



RETIRETEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

SINCE 1926

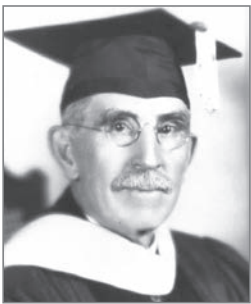
VOL. LXXVII | NO. 1

NEWS BULLETIN

SPRING 2021

RTAC Celebrates 95 Years

Since its founding in 1926, the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago has provided vital services and advocacy to retired Chicago Public School educators. RTAC turns 95 in 2021, and we are taking the opportunity to reflect upon and explore the milestones in our history.



James E. Armstrong, RTAC founder

1926

Retired Teachers Association of Chicago organizes to protect retired Chicago Public School educators' pensions and other benefits. Dr. James E. Armstrong begins his 10-year tenure as President which concluded with his death in 1936.

1926

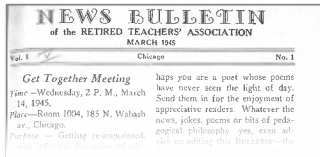
Opened an office at 185 N. Wabash Ave., with the Chicago Principals Club.

1926

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

1945

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



1947

Moved to an independent office at 220 South State Street.

1947

Worked with Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus of AARP to establish the National Retired Teachers Association. RTAC holds a charter membership.



Ethel Percy Andrus the founder of AARP

1981

Sponsored the election of the first Pensioner Trustee on the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund Board of Trustees. Edna C. Fanning was elected to represent Pensioners on the CTPF Board of Trustees.



Edna C. Fanning served as RTAC President 1981-1982 and was the first elected CTPF Pensioner Trustee.



1986

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

1966

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

1951

RTAC organized as a not-for-profit corporation.

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.

2002

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



RTAC on line!

Quick Links

- [Archives](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Just for Fun](#)
- [Lobbying](#)
- [Membership](#)

continued on page 5

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

John A. Butterfield
President

Louella B. Preston
First Vice President

Linda R. Williams
Second Vice President

Sylvia F. Asllani
Secretary

Hubert C. Jackson, Jr.
Treasurer

Patricia B. Kubistal
Immediate Past President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arlene R. Crandall

ELECTED DIRECTORS

2019-2021*

Virginia Bautista-
White

Katherine
Konopasek

Maria Fresse-Giffels

Rita M. Naughton

Kevin B. Huber

Elaine L. Schain

Patrick Keating

Dianne I. Yonkers

2020-2022*

Roy Coleman

Bernie S. Eshoo

Juanita R. Jordan

Raphael A. Juss

Carlene Lutz

Mary E. Puente

Mary Sharon Reilly

Maria J. Rodriguez

*RTAC Directorships were extended one year due to the pandemic.

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

PAST PRESIDENTS

Vaughn J. Barber

Marcella L. Morrison

Ethel Philpott

Ned L. McCray

Edward A. O'Farrell

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)

425 S. Financial Place, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60605-1000 1-312-641-4464

CTPF Health Insurance Information

1-312-641-4464

Annual Membership \$50

Lifetime Membership \$300

Table of Contents

- 1 RTAC HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
Celebrating 95 years.
- 3 RTAC 2021 ELECTIONS**
Seeking nominees for five officer and eight director positions.
- 3 ARMSTRONG AWARDS**
- 3 PET INSURANCE UPDATE**
- 3 RTAC CELEBRATES 95TH ANNIVERSARY**
Rights of Chicago educators are being protected.
- 4 DENTAL/VISION COVERAGE**
- 4 COVID-19 UPDATES**
Including vaccine update.
- 4 FREE WEBINARS**
Kick off to Spring 2021 webinars.
- 6 SPOTLIGHT ON SPRINGFIELD**
- 7 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**
Join, Renew, Refer a Friend today to receive the benefits of membership.
- 8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**
By Arlene R. Crandall
- 9 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
By John A. Butterfield
- 10 DONATION FORM**
One form, three ways to make a difference!
- 11 LEGAL DEFENSE FUND GIFTS**
Including President's Circle gifts
- 12 DONATIONS**
Acknowledging gifts to CRTAF and RTAC.
- 12 NEW LIFE MEMBERS**
- 13 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

RTAC 2021 Elections

Are you interested in getting more involved with RTAC? This spring RTAC is seeking nominees for the five officer positions – President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary plus eight directorships for the biennium 2022-23. Per the RTAC Bylaws, any member in Good Standing is encouraged to self-nominate for any of the positions. Qualifications include:

1. Computer competency (either Windows or Apple)
2. Regular access to the Internet to send/receive information.
3. Ability to work collaboratively.
4. Attendance at monthly meetings (generally the first Wednesday of the month).
5. Willingness to recruit CTPF annuitants to join RTAC.
6. Sharing constructive ideas to support the organization's goals.
7. Participating in activities which focus upon the organization's mission.
8. Applications are available at www.rtac.org and are due by 3:00 p.m. on or before April 30, 2021. Submit nominations to Arlene Crandall at office@rtac.org

The RTAC Nominations Committee expects to interview the candidates in late Spring 2021. It is anticipated that the interviews will be conducted via Zoom to ensure everyone's safety. Information about the candidates for the various positions listed above will be included in the Fall 2021 issue of the RTAC News Bulletin. Should the COVID-19 pandemic preclude our ability to conduct RTAC's Fall 2021 elections in conjunction with our Fall luncheon, we are exploring and reviewing alternative options. Our goal is to ensure that everyone's health is protected as we go forward.

In addition to and in conjunction with that goal, our 2021 RTAC Board meetings are being conducted in even numbered months via Zoom. We are also conducting RTAC's complimentary seminars and Committee meetings via Zoom and phone. We are looking forward to the time when we are able to resume our traditional activities in person. For now, the pandemic situation requires that we proceed cautiously.

Armstrong Awards

On February 3, 2021, the RTAC Board voted to "pause" awarding of the Armstrong Award due to the pandemic. We anticipate that we will be able to continue the tradition of recognizing RTAC members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, dedication and service to RTAC at the Spring 2022 Luncheon.

Pet Insurance Update

RTAC is still working with our MetLife partners to be able to offer access to RTAC members to acquire health insurance for their pets. The details have as yet to be finalized; but it is anticipated that this will be available as of Fall 2021. Premiums and coverage will be individualized based upon the pet's age, breed, gender, and health report as provided by one's veterinarian. The RTAC plan will be exclusive to RTAC members for their canine and feline family members.



RTAC Celebrates 95th 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.

Our coverstory details some milestones that we have celebrated on the path to 95. Our celebration for our 95th Anniversary will look different from our 90th – when a festive luncheon helped us usher in and celebrate our 9th decade. We hope to have a belated, but no less festive celebration at our Spring 2022 luncheon.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RTAC

For 95 years, RTAC has protected the rights of Chicago's educators. Consider honoring RTAC's anniversary with a special donation. Check the birthday box on the donation form and your name will be included in a special Birthday Card in the next issue of the *News Bulletin*.



Dental/Vision Coverage

RTAC provides its members with access to two MetLife dental PPO plan options, one modestly priced option and a more comprehensive plan. The premiums for both plan options which have been in effect since 2016 are being extended through November 30, 2022. Using in-network providers provides additional benefits. Enrollment is available at any time during the year. Rates are pro-rated, and billing is semi-annual. RTAC's plans are exclusively available to RTAC members, their spouses, and children under age 26. RTAC members enrolled in either of the MetLife dental plans also have access to the complimentary eyewear program which provides them with discounts for eyeglasses, contact lenses, non-prescription sunglasses, and LASIK procedures.

Covid-19 Updates

RTAC has continued to operate throughout the pandemic, with limited staffing and COVID-19 safety protocols, to continue to field questions and connect members with resources. RTAC understood from the beginning that staying in touch during a lockdown and pandemic would be difficult on members' mental health; and has worked hard to keep members connected. While in-person events have been postponed until it is safe to hold them, RTAC continues to hold seminars via Zoom and phone for members, and increased information provided by email, social media, and the website. Work on behalf of members continues in Springfield, where our advocates continue to engage and educate legislators. RTAC's Board meetings have moved to the Zoom platform, so the business of the organization continues uninterrupted.



VACCINE UPDATE

As the vaccine roll out continues, many senior members have had difficulty accessing vaccines and making appointments. Finding a vaccine may take some patience and persistence. There are currently four ways to receive a vaccine: through your healthcare provider (including a hospital or health system where you have received care in the past year), a pharmacy (Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, and Mariano's are all offering vaccines and have online registration systems), an employer, or an appointment on the [zocdoc.com/vaccine](https://www.zocdoc.com/vaccine) website. If you do not have access to the internet, reach out to your primary care physician's office. They may help you navigate the vaccination process or register you through their office's network. Check sites regularly for appointments as new ones will be added as vaccines become more available. The City of Chicago anticipates moving to phase 2, with vaccines available to all people over age 16 on May 31.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19 SCAMMERS

Beware of scammers. During COVID-19, scammers have been posing as both contract tracers and vaccine brokers. Remember, the vaccine is free to all and you should never be asked for a credit card or Medicare number over the phone to reserve a vaccination spot. Providers do not charge a "processing fee" for vaccinations and anyone requesting a fee is likely a scammer. Use caution when sharing information over the phone or internet. Once you are vaccinated, do not share proof of vaccines on social media. If you are contacted by a contact tracer, it's important to remember that legitimate contacts will not ask for your Medicare number. If you suspect COVID-19 health care fraud, report it immediately and file a complaint online at tips.oig.hhs.gov or call 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477).

Free Zoom Seminars

RTAC is pleased to provide its members with a series of complimentary seminars in Spring 2021. All seminars begin at 10:00 a.m.



Call (312) 750-1522

between 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on business days to register to receive the Zoom and/or phone access information.

APRIL 21 COVID-19 AND YOUR ESTATE

The pandemic has underscored the need for estate planning. Blyth and Associates' attorneys will explain how to set forth your wishes for the future. They will discuss Financial and Medical Power of Attorney documents as well as Advanced Medical Directives, asset distribution, how and who will provide support when you need it, implications of the SECURE Act, etc.

MAY 4 AVOIDING SENIOR SCAMS

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission reports that senior scams reached record levels in 2020. Protecting yourself and your assets from scammers is vitally important. Steve Stall of Euclid Managers will share how to identify these illicit activities and the techniques by which we can protect ourselves from these scammers who have already defrauded so many.

MAY 26 LONG TERM CARE UPDATE

It is important to consider how one will maintain a positive quality of life as one ages. Janice Axelrod, a licensed LTC agent, will be presenting a complimentary seminar to RTAC members with the most current information available about a variety of LTC programs .

RTAC Celebrates 95 Years

RTAC Highlights and Accomplishments

Continued from cover

2003

Initiated action to address members' rising health insurance costs.

2010

Established the RTAC Alert e-mail system. Alerts notify registered RTAC members about urgent legislative or policy matters which require immediate action.

2012

Defeated a proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution which would have compromised all Illinois public agency retirees' annual cost of living increases.



2012

Achieved success in a seven-year legal battle which protected the pensions of 3,700 CTPF members who were threatened when CPS tried to reclaim pension payments.



RTAC office at 111 Wabash

2013

Moved to a new office at 111 N. Wabash with additional meeting space.

2013

Began offering complimentary seminars for members on topics of interest to RTAC members.

2014

Created a Legal Defense Fund to cover expenses needed to address legislation that would adversely affect retired CPS' educators' pensions and health insurance support.

2017

RTAC supporters were instrumental in the passage of legislation that reinstated the real estate tax levy to provide funding for the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund, effective 2018.

2016

RTAC testifies in Springfield, Ill., in support of legislation to restore the tax levy.



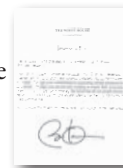
2016

RTAC initiates campaign to raise awareness of legislative issues with Legislative Education and Advocacy to Protect Pension (L.E.A.P) Day encouraging members to reach out to Illinois legislators in support of reinstating the pension tax levy and other initiatives.



2016

RTAC celebrated the 90th Anniversary of its founding. President Obama recognized the occasion with a commemorative letter and a celebratory luncheon was held.



2015

Pursued a legislative agenda to restore the CTPF pension levy diverted to CPS in 1995, and to stabilize the health insurance

2020

Applied for and secured financial support from the National Retired Teachers Association to purchase equipment needed to conduct its activities via Zoom, which included its Board meetings and free seminars for RTAC members.

2020

RTAC holds first Zoom Board of Director's meetings and seminars.

2020

Began creating CDs with audio recordings of RTAC Board meetings.

2021

RTAC celebrates the 95th Anniversary of its establishment to protect retired CPS educators' economic security.



Spotlight on Springfield

By John D. Carr and Matt Maloney, RTAC's Legislative Advocates

The new General Assembly was sworn in on January 13, 2021. It includes twenty-three new members. Since that time, six senators have retired and their replacements have been appointed.

After inauguration, members of the Illinois House of Representatives elected Rep. Chris Welch (D-Hillside) as the new Speaker of the House. He is the first African American Speaker of the House in Illinois' history.

Welch succeeds Speaker Michael Madigan who was the longest-serving leader of a state legislative body in the country, having served as House Speaker in 35 of the last 37 years. He has resigned his positions as 22nd District Representative and chairmanship of the Illinois Democratic Party.

BUSY LAME DUCK SESSION

The Legislature convened its "lame duck" session in the second week of January. Twenty-three bills passed both houses and were sent to the Governor. Three of the four pillars of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' (ILBC) agenda were advanced during the brief session. Legislation on the fourth pillar, Health Care and Human Services, will be addressed during the 2021 regular session of the General Assembly which is to reconvene in March.

The Economic Access and Equity Pillar creates new commissions and requires that the state conduct racial diversity assessments when the state makes purchases.

The Criminal Justice Reform Pillar legislation includes provisions to increase police accountability, eliminate cash bail, institute crisis intervention measures, and the modernization of sentencing laws.

The Education Equity Pillar legislation creates new programs to support early childhood education, including creating

a task force to support equitable environments in Illinois schools. It also establishes the Equity in Higher Education Act which outlines the General Assembly's support for the IBHE strategic plan to close equity gaps and promote affordability to increase post-secondary degree attainment. The legislation also implements a Diverse Educator Pipeline to address teacher shortages.

It is anticipated that the Governor will sign these bills.

The session concluded without a vote on a bill that would give the Chicago Public Schools an elected Board of Education. Advocates stated they will continue to pursue this initiative.

As of early February over one thousand bills were introduced and thousands more were anticipated prior to the end of February. The House and the Senate have canceled February sessions and adopted rules to allow remote legislative activity. In-person meetings are expected in March.

The picture of how the budget will evolve during the pandemic is still unclear. Illinois lawmakers must determine how to address the budget shortfall as well as to how to pay for the debt incurred in 2020. Governor Pritzker's February 17, 2021 Budgetary Address provided his vision for Illinois' short-term and long-term fiscal situation.

Previously, Governor Pritzker announced \$700 million in cuts and has requested that the General Assembly add an additional \$1.3 billion in reductions. Recent news reports have indicated that the pandemic's impact on State revenue was not as severe as feared. Budget reductions will be needed; but the severity level is unknown.

There has not been any additional public discussion on new revenue sources

including an increase in the State's Income or Service taxes. Lawmakers have previously indicated a reluctance to decrease or skip any pension obligations for this year. Also, the State is also still awaiting information regarding the type and level of anticipated Federal funding support for States and municipalities.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Illinois has marked the one-year anniversary of the state's first known diagnosis of COVID-19 which recently surpassed one million cases. With the decline in case numbers most regions are returning to limited indoor dining and other congregate activities.

As of February 2021, Illinois was in phase 1B of the vaccination process which includes persons over 65 and frontline essential workers. There has been frustration and confusion regarding the implementation of the vaccination program. The National Guard is providing vaccination support to medical professionals in the administration of the vaccines. The federal government has committed to providing the states with three weeks advance notice of the dosage quantities they are to receive. As the quantity of vaccine dosages increases, there will be more mass vaccination sites.

Local health departments have a considerable role in the administration of the vaccine. All of the organizations charged with the administration of the vaccines have been hampered by the supply limitations.

An uncertain budget, a delayed session, and an ongoing pandemic lead to much uncertainty as we move further into the Spring 2021 session. Many outsized challenges are ahead for the legislature and its many new leaders. We wish them courage and luck.



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 next RTAC luncheon.

JOIN OR RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is my check number _____ dated _____ made payable to RTAC.

- Renew my annual membership – \$50 through December 31, 20____
- 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) _____ / _____ / _____

Executive Director's Message



Arlene R. Crandall

Although 2020 was a difficult year due to the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its wide range of serious impacts on our world, our lives, our economy and other problems, 2021 has also arrived with its own set of challenges. Securing the COVID-19 vaccines is presently front and center for most of us. However, there have been some positive outcomes from the effects of the pandemic.

Some heartening results have come from the situation. The education process for our children during the pandemic has provided some significant positive impacts. Two that come to mind immediately relate to having education take place remotely at home:

1. Teachers are appreciated for the multitude of aspects involved in planning for and delivering instruction as well as assessing students' learning outcomes. In short, parents now are aware of the complexity and dexterity that teachers use as they work with children to help them master the targeted learning outcomes that society expects children to acquire.

2. Families have gotten closer as a result of spending more time together whether it is doing chores, cooking, appreciating one's environment, working from home, etc. Children now see what their parents do to provide the resources that are needed to operate a home and provide the healthy and nurturing environment which families need to exist.

Some other positive outcomes have included communication with colleagues and family members via Zoom, video conferences with healthcare providers, accessing what previously were in person events virtually, and generally helping one another navigate the different contexts in which we exist now.

In 2021, RTAC is pleased to celebrate its 95th Anniversary. We are fortunate to be able to continue our mission to protect the economic security of retired CPS educators. We were founded in 1926 as a result of CPS' unwarranted dismissal of 70 teachers who had reached age 70 or above on December 9, 1925. Our founders were ten men led by Dr. James E. Armstrong who fought this and were able to overturn that action and secure the reinstatement of those 70 as well as others who had similarly been terminated from their positions during the spring of 1926. This also led to the development of pension law which started in 1927 thanks to a Lindblom High School teacher who served in the Illinois General Assembly. In the early 1900s, the ILGA only met during the summer so Mr. Miller served Chicago as an educator and as a legislator.

Given the challenges of 2020, you will be pleased to know that during RTAC's 94th year, we were able to maintain an ongoing office presence in spite of the pandemic.

The power of communication sustains us. RTAC received kind and thoughtful responses from some of the 1,850 senior members who were sent 'Thinking of you' cards in Fall 2020.

1. Staff has been in our office on a staggered basis which enables us to have an in-person accessible presence weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to provide support or assistance with a variety of issues that RTAC members and prospective retirees need to address.
2. We were blessed by the generosity of our members. For example, during the month of January 2021, 92 members contributed varying amounts to our Legal Defense Fund totaling \$12,004.86 to bring the amount in that account to \$156,897.
3. Of RTAC's 1,257 annual members, 901 individuals paid their 2021 dues between October and December 2020. This is gratifying as we proceed with 8,217 life and annual members as 2021 begins. Unfortunately, 308 members passed during 2020 so we are consistently striving to secure memberships from recent as well as veteran retirees. Hope you can assist with this also. Although our semi-annual luncheons were paused, we were able to prepare and issue our three times per year *RTAC News Bulletin*.

President's Message

John A. Butterfield, RTAC President

Hello All-

I was in the Navy during the Vietnam Conflict. My ship was a tanker, assigned to the American fleet that patrolled the Vietnam coast from north in the Gulf of Tonkin to the southern end in the Bay of Bengal. It was tough, boring work – sometimes dangerous – that seemed to never end. Without exception, the approximately two hundred-plus homesick sailors on board struggled with loneliness and isolation.

That routine was occasionally broken when a ship we were refueling would be carrying mail for us. Such was the case in the South China Sea when letters from home arrived. I was standing near the stern of the ship enjoying a letter from my mother when an older sailor whom I slightly knew came out on deck. He walked to the rail, climbed up on it and jumped into the sea.

All on deck were frozen for a moment; did we really believe what we had just seen? Then one sailor threw a life ring into the water while another called the bridge to signal “man overboard.” Our tanker was a large vessel and did not immediately respond to the urgent turning of the wheel. We could see our victim calmly treading water, the life preserver floating about ten feet from him. This scene continued for what seemed a lifetime until the victim saw the bow of our ship turning toward him. At that instant, he calmly put his face in the water and drowned before our rescue team could reach him.

All aboard were shaken by this event. The big question was WHY? Bad news from home or had the solitary routine simply become too much? No one knew, but the majority of us felt guilt because we hadn't done more to connect to our late shipmate. We all vowed to do better going forward in our shipboard

connections and for a time we did. I wish I could say we were permanently successful in our endeavor, but the rigor of the work we were doing left little time for anything else and we eventually lost sight of our connection goal.

I tell this tale because I believe it relates to where we all are right about now. We are frazzled because our normal routines have been upset for so long. We want our regular lives back and an end to this pandemic. What we're all feeling is normal, but we can't give into it. Try reaching out to someone you know who may be more isolated than others (think relative, friend, neighbor, acquaintance from our teaching days, you name it). Make a call, write a letter, organize a Zoom meeting. You never know whom you might help. I definitely believe it will help the doer as much if not more than the person assisted. Give it a try.

I turn now to a happier thought. I believe we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's not quite here yet, but it's definitely on the way. At our February 3, 2021 RTAC Board meeting, more than one half of our officers and directors raised their hands to affirm that they had received their first vaccine shot. I was one of them, but I must credit my daughter-in-law for keeping me on the right track.

She is more than good with computers so when my first scheduled appointment was cancelled (no reason given than “other”), she got busy and located another place for me to go the very next morning and signed me up. Her advice to me (and you) is to look away from the city for opportunities. When one arises, take the soonest one possible and don't be afraid to drive. Chances are you won't be “othered” if you act quickly. Good luck!

We are proceeding with RTAC business as best we can during the pandemic.



John A. Butterfield

*Make a call, write a letter,
organize a Zoom meeting.*

*You never know whom
you might help. I definitely
believe it will help the doer
as much if not more than the
person assisted.*

Check this bulletin for information concerning our RTAC election this year, what's going on in Springfield that may affect us, three seminars that will be accessible via Zoom and/or phone and other items of interest. Stay connected.

I close by asking all of you to continue to financially support this organization. My personal favorite is the Legal Defense Fund. It's growing, but has not yet reached our desired goal of \$250,000.00.

Consider a donation so that we're ready when the threat arises.

Spring is coming! Thanks,

– John Butterfield



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: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____



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: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please indicate purpose of gift congratulate celebrate memorialize general purposes RTAC Birthday Gift

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: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please indicate purpose of gift congratulate celebrate memorialize general purposes RTAC Birthday Gift

Honoree's Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____



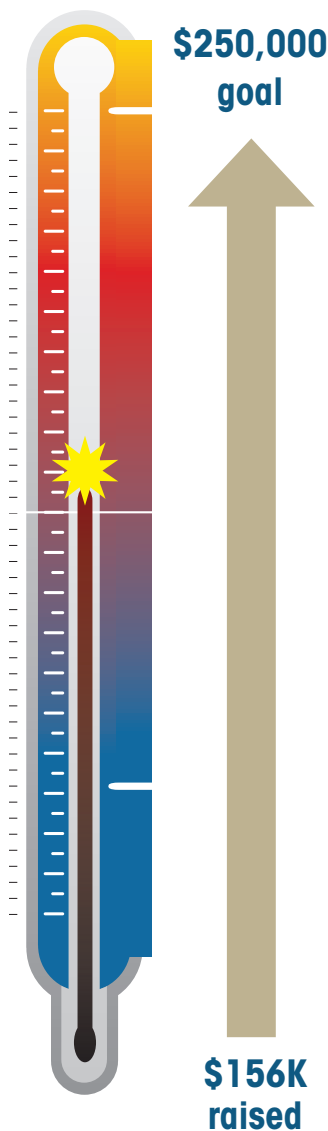
LEGAL DEFENSE FUND GIFTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - JANUARY 31, 2021

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 (4) | Henslee, Gwen | Preston, Felicia Grant |
| Ammons, Arrie Jr. | Holmes, Warren & Rosemary | Purcell, Alana |
| Attinello, Donna Marshall | Hornung, Mary C | Radzicki, Tom |
| Babij, L. | Jabour, Tamara | Rayburn, Martha L. |
| Baikie, Ann M. | Jarvis, Rose Ann | Renz, Mark |
| Baldwin-Olowosuko, Andrea | Johnson, Louise | Rhyme, Rhue |
| Bogs, Roberta K. | Johnson, Therese | Richardson, Richard |
| Bonner, Albert & Barbara | Keenan, William J. | Robinson, Mary L. |
| Boor, Maureen | Kenny, Patrick J. | Scatton, Diana Gonzalez |
| Boyle, Therese | Khoshaba, Kathryn E. | Schlaggar, Sheila |
| Brooks, Gail D. | Klocksins, Lucy | Schmidt, Franklin |
| Butman, Sharon | Lattyak, Jerome & Dorothea | Simmons, Earline |
| Butterfield, John A. | Laurent, Lutonia | Slater, Arthur |
| Castellano, Enrique | Logue, Katherine G. | Smith, Charlene K. |
| Catania, Thomas | Ludwig, Mary Ann | Spencer, Sharon A. |
| Chevlin, Howard M. | Lynch, Cheryl M. | Swiercz, Roman & Sharon |
| Coleman, Roy | Malebranche, Christine & James | Townsend, Jean |
| Connolly, Angela P. | Marinier, Thomas A. | Turner, Carol A. |
| Craig, Robert C. | Morgan, Peter III | Uchida, Dianna |
| Crandall, Arlene R. | Morrisette, Sandra | Vaughn Bennett, Elizabeth |
| Fowler, Rachel | Moscinski, John & Donna | Vega, Charlene & Paul |
| Frantz, John | Musial, Barbara M. | Venckus, John W. |
| Frazier, Dr. Kathleen | Nawrocki, Ronald | Walker, Linda E. |
| Glapa, Barbara | Nolen, Deborah M. | Wechsler, Kathy |
| Green, Steven L. | Nolen, Fulton Jr. | White, Lynne G. |
| Guardi, Constance | O'Callaghan, Sheila | White, Richard R. |
| Guzik, Kenneth | O'Keefe, Margaret J. | Wille, Philip |
| Harris, Judith Ann | O'Malley, Michael J. | Wilson III, Fred and Maria |
| Harston, Ava | Parran, Janice | Wright, Donna Sumanas |
| Hedstrom, Tom | Pissios, Spiros | Zeltmann, Mary L. |
| Heller, Stephen & Christine | Pitler, Barry S. | |
| Helwing, Arthur | | |



OTHER GIFTS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Anonymous (4) | Goldman-Feldman, Beverly | Ley, Karen J. | Smith, Lorraine Edna |
| Bailey, Gloria | Green, Doris J. | Loredo, Natividad | Stangel, George V. |
| Cestar, Ronald | Grieco, Lucille | McMahon, Mary L. | Woods, Garnett |
| Creighton, Mary Ellen | Grimes, Joan M. | Pekar, Anthony F. | |
| Del Campo Semisch, Martha | Grist, Robert W. | Prokop, Diane | |
| Farwick, Diane | Hoskin, Ana | Ramirez-Odell, Helen | |
| Feldman, Aracely | Johnson, Rosetta T. | Rybicki, Gary W. | |

CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND GIFTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - JANUARY 31, 2021

RTAC GIFTS

NOV. 1, 2020 - JAN. 31, 2021

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous	Mary A. Wynne
Anonymous	Rachel Hower
Barnes, Mildred C.	Joan Caswell
Clayton, Ronald	Loretta Nolan, Robert A. Murphy, Dolores Murphy
Curry, Warriene	Roosevelt Brassel, Joel Brooks, Lillie R. Jones
Dever, Judy	Geraldine Baginski, Carlene Blumenthal, Virginia Kuta, Mary Ann Pollett
Fowler, Rachel	Eileen Stahulak
Hill, Donald J.	Jim Pappas, Miguel Reyes, George J. Richter
Holmes, Warren & Rosemary	Dores Cook
Koch, Jewel	Kathleen Jackson
Lattyak, Dorothea & Jerome	Kathleen A. Jackson Rachel S. Robinson Alvin Serota
Moscinski, John & Donna	Kenneth Cink, John Tilgner
Quanbec, Judy	Lee Alo, John Bien, Steve Everett, Steve Slov

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Shorter, Elizabeth W.	Kathryn Allen, Tommie Martin, Elizabeth L. Shaw, Karen L. Sweatt
Taus, Elizabeth	Rose Hogan
Townsend, Leon	Mary Ann Pollett
Trujillo, Miguel A.	William Borders, Lee Mishkin, Mary Jo O'Connor
Uchida, Dianna J.	Luba Johnson

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous (3)	General Purposes
Behof, Barbara	General Purposes
Castellano, Enrique	General Purposes
Craig, Robert C.	General Purposes
Gibson, John O.	General Purposes
Loredo, Natividad	General Purposes
Markus, Ann	General Purposes
Rayburn, Martha L.	General Purposes
Rosen, Sandra	General Purposes
Simmons, Ann Lavender	General Purposes
Svendsen, Karen A.	General Purposes
Wise, Denny	Celebrate Walsh School Faculty

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous	Patricia Hanley, Cleopatria Hillary
Fashingbauer, Elizabeth	Raymond Zmaczynski
Gilman, Bonnie	Nancy Valles
Helwing, Arthur	Eva Helwing
Holmes, Warren & Rosemary	Betty F. Smith, Rhonda W. Veal
Merwin, Peter Matthew	Gustavo Lomeli, Karen Reamon
Panos, Tina & Bill	Angeline Caruso, Marian Panos
Pasko, Julieta & Stan	Alicia Roganski
Pruchnicki, Carol	Michael Pruchnicki, Pat Denning-Golden, Michaeline Rojek
Thennisch, Angela T.	Anna Marie Donatelli
Waters, Shirley	Pauline Pirok

DONOR	PURPOSE
Anonymous	General Purposes
Carpenter, Josette M.	General Purposes
Craig, Robert C.	General Purposes
Jackowiak, Claudia	General Purposes
Loredo, Natividad	General Purposes
Rhodes, Sonja Y.	General Purposes
Thomas, Janus A.	General Purposes

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - JANUARY 31, 2021

Welcome to RTAC's newest Life Members.

Donald Asher	James Gill	Alayne Jones	David Pino	Dennis Trainor
Maureen J. Barry	John Gloor	Hattie King	Kirkland D. Robertson	Elizabeth Gonzalez Trainor
Helen Batson	Marilyn Hamburger	Jeanne Kross	Glenn Rode	Richard H. Vail
Andrea J. Brown	Gale A. Harris	Sheila Leach	Patricia Rohan	Soyini Walton
Pamela Brown	Phyllis D. Hogan	Harriet J. Mayer	Dollie J. Shaw	Mary Weaver
Rhonda D. Campbell	Yvette M. Holmes	Daphne Moore	Robert Stockus	Dianne Williams
Crystal Cherry	Freddie M. Horn	Hilia Moreno de Galvez	Elizabeth Tellez	
Patti Deanes	Karen January	Christopher Pellikan	W. Romaine Thomas	
Katherine Donovan	Celeste Jarzembrowski	Josephine Perry	Maxine Thompson	
David E. Duvall	M.D. Johnson	Claudia A. Pesenti	Betty Thoms	

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
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)	Chicago North	Alicia M. Villagomez	773-922-7500x27252
Comfort Hospice & Palliative Care	Chicago-Northwest	Cheryl Cloh	847-983-8257
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
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
Gads Hill Center (Mentoring)	Chicago	Lisset Gonzalez	312-226-0963x231

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Agency	Location	Contact Person	Phone
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 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
Madonna Mision	Chicago-North	Tane Beecham	847-220-1122
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian	Evanston	Kathleen McDonald	847-475-1030
Museum of Broadcast Communications	Chicago-Central	Steve Jajkowski	312-245-8200x7
National Latino Ed. Inst.	Chicago-West	Adrienne Lesof	773-247-0707
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

RTAC REGRETS THAT PREVIOUS DONORS' NAMES WERE MISPELLED IN PRIOR PUBLICATIONS.

Jean L. Pydo contributed to the RTAC Legal Defense Fund for the period February 1 through June 30, 2020.

Ann-Marie Varvodic contributed to the CRTAF Memorial Fund in memory of Virginia M. Kuta for the period July 1 through October 31, 2020.



RETIRETEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO (RTAC)

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

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
PERMIT NO. 705



Inside: RTAC's All New Spring News Bulletin

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



RETIRETEACHERS 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 to celebrate a special occasion. We're stronger together.

Need to renew? Find a membership form on page 7.

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 next luncheon. Renew today and enjoy these benefits throughout 2021:

- Access to affordable dental and pet 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

April

- 21** COVID-19 and your Estate Seminar, see page 4.
- 30** RTAC Director Nominations due for 2022-2023.

May

- 4** Avoiding Senior Scams Seminar, see page 4.
- 26** Long Term Care Update Seminar, see page 4.

Check www.rtac.org for dates for spring webinars.

