

**EARTA BOARD MEETING
ETA/IRA OFFICES
Elgin, Illinois
March 10, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER President David Wedemeyer called the meeting to order at 9:35.

Present: Adrienne Berna, Dave Brown, Jean Jederman, Peggy Jurgensen, Cindy Lange, Kay Lincicome, Barb McGee, Cliff Olson, Karen Patterson, Coral Reinert, Cindy Ruszkiewicz, David Wedemeyer, Irene Wedemeyer, Mick Williams. **Absent:** Maureen DeDobbelaere, Susan Frederitzi, June Preucil, Shelly Singer, Bonnie Skapyak.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Recording Secretary – Kay Lincicome Minutes of the 2017 January Board Meeting were accepted as presented. The minutes are on file.

Treasurer – Jean Jederman reported that as of March 2017, there is \$1438.35 in the checking account, and \$8800.28 in the Savings account. The report will be on file for audit. EARTA received 3 acknowledgements for donations to the IRTA Foundation in memory of Marvin Elbert, Joan McCurdy, and Elaine Rathjen.

Corresponding Secretary – Susan Frederitzi David W. reported that Kathy Turnquist is in the hospital, and Judy Keulfuss is in Sherman Hospital.

Vice-President – Barb McGee reported that the next EARTA General Meeting will be at the Elgin Country Club on April 21, 2017. Menu will be soup, Chicken Limone, Brown rice, green beans and dessert. The cost will be \$24.

President – David Wedemeyer reported that EARTA received a thank you letter for the Community Crisis Center thanking EARTA for the donations of toiletries, diapers, and miscellaneous items in February. \$165 was also donated. Discussion was had about the AREA II Conference at Pinecrest Gold Club on April 24, 2017. Reservations need to be in by April 10th. It was suggested that EARTA have a Unit display. David Brown will bring a tri-fold on which it was suggested that we display our *Jogger* and our *Directory*. There will be break-out sessions. David asked the board to consider asking 5 people as guests to the AREA II Conference. Suggestions were: Terri Sciabbeta, Mary Barbezat, Michele Machowicz, Ray Denning, Donna Elbert, and Linda Kuehl. David will be gone for the April Meeting so Barb McGee will chair the Meeting.

It was decided that EARTA would donate cash to the IRTA Convention for the IRTA-PAC Silent Auction. The Convention will be in Springfield on October 30-31. Adrienne, Barb and David W. will meet to select the Retired Teacher of the Year for nomination. This person will be both Teacher of the Year for EARTA and for the IRTA Convention. David discussed "Amazon Smile" of which customers may shop and chose a charitable organization of which ½% of purchase would go to the charity. This is a possible source of income for EARTA as the charity. Participants would place orders with Amazon. Cindy Lange will consider heading this endeavor once all needed information is compiled.

David W. looked over Jean Jederman's Treasurer's Ledgers which included income and expenditures. The Convention is not included in her report. \$157 should be added for the cost of the Hamilton tickets. Certificate balance is not included in the report given. David passed out a copy of the 2017 EARTA proposed budget. (Copy on file.) He stated that if EARTA follows the

same pattern in spending, income; etc., in 8 years there will be no money. Discussion was had on ideas to raise money, and other topics were mentioned. Following are suggestions, questions, ideas, and comments. This discussion will be revisited at a future board meeting.

Raise dues.

Get more members.

Round the luncheon cost to \$25 (Barb wants to keep cost at \$24).

Consider program choices to include more entertainment.

Have a speaker one time, then entertainment the next meeting.

Have a luncheon menu instead of a “dinner” type menu.

Print up a Directory every other year and in off year print an additional page of changes or update in *Jogger*.

Print Directory on line (discussion on protective view?)

Is attendance going down? Why?

Are there not as many new members?

Establish a sur-charge for Life Members.

Mention that valet parking is paid for at the Country Club.

Do a survey at the luncheon...”Do you want a dinner type meal at meetings or a luncheon?”

Part of why people attend EARTA is to come to a nice place and have dinner with a relaxed atmosphere.

Some people walk out before program begins. Why? Not happy with program?

Need good speakers.

General Meeting should end at 2:00.

EARTA Lifetime Membership could be stopped, starting now.

Cost of *Jogger* is 36 cents...possibly print it on line or pay to receive the *Jogger*.

Need to keep the Foundation as it is in the by-laws.

Ways and Means Committee could be instigated.

Have a 50/50 raffle but this needs to have a permit.

Projects – sell items or have a raffle (quilts, artwork; etc.)

Entire membership needs to participate in money raisers.....not just those that attend the luncheons. Amazon Smile would cover this.

EARTA membership is ¾ Life Members. These members need to know about the problem this is creating.....pay \$10 a year.

Crystal Lake membership has an endowment fund.

Encourage members to remember EARTA in their Wills.

Stop Life Membership as of 2018. (There is one Lifer this year.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Auditing – Peggy Jurgensen reported that an audit will be conducted in May for the 2015-2016 audit. The committee will be David B., Coral, Karen, and Peggy.

Chaplain – Mick Williams No report

Charity – Coral Reinert asked for input from the board as to what we want to do about charity donations from EARTA. Cliff moved that we donate \$200 to “Those Who Excel”. Cindy Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Community Participation – Cindy Lange reported that Food for Greater Elgin wants volunteers. She will have this request printed in the *Jogger*.

Contact – Bonnie Skapvak No report

Information Services – Maureen DeDobbelaere No report

Legislation – Cliff Olson read his printed report of which there were copies for all members attending the board meeting. He reported on the Governor's Budget Address and what it means for teachers and retired teachers. He highlighted the bills that IRTA opposes. The good news was that there has been 1500 added to the payroll deduction \$1 per month for IRTA-PAC. Cliff's report is on file.

Membership – David Brown reported that there are 431 EARTA members as of now. He said that Instant Print did a good job on the Directories. Some sealing tabs needed glue. The cost was 17 cents a copy. IRTA sent a list of people to call who didn't sign up for membership. Eighteen were EARTA members. They get 2 letters from IRTA, David sends cards with membership information. There are no calls given. Twenty-six special reminders were inserted into the *Jogger* to remind members to renew their EARTA membership.

Jogger Mailing – Karen Patterson A committee of Peggy, Cindy R., Karen, and June will meet at June's house, 10:30 on Friday, March 17 to assemble the *Jogger* for mailing.

Jogger Editor – Cindy Ruszkiewicz requested that all article for the *Jogger* be to her by Saturday, March 11. She will print the request for Crisis Center donations the same as previous editions. A thank-you was received for the donation of four checks totaling \$165. Members are reminded that all these donations to the CCC are tax deductible if check is made out to CCC.

Nominations – Adrienne Berna No report

New Members (Pre-Retirement) – Irene Wedemeyer, Barb McGee, Cindy Lange Last year's pre-retirement reception cost \$631 with 6 people becoming new members of EARTA. Twenty-eight prospective members attended. Discussion was had about how to have a reception with less cost. It was decided to have a Make-Your-Own-Sundae-Bar at Colonial Café. This would be more reasonable....less than \$300. This would be about \$5 a person attending. Cindy Lange will e-mail invitations and David B. will send out letters to schools in EARTA's district. The reception will be on May 9th, 3:30 – 5:30.

Program – Shelly Singer reported that she is working on getting a program.

Social – Coral Reinert reported that the Supper Club met on Monday, March 13th, at Hopper's Bar and Grill. The next Supper Club will meet at Hopper's on Monday, April 10th at 5:30. All are welcomed. The Epicurean Adventure will meet on Tuesday, April 4th at 1776 Restaurant in Crystal Lake, at 6:00. Contact Karen or Irene for reservations. Coral has just finalized setting aside 45 tickets for Barbra and Frank for The Concert That Never Was. The show will be on Sunday, June 11th, at 3:00 at the Paramount. Tickets are now sold out! She is contracting for coach and dining and when she has that cost, she will give the final cost for the show. Anyone interested may sign up at the April EARTA General Meeting or call Coral at 847-742-4330.

Website – June Preucil No report

STATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Legislation – Cliff Olson Report is on file.

Anything Else for the Good of the Order?

David reminded us to vote on April 4th. We were encouraged to vote for Owens, Noland, and Smith for U-46 Board of Education, as well as Duffy, and Ramey for ECC Board.

Adjournment – David Wedemeyer adjourned the meeting at 11:30.

CALENDAR:

March 17 – stuffing the *Jogger*

March 13 – Hooper's, Elgin

April 4 – 6:00 – Epicurean Adventure – 1776, Crystal Lake

April 10 – 5:30 – Hooper's, Elgin

April 21 – 11:30 - EARTA Luncheon Meeting – Elgin Country Club

April 24 – 8:30 – 2:00 Area II Conference – Pinecrest Gold Club, Huntley

May 8 – 5:30 – Hooper's, Elgin

May 12 – 9:30 – EARTA Board – IEA Offices, Elgin

May 16 – 6:00 Epicurean Adventure -???

June 12 – 5:30 – Hooper's, Elgin

June 15 – 6:00 – Epicurean Adventure -???

June 16 – 11:30 – EARTA Luncheon Meeting – Elgin Country Club

October 30-31 – IRTA Convention – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield