JUNCTION CITY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

The Junction City Association of Retired School Personnel (JCARSP) met at 9:00 AM on Friday, August 11, at the Zion United Church of Christ to celebrate 60 years as an organization. JCARSP members are retired teachers, educators, cooks, nurses, paraeducators, administrators and their spouses who want to continue their life of service to fellow members, their active colleagues, and the community. Hosts were Susan Kamphaus and Karen Malec. Sharon Sharpe contributed the anniversary decorations, Nita Miller provided homemade muffins, and Margaret Kilpatrick coordinated a catered breakfast meal from Cracker Barrel. There were eight new members who joined JCARSP for 2023-24.

Joe and Sheila Markley gave an update on the remodeling project and shows coming to the C.L. Hoover Opera House. Kell Smalley from Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) shared information about benefits to JCARSP and Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel members (KARSP).

JCARSP members showed their financial support by donating to the work done by USD 475’s Windy Hancock. Windy coordinates the district’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance program for students who are defined as being homeless in accordance with that Act.

Nita Miller, JCARSP Secretary and Community Service Hours Coordinator, said that “Retired school personnel continue to give of themselves and their time even after retirement from the school district. The unit of JCARSP was also recognized by the state association. During 2022-23 JCARSP members volunteered 6,568 hours in the community. If volunteers had been paid at the rate of $31.80, the value of service hours would have been $208,862.40. Collette Matthews was recognized by KARSP for her more than 900 hours of volunteer work.”

The next meeting of the JCARSP will be Friday, October 13, at noon in the Zion United Church of Christ. That meal will be catered by Thomas’ Taste of Chicago and will be coordinated by Sheila Ritchie, Treasurer. Donations will be made to the Geary County Food Pantry/Wheels of Hope. Any retired school personnel who are interested in learning more about the organization may contact Dr. Ferrell Miller, JCARSP President, at fmiller3@cox.net.
I am writing this column as I recover from hernia surgery. At this point, I’m wondering if the cure is worse than the ailment.

The upside, if there is one, is that I have been able to watch many black and white movies from the 1930’s, 1940’s, and 1950’s. I just don’t care for many movies past 1965. Thank heavens for YouTube.

I really enjoyed reading Jerry Henn’s article on AI, (Artificial Intelligence). The fraud opportunities seem endless. Fake news, misinformation, and other scams will continue to grow. We don’t answer our home phone and let our answering machine screen our calls. I used to answer and converse in German. That surely confused them but didn’t stop the calls.

With the start of school, I sometimes miss the interaction with my former colleagues and students. Like many of you, my circle of friends has changed. I am part of numerous organizations since my retirement. While working, belonging to most of these was not possible. Retirement led to the formation of new friendships.

KARSP is just one of the organizations that I belong to since retirement. As a result, I continue to interact with some of my colleagues through my local unit. Being a board member has given me the opportunity to make new acquaintances throughout the
state. What I have found is that those of us who belong to KARSP have the opportunity to make where we live a better place for everybody. By asking others to join KARSP, we develop a new friendship base and fresh ideas to help the organization grow.

On a personal side note, just to let you know, my wife and our grandson took a hike around and to the top of Devil’s Tower on the 4th of July. When she got back to flat ground she said, “I gave this hike to myself for my 75th birthday.” And our grandson said, “She just added 5 years to her life.” Remember, you are never too old to contribute your talents!

**DISTRICT 6 PLANNING TO MEET**

On September 22, 2023, District 6 plans to meet from 10-2:30 at the Neosho Valley Event Center on Neosho County Fairgrounds, corner of Girard Street and Wood Street in Erie, Kansas. Lunch will be catered by Chicken Annie’s, and there is a cost of $10.00. Speakers will include Jerry Henn, Executive Director of KARSP, and Kell Smalley, AMBA representative. There will be break-out sessions to discuss communications, public relations, community service, and programs. Members will have the opportunity to meet and visit with members of the units in District 6. Hope to see you there.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM ERNIE CLAUDEL**

We want you to know that your flow of emails, letters, and personal contact is being heard! Soooo keep those coming! This Update contains what else we would like you to do and why. These educational points, if we can call them by that title, will be spread out over the next two Updates. We have included the information that will help you understand why we need your help and what we are up against.

**Here are our discoveries:**

1. As your lobbyist, I have talked to nearly ½ of the present legislature this year. I found the following. The explanation from both sides of the aisle and both ends of the buildings is that they would like to do something, but the leadership blocks further action. BTW, there is far more evidence that this is fact!

2. Another disappointment is that our writers (communicators) are not receiving replies, especially from leadership.

3. The thought of the KCPR Steering Committee is that we all need to regularly request from the legislative leadership a benefit increase.

4. Their contact information is as follows:
   a. Speaker of the House: Topeka Phone 785-296-2302, dan.hawkins@house.ks.gov; Home 9406 Harvest Ln., Wichita, Ks 67212, phone 316-722-7307.
   b. President of the Senate: 785-296-2419, Ty.Masterson@senate.ks.gov; Home PO Box 324, Andover, Ks 67002, 855-255-2446.

5. You might, if you live in their area and can vote for them, tell them that you are not planning to vote for anyone who does not support a KPERS Retiree benefit increase.
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You will receive a 4% vacation reward on the base fare of your trip & will also have access to special bonus offers on a monthly basis.
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First-time Road Scholar participants are eligible for either a $200 gift certificate good toward any international adventure or a $75 gift certificate good for any North American Adventure.
www.roadscholar.org

Some benefits not available in all states. Association membership required to obtain benefits. Some associations have made a special benefits website available to their members. Register at myAMBAbenefits.info.