DEWITT – LOGAN RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The DeWitt – Logan Retired Teachers Association celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2007. Its first meeting was held in 1957 with Theresa Henneberry, a retired Math teacher from Lincoln High School, as President. Other early Presidents from Lincoln were Corrine Houston, Margaret Hodgson, Daisy Larson, Marie Martin, and Harry F. Augsburger.

The present officers are Norma Nichols, (Maroa), President; Carol Becker, (Lincoln) and Mary Mitchell, (Clinton) Co-Vice Presidents; Sandra Hollenbeck, (Lincoln), Secretary; and Alberta Reiterman, (Mt. Pulaski), Treasurer.

The purpose of this organization is to promote education and the professional, social and economic status of all members, and to work with the NRTA, IRTA, and AARP to attain these goals.

Luncheon meetings are held on the third Tuesday of March, June, September, and December, two at Lincoln and two in the Clinton area. Each member receives an Annual Directory and a quarterly Newsletter with information about members and meetings, health issues, as well as legislative reports about pension, insurance and laws that interest retired teachers. A telephone committee contacts members before each meeting and there is publicity in local newspapers and on TV.

Members also receive News Bulletins and Reports from IRTA (Illinois Retired Teachers Association) about member benefits, legislation and Foundation news.

Donations are made to the IRTA Foundation in memory of deceased members. Other donations are given to assist retired teachers in acute financial stress, to provide financial relief to public schools for natural disasters, and to sponsor the Ombudsman "I Care" program to advocate for seniors in long term care facilities. Also, the Foundation provides grants to teachers, and six area scholarships to prospective teachers.

In 2007, the IRTA Foundation Scholarship for Area 4 was presented to Sara Conklen from New Holland. She plans to graduate in May from Illinois State University at Normal, majoring in Special Education.

Many of the programs given at the meetings include people from Logan County. Lincoln High School, Lincoln College, and other talented individuals provide music. Other people who provide programs are the president of the hospital, local meteorologist, nursing home director, Logan County Emergency Service, manager of the Postville and Mt. Pulaski Courthouses, Regional School Superintendent, local librarian, local clockmaker, and director of Children of Pokot Educational Fund. Senators, representatives, and a Crime Scene Investigator from the State of Illinois have given programs. The IRTA Executive Director, Jim Bachman, and the Legislative chairman, James Humphrey, come with the latest information which affects retired teachers.

Community participation projects include visiting the homebound and nursing home members and taking them gifts such as baskets and cups full of useful little items and goodies. November 8, 2007, a group of members delivered vases of flowers, bags of gifts and cards to the retired teachers who are homebound or in nursing homes.

All DeWitt and Logan County retired teachers are welcome to become members of this association.

Submitted by:

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