

**YOUR VOICE
YOUR RESOURCE**

Your Retirement



Illinois
**RETIRED
TEACHERS**
Association

NEW MEMBER GUIDE

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Welcome to the IRTA!

Welcome Message

Dear Member,

Thank you for becoming a part of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA). We are proud to be the only organization solely dedicated to preserving and enhancing benefits for retired educators.

The IRTA is more than just a benefits provider; it's a vibrant community where support, advocacy, and shared experiences thrive. We have tirelessly championed the rights and benefits of retired educators, and our commitment to this mission remains strong. Your membership empowers us to advocate for the issues that matter most, ensuring our voices are heard in legislative discussions.

Our strength lies in our collective numbers. By joining the IRTA, you contribute to a powerful voice advocating for the best interests of all retired teachers. Together, we can influence policies that impact our pensions, healthcare, and overall well-being. The friendships and networks you'll develop will provide invaluable support and camaraderie as we celebrate achievements and navigate challenges together.

Thank you once again for joining the IRTA. I look forward to working alongside you as a valued member.

Warm regards,

Jessica Hoselton
IRTA Executive Director



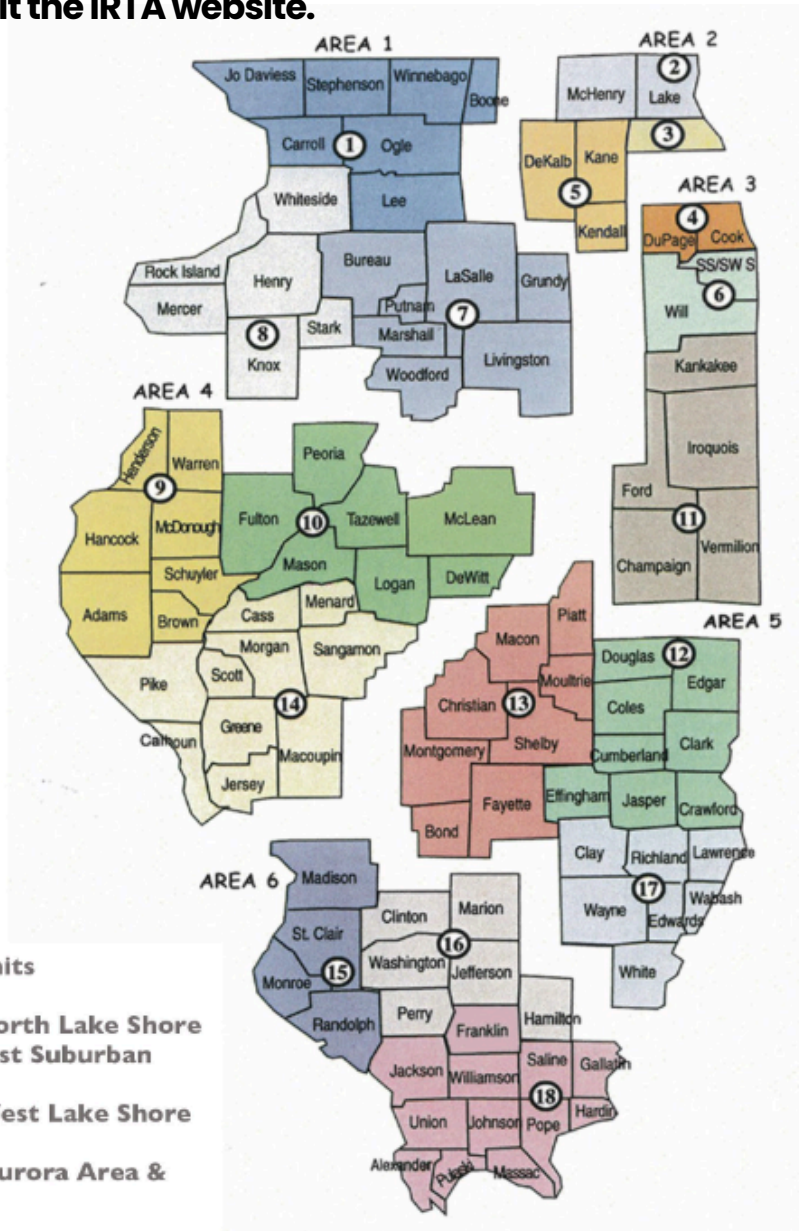
JESSICA HOSELTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRTA MAP

IRTA is a statewide organization which includes 84 local units.

We encourage you to get involved in your local units.

To find out more about your local unit, please call the IRTA office or visit the IRTA website.



IRTA Map Key for Local Units

Region 3: Cook County - North Lake Shore & Cook County - NorthWest Suburban

Region 4: Cook County - West Lake Shore

Region 5: Kane County - Aurora Area & Kane County - Elgin Area

Region 6: Will County - Joliet Area

Region 8: Rock Island County - Blackhawk

Region 13: Macon County - Decatur Area

Region 14: Sangamon County - Land of Lincoln

Our Mission

IRTA Mission Statement

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association is a not-for-profit organization of retired educators. The Association serves the needs and interests of its members through advocacy, education, cooperation, and socialization in a flexible organizational structure.

History

The history of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association can be traced back to 1955. At that time Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, the founder of the National Retired Teachers Association, was working to establish organizations for each state. It was decided that Illinois should have two organizations, the RTA of Chicago and the downstate RTA. Thus, the organization of IRTA took place during the July, 1955 NRTA convention in Chicago, at which time a constitution was adopted and officers were elected. The membership of the IRTA has grown from 1,300 in 1955 to over 40,000 today.

Grassroots Advocacy

The IRTA encourages you to make your voice heard on important legislative matters. Voter Voice is IRTA's online grassroots advocacy and lobbying tool. Voter Voice makes it possible for you to directly engage with your elected officials by investing as little as 1-2 minutes of your time, from the convenience of your home. The IRTA utilizes proven internet-based technology tools from Voter Voice to launch and manage grassroots lobbying campaigns and other governmental affairs activities. This process will only take a few clicks of your mouse to complete, but it is an extremely effective method of mobilizing IRTA members across Illinois into action on legislative issues that are important to you. By working alongside our members, and speaking with one collective voice, the IRTA will continue to maintain its presence as a powerful advocate on behalf of the Illinois retired teacher community.

Benefits

As a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, there are significant advantages that come with your membership. The IRTA offers more than just benefits – it provides a lively community dedicated to enhancing your retirement experience.

Advocacy

A cornerstone of IRTA’s mission is its steadfast dedication to safeguarding defined benefit pension plans. We prioritize your retirement security by working closely with partners and legislators to defend against threats to educator’s pensions. Through our organized efforts, IRTA is committed to preserving the stability of your hard-earned retirement funds.

Communication

Effective communication is a key element of IRTA membership. We keep you updated and engaged through a variety of platforms: exclusive members-only website, the *Good Dog News* bi-monthly e-newsletter, virtual conferences & webinars, plus grassroots advocacy. Also look for our publication, the *IRTA Action*, which covers trends, key individuals, and initiatives focused on protecting your pension and health benefits.

Social Opportunities

The IRTA community is a vibrant network offering numerous social opportunities. We invite you to participate with our state organization as well as our local units to connect with colleagues and engage in activities and trips, creating a sense of camaraderie and belonging.

Leadership & Volunteerism

As we continue our mission to advocate for the rights and benefits of retired educators, we recognize the vital role that leadership/volunteering plays in our organization. We are reaching out to you to consider stepping into a leadership role within the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. Your experience, passion, and commitment can make a significant difference. Please contact the IRTA office if you would like more information.

Benefits



AMBA Benefits

Your membership comes with a wide range of valuable benefits that enhance your life and provide significant savings. Our partner AMBA, offers the following options:

- Dental coverage
- Vision care
- Medical transport
- Life insurance
- Long-term care
- Annuities
- Home healthcare services
- Hearing plan
- Cancer, heart attack, and stroke insurance
- Nationwide discounts
- ID and fraud protection
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Legal Assistance
- Life Line Screening

CALL AMBA 1-877-810-6334 MON-FRI 8AM-6PM CT



AMBA

Discounts Nationwide

Enjoy savings, right from your computer, at myAMBAdiscounts.com. Retirement is an adventure—why not save money along the way? MyAMBAdiscounts offers members access to thousands of discounts from local and national merchants – all from your smartphone. Benefits include travel, dining, electronics, sports, entertainment, and so much more.

To activate your new myAMBAdiscounts membership, follow 3 easy steps!

1. Go to myAMBAdiscounts.com and enter your email.
2. Enter activation code: **ambasavers**
3. Register your basic information and sign up for email alerts. Here you may opt-out of the dining upgrade if you do not wish to join that program. It is not necessary to add your credit card information to take advantage of Passport's discounts.



IRTA Foundation

In 1985, after identifying a large number of former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and rising inflation, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association established the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation, Inc. The initial purpose of the Foundation was to build an endowment to provide assistance to retired educators. Since that time, the Foundation has assisted retired educators with living expenses, provided scholarships to aspiring teachers, worked to protect the rights of the elderly, and provided grants to educators.



The Foundation has a statewide program that allocates approximately \$42,000 in grant money to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) for special student projects.

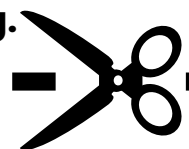
The IRTA Foundation also awards six \$2,000 scholarships to incoming juniors or seniors in college that are pursuing a degree in education. The winners are chosen through competition with other applicants from their own area of the state.

IRTAPAC was organized to protect, preserve and improve benefits for individuals receiving a pension from the Illinois Teachers Retirement System. The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Political Action Committee funds are used to support candidates for political office. These candidates support IRTA members and the issues important to you. Contributions to the IRTAPAC will be used to enhance political awareness of IRTA members and increase their contacts with elected officials and candidates. The IRTAPAC is the political advocacy arm for you, your pension and your healthcare benefits. IRTAPAC is funded only by member's donations and no dues money is ever used to support IRTAPAC.

IRTAPAC



You can now donate directly to IRTAPAC and protect the status of retired teachers by donating just \$1.00 a month through pension deduction. The form can be found below or on the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org.



IRTAPAC DONATION FORM
828 S. Second St., 4th Floor Springfield, IL 62704
Email: irta@irtaonline.org

IRTAPAC Donation - I hereby authorize the Teachers' Retirement System to DEDUCT my IRTAPAC donation in monthly installments of \$1.00

Last four digits of Social Security Number _____

Please print

Name _____ **DOB** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Signature _____

Meet the Team



Jessica Hoselton
Executive Director



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Springfield, IL 62704***

Create an IRTA Website Profile:

If you need assistance creating an online IRTA Member profile, please contact the IRTA office at 1.800.728.4782.

