



# News

Express

Kentucky Retired Teachers Association

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May 2018

**TRS Trustee Election:**

This May the retired and active TRS membership will elect both an “active teacher” trustee and a “lay” trustee. This year there is no incumbent “active teacher” trustee. However, there is one incumbent “lay” trustee running for reelection. Both of the “active teacher” candidates and the “lay” candidates appear to be qualified. **Please vote!** This election is important!

You should have received your retired teacher (yellow) ballot from TRS. For your vote to count the ballot must be returned to KTRS by May 31, 2018.

**TRS LAY TRUSTEE CANDIDATES FOR 2018**



**Hollis Gritton**, of Union, was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2012 to fill an unexpired term and was elected to a full term in 2014. He is a graduate of Georgetown College; the Kentucky School of Banking; and the Graduate

School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. From 1993 until his recent retirement, Mr. Gritton served as president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Heritage Bank in Burlington. Previously, he served as senior vice president of Liberty National of Northern Kentucky and as president and CEO of Huntington National Bank of Boone County. He also served on the boards of Community Bankers of Kentucky and the Kentucky Bankers Association. Mr. Gritton is a former math teacher at Boone Co. High School. His civic involvement includes: deacon and Sunday School teacher, Tri-City YMCA board member, Boone County Businessmen Association charter member, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Boone County treasurer, Boone County Police Merit Board, United Way, Fine Arts Fund, American Heart Association and American Cancer Society.



**Wendell W. Lyons**, of Louisville, is president of the Kentucky Credit Union League and Affiliates. He joined the league staff in 1985 as director of public relations and governmental affairs and later served as executive vice president before becoming

president in 2000. He also serves as president of KYCUL Services Inc., the league’s service corporation. He is a former member of the CUNA Board of Directors and Executive Committee, a former chairman of the Credit Union Legislative Action Council and former chairman of the American Association of Credit Union Leagues. Prior to joining the league staff, Mr. Lyons was employed by the Fort Knox Federal Credit Union for nine and one-half years where he served as senior collection officer, loan officer and marketing director. Mr. Lyons holds a bachelor’s degree in commerce from the University of Louisville.

## TRS ACTIVE TEACHER TRUSTEE CANDIDATES FOR 2017



**Dr. Lynn Gannon Patterson**, Murray, is an associate professor in elementary education in Murray State University's College of Education and Human Services. Dr. Patterson, who teaches

math methods for elementary teachers and classroom management classes, is a National Board Certified Teacher and a 2002 Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics teaching. Previously, she taught first through sixth grades and was an elementary school principal in Tennessee, where she retired after 34 years in 2008. Dr. Patterson has been at Murray for 10 years. She became a TRS member in 2008. Dr. Patterson holds an Ed.D. in administration and supervision from Tennessee State University, an Ed.S. in administration and supervision from Middle Tennessee State University, an M.Ed. in special education from Middle Tennessee and a bachelor's in speech and hearing from Middle Tennessee High. She has been an EPSB teacher appointee and served on Kentucky Department of Education committees. In South Africa, Ms. Schneider collaborated on an art program for an orphanage and worked at a township school. She also traveled to Brazil as a National Education Association Foundation Global Learning Fellow.



**Dr. Nicola Mason**, of Morehead, is associate professor of music education in Eastern Kentucky University's Department of Curriculum & Instruction in the College of Education. She

earned a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky and a master's in music from Morehead State University. Originally from South Africa, Dr. Mason previously taught K-12 general music and was band director at the Collegiate School for Girls. Dr. Mason has been at EKU for seven years and serves on the Faculty Senate. She teaches courses in music education, African music and cultural competency. Her research focuses on music education and the use of play as a means of exploring cultural competence. Dr. Mason is past president of the Kentucky Orff Schulwerk Association and serves on the editorial board of the *The Orff Echo*, the peer reviewed journal of the American Orff Schulwerk Association.

### **For Your Information:**

Retired teachers will receive a 1.5% COLA effective July 1, 2018.

### **2017-18 Membership News:**

Our association grew for the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! Again, in 2017-18 our membership growth remained strong. The total membership of 31,969 is an increase of 736 over last year. The goal was 31,818, so you can see we went 151 over. Our continued growth is noteworthy because many state retired teachers associations continue looking for ways to reduce their losses rather than increase their numbers. Congratulations to all our devoted members who helped make our continued membership growth possible.

## **2018 General Assembly:**

The 2018 General Assembly will be remembered for years to come. Retired teachers voiced their concerns in record numbers fighting back "dark money" and an attack on our earned and promised retirement benefits. When the dust settled the advocacy shown by members of KRTA was successful. Our Cost of Living Adjustment will remain 1.5%, TRS will remain independent of the personnel cabinet, our health insurance will remain intact and TRS was fully funded. Thanks for the historic advocacy shown by our members.

As we move forward, it is important to remember that elections have consequences, but they don't have to be high-handed or cold-hearted. I want to remind you that when we say KRTA is "political but not partisan" we mean we will advocate in the political world on issues such as TRS full funding or Social Security fairness. We will focus on Frankfort for state issues and Washington, D.C. for federal.

## **Social Security News:**

KRTA continues to work on these Social Security issues: Mandatory Coverage, Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Currently, discussion on the Social Security penalties, i.e., WEP is getting some attention. We continue to work at the national level with the Coalition to Preserve Retirement Security (CPRS).

## **Retired Teacher Issues:**

Politicians at the federal, state and local levels control our economic environment. This is an incontrovertible fact. We cannot expect others to expend the time and energy to do the hard work of keeping our state representatives and senators educated on our issues. We must do it. You must do it! Therefore, each of us must resolve to engage our state representative and senator in conversation about how important our pension and health care are to our financial security in our senior years.

One of KRTA's legislative priorities over the next two years will be to remind our legislators of the importance of honoring their share of the shared responsibility plan. This biennium the state is only paying their share for the first year but requiring TRS to pay for the second year out of the medical insurance trust fund. This is a practice that cannot continue or it will put all retired teachers health insurance in jeopardy.

Our association continues to grow and prosper. Much of the credit for this success belongs to the many dedicated volunteer leaders we have at the local, district and state levels. I wish I could thank each of you personally. Since I cannot, please accept my written, "**Thank you!**" I could not be associated with a finer group than Kentucky's Retired Teachers.