



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

SINCE 1926

VOL. LXXV ■ NO. 3

## NEWS BULLETIN

WINTER 2019/2020

### Get Ready for L.E.A.P. DAY 2020

RTAC members know that reaching out and speaking up to legislators can make a difference. RTAC is making a special effort to raise awareness about pensions and retirement security on February 29, 2020, when we host our second annual Legislative Education and Advocacy by Pensioners (L.E.A.P.) Day. We will educate legislators about pensions and advocate for our hard-earned benefits.

Your pension is governed by Illinois law, which means that decisions made in Springfield, Ill., can impact your day-to-day life. During the past five years, RTAC members have lobbied legislators and produced changes which greatly benefit the pension fund.

“We have seen firsthand the difference our members can make when they speak up.”

said RTAC President John Butterfield. “And critical to this process is making sure legislators know you. We want to make sure that we are more than just numbers and statistics, we are individuals who vote and have a voice in critical issues.”

You have an extra day. Make it count. It’s your pension. Speak Up. Reach Out.



This Fall RTAC’s First Vice President Louella Preston (left), Executive Director Arlene Crandall (right), and Lobbyist Matt Maloney met with Illinois State Senator Cristina Castro D-Elgin, (Center).

### Reach Out and Speak Up

You can participate in L.E.A.P. Day 2020 by reaching out to your elected officials, call, write, fax, or visit the week of February 29, 2020. Find an information form to share with RTAC’s legislative agenda on page 4.

### Tips for Success

Need help locating your elected officials? RTAC’s website, [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org) has a lookup function to help you locate addresses and information.

### Share Your Story

When you visit a local legislator’s office, take a photo and share it with RTAC so we can use it in an upcoming publication. Email photos to [office@rtac.org](mailto:office@rtac.org).

### 2019 Fall Luncheon Highlights

On Thursday, October 24, 2019, nearly 400 RTAC members and guests attended RTAC’s 93rd Annual Fall Luncheon. A highlight of the event was the keynote address by the Honorable Miguel del Valle, Chicago Board of Education President and CTPF Trustee, who shared his personal experiences as a CPS student. The event also included legislative updates, a CTPF update and the election of eight candidates who will serve on the RTAC Board of Directors for 2020-2021. See page 3 for info.



Clockwise: CTPF Board of Trustees President Jeffery Blackwell and CTPF Trustee and Board of Education President Miguel del Valle with RTAC President John Butterfield. An overview of the Grand Ballroom. Bottom row, left to right: the door prize winners Janet Smith, Frieda Garth, June Bates, Janice Gehrman, Lawrence Josephson, and Joyce Batson; pianist Helen Marie Wallace; Social committee Chair Rita Naughton with Everlean Manning, winner of the Hilton Chicago staycation; Former RTAC President Ned McCray with his wife Christine enjoying the luncheon. Find more photos at <https://www.rtac.org/2019FallLuncheonPhotos.pdf>

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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).

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John A. Butterfield  
*President*

Sylvia F. Asllani  
*Secretary*

Louella B. Preston  
*First Vice President*

Hubert C. Jackson, Jr.  
*Treasurer*

Linda R. Williams  
*Second Vice President*

Patricia B. Kubistal  
*Immediate Past President*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arlene R. Crandall

## ELECTED DIRECTORS

### 2018-2019

Amour Andrews  
Roy E. Coleman  
Juanita R. Jordan  
Carlene Lutz

Eva Nickolich  
John P. Reilly  
Mary Sharon Reilly  
Maria J. Rodriguez

### 2019-2020

Virginia Bautista- Katherine  
White Konopasek  
Maria Fresse-Giffels Rita M. Naughton  
Kevin B. Huber Elaine L. Schain  
Patrick Keating Dianne I. Yonkers

## EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Vaughn J. Barber  
Ned L. McCray

Marcella L. Morrison Zygmunt Sokolnicki  
Edward A. O'Farrell  
Ethel Philpott

## 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)

**NEW ADDRESS:** Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF)  
425 S. Financial Place, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60605-1000 1-312-641-4464

CTPF Health Insurance Information 1-312-641-4464

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*Save the date and plan to join us on Monday, May 18, 2020.*

**Annual Membership \$50**

**Lifetime Membership \$300**

## RTAC 2020-2021 Directors Elected

Congratulations to the eight-member slate of RTAC Directors elected during the Fall Membership Luncheon on October 24, 2019. Roy Coleman, Bernice “Bernie” S. Eshoo, Juanita Jordan, Raphael A. Juss, Carlene Lutz, Mary E. Puente, Mary Sharon Reilly, and Maria J. Rodriguez will serve for the biennium 2020-2021. Thank you to the volunteers who facilitated the election: Chestine Allen, Carmen Cohn, Lance Cohn, Aretas Collymore, Regina Connolly, Gerald Dugan, Linda Edwards, Harriet Embrey, Frieda Garth, James Glover, Harold Hill, Trudy Hill, Queen Jackson, Pamela Kane, Patricia Kimberly, Frank Lacey, Rudy Joan Lubov, Carol Macola, Jerel Morris, Eleanor Nangle, Debra Nelson, Ida O’Neal Reed, Mary Procnier, Louis Pyster, Geraldine Qualls, Helen Ramirez-Odell, Cindy Roder, Elaine Schain, Barbara Shegog, Marja Stanford-Leak, Anna Stork, Abraham Talley, Edie Tillis, Dianna Uchida, Lynnette Wyatt, and Valerie Zadura.

## 2020 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 [arcrandall@rtac.org](mailto:arcrandall@rtac.org) by 3:00 p.m., April 15, 2020. The winner will be announced during the Spring Luncheon on May 18, 2020.

## RTAC’s Free Seminar Program

RTAC’s 2019 fall seminar program included four free programs for members.

September and October programming included:

- September 10, 2019, Waterford Estates in Hazel Crest, Illinois, introduced RTAC members to senior rental housing options.
- September 19, 2019, Oak Street Health shared information about healthy senior lifestyles, habits, and medical protocols.
- September 24, 2019, William Blyth, Carla Nitz, and Krista Zych of Blyth and Associates presented information about current economic trends and tax strategies.
- October 31, 2019, Janice Axelrod presented an overview of various types of Long Term Care coverage for themselves and/or family members.

Planning for 2020 spring seminar topics is underway and will be announced online, and in our spring News Bulletin, check [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org) for updates.

## Barbantini Sisters Make Generous Legacy Gift

The Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund gratefully acknowledges a legacy bequest from Constance and Liduina Barbantini, sisters who served in the Chicago Public Schools. Upon retirement, both joined RTAC and became active participants in the Service Committee.



Liduina and Constance Barbantini

Constance taught Italian at Tilton Elementary and Austin and Wells High Schools. She established an Italian program at Wright Junior College and also taught at Harold Washington College where she concluded her career. She was President and a member of the American Association of Teachers of Italian. Liduina earned her bachelors degree at Mundelein College, which she followed with a masters degree at Northwestern University. Her 34-year career included teaching at Chopin Elementary where she concluded her career as its Assistant Principal.

## Nominations

### RTAC seeking 2021-22 Officers and Directors

Are you interested in getting more involved with RTAC? This spring RTAC will seek nominees for eight directorships and all officers for the biennium 2021-2022. Per the RTAC Bylaws, any member in Good Standing is encouraged to self-nominate. Qualifications are:

1. Computer competency.
2. Regular access to the Internet.
3. Collaborative work style.
4. Monthly meeting attendance.
5. Willingness to engage CTPF annuitants to join RTAC
6. Offering constructive ideas.
7. Participating in RTAC activities

Find an application at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org), and submit to [arcrandall@rtac.org](mailto:arcrandall@rtac.org) by 3:00 p.m., Thursday, April 30, 2020. RTAC members who wish to apply for leadership positions should review the RTAC bylaws which include descriptions for each of the officer positions. Candidates will be interviewed in late spring.

## CTPF News

Congratulations to RTAC members Lois Nelson, Mary Sharon Reilly, and Maria Rodriguez, the RTAC-endorsed candidates elected to serve as Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund (CTPF) Pensioner Trustees from November 2019-2021.

Please note: the CTPF office has moved to 425 S. Financial Place, Suite 1400, in the South Loop. Bring a photo ID and call 312-641-4464 in advance and ask to be put on the list for the day if you plan to attend a meeting or appointment.

**THE SPRING 2020 LUNCHEON WILL BE MAY, 18, 2020. SEE PAGE 15 FOR YOUR INVITATION.**

# L.E.A.P. DAY 2020

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 2020.

## February 29, 2020

### WHO?

RTAC Retirees



### WHAT?

A Day of Action to educate Illinois legislators.

### WHEN?

February 29, 2020

You have a bonus day in 2020. Use it to protect your pension.



### WHY?

Knowing your legislators can help to protect your pension security.

## 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. 2020 is an election year. Make sure your legislators understand your priorities.



## Take Action!

Tear out the sheet on the right, complete the information, and share it with your Illinois Senators and Representatives on L.E.A.P. Day, or during the week of February 29, 2020. Visit local district offices, call, write and/or e-mail.

You can 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 2020

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 9,000 pensioners representing the interests of more than 26,000 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:

- Stabilizes a viable health insurance program for CTPF annuitants.
- Maintains the independent and fiscal integrity of CTPF.
- Opposes "pension holidays" or underfunding for the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund.
- Opposes legislation that adversely affects the Automatic Annual Increase (COLA) for RTAC members.

### About Me . . .

I am a constituent in your district, a retired CPS educator, and CTPF member. I support the RTAC 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)

# Spotlight on Springfield: RTAC Legislative Advocate Report

BY JOHN D. CARR AND MATT MALONEY, RTAC'S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES



*Editor's Note: RTAC works on behalf of retirees through many channels, and engages advocates who educate Illinois legislators.*

The great UCLA basketball coach John Wooden used to say never mistake activity for achievement.

That saying might exemplify the recent conclave of the Illinois General Assembly's Fall Veto Session, where there seemed to be a lot of activity (technical corrections to the State's Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, aviation tax legislation) but very little achievement on issues that you have undoubtedly read about or seen in the media (corruption).

But if you haven't, here is a recap of that activity. First, Illinois State Senate President John Cullerton announced his retirement from public service on November 13 in Springfield.

Cullerton serves Chicago's north and northwest sides. He first entered the legislature in 1979. His achievements over the years are considerable, especially since he became President in 2009.

All of us should thank President Cullerton for his decades of public service. His district office address is: The Honorable Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, 1726 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657.

Next, on October 25, 2019, the FBI arrested House Democratic Representative Luis Arroyo on bribery charges. Arroyo resigned from his seat on November 1. Meanwhile on the other side

of the legislative aisle, State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) was indicted in October on federal corruption charges and Senator Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero) had his home and legislative offices raided by the FBI.

It goes without saying that these are major black eyes for the Illinois General Assembly. Reading through the indictments and media stories on the federal investigations, it is nearly certain that other State officials will be indicted in the future.

It is not surprising that the State introduced an ethics reform package on the very last day of the veto session in November. The comprehensive bill is designed to repair some of the faith lost in State government. SB 1639 creates a publicly accessible and searchable database for disclosures by registered lobbyists, contributions by registered lobbyists, and statements of economic interests required to be filed by State officials and employees.

Overall, Senate Bill 1639 and the Fall 2019 Veto Session in general, were mostly instances of activity trying to look like achievement.

One item of real achievement was SB 1300, a bill providing for the transfer of the assets and investment authority of downstate police and downstate firefighter pension funds (approximately 600 funds) to the Police Officers' Pension Investment Fund and the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund. It passed by wide margins in both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly on November 13th and 14th. It is a 'No Brainer' for Illinois because the estimated investment gains from consolidation will be between

\$164 million and \$500 million per year over five years. But what exactly does it mean for you? Some information you will want to know...

First, this bill does not impact CTPF at all. But, it may indicate a State policy perspective that favors greater pension plan consolidation.

Second, consolidation will cost municipalities and the State between \$14 million and \$19 million a year over five years in transition costs.

Third, critics have an issue with the actuarial assumptions contained in the legislation as being light on details, and that each pension plan has a different assumed rate of return.

Finally, opponents have pointed out recoupment of the consolidation costs most likely would take 11 years to complete. What should you do?

1. Schedule a meeting with your local Illinois General Assembly representative and senator. Tell them RTAC is opposed to any pension consolidation. Use L.E.A.P Day 2020 as a reason to visit.
2. Tell your senators and representatives about the need for more ethics reform in Illinois and about OUR need to protect your CTPF healthcare program.
3. Continue to remind your legislative representatives that your economic security depends upon your CTPF pension and your healthcare subsidy. Those critical components enable you to continue to support the economies of Chicago and Illinois.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John A. Butterfield, RTAC President

First Vice-President Louella Preston and I attended the National Retired Teachers Association's Bi-annual Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C., October 21-23, 2019. This group is a part of the American Association of Retired People's Educational community. There were approximately one hundred participants from all areas of the United States.

While there were numerous interesting seminars on a variety of topics (elder financial exploitation – retirement security – advocacy strategies – recruiting group leaders – effective messaging), the top two were those concerning pensions and the dramatic rise in prescription drug costs. We were given the federal legislative climate and outlook in both of these areas.

All of us were interested in getting the nation's pulse concerning pensions, but the real hot-button issue concerned what the federal and state governments are doing or propose to do about drug costs.

Examples were given of people having to choose between food and drugs; they simply couldn't afford both. We were told that legislation is pending to rein in these abuses. We were also informed that a number of commonsense solutions have been proposed:

- Allow Medicare to negotiate prescription prices. Medicare is presently prohibited from doing this.
- Cap out-of-pocket costs.
- Improve access to lower cost generic drugs.



RTAC President John Butterfield and First Vice President Louella Preston met with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) in Washington, D.C., during the National Retired Teachers Association's Bi-Annual Conference.

On the evening of the second day, many people recommended that I take the guided twilight tour of the war memorials in our Capitol. I followed their advice and was glad I did.

All of the memorials were majestic, but two stood out for me.

I am a Vietnam Veteran and have been in Washington before; but I had never visited the Vietnam Memorial. It really gave me pause to see all of those names on the Wall, especially in the fading light of the day. I was also impressed by the Korean War Memorial. The evening light turned the statues of the men returning from battle an eerie green. Very thought provoking.

Louella and I spent the major portion of our last day visiting our U.S. Congressmen and women. Visits were complicated by the recent passing of long-time Democratic Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland. Many were not in their offices. We did leave information for our Illinois Senators Duckworth and Durbin.

One piece of good luck was had through the good connections of RTAC First

Vice-President Louella Preston. She is a long-time friend of Illinois Democratic Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and got us into her office for a long, friendly visit. I was especially pleased with this because she is my representative in Washington, D.C.

As we come to the conclusion of the calendar year, I ask you to put RTAC high on your list of charitable opportunities. I especially want you to consider donating to our Legal Defense Fund. We are not yet in the direct line of fire; but we are definitely in the line. Think

about all the talk presently in Springfield about consolidating pension groups and then think about how you can help. I have two suggestions.

The first originated with our late RTAC President Dave Peterson, who first proposed that each of us should contribute the amount of our AAI (Automatic Annual Increase) which will first appear in our January 2020 checks. Or, send a check for \$100 to be acknowledged as a President's Circle Donor. Other amounts above \$20 are always published in our *RTAC News Bulletin*. Please help all of us and yourself as well. We must be prepared.

Secondly, please participate in our L.E.A.P. Day 2020 and visit your Illinois General Assembly Representative and Senator. We have an extra day due to 2020 being a Leap Year. Take a fellow retired educator with you, and share the importance of your pension check for your economic security. Have your photo taken and send it along to RTAC. We will publish it on our website and/or in a *RTAC News Bulletin*.

Happy New Year! John Butterfield

# WEBMASTER'S MESSAGE WATCH OUT FOR PHONEY SCAMS



Roy E. Coleman

By now I hope everyone knows how to recognize phishing e-mail scams. It is especially true with the large increase in e-mails warning of expiring or updates to e-mail or bank accounts that ask you to log-in and verify your identity. If not, see my previous articles from September 2012 and January 2015 in the *RTAC News Bulletin* (<https://rtac.org/NB.html>). Spammers will often use 'Official' looking logos to try and convince you the message is a valid request.

A couple of years ago I saw an on-line ad that had a Consumers Reports logo on it so I forwarded it to Consumers reports. Within hours the logo was gone and I received a nice

Thank You from the fraud department at Consumers Reports.

Unfortunately, scammers are getting much better at convincing people to fall for scam phone calls. I have received recorded calls from people claiming to be from companies like Amazon, PayPal, or Discover telling me to call a particular number to receive a refund or special offer. **DO NOT** call that number. Instead, write down the number and call the company's fraud line directly (usually found on their website or on the back of your credit/debit card) and report it. If the end of the message says "Press (a number) to be removed from the calling list," **DON'T** do it. By pressing that number you indicated that a live person answered the phone and that you listened to the entire message. You may be removed from their list but they will probably sell your number as an 'active' number. Caller ID doesn't help because the displayed number can be spoofed (faked). I once received a call which, according to my caller ID, was from my own phone! Our caller ID displays the name and number and, rather than answer

calls from "Toll Free," "Unavailable," or a number we do not recognize, we let the call go to voice mail. Unfortunately, blocking a number doesn't really work as it only blocks the spoofed number.

One of the better messages that I have heard of to have as your voice message is: "You have reached ###-### (give just the first 6 digits). If you are human, hang up and call back within 2 minutes from the same number."

Remember that neither the IRS nor Social Security will call you. If your caller ID or a message claims to be from either of these, either immediately hang up or record/write down any phone number that you are asked to call and report it to the authorities. **DO NOT** call that number. Also, any request for you to buy gift cards to pay a debt or help a friend or relative is a scam.

I will present a seminar/workshop this spring on these issues. Please watch [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org) for details or email [rtacalert@gmail.com](mailto:rtacalert@gmail.com) and ask to be included in our workshop/seminar e-mail previews.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Arlene R. Crandall

It seems hard to believe that 20 years have passed since the current century began. As we look back, we reflect upon the events that have and continue to shape our lives during this period. However, we also need to look forward to what awaits us in 2020 and beyond. In February 2020, RTAC will observe the 94th Anniversary of its founding. From a group of ten, our

organization has grown and flourished over the past 94 years.

At present, we find ourselves diminished by the passing of many of our members, especially so in more recent years. We need to increase our membership to keep our organization strong. You can help by recruiting one former colleague who has as yet to become an RTAC member. If each current member brought in one new member we could double our strength in supporting the mission that our founders established – protecting our economic security.

Second, use the extra day in this Leap Year – February 29th- or another day of your choosing to meet with your Illinois General Assembly Senator and Representative at their local offices. Going

with fellow RTAC members who live near you is a powerful strategy.

Visiting with your legislators locally is convenient and provides an opportunity to 'educate' your Illinois General Assembly Representative and Senator with your insights. Use the form on page 4 as a "leave behind" so your visit is remembered. If you can, have photos taken with the legislators you visit and send it along to RTAC so we can include them in a future publication or on our website. Email [office@rtac.org](mailto:office@rtac.org) with your submissions.

Keep in mind that the 101st Illinois General Assembly includes many new legislators who are unfamiliar with the status of retired CPS educators who depend upon their pensions for their economic security.



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

**Moving?  
New Address?**  
Don't miss out! Use this form to share your new address and stay in touch!

## Membership Application/Change of Address Form

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.)

Did a current RTAC member refer you?  Yes  No

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

*If a current member recruits a new Life Member, both names will be entered into a drawing for special prizes. Winners will be announced at the 2020 Spring Luncheon.*

### JOIN OR RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

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

- Renew my annual membership – \$50 through December 31, 2020       Enroll me as a life member – \$300

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

### RTAC Alert E-mail Network

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 is terminated when you retire)

### Change of Address Notification

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

Please note effective date for new address:

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





# MAKE A DONATION: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A donation to the Legal Defense Fund, Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (CRTAF) or RTAC is a meaningful way to show your support for your pension or to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. All donations of \$20 or more will be recognized in print. Return this form with your payment to: RTAC, 111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2010, Chicago, Illinois 60602. *When contributing to more than one Fund, please write a separate check for each Fund.*



## 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. Donations of \$20 or more will be recognized 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

**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. *Donations of \$20 or more per honoree will be recognized in the News Bulletin.*

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. *Donations of \$20 or more per honoree will be recognized in the News Bulletin.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_

# NEW LIFE MEMBERS

## JULY 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2019

ROBERT BEDNAR

REGINALD BISHOP

SUSAN M BOHM

DELORES J BROOKS

MICHAEL E BRUNSON

IRIS CAVALLERY

ELIZABETH CHAPIN-PALDER

KIMSIENG CHHIM

SANDRA CROWTHER

GAY DIGIOVANNI

IRAIDA B DUGAN

GERALD V DUGAN

DOLORES T FETES

PATRICIA RAIN GIANNESCHI-  
MC NICHOLS

THOMAS HOLLATZ

NELDA JONES

LORI KLEIN-BLAZEK

PATRICIA LEE

CYNTHIA LIVINGSTON

EVELYN MACK

ELVIRA MARTINEZ

LAURA PAYTON

LUIS RAMIREZ

MARCIA ROGERS

HARPREET SINGH



## LEGAL DEFENSE FUND GIFTS

### JULY 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2019

*RTAC has established a legal defense fund for the purpose of initiating legal action to protect CTPF Pension benefits.*

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

Anonymous (1)

Blyth & Associates

Castellano, Enrique

Connolly, Angela P.

Gibbs, Edith A.

Gipson, Wanda J.

Hutchinson, Juanita

Logue, Katherine

Molis, Robert L.

Morgan, Peter III

Pollack-McDermott, Susan

Pollett, Mary Ann

Slavitt, Marlene

Spruel, Cora

Stork, Anna M.

#### OTHER GIFTS

Cannamore, Madie M.

Feischl, Catherine

Gasienica, John

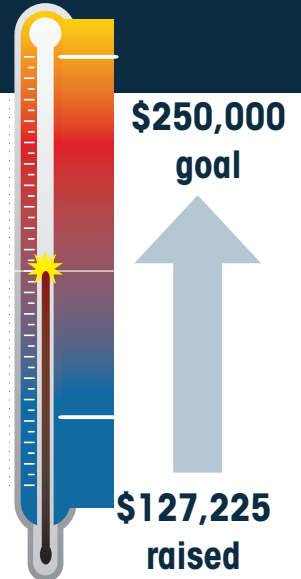
Johnson, Carolyn A.

Nesterowicz, Paul J.

Patek, Donna

Semisch, Martha Del Campo

Wilmot, Martin C.



## END OF YEAR AND LEGACY GIFTS

Your donations make the work of RTAC possible. As the end of the year nears, please consider a gift to RTAC so that we can continue the fight to safeguard your pension and ancillary benefits.

### MAKE A GIFT TODAY

Honor a friend or loved one with a donation to CRTAF or recognize someone truly special with a lifetime membership to RTAC. Gifts of \$20 or more are printed in the *News Bulletin*.

### A LASTING LEGACY

Naming RTAC or the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (CRTAF) in your estate plans or as a beneficiary of your CTPF death benefit, enables RTAC to provide assistance to retired Chicago Public School educators who find themselves in constrained financial circumstances. CRTAF provides monthly grants-in-aid and one-time grants to assist our former colleagues to address basic economic needs.

### MAKING A DONATION

Find donation forms for the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund, the Legal Aid Fund and RTAC and on page 9. If you're interested in gifting your death benefit, contact CTPF Member Services at 312.641.4464 and ask about the process of designating your beneficiary. For other Legacy gifts, contact Arlene Crandall, Executive Director at RTAC for more information.

# CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND GIFTS

JULY 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2019

# RTAC GIFTS

JULY 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2019

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Berry, Aretta	Bernice Lewis
Biehr, Beverly K.	Martha Racich
Bohme, Alan	Alan Berkson, Harry Couris
Butterfield, John A.	Bob Bures, Scott Feaman, Don Kanner, Pat McAvoy
Castellano, Enrique	Richard Kowalczyk
Clayton, Ronald K.	Richard Bradley, Robert A. Murphy, Bernard Spillman
Connolly, Angela P.	Harry Couris, Rudy Rinka
Cosme, James & Mary	Isabel Schechter
Cox, Mary Ann	Donna Besser, Theodore Besser
Coyle, Karen	Curtis C. Coyle
Dallas, Ted	David T. Peterson
Deasy, Delores	Reginald Brown
Green, Thomas R.	Luther Bedford, Bob Hambrick, Dr. Larry Hawkins, Lewis Thorp
Guardi, Constance	William Borders, Martin Wojtalewicz
Hill, Harold & Trudy	Aloysius B. Bottom, Nancy A. Makowski, David Watkins, James L. Wilson
Koch, Jewel B.	Robert Konen, Audrey Mivelaz, Beverly Thomas
Lehman, Barbara	Diane Rohan, Katrina Young
Metz, Roberta	Helen Gallagher, Sam Nowinson, Lois Schmidt, Howard Sloan
Moscinski, Donna & John	Kenneth Cink Wardell Vaughn

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Newton, Johnnie M.	Frances Hale, Albert Pirtle, Melvin Walker, Ella B. Watkins, Odessa Wilson
Pollett, Mary Ann	Beverly Tunney, Jerome Tunney
Skirha, Rose Ann	Betty Quinn
Stork, Anna M.	Marge Bruzzini, Sharon Joy Jackson, Dominic Savickas, Terri Zieman
Weiss Narea, Amy	Denise Knox, Luba Markewycz

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous (4)	General Purpose
Abarbanell, C.D.	General Purposes
Aguirre, Dorothy	General Purpose
Calderon, Esperanza	General Purposes
Collymore, Aretas G.	General Purposes
Elkins, Janet A.	General Purposes
Gipson, Wanda J.	General Purposes
Harris, Sherelen A.	General Purposes
Hutchinson, Juanita	General Purposes
Johnson, Carolyn A.	General Purposes
Macola, Carol Ann	General Purposes
Markus, Ann	General Purpose
Merwin, Peter Matthew	Celebrate James Matthews
Patek, Donna	General Purposes
Roder, Cindy	General Purposes
Rosen, Sandra	General Purposes
Semisch, Martha	General Purposes
Spruel, Cora	General Purposes
Taylor, Grace M.	General Purposes
Thomas, Janus	General Purposes
Townes, Carolyn D.	General Purposes

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous (3)	Jessica Roza-Cieciel
Ammons, Arrie Jr.	Linda O'Conner Ammons
Berry, Aretta	Yvonne Otis
Bladdy, Charlen L.	Roslyn Groot
Connolly, Angela P.	Lois K. Schmidt
Friend, Richard & Hannelore	Margaret A. Cooper
Gearon, James M.	Charlene Payne
Klasser, Tanya	Barbara Connolly
Lieberman, Carl & Alice	Corene Frick
Merwin, Peter Matthew	William Borders
Nakayama, Jolene	Jerome Tunney
O'Keefe, Peg	Helen Lyons, Rose Marici, Pat Lasar, Maureen McMahon
Pollett, Mary Ann	Powhatan Collins, William Finch, David Peterson, Walter Pilditch
Pruchnicki, Carol Lynn	Michael Pruchnicki, Michaeline Rojek
Remahl, Daniel F.	Bob Konen, Clara Spaulding
Stork, Anna M.	Isabella Byrne & departed Reavis Elem. Colleagues

DONOR	GENERAL PURPOSES
Anonymous (1)	
Gipson, Wanda J.	
Johnson, Carolyn A.	
Martin, Barbara J.	
Patek, Donna	
Rhodes, Sonja Y.	
Risner, Richard W.	
Spruel, Cora	

# 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
AARP Experience Corp	Chicago-Central	Kevin S. Smith	312-660-8664
AgeOptions	Near West Suburbs		708-383-0258
Albany Park Community Center	Chicago-Northwest	Claire Gilbertsen	773-509-5657x441
American Red Cross (CPR & First aid)	Chicago Central	LaToya Sewell-Hall	312-729-6111
Blue Gargoyle Community Services	Chicago	Ashley J. Hobbs	773-955-4108x308
Bright Star Community Outreach	Chicago-Near South	Nichole Carter	773-373-5220
Catholic Charities (Tutor)	Cook and Lake Counties	Albert Curtis Jr.	312-655-7412
CCIS (Cnsl for Int'l Stdnts)	Chicago-North Suburbs	Sylvia Alvino	847-328-7516
Chicago Architectural Foundation	Chicago	Barbara Hrbek	312-922-3432x225
Chicago Cultural Center	Chicago Central	Marianne Wolf	312-744-7096
Chicago Foundation for Education	Chicago	Sarah Hoppe	312-670-2033
Chicago Humanities Festival	Chicago Central	Annie Tully	312-661-1028
Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Chicago		312-294-3160
Chicago West Side Christian School	Chicago-Near West	Lydia Guanga	773-542-0663
Christopher House (Youth Tutoring/Literacy & Adult Education)	Chicago North	Alicia M. Villagomez	773-922-7500x27252
Comfort Hospice & Palliative Care	Chicago-Northwest	Cheryl Cloh	847-983-8257
Community Animal Rescue Effort	Skokie	Heather Brown	847-705-2653
Count Me In!	Chicago	William N. Black	773-381-6024
Cycle	Chicago	Melinda Brand	312-664-1194x14
DuSable Museum of African American History	Chicago South	Kay McCrimon	773-947-0600x239
Erie Neighborhood House	Chicago Central	Cassie Griffith	773-542-7617

# 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."**

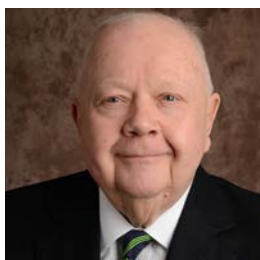
**The "Other Opportunities" page on the RTAC website may also list requests for volunteers for specific events like the Chicago Marathon, election workers and docents for various museums along with occasional requests for information on the Chicago Public Schools.**

Agency	Location	Contact Person	Phone
Escorted Transportation Services	Arlington Hts.	Dallas Ann Tomlin	847-222-9227
Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust	Chicago South/Oak Park	Kent Bartram	708-848-1976
Friends of the Parks	Chicago Central	Laura Ronneberg	312-922-3307
George Armstrong School	Chicago Northwest	Kim Bendig	773-534-2150
GiGi's Playhouse in Fox Valley	Fox Valley	Katie Vaughan	630-778-7529
Glenkirk (Programs for the Developmentally Disabled)	Northbrook	Roberta M. Rekus	847-400-8569
Ill. Parents Anonymous (Parental Counseling)	Chicago	Melinda Crosby	312-649-7301
Inner Voice Learning Center (Leadership Building)	Chicago near West	Antoinette Toliver	312-666-8110
JCB School	Chicago	Amber Egelston	773-467-3746
Junior Achievement Chicago	Chicago	Cherie Russ	312-715-1300x269
LaRabida Children's Hospital	Chicago Jackson Park	Judi Blakemore	773-256-5985
Lifelong Learning Institute at National Lewis U.	North Suburbs	Joan Marks	224-233-2366
Little Brothers Friends of Elderly	Chicago	Geri Mead	312-455-1000
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian	Evanston	Kathleen McDonald	847-475-1030
PAWS Chicago	Chicago Near North	Melissa Ziberna	773-687-4722
Purple Asparagus	Chicago	Rachael Morkunas	312-906-7622
Roseland Community Hospital	Chicago Roseland	Jennifer Seldon	773-995-3470
School Children's Aid Society	Chicago	Margaret Paul	773-247-1311
Sierra Club's Inner City Outings	Chicago-North		847-274-0127
The Grove National Historic Landmark	Glenview	Elizabeth Cline	224-521-2098
Vintage Market at The Grove	Glenview	Elizabeth Cline	224-521-2098

Find a complete listing of recent obituaries in our *News Bulletin*, available exclusively to RTAC members. Find a membership form on page 8 and join today.

## Robert F. "Bob" Bures 1939-2019

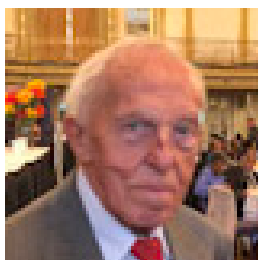
The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC) and the Chicago Retired Teachers Aid



Fund (CRTAF) were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Robert F. "Bob" Bures on Monday, October 21, 2019. Bob served as the Executive Director of RTAC and the CRTAF from 2002-2012. Bob was a graduate of Tonti Elementary and Lindblom High Schools. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology and his M.A. in History from Chicago Teachers College. His 30-year Chicago public school career included teaching History at Morgan Park, Harlan and Steinmetz High Schools. He then proceeded to administrative positions at Corliss High School, Oriole Park and Prussing Elementary Schools, and Prosser Vocational High School. He was active in many civic and community organizations and served as an elected trustee for the Village of Western Springs. At the time of his passing, Bob was a Pensioner Trustee at the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund. RTAC and CRTAF extend condolences to his family, colleagues, and friends.

## Richard "Dick" Lockhart 1924-2019

It is with deep sadness that the RTAC family reports the passing of Richard (Dick) Lockhart, RTAC's longtime



lobbyist and advocate, following a short illness on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Dick's ethical dedication to the economic security of Illinois public agency retirees, including RTAC, was legendary. His career spanned nearly 60 years and 10 governors. He retired in 2018 at the age of 93. During his long career, his strong work ethic earned him the respect of his peers. He distinguished himself by promoting the establishment of Illinois Mental Health Service Boards beginning in 1963.

Dick was a patriot and veteran who fought with the Army in the Battle of the Bulge, and then endured five months in a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp. Born and raised in Indiana, he made Chicago his home where he was a staunch supporter of the Chicago Public Schools which both his children attended.

RTAC extends its sincere condolences to his children as well as his extensive professional family and friends.

## Grace Scipio 1925-2019

The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago is saddened to report the passing of Mrs. Grace Scipio, a



long-time member of RTAC and dedicated member of the RTAC Service Committee.

Mrs. Scipio, born in Atlanta, Georgia, earned her bachelors' degree from Spelman College and a masters degree from the University of Chicago. She began her teaching career in 1948 at the Doolittle Elementary. She was assigned to the Burke Elementary in 1950 and then transferred to Tanner. She taught grades three through eight throughout her 39-year CPS career. Following her 1987 retirement, Grace joined RTAC and became a long-term, active member of the Service Committee. Until recently, she faithfully worked with the group that meets monthly to acknowledge our senior former colleagues with birthday and holiday greetings. Her commitment to the significance of education will continue through her legacy bequest to her alma mater Spelman College. May her memory remain a blessing to all who knew her.



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

## 2020 SPRING LUNCHEON/MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

**MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020**

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 building is handicapped accessible. Discounted parking for hotel self-park is available.

### *Spring Program*

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon with fellowship and speakers who will update members on the status of RTAC, our pensions, and other matters of interest to retired educators. Our Spring 2020 program will commemorate the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which gave women the right to vote.

## 2020 SPRING LUNCHEON AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING RESERVATION FORM

USE THIS FORM TO REGISTER FOR THE LUNCHEON AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING. PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATION TO RTAC TODAY. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RTAC 2020 SPRING LUNCHEON. This form is also available at [www.rtac.org](http://www.rtac.org).

### MEMBER INFORMATION

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Enclosed is my check number # \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_

in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ member tickets at \$50 each

Meal Preferences \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ guest tickets at \$55 each

Member's Meal	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Chicken</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Veg.</u>	
Paid Guest's Meal	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Chicken</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Veg.</u>	Guest's Name: _____
Paid Guest's Meal	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Chicken</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Veg.</u>	Guest's Name: _____
Paid Guest's Meal	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Chicken</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Veg.</u>	Guest's Name: _____

### WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE WALKS-INS OR MEAL CHANGES AT THE HOTEL

**WE URGE YOU TO MAKE AN EARLY RESERVATION. RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK FOR THE LUNCHEON NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020, TO: RTAC, 111 NORTH WABASH AVENUE, SUITE 2010, CHICAGO, IL 60602-2949.**

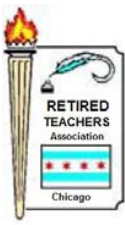
All tickets will be held at the door. No REFUNDS for any reason. RSVP Deadline is Wednesday, May 6, 2020. No exceptions.

Not a member but want the member rate? Complete the membership form found on page 8 (also available online 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.

### 2020 SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING ONLY RESERVATION FORM

Complete this if you plan to attend the RTAC general membership meeting and do not want to join us for the luncheon. All members are welcome to attend, but reservations are required on or before Monday, May 4, 2020. Bring a government issued photo ID.

I am attending the membership meeting, but not the luncheon. I understand that admittance to the meeting is at 1:00 p.m.



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)

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"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.

## RTAC Protects Pensions

### RENEW, JOIN, OR INVITE A FRIEND TODAY

An investment in RTAC is an investment in your retirement security. Join or renew your membership in RTAC today and share your support with our powerful group of active and engaged educators. Already a member?

Encourage a friend to join RTAC or purchase a membership for a special holiday gift. We're stronger together.

Need to renew? Find a membership form on page 8.

### RECRUIT A FRIEND AND WIN

If a current member recruits a new Life Member, both names will be entered into a drawing for special prizes. Winners will be announced at the 2020 Spring Luncheon. Renew today and enjoy these benefits throughout 2020:

- Access to affordable dental insurance, and discounts on vision purchases
- Free educational seminars
- *News Bulletin* and e-mail Alerts
- Fellowship, networking, leadership, volunteer, and outreach opportunities
- Legislative advocacy on behalf of members

## RTAC CALENDAR

### January

- 1 Automatic Annual Increases (3% COLA) for CTPF pensioners and new health insurance rates for CTPF plans take effect

### April

- 15 2020 Armstrong Award nominations due, see page 3
- 30 RTAC Director applications due, see page 3

### May

- 18 RTAC's 94th Annual Spring Luncheon at the Hilton Chicago, see page 15

