



# RETIRETEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

SINCE 1926

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NEWS BULLETIN

WINTER 2015/16

## Take a L.E.A.P. in 2016



CLOCKWISE: RTAC DIRECTOR MARIA RODRIGUEZ, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT IVRY HOBBS, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LOUELLA B. PRESTON, AND PRESIDENT DAVE PETERSON TAKE THE LEAP AT iFLY, ROSEMONT. THANK YOU TO iFLY WHO PROVIDED FLIGHTS FOR THIS PHOTOSHOOT. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN FLY AT [WWW.IFLYWORLD.COM](http://WWW.IFLYWORLD.COM).

### Legislative Education and Advocacy by Pensioners (L.E.A.P.) DAY – February 29, 2016, Sponsored by RTAC

*Taking action to protect your pension and financial security is a year-round responsibility. RTAC is making a special effort to raise awareness about pensions and retirement security on Monday, February 29 when we host L.E.A.P. Day 2016. We will educate legislators about pensions and advocate for our hard-earned benefits. You have an extra day. Make it count. It's your pension. Speak Up. Reach Out. Educate your legislators.* Find out how you can make a difference on L.E.A.P Day 2016, see page 3.

# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)

111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, Illinois 60602 ■ [www.RTAC.org](http://www.RTAC.org)

Since 1926, the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC), an independent, non-profit, 501(c) 4 organization, has worked to protect the pensions of retired Chicago Public School (CPS) educators. RTAC is not governed by or a part of CPS, the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF) or the Chicago Teachers' Union (CTU). The RTAC Board of Directors meets monthly. RTAC members in good standing are welcome to attend, check [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org) for the current meeting schedule.

## RTAC NEWS BULLETIN

The News Bulletin is distributed free of charge to RTAC members three times per year. RTAC welcomes submissions on topics relevant to members. Material will be published as space allows, and may be edited. Send typed submissions to [office@rtac.org](mailto:office@rtac.org).

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Arlene R. Crandall

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## RTAC SERVICE DIRECTORY

RTAC Office hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. school days 1-312-750-1522

RTAC E-mail [office@rtac.org](mailto:office@rtac.org)

Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF)  
203 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2600, 60601-1231 1-312-641-4464

CTPF Health Insurance Information 1-312-641-4464

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We regret that the following names were spelled incorrectly in the Fall 2015 RTAC News Bulletin:

Page 11 Donation for CRTAF.  
**Carol Parker-Patton**

page 12 Friends Gone Ahead:  
**Avina, Leslie E**

**Annual Membership \$50**

**Lifetime Membership \$300**

# L.E.A.P. DAY 2016

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION AND  
ADVOCACY BY PENSIONERS

*RTAC members are making a special effort to raise awareness about pensions and retirement security on L.E.A.P. Day 2016.*

## February 29, 2016

### WHO?

RTAC Retirees



### WHAT?

**A Day of Action to educate Illinois legislators.**



### WHEN?

**February 29, 2016**

You have a bonus day in 2016. Use it to protect your pension.

### WHY?

Legislators are targeting  
YOUR livelihood.



## Speak Up!

Pensions are not a gift — they are earned benefits paid for with a lifetime of contributions and service. Protecting your pension is your most important financial priority. Don't let legislators continue to divert your hard-earned benefits.



## Take Action!

Tear out the sheet on the right and share it with your Illinois Senators and Representatives on **L.E.A.P. Day**, February 29, 2016. **Visit local district offices, call, write and/or e-mail.**

See page 4 for additional information, about contacting legislators.

Download additional sheets to share with legislators and other former colleagues at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org).



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

## L.E.A.P. Day 2016

**Legislative Education and Advocacy by Pensioners**

### About RTAC . . .

Since its founding in 1926, the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC), an independent, non-profit, 501(c) 4 organization, has protected the pensions and fought for the interests of retired Chicago Public School (CPS) educators. RTAC's membership includes nearly 10,000 pensioners representing the interests of more than 27,700 retired Chicago Public School educators.

### About RTAC's Legislative Agenda . . .

RTAC sponsors the following legislative agenda and encourages lawmakers to support **and vote YES** for legislation which:

- ◆ Restores the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund tax levy to ensure a stable revenue source for pensioners
- ◆ Secures equitable State of Illinois funding for Chicago teachers' pensions
- ◆ Opposes any 'pension holidays' for the Chicago Public Schools
- ◆ Stabilizes the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund health insurance program
- ◆ Increases retiree representation on the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund from three to four
- ◆ Rejects any consideration of a merger with the Illinois Teachers Retirement System (TRS)

### About Me . . .

**I am a constituent in your district, a retired CPS educator, and CTPF member. I support RTAC's legislative agenda, and I VOTE.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, Illinois 60602

[www.RTAC.org](http://www.RTAC.org) ■ 1-312-750-1522 ■ [office@rtac.org](mailto:office@rtac.org)



# Facts about Retired Chicago Public School Educators

## 1. Chicago Public School teachers do not contribute to Social Security

Chicago Public School Teachers contribute to the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund as part of their CPS employment and do not contribute to Social Security during employment. Their CTPF pensions are the primary source of their retirement security.

## 2. A lack of funding, not generous benefits, caused the current financial problems

Prior to 1995, the Chicago Public Schools Board of Education (CPS) funded pensions on an annual basis through a property tax levy. In 1995, CPS sought and secured a change in the law which allowed it to keep the pension levy revenue (PA 89-0015). This law redirected more than \$2 billion in funds designated for pensions into the CPS operating budget. A 2010 law (PA 96-0889), granted CPS an additional \$1.2 billion in pension funding relief (the so-called "pension holidays").

## 3. The State of Illinois provides minimal funding for CTPF

Illinois' support for CTPF is negligible. The State of Illinois appropriated **\$3.7 billion** in Fiscal Year 2016 to support the Illinois Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and only **\$12.1 million** for CTPF. Chicago's retired teachers received **less than a penny** for every dollar spent on downstate/suburban pensions. CTPF serves about 18% of Illinois teachers, but receives less than 1% of State funds for retired educators.

## 4. CPS Retirees depend on CTPF for health insurance

Many CPS retirees did not have the opportunity to contribute to Medicare during their teaching careers. They must pay for Medicare Part A when they reach age 65. CTPF offers a health insurance premium subsidy to help members offset their insurance costs; but it has been limited to \$65 million per year since 2004. CTPF has been forced to reduce the subsidy in recent years. The amount will continue to decline as the number of retirees and their health insurance premiums increase.

## 5. Pensions create a positive impact on Illinois' economy

About 85% of CTPF beneficiaries live in Illinois, and 50% of those members live in the City of Chicago. Pension benefits generate \$1.7 billion in total economic impact on our State and help generate 12,628 jobs.

### RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)

*Since 1926, the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC), an independent, non-profit, 501(c) 4 organization, has worked to protect the pensions of retired Chicago Public School (CPS) educators. RTAC represents more than 9,700 active members and is not governed by or a part of CPS, the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF), or the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU).*

## L.E.A.P. DAY 2016

### Legislative Education and Advocacy by Pensioners

2016 is a critical year for elected representatives in Illinois. The entire Illinois House of Representatives will stand for election and 40 of 59 Illinois Senators are up for reelection.

## February 29, 2016

Take Action on L.E.A.P. Day 2016. Tear out this sheet and share this information with your Illinois legislators. You have an extra day, use it to educate your representative and senator before they legislate.



### Visit an office

Get to know your Illinois Representative and Senator personally.



### Write a note

Tear out this sheet and send it to your legislator.



### Send an e-mail

Find a sample e-mail online at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org)



### Make a call

Take five minutes to call your legislators.

## Make an impact!

### Who Represents You?



Look up your legislators at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org) or call the Illinois State Board of Elections at 1-312-814-6440

## Share your Voice. Cast your Vote.

Primary election: March 15, 2016  
General election: November 8, 2016.





## RTAC 2016-2017 Directors Elected

Congratulations to the eight-member slate of RTAC Directors for the biennium 2016-2017 elected during the Fall Membership Luncheon on October 16, 2015. Two new Directors – Carlene Lutz and Maria Rodriguez, join six incumbents – Roy Coleman, John J. Garvey, Juanita Jordan, John Reilly, Mary Sharon Reilly and Richard Tryba. Congratulations to all the Directors. Applications for 2017-2018

Directorships and Executive Board positions will be available in the spring of 2016.

## 2016 Armstrong Award Nominations

This spring RTAC will seek nominations for the James E. Armstrong Award. The award, named to honor RTAC's founding President, is the organization's highest honor. RTAC members in good standing should consider nominating an RTAC member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment, dedication, and service to RTAC. The nomination form is available online at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org). Submit nominations to RTAC First Vice President Louella B. Preston, by Friday, April 1, 2016. The award will be announced at the 90th Anniversary Gala Luncheon on May 20, 2016.



## RTAC's Free Seminar Program

RTAC's 2015 seminar program included seven programs for members. October and November programs included:

- What to do as Our Loved Ones Age, William J. Blyth, Blyth and Associates
- Notes to My Family-Beneficiary Issues, Ward Powell, Estate Plan Chicago
- Newer Options for Funding Long-Term Care Expenses, Metlife Chicago LTC
- Navigating the Medicare Maze, Oak Street Health Chicago



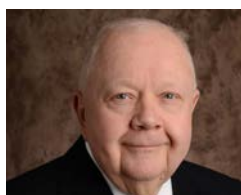
Oak Street Health representatives answer questions during the October 20 Seminar.

Planning for 2016 topics is underway and will be announced online, check [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org).

## Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (CRTAF)

Do you know someone who could benefit from a little extra financial help? Encourage him or her to apply for a CRTAF grant. Since its founding, RTAC has assisted former Chicago Public School (CPS) colleagues with financial, housing, medical, and/or transportation issues. CRTAF was established as an independent organization in 1986, to provide grants to retired educators who have found themselves in difficult financial circumstances. Eligibility requirements and an application are online at [www.crtaf.org](http://www.crtaf.org).

## Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund Trustees Re-Elected



Congratulations to the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF) Trustees who were re-elected on November 6, 2015. Mary Sharon Reilly, Walter E. Pilditch, and Bob Bures, will represent Pensioners during two-year terms, November 2015 – 2017.

## Directors Represent RTAC at National Conference



RTAC Director Roy Coleman and First Vice President Louella B. Preston with Illinois Senator Dick Durbin.

RTAC First Vice President Louella B. Preston and Director and Webmaster Roy Coleman represented RTAC at the AARP National Retired Teachers Alliance (NRTA) 2015 National Advisory Conference in Washington, D.C., Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, 2015. RTAC was a founding member of AARP NRTA in 1945.

Representatives from 45 states participated in the conference which included extensive programming designed to highlight the impact of current and proposed federal legislation on retirees. Preston and Coleman also met Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-9th) and U.S. Senators – Richard Durbin and Mark Kirk.

## Dental Insurance

RTAC members in good standing are eligible to access one of RTAC's MetLife Dental insurance plans. Option 1 offers comprehensive services and Option 2 offers a lower-cost option with limited coverage.



Both plans cover primary services such as oral exams and biannual cleanings. Dependent coverage is available.

RTAC MetLife Dental program members can also access a free vision care service plan that includes discounts on prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, laser vision correction, and non-prescription sunglasses. Contact RTAC at 1-312-750-1522 for information.



# 89TH ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS



Find many more photos online at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org).



Nearly 500 RTAC members and guests filled the Hilton Chicago's Grand Ballroom for the Fall Luncheon on Friday, October 16, 2015. Some highlights are shown above. Additional photos can be found on the RTAC website at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org). (1) Sherye Garmony-Miller gave the invocation and was later honored for her service to RTAC. (2) RTAC President Dave Peterson pictured with Keynote Speaker, Charles H. Thomas, and Executive Director Arlene Crandall. Thomas, a journalist for ABC news, shared his perspective about the political activities taking place in Springfield and suggested strategies which could enable Illinois government to proceed beyond its current stalemate. Many attendees sported beautiful hats at the luncheon. Pictured are (3) Jeanne Bradford, (4) Gerri Jackson, and (5) Bobby Hurd brightening up the afternoon with their stunning *chapeaus*. (6) Dorothy Jemison, Louise Mohr, and Rochelle Harlan enjoy the afternoon. (7) RTAC staff members Dianna Uchida and Eleanor Nangle keep check-in running smoothly. (8) The raffle winners!

**THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING LUNCHEON WILL BE FRIDAY MAY 20, 2016.  
FIND AN INVITATION ON PAGE 15 OR AT [WWW.RTAC.ORG](http://WWW.RTAC.ORG).**



## WINDOWS 10 IS FREE!



*Webmaster Roy Coleman*

*But is it worth it?*

Microsoft released Windows 10, and it will be a free download until July of 2016. Is it worth it to get the latest version of Microsoft's operating system free? My answer is 'Maybe'. If you are using Windows 7, 8, or 8.1 and are comfortable and happy with it, keep it. If you have some annoyances, then consider an upgrade.

Microsoft claims that Windows 10 will be the last major upgrade they will release. You **cannot** upgrade from Windows XP so, if you are still running XP, keep your anti-virus and anti-malware up to date.

If you see a little "window" on the taskbar at the bottom of your screen (near the right) you can reserve your copy of Windows 10 and Microsoft will notify you when it is your turn to download it. In most cases it will automatically download when your computer is idle.

I have upgraded three computers, a tablet, and a desktop. All upgrades went relatively painlessly with little or no intervention. The biggest hassle was the time it took, 2-3 hours each. It will take more time if you are connecting through a DSL line.

### Things I like about Windows 10

1. It seems to start faster.
2. The desktop is similar to previous versions of Windows.
3. There is a "Power" button to shut down the computer.
4. Many more drivers are included for accessories.
5. There are more ways to access programs and apps.

6. All of my "old" programs and applications seem to run (faster).
7. The "file explorer" button really works like it should.
8. It is easy to find the "settings" menu.
9. The touch screen on the tablet is more intuitive.

### Things that annoy me about Windows 10

1. Internet Explorer was replaced by a new program – Microsoft Edge and it is difficult to import your bookmarks.
2. You need to create, and/or sign into a Microsoft or Xbox account to access some games.
3. Some apps are initially hard to find.
4. The top border color and some buttons on programs were changed.

Microsoft claims that you can easily reverse the update and go back to Windows 7 or 8.1 if you don't like Windows 10, but I haven't had any reason to try that.

**Bottom line:** if you are using Windows 7, 8, or 8.1 and are comfortable and happy with it, keep it.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David T. Peterson

This fall, Arlene Crandall, RTAC's Executive Director called me to ask if I would take a LEAP for my pension. My immediate response was, of course, Arlene, – I am always happy to help.

What I didn't realize was that this wasn't an ordinary request to travel to Springfield or call my legislators. Arlene wanted a group of RTAC Directors to go skydiving. I assumed she was joking.

But pension funding is no laughing matter, and I quickly realized that Arlene was serious. So, true to my word, I agreed to skydive to call attention to L.E.A.P. Day 2016 – our Day of Action.

So, on a blustery November afternoon, I joined RTAC First Vice President Louella B. Preston, Second Vice President Ivry Hobbs, and Director Maria Rodriguez at iFLY in Rosemont, Ill. We donned our flight suits and helmets and entered a chamber where we flew through the air – without parachutes, supported only by huge gusts of wind.

The flight was exhilarating, and I think, fitting. As retired educators, we don't have golden parachutes or stock options. We have pensions. We paid for our pensions during employment, and they ensure that we have dignity and security in retirement.

The problem is that the promises we depend on come from legislators who have been trying to support us with hot air, not revenue. As pensioners, we need to secure our retirement with guaranteed funding – not empty promises.

Our Day of Action – February 29, 2016, will be an opportunity for our members to stand up and speak out about the importance of keeping promises and funding pensions. We ask all of you to contact your legislators and to share the sheet we've enclosed on page 3. You have an extra day in 2016 – I urge you to use it to educate your elected representatives.

This is an election year, so it's critical that you speak out and use your power at the



TEAM RTAC took to the air at iFLY indoor skydiving in Rosemont, Ill., to call attention to L.E.A.P. Day 2016. Pictured L-R: Louella B. Preston, Ivry Hobbs, Dave Peterson, and Maria Rodriguez.

ballot box. The primary election is March 15, 2016. Do your research and make sure you vote for leaders who support pensions.

You don't have to fly through the air to protect your pension – but you do need to put pen to paper, pick up the phone, or visit your legislator's local office on February 29.

Many RTAC members taking small steps on L.E.A.P. Day, February 29, can help us all make a giant LEAP forward in 2016.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Arlene R. Crandall

The past year was filled with many momentous activities for RTAC. We worked diligently with our legislative advocates in Springfield to secure passage of HB3695 which would have restored the pension levy which was diverted away from CTPF in 1995. However, after the legislation passed out of the Senate

Executive Committee with a unanimous vote, it was not called for a vote. We remain hopeful that we can move this legislation forward in 2016.

Kudos to our RTAC members! Your visits, calls, and letters have brought this issue to the forefront, and your work continues to keep this issue on legislators' agendas.

Our Day of Action on February 29, 2016, calls for all of us to take a L.E.A.P. (Legislative Education and Advocacy by Pensioners) Day in 2016. We want our elected representatives to understand that we depend upon our pensions for our livelihoods and that we worked for them. Our pensions are not a gift. We must also remain alert and prepare to take a stand against any proposed amendments to the Illinois Constitution which would impair or diminish our benefits. Find information

about L.E.A.P. Day and ways you can take action on page 3.

None of us expected to be so engaged in these matters after we retired, but remember the phrase – "If it is to be, it must begin with me." Each of us is the "me" so, please take action to protect the benefits you earned during your career. We made a difference then, and we can make a difference now.

Our history of advocating for teachers dates to our founding in 1926, and in 2016 we will celebrate our 90th Anniversary. We hope you will join us at our Spring Luncheon on Friday, May 20, 2016, at the Hilton Chicago Hotel where we will celebrate this occasion with some special surprises. Find your invitation on page 15 for more information. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year.



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

## Membership Application

Please use this form to:

Join the Retired Teachers  
Association of Chicago (RTAC)

- Renew your annual membership
- Join the RTAC E-Mail Alert Team
- Change your address

### GENERAL INFORMATION: PLEASE PRINT

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired in Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

(name of Chicago Public School)

Social Security Number: xxx-xx-\_\_\_\_ \_

(last 4 digits only for verification purposes — your confidentiality is assured.)

**Join our RTAC E-Mail Alert Team to receive time-sensitive information about your pension.**

Non-CPS e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Your CPS e-mail address terminates when you retire)

Did a current RTAC member refer you?  Yes  No

If yes, please list name of referring member: \_\_\_\_\_

### JOIN OR RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is my check number \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to RTAC.

Enroll me as a new annual member \$50

Enroll me as a life member \$300

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If the address listed above is new, please complete the section below:

Please note effective date for new address:

(date: mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and a check to: RTAC, 111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, IL 60602





# THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A donation to the Legal Defense Fund, Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (CRTAF), RTAC, or the Committee on Political Education (COPE), is a meaningful way to show your support for your pension or to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. There is a **\$20 minimum donation per honoree for all funds**. Return this form with your payment to: **RTAC, 111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, Illinois 60602.**



## RTAC LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (LDF) DONATION

**RTAC** established a Legal Defense Fund to pay legal fees for a lawsuit when the Illinois General Assembly enacts legislation which diminishes CTPF pensions and/or ancillary benefits. *Donors contributing \$100 or more are acknowledged as President's Circle Members in the News Bulletin.* LDF donations are **NOT** tax deductible.

Enclosed is my check number \_\_\_\_\_ amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ payable to **RTAC LDF**.

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Check box if this gift is anonymous

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND (CRTAF) DONATION SEE: [WWW.CRTAF.ORG](http://WWW.CRTAF.ORG)

**CRTAF** is a 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 1986 to assist retired CPS teachers and administrators in challenging financial circumstances. CRTAF donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. **\$20 minimum donation per honoree.**

Enclosed is my check number \_\_\_\_\_ amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ payable to **CRTAF**.

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Check box if this gift is anonymous

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate purpose of gift  congratulate  celebrate  memorialize  general purposes

Honoree's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (RTAC) DONATION

**RTAC** is a 501(c)4 organization established in 1926 to protect and enhance the pensions of retired CPS educators. RTAC donations are **NOT** tax deductible. **\$20 minimum donation per honoree.**

Enclosed is my check number \_\_\_\_\_ amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ payable to **RTAC**.

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Check box if this gift is anonymous

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate purpose of gift  congratulate  celebrate  memorialize  general purposes

Honoree's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (COPE) DONATION

**COPE** is organized to support political efforts designed to educate legislators and protect pensions. Gifts to the COPE Fund are **NOT** tax deductible. **\$20 minimum donation, please.**

Enclosed is my check number \_\_\_\_\_ amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ payable to **COPE**.

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Check box if this gift is anonymous

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# NEW LIFE MEMBERS, JULY 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2015

BLANCH R. ADAMS  
 ELEANOR L. ADDISON  
 DENISE ALLUMS  
 BARBARA A. BENNETT  
 SUSAN BINKIS  
 DELORES BRIGHAM  
 LYDIA E. BULLOCK  
 MARY KAY CAPPITELLI  
 ROBERT CARR  
 NANCY CLARKE  
 MAUREEN CLEARY  
 HARRY S. COURIS  
 SHARON A. DALE  
 MARY DEUTMEYER  
 MYRICE DRUMMER  
 PAMELA DUKES  
 FEDERICO FLORES JR.  
 ADELE FRIEDMAN

DORIS J. FURLOW  
 JANET GARDNER  
 STUART GOSENPUD  
 ADRIENNE GREY  
 ANTHONY GRUBA  
 JANELL HARDY  
 PHYLLIS HEMPHILL  
 ANNA M. HENDERSON  
 CHARLES L. HILDRETH  
 PEGGY HORTON  
 MARILYN HOURSTON  
 BEVERLY ANNE JACKSON  
 YVONNE N. JAMES  
 DOLORES M. KASS  
 CATHERINE KOSCIUK  
 SUSAN KUKLA-DIXON  
 SUSAN KUNCIUS  
 JAMES C. LALLEY

MARGARET LALLEY  
 LORRAINE MARCHMAN  
 KATHLEEN MAYER  
 MARY MICHAELS  
 MARY MORLEY  
 SUSAN L. MOY  
 ARIETTA MYRICK  
 PERRY R. NEWBURY  
 PATRICIA O'BRIEN  
 GERALDINE O'CONNELL  
 AMPARO OCAMPO  
 THEODORE F. O'KEEFE  
 BERTRAND OLIVIER  
 GERALDINE STEEVE OTA  
 ODIE M. PENNY  
 BARBARA ANN RENDAK  
 PATRICIA RYAN  
 DIANA G. SCATTON

SHEILA SCHLAGGAR  
 DOROTHY R. SHUFORD  
 JUDITH SHALTRY  
 EVA C. SMITH  
 WALTER R. STRICKLAND  
 CAROL SULLIVAN  
 BENE TANENBAUM  
 PHYLLIS TROTTMAN  
 BOBBIETTE TURNER  
 ROCHELLE F. WADE  
 APRIL WHITFIELD  
 THADDEUS WIECEK  
 LYNNETTE WYATT  
 JOANNE YOUNG  
 LAUREN ZVONEK



## LEGAL DEFENSE FUND GIFTS JULY 1 – OCTOBER 31 2015

*RTAC has established a legal defense fund for the purpose of initiating legal action to protect CTPF Pension benefits. Gifts of \$100 or more are acknowledged as President's Circle members.*

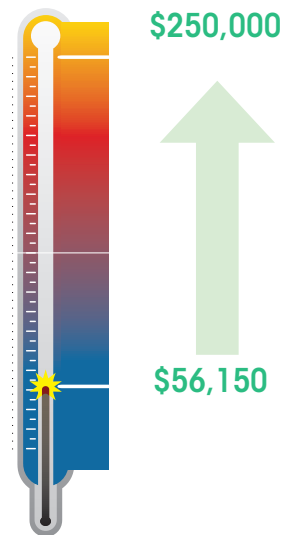
### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS (DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE)

Becvar, Sonja K.	Kemp, Audrey H.	Sampson, Dionioes M.
Blumenthal, Carlene M.	Marshall, Mary B.	Sanders, Richard H. Jr.
Clark, Beatrice J.	Morrison, Sandra A.	Spielman, Lester A.
Erickson, Judith E. & Walter	Nichols, La Verne A.	Strickland-Howard, Ora L.
Guardi, Constance P.	O'Connell, Linus R.	Weitzel, Robert J.
Holmes, Warren & Rosemary	Remahl, Daniel F.	Zurawski, Joseph W.
Hunter, Fred R.	Rhodes, Sonja Y.	
Hutchinson, Juanita	Ruyack, Edward J.	
Jones, Phyllis A.	Ryan, James J.	
Kane, Pamela	Saddler, Robert A.	

### OTHER GIFTS

Anonymous (2)	Bogs, Roberta K.	Nesterowicz, Paul J.
Augustiny, Frank J.	Ellis, Barbara J.	Pollett, Mary Ann
Banks, Sheridan H.	Klein, Melva	Walsh, Carole A.
Binkis, Susan	Large, Alice J.	Ward, Angela

## LDF Surpasses 55K



RTAC launched a Legal Defense Fund to prepare for legal action if Illinois passes legislation to reduce pension benefits. RTAC is making good progress towards a \$250,000 goal.

Your continued support is vital. Please make a gift today. Donors are listed in the *News Bulletin*, and gifts of \$100 or more are listed in the President's Circle. Find a donation form on page 9.

# CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND GIFTS

## JULY 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2015

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous (3)	Edward Knapp, Marilyn Link, Tanna Mattingly
Banks, Sheridan H.	Jimmie L. Johnson, Lucille P. Lightfoot, Betty Traverso, Dr. Bruce Troutmann
Bender, Sharon Rae	Terri Jon Katsulis
Benford, Gloria M.	Leslie E. Avina
Bohme, Alan P.	Marion Shortino
Bures, Bob	Helen P. Johnson
Cornelius, Melvyn	Earnestine Mason- Bonner, Mary Lou McCloskey, Eva C. Rousseau
Cosme, James & Mary	Wilma Coleman
French, Judith	Janice Wetzel
Gardner, David	Edward Bennett, Terri Jon Katsulis, Sam Ozaki
Gardner, Rita	Robert Church, Ellen Jordan, Elena Sandoval O'Connell
Guardi, Constance P.	Steven Carlson, Magdalena 'Lynn' Pappas, Dennis Pratt
Herman, Herbert H.	Henrietta Heinen
Hill, Gertrude & Harold	Minette Brooks, Phyllis Henry, Terri Jon Katsulis, Alvin Lubov, John T. McClain, Patricia Monroe Taylor, Maria Rodriguez O'Keefe, Estelle Setzer, Sylvia Soto, Henry C. Springs, John West, Mattie Williams
Jagielski, Veronica	Arthur Jagielski
Klasser, Tanya	Kathleen Schumerth
Klasser, Tanya & Jodi Geijer	Elizabeth Golik
Koch, Jewel B.	Helen P. Johnson, Terri Jon Katsulis, Alvin Lubov
Laughlin, Laurence J.	Patricia Kurawski
Lee, Helen & Sandra	Wayne W. Dyer

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Lyles, Bonita & John	Luther Bedford
Morrison, Sandra A.	Barbara Anglin
Moscinski, John	Harold Charles, Kenneth Cink
Newton, Johnnie M.	Frances Hale, Melvin Walker, Ella B. Watkins, Odessa Wilson
Nichols, La Verne A.	Vera Pitts Morris, Leona Tarver
Nickolich, Eva	Terri Jon Katsulis
Nusinson, Sally	Helen P. Johnson, Kathy Lux
Pollett, Mary Ann	Evelyn Kiesow
Richter, George	John Bean, Ken Goldberg, Paul Goldstein, George Nadherny, Chuck Pace, Shirlee Strasburg, Allen P. Zak
Zeltmann, Mary L.	Terri Jon Katsulis, Grace Kramp, Miriam Pushel

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous (4)	General Purposes
Augustiny, Frank J.	General Purposes
Del Campo-Semisch, Martha	General Purposes
Hunter, Fred R.	General Purposes
Hutchinson, Juanita	General Purposes
Kane, Pamela	General Purposes
Koenig, Roger & Kathryn	Celebrate Kinzie & Kennedy retirees
Kolovos, Leona	General Purposes
Lutz, Carlene	Marion Hoffing's 100th Birthday
Marshall, Mary B.	General Purposes
Pucci, Catherine V.	General Purposes
Reilly, John	In Honor of Portage Park Retirees
Rosen, Sandra	General Purposes
Sampson, Dionioes M.	General Purposes
Velez, Carmen	General Purposes

# RTAC GIFTS

## JULY 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2015

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous (1)	Betty Collins
Blumenthal, Carlene	Ethel Simmons-Brown
Carter, Wilhelmina	Mildred Carroll, Karies Carter, Willie & Cora Jenkins
Cornelius, Melvyn	Willie Mae Crittendon, Earnestine Curry, Alvin Lubov, Edward L. Oliver, Virginia Vaske
Evans, LaVerne J.	John Hahn, Barbara R. Lucchese, Barbara Marozas, Elaine C. Thurau
Frantz, John J.	Mary C. Finnegan, Carlos Rosa
Jackson, Joyce & Thomas	Oliver Charles Hailey
Klasser, Tanya & Jodi Geijer	Bob Britton
Lutz, Carlene	Ray Randolph
Payette, Geraldine Mraz	In honor of all CPS employees who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Services
Pollett, Mary Ann	Terri Jon Katsulis
Remahl, Daniel F.	Charles Pace
Zeltmann, Mary L.	Helen P. Johnson

### RTAC DONATIONS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

Anonymous (2)	Hunter, Fred R.
Augustiny, Frank J.	Hutchinson, Juanita

# COPE GIFTS

## JULY 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2015

Anonymous (1)	Hunter, Fred R.
Augustiny, Frank J.	Kane, Pamela
Del Campo-Semisch, Martha	Levine, Janet
Escobar, Herman	



**Looking for the  
perfect gift?**

Honor a friend of loved one  
with a donation to CRTAF  
or recognize someone  
truly special with a lifetime  
membership to RTAC. See  
pages 8-9.

## Fondly Remembered, Former RTAC President Helen P. Johnson

The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago is saddened to report the passing of former RTAC President Helen Pomerance Johnson on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at the age of 96. Helen was an important RTAC leader and dedicated volunteer from 1977 through 2015.

Helen earned her bachelor's degree from Chicago Teachers College and a master's degree from Northwestern University. While many at RTAC knew Helen from her long career as an educator who taught physical education at Sawyer, Nightingale, Parker and Pasteur schools during a 35-year career, she also held an international reputation as a pioneer in the bicycling and hostelling movement. She loved to travel and to learn about other cultures and led 15 trips – by micro-bus, public transportation – and by bicycle – over 29 years including post-WWII visits to Europe, Japan, and Scandinavia. She completed two around-the-world trips to study physical education and was part of a hiking group in Nepal when she was 60.

For many years, Helen belonged to several Chicago-area folk dancing clubs, and it was there she met Herman Johnson, a co-founder of the Chicago International Folk Dance community. The couple married in 1976.

Following her retirement in 1977, Helen joined RTAC where she served in a number of capacities, including the Presidency for the biennium 1991-1992. Helen was a dedicated and devoted member of RTAC's Service Committee. She regularly attended the Service Committee's monthly meetings at which the members write notes and prepare birthday cards sent to RTAC members age 85 and above. She remained very active until recently, regularly renewing her Drivers' License, which enabled her to attend RTAC Board and Service Committee meetings through 2014. Always dedicated to improving her community, Helen also logged more than 3,000 hours over 30-years as a volunteer at the Museum of Science and Industry.

RTAC recognized Helen's service and lifetime achievement by awarding her the 2013 James B. Armstrong Award, the organization's highest honor.



## THE PRINTED VERSION SENT TO MEMBERS HAS A COMPLETE OBITUARY LISTING

### Legacy Bequests: Extending Your Generosity

RTAC recently received notice of two legacy gifts from members. These generous individuals chose to make gifts to RTAC in their estate plans or designated RTAC or the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund as beneficiaries of their Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund death benefit. These legacy gifts honor the lives of generous individuals and help RTAC and CRTAF continue to fulfill their missions of protecting the livelihoods of retired teachers. For more information on designating RTAC or CRTAF as a beneficiary of your CTPF death benefit, contact CTPF Member Services at 1-312-641-4464 or visit [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org).



#### OLA S. ADAMS

Ola S. Adams, a retired Chicago Public School educator, has left a generous bequest to the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago. Mrs. Adams lived most of her life in Chicago until she moved to Green Bay Wisconsin in 2005 to be closer to her family.

During her career and life in Chicago, she volunteered at the Chicago Historical Society (currently the Chicago History Museum) and the Educational Tape Reading for the Blind.

Mrs. Adams' career extended for 30 years. Her last position was as an Assistant Principal at the Lee Elementary School. She and her husband traveled extensively during their life together.

#### PATRICIA J. BURGESS

Patricia J. Burgess concluded a 38-year career with the Chicago Public Schools as a School Psychologist assigned to Henson Elementary.

Following her retirement in July 1993, she joined RTAC and was a faithful contributor throughout her retirement to the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (CRTAF). She bequeathed one-half of her CTPF death benefit to CRTAF so that former colleagues who find themselves in constrained financial circumstances can receive assistance.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many retired teachers find working for a worthy cause as a volunteer extremely satisfying. The following organizations are among those who have asked us for help in recruiting. RTAC does not endorse any organization.



## JOIN OUR SERVICE COMMITTEE

**NOTE:** Please consider joining our Service Committee. This committee meets monthly to write notes on the birthday cards RTAC sends to our members age 85 and above. If you have clear penmanship and like to write, call us at 312-750-1522 and ask for the Service Committee's schedule.

Agency	Location	Contact Person	Phone
Adler Planetarium	Chicago Central	Maria Christus	312-542-2411
Alex Haley Academy	Chicago South	Karen Demots	773-371-3661
Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House	Chicago NW	Lizzie Smithy	773-327-9921x126
Alternatives For The Older Adult	Outlying Counties	Tracee Keefer	800-798-0988
Alzheimer's Association	West Suburban	Erin King	847-779-6952
Aquinas Literacy Center (ESL)	Chicago South	Alison Altmeyer	773-927-0512
Asian Human Services LEAF Program	Chicago North	Chris Sherman	773 564 4963
Association House of Chicago	Chicago North	Jeanette Igwe	773-772-7170x3506
Better Boys Foundation	Chicago Lawndale	Sara Chambers	773-542-7335
Boys/Girls Clubs	Chicago	Desiree McIntosh	312-285-5009
Brookfield Zoo	West	Regi Mezydlo	708-485-0263x366
Burr Oak School	South Suburbs	Natashia Harris	708-388-8010
Center for Economic Progress	Chicago Central	Nina Limbeck	312-630-0288x1
Chicago HOPES for Kids	Chicago	Allison Roberts	312-690-4240
Chicago State University (Basic Skills)	Chicago South	Cynthia Valenciano	773-995-4419
Child Services	Cook, Lake & DuPage	Greta Nielsen	773-693-0300
Citizen Schools	ChicagoNear SW	Erin Driesbach	617-922-0761
Community Nurse Health Assn.	West Suburbs	Michelle Grand	708-579-2403
Consult 4 Kids	Chicago Area	Brandon Turner	661-322-4347
Court's Special Advocate (Children)	Cook County	Imogene Harris	312-433-6997
Fabyan Villa Mus. & Japanese Garden	Geneva	Lynn Dransoff	630-377-6424
Field Museum	Chicago	Mary Ann Bloom	312-665-7505
FreshStart (GED Tutors)	Southwest Suburbs	Donna Thomas	708-205-1334
Graue Mill	DuPage County	Sandy Brubaker	630-920-9720
Heartland Alliance Vista	Chicago Central	Carol McNeill	312-696-4500x4085

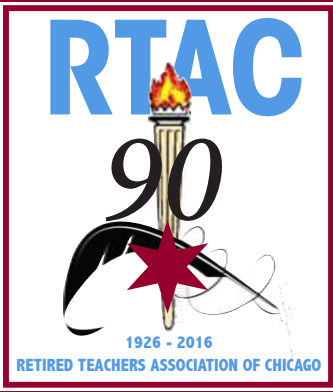
# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Click here for additional volunteer opportunities.

This list is only a part of the full list of volunteering opportunities available to RTAC members. For a full listing, visit [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org) and go to "volunteers."

The "Other Opportunities" page on the RTAC website may also list requests for volunteers for specific events like the Chicago Marathon, election workers and docents for various museums along with occasional requests for information on the Chicago Public Schools.

Agency	Location	Contact Person	Phone
Horizons for Youth (Academic Tutoring)	Chicago Loop	Emily Moyer	312-627-9031
Ill. Action for Children (Child Advocacy)	Chicago Central	Rebecca Klipfel	312-986-9591
Ill. Holocaust Museum & Ed. Center	Evanston	Hallie Rosen	847-491-0905x113
Jesse White Tumblers (tutors)	Chicago Central	Yvonne C. Jones	312-943-4846
KIPP Ascend Charter School (Mentors)	Chicago West	Sheri Barrette	773-261-9972
Kohl Children's Museum	Glenview	Charlene Podolsky	847-256-6056
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing	Chicago	Lindsey Ravizza	312-347-7600
Link & Option Center, Inc. (Literacy)	South Suburbs	Twin Green	708-331-4880
Maryville Academy	Northwest Suburbs	Mary Keiger	847-294-1703
MetroMentors	Wheaton	Gregory O'Donnell	630-784-4810
Metropolitan Tenants Organization	Chicago	Rebecca McDannald	773-292-4980x223
Naper Settlement	Naperville	Josh Charteier	630-420-6010
Peace Hospice & Palliative Care	Chicago Beverly	Alyssandra McKaye	773-233-1010
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum	Lincoln Park	Jennifer Labows	773-755-5141
Peoples Resource Center	West Suburbs	Steve Samuels	630-682-5402
School on Wheels	West Suburban	Debbie Brandt	708-482-5060
Second Sense	Chicago Central	Kathy Austin	312-236-8569
Shedd Aquarium	Chicago Central	Todd Maskel	312-692-3384
Smith Village	Chicago South	Sarah Jewett	773-474-7300
Teen Parent Services	Chicago West	Sylvester Hughes	312-633-1664
The Art Institute's Ryan Ed. Center	Chicago Central	Karin Jacobson	312-443-3798
World Relief Chicago	Chicago North	Kathryn Waldron	773-681-8554



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*You are cordially invited to join RTAC friends and Board Members*

**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016**

11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 11:30 a.m.)

**HILTON CHICAGO GRAND BALLROOM**

720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605

The ballroom is immediately inside the main hotel entrance and up the staircase to your left. An elevator is available. Discounted parking is available at the hotel.

## *Guest Speakers and 2016 Anniversary Celebration*

Please join your former colleagues and RTAC leadership as we celebrate our history and prepare for the challenges ahead. Our keynote speaker is a prominent attorney who has successfully represented our colleagues outside Chicago. Door prizes will be called during the latter part of the program, and there will be some special surprises in honor of our 90th Anniversary Celebration.

## 2016 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RESERVATION FORM

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATION TO RTAC TODAY. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RTAC 2016 SPRING LUNCHEON.**

This form is also available at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org).



Enclosed is my check number \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_  
in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ member tickets at \$45 each  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ guest tickets at \$50 each

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entree:  Chicken  Fish  Veg.

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of retirement (for a survey): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Guest's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entree:  Chicken  Fish  Veg.

Paid Guest's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entree:  Chicken  Fish  Veg.

Paid Guest's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entree:  Chicken  Fish  Veg.

**WE URGE YOU TO MAKE AN EARLY RESERVATION. RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK NO LATER THAN  
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016, TO: RTAC, 111 NORTH WABASH AVENUE, SUITE 2010, CHICAGO, IL 60602-2949**

**Tickets will not be mailed. All tickets will be held at the door. No REFUNDS for any reason. We are unable to accommodate walk-ins or meal changes at the hotel.** RSVP Deadline is Friday, May 13, 2016. No exceptions.

Not a member but want the member rate? Complete the form (available on page 9 and at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org)) and return it with this reservation form and your separate payments for membership and the luncheon. Need additional information? Call 1-312-750-1522.



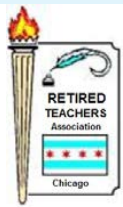
# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)

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## RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC) MISSION STATEMENT

To serve as the primary advocate for retired Chicago Public School teachers and to empower them by engaging in activities and services that will promote their well-being with particular emphasis on the maintenance and enhancement of their pension benefits.

## RTAC Sponsors L.E.A.P. DAY 2016 February 29, 2016

You have an extra Day in 2016. Use it to protect your pension. Send an e-mail, make a phone call, visit a legislator's local office. It doesn't matter how you make your point, but you need to make your voice heard during our **L.E.A.P.** Day of Action!



## RTAC CALENDAR

February \_\_\_\_\_

29 RTAC Day of Action, page 3

March \_\_\_\_\_

15 Primary election, VOTE!

April \_\_\_\_\_

1 Armstrong Award nominations due, page 5

30 Application deadline for RTAC 2017-18 Directorships

May \_\_\_\_\_

20 90th Annual Spring Luncheon

