

EARTA BOARD MEETING Friday, October 10, 2025 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

PRESENT: Marilyn House, Jackie Kutina, Kay Lincicome, Barb McGee, Lucy Niemeier, David Wedemeyer, Karen Patterson, Cindy Lange

PRESIDENT - LUCY NIEMEIER called the meeting to order. Motion was moved and seconded to accept the August 8, 2025, board meeting minutes.

Posters for local libraries was posted September for the September's EARTA luncheon – perhaps it prompted two guests. Recommend trying it in April for April's luncheon.

VICE-PRESIDENT - BARB MCGEE reported that the November menu has not been planned yet, but she suggested that it would be the same that it has been in the past with a Thanksgiving theme. It would include a salad, turkey, and vegetable, potato and dessert. It was reported that there were 60 members at the September Luncheon. Lucy reported that Bonnie's Robo call helped to remind members. There are 3 remaining Robo Calls available until May.

CONTACT – BONNIE SKAPYAK reminded the board that no changes can be made to phone numbers or any information that is present in existing ROBO call list. There are 329 members listed on the EARTA Robo Call list at 10 cents per call per member.

CINDY LANGE - COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION has not received a call back reply to possible speaker, Jean Bednar, that was contacted to present the program in November. Cindy will contact a speaker who could present a program on the subject of the U46 Education Foundation.

DAVID WEDEMEYER -TREASURER David reported that as of September 30, 2025, the Elgin Area Retired Teachers' Association had the following account balance at the KCT Credit Union:

Checking	\$ 2,916.73	
Savings	3,031.72	
Certificate of Deposit	4,218.23	For total assets of \$10,166.68__

For the moment, everything is still KCT Credit Union, but in February, 2026, we will be transitioning to Consumers Credit Union systems. Stay tuned for any impact on EARTA.

Dave presented a problem that members are having. They are getting the JOGGER too late to for USPS checks to arrive in time for the luncheon.

David presented to the board, 4 possible solutions for the above problem:

1. Send a luncheon e-mail with menu and program.
2. RObo call (reminder) a week later.
3. Cut back on the number of Joggers to pay for the extra Robo calls
4. Go to 3 JOGGERS per year, each with a focus.

The money: First 4 Joggers this year average cost of \$142.57

5 Luncheon robocalls x 360 members
1800 calls x .10@ = \$180.00
2 less Joggers saves \$285.00
pays for Robo calls with \$105.00 left over

Jogger foci: January/February – Planning, May/June – Recruiting, October/November -Membership (Dues and Directory updates) Discussion on above was had.

Karen added that the JOGGER information needs to be turned around in a week. She suggested that the format needs to be changed. Also discussed was that an e-mail be sent out, and then a ROBO call made. It was suggested that Chris have info for JOGGER by Wednesday following the Board Meeting and get info into to the printer by a week. Another possibility was suggested that a different printer be contacted.

A Discussion was held concerning having the pies as gifts that has been done in the past. This happening would be on November 7. Last year the Board paid for the pies. Discussion was had about whether the same arrangement would be done this year. It was shared that the luncheon on August 8 was very good. Also mentioned was that the membership needs to be aware that there will be a vote for new officers for the next EARTA Meeting. Volunteers are needed to help take pictures for the Facebook page for the upcoming year.

Mick was presented a gift card to thank him for all of his many years of serving on the board. He was so dedicated and will be missed. Many thanks, Mick.

OLD BUSINESS September luncheon with detective Benavidez' was well received. Cindy Lange reported on status of U-46 Foundation speaker for November Luncheon. Slate of candidates was accepted by unanimous vote by general membership at September luncheon/general meeting. Bonnie Skapyak presented receipt for gift card to be reimbursed. No volunteer yet for legislative position - no one at September luncheon volunteered.

NEW BUSINESS Directory changes – Going forth David should receive any edits for directory.

Carol Francis – passed away Pam Graff -- passed away Email change – Carol Thompson-McCabe – harmonycit@aol.com

Email change - Diane Geary - dmg4929@comcast.net

Next Board Meeting, January 9, 2026

Respectively Submitted, Kay Lincicome, Recording Secretary

EARTA GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 22, 2025, ELGIN COUNTRY CLUB

EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING - The meeting was held at the Elgin Country Club. Lucy Niemeier, President, called the meeting to order, welcomed guests and a new member. Mick Williams, Chaplain, gave the blessing prior to a delicious meal.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

PRESIDENT - LUCY NIEMEIER - The minutes from the September 19, 2025 EARTA general meeting were presented and approved. Lucy spoke of the many ways in which our EARTA membership is growing and showed her great appreciation for everyone's efforts. She reminded everyone to pay their dues. She encouraged everyone to consider the U-46 Foundation, as a place that welcomes all donations. Member, Lowell Coester, recently passed and his service will be at Laird Funeral Home in Elgin.

VICE PRESIDENT - BARB MCGEE - Barb recognized Kay Linicome for her many years of service and dedication to EARTA as Recording Secretary and will be honored at the next luncheon. That luncheon will be at Villa Olivia on Friday, February 13, 2026.

TREASURER'S REPORT - DAVID WEDEMEYER - As of November 20, 2025, the EARTA accounts at the KCT Credit Union included \$4,268.04 in checking, \$3,031.72 in savings and \$4,228.80 in the certificate of deposit for a total asset value of \$11,528.56. David presented a report from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA). IRTA is marking an historic milestone, IRTA officers and Constitutional Amendments were voted on directly by you, us, the members, rather than through delegates sent to a biennial convention. We had the option of voting electronically or requesting a paper ballot. All proposed amendments passed - updating and modernizing the Constitution. Officer elections were held: Roger Hampton, a past President of IRTA, defeated Donny Ostrom, current Treasurer, to be our next President. Rainy Kaplan was reelected Vice President, Sharon Teefey was elected as our new Treasurer and LaVonne Chaney was reelected as Secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP AND EPICUREAN - KAREN PATTERSON - There will be a dinner in January, 2026. Karen asked everyone to let EARTA know of those who are ill or have passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board officers for the next year were presented. They are Lucy Niemeier, President (term ends 12/26;); Barb McGee, Vice President (term ends 12/27); Sandra Woolcott, Recording Secretary (term ends 12/27;); David Wedemeyer, Treasurer, (term ends 12/26); Diane Geary, Correspondence Secretary (term ends 12/26).

NEW BUSINESS:

Lucy presented tri-folds to be used to provide potential members general information about EARTA. Each contains a membership form. Use them prudently, as they are pricey to print.

ADJOURNMENT: Lucy adjourned the business meeting.

PROGRAM:

Lucy introduced speakers, Denise Broz and Jean Bednar of the U-46 Foundation. Using a visual display, they explained about grants/scholarships and educational supplies not provided by U-46. The ESO assists at three elementary schools with the rental of instruments, etc. Mentioned were the 5K Elgin Trot, the Windy City Bulls game family night and a talent festival to be in March 2026. Volunteers are needed to review scholarships, scholarship networking, review teacher grants, etc. Jean can be contacted at (847) 814-2837 and Denise at (630) 346-0085.

Respectively Submitted,
Sandra Butz Woolcott
Recording Secretary