover from the damage that poor choices can make. I am not telling you for whom to vote. All I am saying is that you need to pay attention! This election cycle will be critical to your interests and it has already begun!

Fall Workshops

The 2016 fall workshops will begin on August 26. Each year district and local association officers, committee chairpersons, and interested KRTA members are invited to attend these workshops in all 14 districts. During these workshops, KRTA Membership, Health & Insurance, and Legislative committee co-chairs report on their committee’s current initiatives. Additionally, KTRS staff gives a comprehensive update about the many aspects of our retirement system.

What is the value of these workshops? The purpose of these meetings is to inform, inspire, and challenge each member in attendance. Every participant is urged to take the message “back home,” emphasizing the need for improved KRTA membership and for each current KRTA member becoming better informed about KRTA’s Health & Insurance and Legislative programs. Also, KRTA members need to become better informed about KTRS.

As I have traveled across the state during past 12 months, I am impressed with the enthusiasm I have seen and felt with each retiree. I am hopeful each of you will continue to inform, inspire and challenge fellow retired colleagues. Each of us must emphasize the need for improving KRTA membership and becoming better informed about Kentucky’s retired educator issues.

With your help we will have a great year! It is up to each of us. Keep moving forward.

From the National Institute on Retirement Security . . .

New Report Finds 86 Percent of Americans Believe Nation Faces Retirement Crisis

Americans Willing to Sacrifice Salary for Guaranteed Retirement Income; Want Action from National Leaders, Support State Initiatives

A new nationwide public opinion research report finds that an overwhelming majority of Americans—86 percent—believe that the nation faces a retirement crisis. Nearly 75 percent of Americans are concerned about their ability to achieve a secure retirement, and support for steady and reliable retirement income from a pension is high and growing. Some 82 percent say a pension is worth having because it provides steady income that won’t run out, while 67 percent indicate that they would be willing to take less in salary increases in exchange for guaranteed income in retirement.

The poll results also reveal that Americans remain frustrated that leaders in Washington fail to understand their struggle to save for retirement (87 percent), and want national policymakers to give more attention to retirement issues (84 percent). Regarding state efforts to improve retirement security, 71 percent of Americans agree that “Secure Choice” plans are a good idea. These plans are aimed at giving all Americans access to retirement plans via payroll deduction.

These findings are contained in a new research report, Retirement Security 2015: Roadmap for Policy Maker—Americans’ Views of the Retirement Crisis, issued by the National Institute on Retirement Security.

More specifically, the research finds that:

- An overwhelming majority of Americans believe there is a retirement crisis. Some 86 percent agree that the nation faces a retirement crisis, and 57 percent strongly agree there is a crisis.

- Three in four Americans remain highly anxious about their retirement outlook, but the concern has dissipated slightly as the economy has recovered. Some 74 percent of Americans say they are concerned, down from 85 percent as reported in the 2013 study.

- Even though Americans feel slightly less stressed about their retirement prospects, support for steady and reliable retirement income from a pension is high and growing. In fact, 82 percent say a pension is worth having because it provides steady income that will not run out, while 67 percent of Americans indicate they would be willing to take less in pay increases in exchange for guaranteed income in retirement.

- Americans continue to feel that leaders in Washington do not understand their struggle to save for retirement, and they strongly support efforts by states to set up retirement plans for those workers without access to an employer sponsored plan. Some 87 percent of Americans say Washington policymakers do not understand how hard it is to prepare for retirement, while 84 percent say Washington needs to do more to help ensure retirement security.

- Americans see retirement benefits as a job feature that is almost as important as salary. Salary is viewed as important by 75 percent of Americans, and retirement benefits are close behind at 72 percent.

- Americans express strong support for pensions for public workers.

Few Americans realize that 75 percent of public pension costs are paid for with employee contributions and investment returns. Some 87 percent of Americans say pensions are a good way to recruit and retain qualified teachers, police officers and firefighters. But, only one-fourth of Americans understood that public employers pay for 25 percent or less of public pension costs. More than eight out of ten—a vast majority of Americans—say that all employees, not just the public sector, should have a pension.
## Benefits of Belonging to KRTA

### A. The Association:
1. has volunteer advocates in Frankfort during sessions of the General Assembly to protect current benefits and promote improved benefits.
2. conducts 14 workshops across the state on an annual basis to keep the members current on issues important to retired teachers.
3. holds an annual convention featuring national and state speakers and provides opportunity for socializing with other retirees.

### B. Members receive:
1. newspapers featuring articles on issues of importance and interest to retired teachers
2. free limited legal advice
3. free finance and investment information
4. access to a toll-free information line
5. access to KRTA's up-to-date website
6. social networking on FaceBook and Twitter

### C. Members also have available to them:
1. discounted legal services for things; such as, will, power of attorney, living will and health care surrogate
2. discounted long term care insurance
3. discounted dental program
4. discounted hearing instrument plan
5. discounted vision plan
6. discounted auto and homeowners insurance
7. discounted life insurance and identity theft protection
8. discounted medical alert system
9. excellent banking and loan services
10. preferred rates for in home care services with two agencies

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### Central KY West District Hosts Pre-Retirement Seminar

**Front row left to right:** Connie Wiggs, Mary Zerhusen, Marlene Wright

**Back row left to right:** Diane Woods, Debby Murrell
AROUND THE STATE . . .

Adair County RTA

Adair County retired teacher president and Chamber of Commerce president, Ellen Zornes, far right, welcoming the crowd and preparing for the Square Meals for Kids ribbon cutting. Several of our retired teachers volunteer each Saturday to help feed our children a free breakfast and lunch as part of our Farmers Market on the Square. Just another way retired teachers give back to their community.

Bluegrass Bourbon/Fayette RTA

Local Bluegrass Retired Teachers’ Association members attending the Kentucky Retired Teachers’ Association Convention in Louisville, KY on April 25 & 26, 2016 include (L): Barbara Mook, Virginia Cheek, Bonnie Sousley, Judy Coffey, KRTA President Patsy K. Rainey. They attended as voting delegates for the business meeting.

Bullitt County RTA

BCRTA Secretary Ethel Tatum serves Representative Russell Weber at BCRTA Retirement Dinner.

Central KY West District RTA

The Central Kentucky West “Volunteer of the Year Award” recipient, Warren Featherston, received a Certificate of Recognition from Connie Wiggs at the Central Kentucky West Meeting on March 15, 2016. Warren’s fellow Bluegrass RTA members, (L) KRTA President Patsy K. Rainey, and (R) Anna Mack accompanied him at the presentation at Georgetown University.

Daviess County Owensboro RTA

Heather French Henry, Commissioner of Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs, addresses the March meeting of the Daviess County-Owensboro Retired Teachers Association. She related the various needs of veterans across Kentucky from the wars in Korea and Vietnam and current conflicts.

Evelyn Miller, Executive Director of the Western Kentucky Chapter of the Red Cross, speaks to the March meeting of the Daviess County-Owensboro Retired Teachers Association. She explained in detail all of the services that the Red Cross offers to victims of fires, tornadoes and floods.

Fifth District RTA

Stephen Vest, Editor in Chief of “Kentucky Monthly,” guest speaker at the District meeting in March.

Betty Hester, K R T A Membership Co-Chair, gives a report at the March meeting held at the Straton Center in Shelbyville.

First District RTA

First District hosted a KTRS Pre-Retirement Seminar on May 14, 2016. Pictured left to right are: Dora Moore, KTRS; Ann Yarbrough; Aaron Beale; Carolyn Sparks; Virginia Roberts; Don Sparks; Sandy Rudolph.
Garrard County RTA

Angie Wagoner accepts the Garrard County Retired Teachers' donation of a 50-gallon tote full of school supplies to the Garrard Family Resource Center.

Jefferson County RTA

Jefferson County members enjoy the convention! Linda Ratti, Executive Council, and Rick Tatum, President, in the front. Marianne Humphries is in the background.

Mercer County RTA

The Mercer County RTA recently had a potluck dinner at the new outdoor pavilion at the Mercer County Extension Office. Members enjoyed a beautiful 70 degree evening with a delicious meal.

Kobe Maddox, Mercer County's Grandparent Essay winner, who also won the Central Kentucky West District, read his award winning essay. His grandpa, Steve Maddox, affectionately known as "Pozzie" passed away from ALS the day after Kobe was announced as the winner.

Middle Cumberland RTA

Middle Cumberland Retired Teacher Association honored Shirley Dick Wolf, left, with a plaque in honor of her service as Middle Cumberland president, presented by Priscilla Kinch. She is leaving to begin a four year term at the state level beginning with Vice President. We wish her the very best as she continues to serve our retired teachers!

Morgan County RTA

The Morgan Co. Retired Teachers assisted in the "Souper Bowl" Project sponsored by Donna Davis, Family Resource Director at the MCMS. Over 200 cans were generously donated by the retired teachers: Anthony Lykins, Ronnie Allen, Jane Collett; Lovell McKenzie, Judy Hill, Carolyn Gullett, Patricia Motley, Barbara Motley and Madeline Williams. A big thank you is sent to these teachers. You make a difference!

The next MCRTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8 at the Martha Caudill Stacy Building at 2 p.m. All retirees are encouraged to attend. Legislative updates will be available. Local dues of $5 are due in March. All retirees are asked to become members of the only organization that works to protect teachers' pensions. The dues are only $20/year state and $5 local dues. We need 100% support of retired teachers for pensions and health benefits. Numbers matter!

Rowan County RTA

Retiring Rowan County teachers were presented baskets from the Rowan County Retired Teachers Association recognizing their years of service with the school district. Lana Combs, RCRTA president, presented baskets to Lynn Manner of Clearfield Elementary School and Joyce Marin and Brenda Carter of McBrayer

Allen County RTA

Kerland Carver, a 5th grader at Allen county Intermediate Center, was selected as the county winner for the Grandparent of the Year essay contest. Allen County RTA president, Julie Dinwiddie, (center) presents Kerlandy with her award, along with her teacher Baillie York.
Second District RTA

Dr. Bob Wagoner, Executive Director of KRTA, speaking at the Second District meeting this winter.

Upper Cumberland RTA

Dr. Wagoner and Upper Cumberland President, Pamela Thompson, address the members at a meeting on June 13, 2016

Wolfe County RTA

On April 12, 2016 the Wolfe County local Retired Teachers Association recognized Jackie Roberts as the County and District winner of the AARP/KRTA Grandparent of the Year essay. Jackie is a student at Rogers Elementary. At the local meeting Jackie received an engraved plaque and a $50 award from AARP/KRTA, $50 from WCRTA, and $50 from Upper Kentucky District for his effort. Pictured on the left is grandmother Christine Morris, Jackie Roberts, and Bernice Elam, President of Wolfe County local Retired Teachers Association. Congratulations Jackie on a job well done!

Harlan County RTA

The Harlan County RTA collected Boxtops for Education labels throughout the year. Karen Alred (right) is pictured presenting the labels to Marcy Hendrickson, a third grade teacher at Wallins Elementary School, for their collection project. During the year the retired teachers have made donations to area resource centers, the Challenge Academy, The Hope Center, Christ’s Hands, the Evarts Public Library, and the Angel Tree program.

Pew Got $9.7 Million

Judas Got 30 Pieces of Silver

By David G. Bronner

The relationship between the Laura and John Arnold Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trust public sector retirement systems’ project has become worse. As an executive at Enron, John Arnold walked away with an $8 million bonus at the same time the company collapsed and wiped out the rank and file employees and negatively hurt public pension funds. The Arnolds’ have already spent over $50 million to trash and mess up public pension programs from California to Kentucky.

The billionaire Koch Brothers have funded numerous college professors (like the Johnson Center at Troy University, giving them over $298,000) to also bash public pension programs and mislead the public. In addition, the Alabama Policy Institute, originally started by well-intentioned business leaders, has taken over $180,000 from the Arnold Foundation. Pew does not just release reports, they promote cash balance plans. They have lobbied for these failed plans in Kansas, Kentucky, Alabama, Virginia, and others. Remember, this is done with the backing of the Arnolds’ money.

Pew received $4.85 million for 2012-2015 and will now receive another $4.85 million for 2015-2019, for a total of $9.7 million to continue the campaign of misinformation directed at one of the best vehicles there is for the retirement security of America’s education and public employees. They are not going away. The only way our members win is if legislators loudly hear your voice.

Note: This article is a reprint from The ADVISOR by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, April 2016. Mr. Bronner is the CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.
We want to feature your local RTA on our Facebook page. Submit an update about your local association website and Facebook page, including the name of your local association, meeting dates, any special upcoming speakers or events, local dues amount, a contact person and how to reach them, and a link to your local association website and/or Facebook page.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

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Rebecca Murrell  Louisville, Kentucky

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Hank Hensley  1.800.927.0030

**DETA DENTAL INSURANCE**
1.866.480.4872 or www.deltadentalky.com

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**KRTA NEWS**

**Quips, Quotes & Puzzles**

**REMEMDING US OF THE WAY WE “WORD”**

By: Richard Lederer

Previously in this space, I illuminated old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases included don't touch that dial, carbon copy, you sound like a broken record and hang out to dry. A bevy of readers have asked me to shine light on more faded words and expressions, and I am happy to oblige:

In the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker and straighten up and fly right. Hubba-hubba! We'd cut a rug in some jukie joint and then go necking and petting and smooching and spooning and billing and cooing and pitching woo in hot rods and jalopies in some passion pit or lovers' lane. Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumpin' Jehoshaphat! Holy moley! We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley, and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers. Oh, my aching back. Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

Like Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle and Kurt Vonnegut's Billy Pilgrim, we have become unstuck in time. We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, "I'll be a monkey's uncle!" or "This is a fine kettle of fish!" We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, poof, poof go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone, evanesced from the landscape and wordscape of our perception, like Mickey Mouse wristwatches, hula hoops, skate keys, candy cigarettes, little wax bottles of colored sugar water and an organ grinder's monkey.

Where have all those phrases gone? Long time passing. Where have all those phrases gone? Long time ago: Pshaw.

Richard Lederer is an American author, speaker, and teacher. He is best known for his books on the English language and on word play such as puns, oxymorons, and anagrams.
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