



RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

SINCE 1926

VOL. LXXII ■ NO. 1

NEWS BULLETIN

SPRING 2016



Shown above and on the back cover are some of our members who visited their Illinois General Assembly legislators to advocate for RTAC's legislative agenda and to call attention to the benefits and importance of pensions to the nearly 30,000 retired CPS educators. **TOP ROW, L-R:** Rep. Christian L. Mitchell (D-Chicago) with Marva Adams and James Patrick; Nancy Hinsburger, Rep. Robert Martwick (D-Chicago), Lucy Grieco, and Louise Ponce; Cindy Roder with Senator John G. Mulroe (D-Chicago); Beatrice Quatroke, Pat Kenny, John Reilly, Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy (D-Chicago), Patricia Kubistal, Miguel Trujillo and seated, Delores Lynch and Edie Tillis; **MIDDLE ROW, L-R:** Rep. Sam Yingling (D-Grayslake), Angela Banks, David Peterson; Aryliss Lisner and Rep. Martin J. Moylan (D-Des Plaines); Linda Williams, Roy Coleman, Dianna Uchida, Arlene Crandall, Barbara J. Martin, and Senator Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago); Rep. John C. D'Amico (D-Chicago) and Sylvia Asllani; **BOTTOM ROW, L-R:** Roy Coleman, Khazan Agrawal, Linda Williams, Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago), and Ryan O'Leary Legislative Aide; Mary Lee Paoletti, Sylvia Asllani, Senator Ira I. Silverstein (D-Chicago), Kathy Manriquez, and Louella Preston; Rep. Al Riley (D-Hazel Crest) and Juanita R. Jordan.

RTAC Members take a L.E.A.P. to Protect Pensions

RTAC members took the lead by taking a L.E.A.P. this winter when they initiated a plan of Legislative Education and Advocacy to Protect Pensions. The first phase commenced on February 29, 2016, as RTAC members across Chicagoland used their extra day to visit with legislative representatives. "RTAC was founded by activists who understood the need to stand up and speak up for what is right,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Sylvia Asllani
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Ivry J. Hobbs
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Arlene R. Crandall

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Zygmunt Sokolnicki

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

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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Join us for a gala event on Friday, May 20, 2016

Annual Membership \$50

Lifetime Membership \$300



RTAC Celebrates 90th Anniversary



In February 1926, ten retired Chicago Public School educators were moved to act to protect the lives and security of 70 colleagues who had been dismissed by the Chicago Board of Education on December 9, 1925, because they were age 70 or older. James E. Armstrong led this group which resulted in the establishment

of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago. The group filed suit to prevent the unlawful dismissals, launching a legal battle which eventually resulted in the reinstatement of the teachers, and

the development of legal protections and voluntary retirement with the 1927 passage of the Miller Act. The actions by a dedicated group of members set the stage for decades of activism on behalf of retired CPS educators.

Read more about RTAC's milestones on the following pages, and join us this spring as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary with a Gala Luncheon on May 20, 2016. All members are encouraged to join the celebration which will highlight our past accomplishments and look at the challenges for the future. Find your invitation on page 15.

Lifelong Learners: Join us for a Spring 2016 Seminar

RTAC is proud to announce six spring 2016 seminars. These programs are provided at no charge to our members and are held in the conference room in the RTAC offices at 111 North Wabash Avenue. All programs listed below begin at 10:00 a.m. and generally conclude by noon. Space is limited to 20 participants per program. Please call 1-312-750-1522 to make a reservation.

April

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Getting the Most Out of Your Primary Care Physician's Visit

Presented by Oak Street Health

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Windows 10 and PC Security

Presented by Roy Coleman, RTAC Webmaster

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

The Other Retirement Issue – Health Insurance

Presented by Patricia B. Kubistal, RTAC Director

May

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Strategies for Outsmarting the Scammers

Presented by Janice Goldman Picker

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

How to Evaluate Financial Products and Services

Presented by Bill Blyth and Associates

June

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

New ABCs of RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions)

Presented by Ward Powell, Estate Plan Chicago

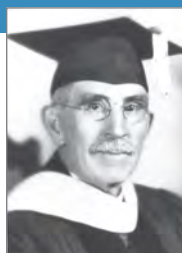


Photo at right, Ward Powell of Estate Plan Chicago presents a free seminar to RTAC members. This spring RTAC will offer six seminars, free of charge, to members in good standing. Registration is now available for members interested in attending a free educational seminar this spring. Call 1-312-750-1522 to register.

RTAC TIMELINE

1926 Retired Teachers Association of Chicago organizes to protect retired Chicago Public School educators' pensions and other benefits.

Mr. James E. Armstrong begins his 10-year tenure as president



James E. Armstrong
RTAC founder

RTAC Opened an office at 185 N. Wabash Ave. sharing space with Principals Group

First membership luncheon at "The Top of the Town" Restaurant in Chicago.

1936 President James E. Armstrong dies and Chester Dodge becomes RTAC President



1941 Published MEMOS, a predecessor to the news bulletin communication which provided information and a record of the organization's activities for members.



CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR 2017-2018 RTAC DIRECTORSHIPS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Applicants are being sought to apply for the eight RTAC Directorships for the biennium 2017-2018. RTAC is led by a five member Executive Board and 16 Directors. Eight directors are elected each year. The Executive Board positions are elected in even numbered years. In 2016, in addition to the eight directorships, a new Executive Board will be elected. The Executive Board consists of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All RTAC members in good standing are eligible to apply for any of the positions.

Candidates must submit an application form, and a Conflict of Interest statement on or before April 30, 2016, to Arlene R. Crandall at arcrandall@rtac.org.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

1. Possess computer competency (either Windows or Macintosh).
2. Have regular access to the Internet to send/receive information.
3. Be prepared to work collaboratively.
4. Attend monthly meetings (generally the first Wednesday of the month).
5. Engage new and current CTPF retiree annuitants to join RTAC.

6. Offer constructive ideas to support the organization's goals.

7. Participate in activities which focus upon the organization's mission.

The 2016 Nominating Committee will interview the 2017-2018 candidates in late spring 2016.

The Executive Board and Directors candidate slate that is selected will be announced in the summer 2016 RTAC *News Bulletin* for consideration and election by the members in attendance at the October 2016 Membership Luncheon meeting.

2016 Armstrong Award Nominations

RTAC is seeking nominations for the 2016 James E. Armstrong Award. The award is named in honor of RTAC's founding President, James E. Armstrong. Armstrong, together with a small group of concerned Chicago Public School retirees, established RTAC in 1926 to preserve and protect Chicago public school educators' pensions.



Any RTAC member in good standing can nominate another member in good standing to be acknowledged for his/her outstanding commitment, dedication, and service to RTAC and or the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund, Inc. The previous Armstrong Award honorees were Nate Blackman – 2012, Helen P. Johnson – 2013, Vaughn J. Barber – 2014, and James F. Ward – 2015.

The nomination form is available at www.rtac.org. Nominations are to be submitted to Louella B. Preston, RTAC First Vice President on or before April 15, 2016. Nominations are to be sent to office@rtac.org. The 2016 Armstrong Award will be presented during the 2016 RTAC 90th Anniversary Spring Luncheon on Friday, May 20, 2016. A luncheon invitation appears on page 15 of this RTAC *News Bulletin* and at www.rtac.org.

Dental Insurance

RTAC members in good standing are eligible to access one of RTAC's MetLife Dental insurance plans.

MetLife



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 more information.

RTAC TIMELINE

1945 Began producing the RTAC *News Bulletin* with Charles S. Winslow as editor.



1947 Moved to an independent office at 220 South State Street, Chicago.

Worked with Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus of AARP to establish the National Retired Teachers Association. RTAC is a NRTA charter member.



1951 RTAC organized as a not-for-profit corporation.

1966 Initiated two-year term of office for the RTAC President.

1981 Sponsored the election of the first Pensioner to CTPF Board of Trustees.



RTAC's Legislative Advocates' Spring 2016 Report

BY RICHARD LOCKHART, JOHN CARR, AND BUKOLA BELLO

Editor's Note: RTAC works on behalf of retirees through many channels, and engages advocates who educate Illinois legislators. This report sums up work done in 2015 and looks ahead to 2016.

RTAC achieved a significant legislative victory on February 11, 2016, when our tax levy legislation, HB 4579, was approved by the House Committee on Revenue and Finance by a vote of 9 – 0. Executive Director, Arlene Crandall, traveled to Springfield, Ill., and gave excellent testimony on behalf of RTAC members. The bill's sponsor is Rep. Marcus C. Evans III (D-Chicago).

The bill passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 98 to 14 on March 3, 2016. It has now moved to the Senate. RTAC urges members to contact their State Senators and ask them to VOTE YES for HB 4579.

The City of Chicago sent a spokesman who objected to HB 4579.

Our appreciation goes to Representative Evans for his leadership in sponsoring this vital RTAC legislation. RTAC members, we extend a big "Thank You," but we cannot become complacent. We want a strong "yes" vote to achieve passage in the Senate, so the legislation can move on to the Governor who must sign it. Our work with this bill is just beginning.



RTAC Executive Director Arlene Crandall, and Representative Marcus C. Evans III (D-Chicago), testify before the House Committee on Revenue and Finance in support of HB 4579, February 11, 2016. The bill restores the tax levy to fund CTPF pensions. The measure passed with a vote of 9-0. The Illinois House voted 98-14 in favor of the measure.

There are other bills that are relevant to RTAC and that may progress during the current legislative session.

HB 5681 is an initiative of the Pension Fund and would create a Task Force to deal with health insurance.

HB 5745 provides that a person who first becomes an annuitant after the effective date, the service retirement pension shall not commence more than a year prior to the date of the Funds' receipt of an application for the benefit.

HB 4798 prohibits payments for unused sick or vacation time in calculating pensionable earnings and salary, and includes other matters in the 46-page bill.

Find links to legislation at www.rtac.org.

RTAC's 2016 Legislative Agenda

On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, the RTAC Executive Board, Directors, and Past Presidents voted to pursue the following legislative agenda.

RTAC encourages lawmakers to support and Vote YES for legislation which:

- Restores the CTPF tax levy to ensure a stable revenue source for pensioners, HB 3695 and HB 4579
- Secures equitable State of Illinois Funding for Chicago teachers' pensions
- Opposes 'pension holidays' for the Chicago Public Schools
- Stabilizes the CTPF health insurance program
- Increases retiree representation on the CTPF
- Maintains the independence and fiscal integrity of the CTPF
- Supports educational funding that meets the needs of all Ill. children.

RTAC members can download an information sheet with this legislative agenda to share with legislators. Find the PDF at www.rtac.org.

Be sure to contact your Illinois General Assembly Representative and Senator to request that they support retired Chicago Public School educators by enacting legislation that supports RTAC's legislative agenda.

RTAC President Edna C. Fanning was elected to represent Pensioners on the CTPF Board of Trustees



1986 Incorporated the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation which provides grants-in-aid to qualified CTPF pensioners with diminutive household incomes.



2000 Established an Internet web presence to enable members to receive news, updates on legislative matters, and convey the need for urgent and immediate member action.



stated RTAC President David T. Peterson. "Legislators' attention must be focused on the personal impact which our pensions have on us. Our lawmakers need to understand that reducing pensions or other benefits hurts people – these cuts are not just numbers on a spreadsheet."

Participation in the initial event was strong, and made a difference, as HB 4579 passed

out of the Illinois House shortly after the Day of Action. Keep up the good work, and make a point of visiting legislators in their local offices. A visit is an excellent way to advocate for your pension and RTAC's legislative agenda.

YOU OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES

When you visit a legislator, take a picture and share it with RTAC. Photos will be

posted in RTAC's online gallery and included (space permitting) in future *News Bulletins*. Members who submit photos on or before 3:00 p.m., April 22, 2016, will also be entered into a drawing for a grand prize to be announced at our 90th Anniversary Luncheon on Friday, May 20, 2016. Send digital photos (jpg) to office@rtac.org, with identifying information.



WEBMASTER'S MESSAGE

*Computer Security:
a safe computer means a happy user*

WEBMASTER ROY COLEMAN

One of the biggest concerns with any computerized system is hackers and viruses compromising the system. This includes but is not limited to: Microsoft Windows, iPads, iPhones, Android phones, etc. The two biggest sources of attacks and infections come through e-mail and unsecured wifi connections. (See my article on page 6 of the September 2012 *News Bulletin* at rtac.org/NB.html). Even though there is some protection built into all systems, additional anti-virus software is strongly recommended. There are a number of free programs available that have been highly rated. Although McAfee and Norton's received the highest rating, they are not free. I personally use *BitDefender* or *AVG anti-virus* on my computers (only ONE per computer – NEVER install two anti-virus programs on the same computer). For Windows 10, Microsoft has included their 'Windows Defender' program which is rated good, but there are better ones available.

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR WINDOWS 10

Windows 10 has some default settings that you should be aware of and fully understand. By default an app (the new term for program) can access your camera, turn it on and watch you. Also by default Cortana (Microsoft's digital assistant) is on and listening to just about everything you say. Do you REALLY want your computer to watch and listen to what you are doing? (Think "Big Brother" from George Orwell's *1984*.)

My suggestion would be to go into 'Settings' (click the Windows Icon in the lower left and pick 'Settings') then 'Privacy.' Go through the entire list of options, one at a time, and turn everything off (move the slider(s) to the left). A couple of exceptions might be if you are using Skype – leave the general 'Camera' setting and the 'Messaging + Skype' on, but turn the remainder off and also do the same for the 'Microphone.' If you have

other applications that stop working when the settings are changed to 'Off.' You can always go back and turn them on. If you are using Windows 7 or Windows 8 you might also consider changing the settings, but it is more difficult than in Windows 10.

MORE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT

Recent news stories have shown that the computer systems on late model cars can be hacked and override what the driver is intending to do (like steer or stop). At the hacker DefCon Conference in Las Vegas convention last August, a device was demonstrated which can record the wireless signal sent to open your car or garage door and then replay the signal at a later time allowing unauthorized access. This is particularly worrisome for anyone that has a 'keyless' car. (If your car requires a key to start it, a thief may be able to get in, but still could not easily steal it.) My STRONG suggestion would be take any recall for your car seriously as the manufacturers are aware of these problems and are upgrading their software whenever a problem is discovered.

For more on this, do an Internet search on 'car computer hacking.'

RTAC TIMELINE

2002 Launched a campaign to eliminate the penalty on earned Social Security benefits by retired public agency employees.



2003 Initiated action to increase the health insurance subsidy and pursue a long-term subsidy funding solution.

2010 Established the RTAC Alert e-mail system.



2012 Achieved success in a 7-year legal battle which protected the pensions of 3,600 CTPF members who were threatened when CPS tried to recover payments.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAVID T. PETERSON

Did you take the L.E.A.P.? I'm, still flying. Your response to the challenge of our day of action, Legislative Education and Advocacy by Pensioners (L.E.A.P.) Day, has been excellent.

Our L.E.A.P. Initiative culminating on February 29, 2016, demonstrated your efforts to educate legislators and advocate on behalf of our pensions. RTAC is committed to ensuring that our Illinois General Assembly legislators, present and future, act in accordance with the fact that the 'pension problem' does not arise from our benefits but from the funding shortfall of the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF). The shortfall began in 1995 when the Illinois General Assembly diverted our pension levy away from CTPF, which enabled subsequent "Pension Holidays" which directed pension funds into the Chicago Public Schools operating fund.

Don't buy the legislative refrain "Oh, I wasn't here when that occurred, I'm not responsible." This isn't a question of responsibility for the past. We know that falls on CPS and those legislators who supported the raid on our pension fund. We are concerned with the responsibility of the present and future.

WHAT SHOULD LAWMAKERS DO?

We can't solve the problem, **but lawmakers can by supporting RTAC's legislative agenda. Lawmakers can:**

- enact legislation to restore our tax levy, providing stability to CTPF,
- pass legislation to ensure the stability of our health care subsidy,
- pass legislation giving retirees a greater voice in the management of CTPF,
- refuse additional "Pension Holidays,"
- enact legislation ensuring CTPF's fiscal integrity and independence.



RTAC President David T. Peterson and RTAC member Geraldine Hollister (left) meet with State Senator Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake).

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- See your representatives. Tell them your concerns, present RTAC's legislative agenda.
- "Give thanks" for your current benefits. You just got a three percent raise.
- Show your support by giving a portion of that raise to RTAC's Legal Defense Fund.
- Join your colleagues and friends at the Spring Luncheon as we toast RTAC's 90 years as the only organization to protect and support our pensions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



ARLENE R. CRANDALL

As we reflect upon the current situation as it impacts retired Chicago public school educators as well as current CPS teachers, one has to be appreciative for the action taken by our predecessors. Our RTAC predecessors recognized the need to stand together and fight for the retirement security and rights of CPS teachers and

pensioners in the early part of the 20th century. Their actions set the stage for decades of advocacy and activism by RTAC members.

We are also gratified that our current Retired Teachers Association of Chicago Executive Board, Directors, and Past Presidents continue the mission which began 90 years ago to serve without remuneration to protect and preserve our economic security.

Going forward we expect that the Illinois General Assembly may propose a new amendment to the Illinois Constitution which will target our annual cost of living

increase (AAI). This is also the moment to recall that in November 2012, there was a referendum on the General Election ballot which would have negatively impacted the annual cost of living increases which enable us to address inflationary costs. We believe that there is a strong possibility that we may need to undertake similar action in 2016 to prevent such a constitutional change.

Now is the time to contact your legislators to express the need for our retired Chicago public school educators to maintain what they worked for throughout their careers. We also need to prepare ourselves to enlist our families and friends to defeat negative legislation.

2013 Moved to a new office at 111 North Wabash Avenue



Began offering complimentary educational seminars for members

2014 Created a Legal Defense Fund



2015 Pursued a legislative agenda to restore the CTPF pension levy diverted to CPS in 1995, and to increase the health insurance subsidy.

2016 RTAC celebrates 90th Anniversary on the May 20, 2016, see page 15 for your invitation to the gala Spring Luncheon.





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

MAKE A DONATION: 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 NOV. 1, 2015- JAN. 31, 2016

BARBARA ALLIE
COZETTE BUCKNEY
THERESA H
BURROUGHS
KATHLEEN C BYRNE
VINCIL CARTER
ROSE CHO
MARY JO
CUNNINGHAM
PAULINE J DANIELS
JOHNNY DAVIS
JUDY DAVIS-
ARMSTRONG

PRISCILLA FAIKEL
CHERYL KAY
FEIGENBAUM
DANIEL T FINN
SHARON GILL
BARBARA L.
GORAVICA
ARDELL WISE
GREEN
BEVERLY J GREENE
DOLORES J. GROCH
LAURA HARLEY

ESTHER M.
HONSON
CAROLYN
JOHNSON-POLK
JULIUS JONES
KATHERINE
KONOPASEK
BARBARA LOTESTO
JAMES
MALEBRANCHE
PATRICIA A.
MASTRO

RITA M. MC CANN
CASANDRA E.
MELTON
MARY MICHAELS
MARY MORLEY
SHARON MURPHY
MATTHEW O'BRIEN
CHRIS PAGNUCCO
FRANCES
RADENCIC
WILLIE RILEY
PAMELA ROBINSON

RHONDA ROBINSON-
DAWKINS
GAYNELLE
ROCKLIN
ROBERTA M.
RUBINSON
GERARD C. SLANIA
JOHNETTA C. TABB
GERALDINE WADE
ELLA WASHINGTON
ROSA MARIA ZAYAS



LEGAL DEFENSE FUND GIFTS

NOV. 1, 2015- JAN. 31, 2016

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.

LDF Surpasses 65K

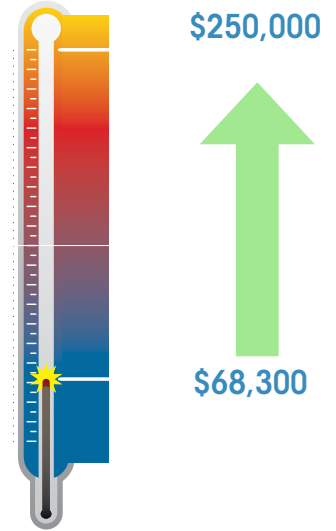
PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS (DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE)

Anonymous (4)
Armstead, Beverly
Booth, Frances L.
Butman, Sharon D.
Butterfield, John
Cappitelli, Mary Kay
Cestar, Ronald J.
Chevlin, Howard &
Nancy
Coleman, Roy
Conway, Carol M.
Coulter, Margo J.
Crisler, Joan Dameron
Dickson, Nathaniel
Domres, Catherine B.
Farwick, Diane M.
Ferguson, Pauline E.
Fiedler, Karl-Heinz E.
Fife, Mattie A.
Fogarty, Mary F.

Fox, Richard E. Sr.
Gibson, John O.
Gradolf, Laura
Gray, Helene A.
Hayden, Peter K.
Hedstrom, Thomas
Hillman, Gerald
Hornung, Mary C.
Hortin, Judith K.
Jarvis, Rose Ann
Jasmick, Adam Jr.
Jenig, Mary E.
Jeter, Iris L.
Kaplan, Linda D.
Kenny, Patrick J.
Klocksins, Lucy C.
Kubistal, Patricia B.
Laurent, Lutonia
Lee, Jesse & Carolyn M.
Lopez, Imelda C.

Mackie, Elizabeth A.
Marcello, Corinne V.
Marshall, Mary B.
McCormick, John J.
Mendoza, Dehlia
Mongoven, Mary Ellen
Moscinski, Donna & John
Nelligan, Bonnie J.
Nickolich, Eva
O'Connor, Elizabeth M.
O'Connor, Maureen
Ohlhausen, Janet
Pearce, Noble L.
Peterson, Dave &
Claudette
Pratt, Therese A.
Purcell, Alana
Pydo, Jean L.
Reimer, Charlene T.
Reimer, Robert E.

Renz, Mark
Rhyme, Rhue
Rivera-Valentin, Milagros
Robinson, Douglas R.
Rubinson, Roberta
Ruffalo, Kathryn
Sanders, Joan E.
Schury, Marianne
Smith, Eddie E.
Swain, Shirley
Tatar, Craig
Taylor, William C.
Tocwish, Victor
Uber, Barbara
Vaccaro, Maria
Ward, Edgar L.
Whalen, Cynthia C.
Williams, Linda R.
Wilson, James E.
Woodrow, William W.



Your continued support of the Legal Defense Fund is vital. 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.

OTHER GIFTS

Anonymous (5)
Anglin, Phillip
Aslanides, Anthony
Bernover, Susan
Boyd, Julius O.
Brookstein, Frances
Carter, Gertrude A.
Clark, Dorothy P.

Covan, Burl L.
Davis, Deborah E.
DiCristofano, James
Drozdzik, Joann
Gerstein, Shayle J.
Grafner, Peter V.
Grieco, Lucille
Grove, Otis G.

Halfar, Janet K.
Hill, Donald J.
James, Rochelle
Johnson, Louise M.
Kramer, Chuck
Levitan, David
Lisner, Aryliss
Macola, Carol

Marsh, Ruby P.
Mitchell, Edward B.
O'Keefe, Theodore F.
O'Malley, Deidre
O'Neal, Patricia L.
Portenlanger, Betty R.
Roberson, Carolyn
Sands, Scott C.

Simmons, Freddie G.
Stocking, Mary Ann
Thomas, Leona M.
Van, Eileen K.
Williams, Claire
Williams, Yvonne
Wolf, Marshall
Woodson, Gloria

CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND GIFTS

NOV. 1, 2015- JAN. 31, 2016

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous	Margarita Fiscella
Alfonsi, Joy	Irene Arrington, Mary Alice Bently, Angelo Capua, Chrysanthe Hoegh
Benson, Bernadette M.	Loraine DeVoe
Cafasso, Louise	Helen P. Johnson, Joan Wetherell
Chaney, Jeanne H.	Lois Ricks
Connolly, Angela P.	George Rico
Deasy, Dolores C.	Willie Mae Crittenden
Delin, Laurel K.	John G. Delin
Gallo, Jeannie M.	Maurice Harvey, Johanna Kasper, Terri Jon Katsulis,
Gearon, James M.	Christine Roberts
Ghidotti, Judith L.	Andrew Kuban
Green, Thomas R.	Larry Hawkins, Madeline S. Morris, June Pembroke, Odessa Wilson
Henry Suder Club	Helen Pomerance Johnson
Hill, Harold and Trudy	Jesus C. Abalos, James E. Breashears, Leslie L. Fant, Marie D. Jernigan, Michael E. Sailes, Robert W. Tisdale
Koch, Jewel B.	Mable M. McLendon
Lattyak, Dorothea D.	Terri Jon Katsulis, Marna Shapiro, Ruthmarie A. Wiemann
Lyll, Jean	Elena O'Connell
Lyles, Bonita and John	Bonnie Bowen
Massey, Jane	Linda Lent
McNulty, Eileen	Donald C. Wall

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Sanders, Joan E.	Earl J. Sanders
Smeriglio, Elizabeth	Theresa Mathe
Tauchman, Charles A.	Geraldine Hletko, Willie Hinton, William Sayer, William Steele
Terzian, Richard	Marvin B. Osterman
Tinich, Andrew J.	Hazel Bauman

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous (4)	General Purposes
Aurelia Husnik Family Trust Legacy Bequest	
DKG-Beta Alpha Chapter	General Purposes
James, Rochelle	General Purposes
Kubistal, Patricia B.	Retired CPS Teachers
Lopez, Imelda C.	Retired CPS Teachers
Marshall, Mary B.	General Purposes
Nelligan, Bonnie J.	General Purposes
Quas, Marilyn	General Purposes
Roberson, Carolyn A.	General Purposes
Stocking, Nancietta	Retired CPS Teachers
Thomas, Leona M.	Retired CPS Teachers
Williams, Virginia A.	General Purposes
Yonkers, Dianne I.	Retired CPS Teachers

RTAC GIFTS

NOV. 1, 2015- JAN. 31, 2016

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Alexander, Ruth A.	Margaret Bankhead, Blaine DeNye Alfreda Page
Artisuk, Ruth P.	Sam Ozaki, Antoinette Wrobel
Connolly, Angela P.	Liduina Barbantini
Johnson, Geraldine F.	Terri Jon Katsulis, Virginia Vaske
Pruchnicki, Carol Lynn	Michael Pruchnicki
Scarpaci, Joseph E.	Dr. Richard Lencki
VanBruggen, Shirley	Jacob VanBruggen
Walsh, Jo Anne	Barnett Skyles
Ward, Edgar L.	Bertha L. Ward

RTAC DONATIONS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

Anonymous	General Purposes
Anderson, Barbara B.	General Purposes
Finkel, Muriel	General Purposes
James, Rochelle	General Purposes
Jimenez, Adolpha A.	General Purposes
Marshall, Mary B.	General Purposes
Phung, Lien T.	General Purposes
Roberson, Carolyn A.	General Purposes
Sparks, Shirley	General Purposes

COPE GIFTS

NOV. 1, 2015- JAN. 31, 2016

James, Rochelle	Roberson, Carolyn
Marshall, Mary B.	Ward, Edgar L.
Miller, Janice I.	

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.



FIND A COMPLETE LISTING OF RECENT OBITUARIES IN THE ONLINE NEWS BULLETIN AT WWW.RTAC.ORG

James F. Ward, RTAC Past President and Executive Director, and Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund Executive Director and Retiree Trustee

The RTAC Executive Board, Directors, and Past Presidents were saddened to learn of the passing of James F. Ward, former CTPF Executive Director, CTPF Retiree Trustee (1997-2013), RTAC Past President, RTAC Former Secretary and formerly RTAC Executive Director on Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

Tributes continue to pour in from RTAC members and others who came to respect Jim for his brilliant grasp of all issues related to the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund and the Illinois Pension Code. Richard Lockhart, one of RTAC's legislative advocates, stated:

"Jim seemed to have memorized the Illinois Pension Code. He knew the Illinois Pension Statutes backwards, forwards, and in all ways. Nobody could ask him a pension question that he couldn't answer immediately."

Jim's CPS career began with his first assignment as an accounting teacher at Kelvyn Park High School. From there he progressed to a thirty year career at the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund from which he retired in August 1997 following twenty years as its Executive Director. In Fall 1997, Jim was elected to the CTPF Board of Trustees where he represented retirees beginning in November 1997 through October 2013. In September 1997, he joined the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago and he started as a member of the Board of Directors in 1999. In 2001, he became RTAC's first Executive Director. In 2002, Jim was elected to serve as RTAC's Board President for the Biennium 2003-2004. Subsequently, he served as RTAC's Board Secretary until health issues impacted his ability to continue to serve in 2014.

In 2015, Jim was awarded the James E. Armstrong Award, acknowledging his lifelong, dedicated service and work ensuring the protection of retired CPS educators' pensions. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Deborah O'Connor, son Jason, and all of Jim's extended family, friends, and colleagues.



James F. Ward

Richard Tryba, RTAC Director

The RTAC Executive Board, Directors, and Past Presidents were saddened to learn of the passing of Richard Tryba, who died December 13, 2015 (born December 13, 1932).

A U.S. Army Veteran, Richard joined RTAC in 1994, a year after he retired from teaching English at Jones Commercial High School. Following his departure from Jones, he taught English as a Second Language to non native English speaking priests at Casa Jesus.

Richard became an RTAC Director in 2006. During his decade long year tenure as an RTAC Director he served on the Nominations and Social Committees. He was also a dedicated member of the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund. His service

was exemplary; whether he served as a chairperson of a committee or as a general member of the Board or the Aid Fund. He also supported the Aid Fund with regular donations throughout his service as a Director.

The CRTAF and RTAC families extend their sincere condolences to Richard Tryba's wife Mary, their four children and spouses as well as their grandchildren and extended family members.



Richard Tryba

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
Abraham Lincoln Center	Chicago Near South	Hannah Katz	773-451-3360
Adler Planetarium	Chicago Central	Maria Christus	312-542-2411
Alex Haley Academy	Chicago South	Karen Demots	773-371-3661
Aquinas Literacy Center (ESL) (Literacy)	Chicago Near South	Alison Altmeyer	773-927-0512
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
Centro Loyola	Chicago North	Daniel Loftus	312-226-7887
Chicago Botanic Gardens	Glenco	Judy Cashen	847-835-6800
Child Services	Cook-Lake-DuPage	Greta Nielsen	773-693-0300
ChildServe at Bryant E. S.	Harvey	Jennifer Collins	773-867-7362
Consult 4 Kids	Chicago Area	Brandon Turner	661-322-4347
Court's Special Advocate (Child Advocacy)	Cook County	Imogene Harris	312-433-6997
CPS Student Science Fair	Chicago	B. Dubielak-Wood	773-553-6319
Fabyan Villa Museum and 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
Ill. Action for Children (Children's Advocacy)	Chicago Central	Rebecca Klipfel	312-986-9591
Ill. Holocaust Museum & Education Center	Evanston	Hallie Rosen	847-491-0905x113
Jesse White Tumblers (tutors)	Chicago Central	Yvonne C. Jones	312-943-4846
KIPP Ascend Charter School (Tutors-Mentors)	Chicago West	Sheri Barrette	773-261-9972
Kohl Children's Museum	Glenview	Charlene Podolsky	847-256-6056
Lincoln Park Zoo	Chicago Near North	Betey Maher	312-742-2124

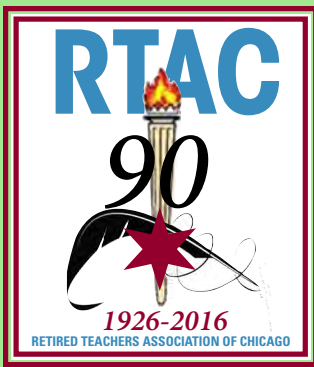
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 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
Link & Option Center, Inc. (Literacy tutoring)	South Suburbs	Twin Green	708-331-4880
Literacy Connection	Northwest Suburbs	Karen Oswald	847-742-6565
Mercy Home for Boys and Girls	Chicago Central	J. Brown/E. Dordek	312-738-7554
Mercy Housing Lakefront	Chicago	LeKeeta Charley	312-913-1605x112
MetroMentors	Wheaton	Gregory O'Donnell	630-784-4810
Misericordia Home	Chicago	Therese Loftus	773-273-4163
Naper Settlement	Naperville	Josh Charteier	630-420-6010
National Hellenic Museum	Chicago Central	Hannah Imber	312-655-1234x27
North Shore Senior Center (Senior Advocacy)	Northfield	Paul J. Luzwick	847-784-6000
Oakton Community College	DesPlaines-Skokie	Rita Stewart	847-635-1434
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago	Chicago Hyde Park	Cathy D or Terry F	773-702-1845
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum	Chicago Near North	Jennifer Labows	773-755-5141
PetCare Curriculum	Chicago	Julie Smith	773-784-5605
The Chicago Lighthouse	Chicago	Dick Carlson	312-666-1331x3141
Vocational Bridge Academy	Chicago	Robert Kos	773-772-7170x3002
Woman Made Gallery	Chicago Near NW	Pamela Callahan	312-328-0038



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.



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) 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)

111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010
Chicago, IL 60602-2949

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Inside: RTAC's All New Spring News Bulletin



Shown above and on the back cover are some of our members who visited their Illinois General Assembly legislators to advocate for RTAC's legislative agenda and to call attention to the benefits and importance of pensions to the nearly 30,000 retired CPS educators. **TOP ROW, L-R:** Rep. Christine L. Michael (D-Chicago) with Marva Adams and James Patrick, Henry Hironaka, Rep. Robert McLean (D-Chicago), Loy Green, and Susan Ponce, Cindy Bauer with Senator John C. Mulroe (D-Chicago), Senator Catherine Hanlon, John Reilly, John Reilly, Rep. Julie M. Cavely (D-Chicago), Patricia Kubistal, Miguel Trujillo and Sen. Steve Spitzer and Edie Yin, **MIDDLE ROW, L-R:** Sen. Tom Tangherlin (D-Chicago), Angela Berke, DRC President David Matthews, Anyela Llover and Rep. Martin J. Moylan (D-Des Plaines), Linda Williams, Rep. Catherine Chaves Smith, RTAC Executive Director Andrea Crowell, Barbara A. Morris, and Senator Stephen Brad (D-Chicago), Rep. John C. D'Amico (D-Chicago) and Sylvia Aulisio. **BOTTOM ROW, L-R:** Rep. Catherine Chaves Smith, Anyela Llover and Rep. Martin J. Moylan (D-Des Plaines), Linda Williams, Rep. Catherine Chaves Smith, RTAC Executive Director Andrea Crowell, Barbara A. Morris, and Senator Stephen Brad (D-Chicago), Rep. John C. D'Amico (D-Chicago) and Sylvia Aulisio.

RTAC Members take the L.E.A.P. to Protect Pensions
RTAC members took the lead by taking a L.E.A.P. this winter when they initiated a plan of Legislative Education and Advocacy to Protect Pensions. The first phase commenced on February 29, 2016, as RTAC members across the Chicago area used their extra day to visit with legislative representatives. RTAC was founded by activists who understood the need to stand up and speak up for what is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

VISIT WWW.RTAC.ORG
"LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK



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.



TOP ROW, L-R: Lobbyist Richard Lockhart, Sen. Don Harmon (D-Oak Park), Eva Nickolich, and Frank Lacey; Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago), Miguel Trujillo, John Reilly, Patricia Kubistal, and Kathleen Casey Byrne; **BOTTOM ROW, L-R:** Louise Ponce, Senator John G. Mulroe (D-Chicago), and Nancy Hinsburger; Sen. Laura M. Murphy (D-Park Ridge) and Louella Preston; Robert Flinn, a legislative aide to Rep. Martin J. Moylan D-(Des Plaines) and Dianne Yonkers.

RTAC Victory!

As this *Bulletin* went to press, HB 4579 passed out of the Illinois House March 3, 2016, on a vote of 98-14. Your advocacy efforts worked – and we’ve achieved a great first step in our quest to restore our pension levy.

Keep up the good work, and now please focus on reaching out to your Illinois Senators. This bill must pass out of the Senate before being sent to the Governor for a signature. Your voice matters – please share your support.

