

EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING
ELGIN COUNTRY CLUB
JUNE 16, 2023

EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING was held at the Elgin Country Club on Friday, June 16, 2023. Social hour was at 11:30, and the luncheon was at 12:00. President, Lucy Niemeier, welcomed guest, Linda Nieto, former teacher at Hanover Country Side.

CHAPLAIN – MICK WILLIAMS offered a very meaningful invocation before the meal of baby spinach salad, rice pilaf, chicken crepes, broccoli, and strawberry shortcake.

PRE-BUSINESS MEETING Lucy introduced a game that highlighted getting to know EARTA board members. She began with introducing 3 board members: Bonnie Skapyak, Diane Geary, and Kay Lincicome. Each read brief points of interest to each of their lives. Then each table had to answer questions that were at each table that would suggest the board members' possible predictions for the future.

BUSINESS MEETING

PRESIDENT – LUCY NIEMEIER called the meeting to order.

Lucy thanked all the board members and EARTA members for their wonderful support. She reminded members to call any board member for any ideas and suggestions for EARTA.

RECORDING SECRETARY – KAY LINCICOME Lucy reminded members that the printed minutes from the April 21, 2023, Luncheon are on the tables. She asked if there were any corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as printed and will be on file.

TREASURER – DAVID WEDEMEYER As of June 15, 2023, there is \$1949.17 in the checking account, and \$5,518.10 in the savings account.

LEGISLATIVE – MICK WILLIAMS passed out a printed Legislative update of IRTA as of the end of the session on May 30, 2023. Mick presented highlights from IRTA website and reminded EARTA that the full text is available from the IRTA website. Highlights included that there were 566 bills passed in both chambers. Some included Medicaid, and property taxes, and reform measures concerning procurement and elections. Budget issues were covered concerning many education needs, including early childhood capital improvements, and teacher vacancies. Also covered, was information concerning pensions. Mick also noted that perhaps the biggest change is that everyone at or below the median income level can attend community colleges for free. Of importance was the requirement for changes to TRIP/TRAIL which is ongoing. Copy of the report is on file.

DIRECTORY – KAREN PATTERSON Karen completed the new 2023 EARTA Directory. She asked that if there are any corrections to please contact her. Karen suggested that the EARTA Directory be published bi-annually. Sandra Woolcott made the suggestion into a motion. It was seconded by Chris Moeller. The members voted to accept the motion. Karen reminded the members that a new addition to the Directory will appear in the JOGGER.

JOGGER – CHRIS MOELLER Chris suggested that EARTA “look into the future”. In September, there will be a sign-up sheet for members to write down interests that could become an “interest group” that members could join. _

EARTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR Mick Williams presented the Teacher of the Year for Elgin EARTA. Mick reminded the members of the Policy in Article XII amendments of the constitution/bylaws of the Elgin Area Unit of the IRTA. It states that the Retired Teacher of the Year will be announced at the June meeting. In the year of an IRTA Convention, the EARTA Retired Teacher of the Year will also be our IRTA Honoree. Mick announced that the retired teacher to represent EARTA is John Duffy. Amongst his many accolades is that he served 48 years on the ECC board. He taught at Larkin High School for 34 years. He will be honored at the IRTA Convention in Springfield this summer. Karen and Mick will be attending the convention with him.

PROGRAM – AMBA PRESENTATION

The program was presented by Nancy Kramer from AMBA. Her assistant was Steve Huber. Members received a sheet that presented endorsed various benefits for IRTA members. Nancy highlighted IRTA group membership health benefits. Among many benefits were IRTA group long- term care, home care plus, cancer treatment plan, vision plan, medical air services (MASA), Children’s whole life insurance program (new), group dental plan, and hearing plan. Nancy explained the programs. She had a question/answer time. She highlighted the AMBA business reply card that each member received. The card offered printed information on various subjects such as an easy issue life policy plan, accident policy Medicare supplement policy and other plans. Members are able to contact AMBA by writing to ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISOR,

6034 W. COURTYARD DR STE 300
AUSTIN, TX 78730-9800

Nancy suggested that members check out all the AMBA discount benefits. AMBA covers the gaps that happen with health insurance. Long term care does not kick in immediately upon a person’s need for it. There is a 90 day wait with AETNA, which AMBA will cover. Nancy suggested that EARTA members check out the website for AMBA.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:01

Respectively submitted,
Kay Lincicome, Recording Secretary