



P.O. Box 1974  
Springfield, IL 62705-1974  
217-634-4317



Current News of Special Interest to State Retirees

RSEA Website: [www.RSEA4U.org](http://www.RSEA4U.org)

Legislative e-mail: [RSEAleg@aol.com](mailto:RSEAleg@aol.com)

RSEA email: [Retire@RSEA4U.org](mailto:Retire@RSEA4U.org)

Vol. XXXI No. 11

November 2008

Editor, Marcia Hoos

**Executive Board Members**

Bill Curry  
*President*

Larry Wort  
*1st Vice-President*

Carolyn Ackley  
*2nd Vice-President*

Jim Clancy  
*Treasurer*

Lorraine Gillespie  
*Secretary to Board*

**Standing Committee Members**

Ross Buie  
*Legislative and Legal*

Pat Espenschied  
*Membership & E-mail Coordinator*

Muriel Runyen  
*Publicity and Education*

Gladys Hajek  
*Finance and Budget*

**Appointed Board Members**

Ray Ackerman  
Lee Fuchs  
Tom McGee  
Wendall Messenger  
Joyce Lanham Rodgers

**Metro Chicago**

Sylvia Schluter  
*Chairman / 1-773-275-1464*

**Special Committee Members**

Alice Griffith  
*Social-Monthly Meeting*

Marcia Hoos  
Shirley Hagen  
Dorothy Tuxhorn  
Bill Curry  
*Holiday Luncheon*

Shirley Dillon  
Joanne Riedesel  
Dorothy Tuxhorn  
*Welcome*

Bill Pierce  
*Website Maintenance*

## TIME TO GET IN A PARTY MOOD! TICKETS GOING FAST

Light the candles! Lift the glasses! Let the music begin! It's party time!

Once a year, RSEA forgets all about pension worries, legislative issues, and the national economy and concentrates instead on just having fun.

The regular monthly meetings are replaced in November and December by a gala gathering where members spend the time eating a festive meal, visiting with former co-workers and making new friends, laughing a lot and maybe dancing a little.

It's the annual Christmas party, which will be held this year on Friday, December 5, 2008. Once again it will be at the Northfield Inn and Conference Center, located just off I-55 at the Sangamon Avenue exit.

As a concession to those who no longer drive at night (and that seems to be most of us), the party is a daytime event. Doors will open at 10:30 a. m. for those eager to find a good

table, and there's a cash bar available. Luncheon will be served at noon, followed by entertainment by Springfield High "Seven and Senators," a brief program, and lots of music by AC Music - Art Carlson, interspersed by drawings for prizes. There's no need to purchase tickets for the drawings; everyone who buys a ticket for lunch is automatically entered.

Marcia Hoos and her committee, "The Party Girls and a Guy," have been busily collecting a wide variety of prizes for the drawing. It's an eclectic collection, including such things as:  
a 20" TV set  
a Longaberger cracker basket  
two memory pillows  
a tower fan  
two RSEA coffee mugs  
a Homedic massage cushion  
a Longaberger travel mug  
a 7" digital photo frame  
a Sudoku-Plus game  
Gift certificates for chain restaurants  
They are still shopping for bargains at press time.

*Continued on Page 4*

### FINAL ANNUAL DUES REMINDER FOR 2008

Thank you to the many members who have already sent your renewal applications and checks! Changes received by Oct. 28, should be reflected on your current mailing label.

This is the final notice this year regarding annual dues - a separate bill will NOT be sent to you if you have not already paid.

If your label says DEC 2007 above your name, we would like to invite you to rejoin. We missed you for 2008, we're hoping you missed us.

If anyone has any question's regarding your membership call the phone number shown at the top of page one.

- Pat Espenschied, Membership Chair

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

November - No Meeting

Friday, December 5, 2008  
Annual Holiday Party

Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL 11:00 to 3:00

**2009**

Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Family Life Center

2477 W. Washington St., Springfield, Illinois

"The Many Faces of Abe"  
Jim Shay

IDOT Engineer, Retired

February 25, 2009  
"Income Tax Tips"





by  
Ross Buie

Well, the elections are over, and while some people are celebrating, others are nursing their disappointment. And, while some will be disappointed at the failure of the constitutional convention referendum, we must admit that, as retirees, we have to be relieved that we, well, dodged the bullet. If the referendum had been limited to a mechanism for removing constitutional officers, ethics reform, or even term limitations, it might have been more inviting, but when pension reform would have been right up there near the top of the list, we know that the proposals would not have been good for current or future retirees.

Now that the election results are in, we will have to live with the results, not only at the national level, but at the state, and local levels. And, again, we have to

be relieved that many of the elected legislators, from both parties, who have been supportive of our legislation, have been returned to office. Of course, that does not mean that our primary legislation, the Social Security offset, will have an easier time. In fact, we will now have to deal with some fresh faces, who will look at us with a blank stare, when we bring up the offset.

And, while the buzzword of this election has been change, we are reminded of an old saying, "Be careful what you wish for, you might get it!" Also appropriate is another old rule, "the law of unintended consequences." In other words, no matter who would have been elected, we might be disappointed, or even shocked, by their actions, their proposals, once in office. Some

of the very things that led us to oppose the constitutional convention might well turn up as proposed legislation at the national level.

In particular, we should be aware of health care proposals that might well undermine our existing state health insurance plans, or lead to a tax on the state paid portion of our health insurance. Also of concern are the proposals to increase the income tax rate on investment income. This is one of those feel good proposals that is supposed to tax the rich, but what it really means is a tax on anyone with money in a savings account, a mutual fund, or anyone who receives dividends from stock ownership. It sounds so fair, increasing taxes on the wealthy, until you realize that they're talking about you.

---

## RSEA TO TAKE A NEW LOOK AT ABE

You're invited to a party! A big one. A 200th birthday party! It's a year-long celebration, and it will take place in many different venues, with many different formats.

RSEA will be hosting one of those parties at its January 2009 meeting, when our own Jim Shay presents his highly touted program, "The Many Faces of Abe."

Yes, as we've been hearing for months, Abraham Lincoln will observe his 200th birthday on February 12, 2009, and the whole country is helping him celebrate. We had a sneak preview of the widespread planning last spring when we invited Dr. Axel Steurer, President of Illinois College, to an RSEA meeting. A member of the local, state and national Bicentennial Commissions, described the scope of the celebration, which ranges from concerts and seminars to vast building projects.

Little did we know then that one of our own members would be presenting one of the most prestigious of the Lincoln tributes - a showing of his private collection of Lincoln images, humorous, serious, commercial, political, and artistic.

The Shay collection, acquired over a period of 40 years, was on display in the gallery at the Springfield Art Association this past summer, and now is being shared with local audiences through a carefully planned Power Point presentation. RSEA is privileged to be invited to host one of the showings.

More about Shay's presentation, and how he came to acquire the images, will be told in the January REPORTER. In the mean time, we wanted to alert you to the rare treat awaiting you. Get your 2009 calendar and mark the date: Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

As Shay assures us, "Abe would smile and approve" of the show, and we're sure our RSEA members will, too.

- Muriel Runyen  
Publicity & Education



RETIRE STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
ADDRESS CHANGE FORM AND APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: First, Middle initial, Last
MAILING ADDRESS: Street Address or PO Box #, Apt # if applicable
City, State, Zip Code
PHONE #, E-MAIL ADDRESS

email address: retire@RSEA4U.org
website: www.RSEA4U.org

Mark ALL Boxes that apply:

- Permanent Address Change, Temporary Address Change for \_\_\_ months
Current Member Renewal (Annual Payees Only)
New Member, I am a: Retiree, Spouse/Survivor, \*Current Employee of
My Check for \$\_\_\_ is enclosed for January through December, \_\_\_ (Annual dues are \$9.00 per year.)
I hereby authorize the State Employees Retirement System of Illinois (SERS) to deduct from my pension check the amount as certified by the RSEA of Illinois for my dues, and to remit said amount to the RSEA of Illinois.

Signature: SS# Date

Mail to: RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 1974 SPRINGFIELD, IL 62705-1974

Current employees must obtain, complete and submit a Payroll Deduction Authorization (for 38 cents per pay period) to their payroll department.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - - NOVEMBER

- Louise P Allen, Pulaski, IL; Alan R Grigg, Lincoln, IL; Mary K Penrose, Quincy, IL
R Anne Bailey-Frederich, Carrollton, IL; Genevieve A Gula, Fairview Heights, IL; Barbara Lea Rives, Greenfield, IL
Phyllis J Brady, Rockford, IL; Fern A Henslee, Minooka, IL; Alline L Schloemann, Swansea, IL
Mary V Burba, Western Springs, IL; Michael D Leavitt, Deerfield Beach, FL; Barbara J Stotlar, Springfield, IL
Gladys L Dutz, Lincoln, IL; Connie Sue McCasland, Greenville, IL; Joseph G Wichmann, Russellville, AR
Dorothy J Edmondson, Goreville, IL; Phyllis M Muehlebach, Springfield, IL; Sandra Winkelman, Rockford, IL
Kayla M Mullins, Springfield, IL

FINAL FAREWELL TO OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

- James Paris, Monmouth; John Long, Springfield; Bonnie Mayes, Aurora
Robert Zoller, Elgin; Leonard Esposito, Chicago; Martha Barney, Peoria
Beverly Pierce, Morris; Alan Reynolds, Springfield; Pauline Arnold, Normal
Blanche Stinespring, Elmhurst; Marjorie Killen, Springfield
Dorothy Rushing, Springfield; Ralph Wiebe, Centralia
Patricia Volmer; Lucille Putnam, Bradley

- Pat Espenschied
Membership Chair

MEMBER Q & A

MEMBER: How come only some people are listed as new members. I joined in June 2008 and never been named as a new member. I guess I'm lucky to even get the newsletter. How many others have you missed. Linda Oxford

RSEA RESPONSE: Thank you for your comment. All members are important to us even though they do not get their names in the newsletter. In June thru August we acquired over 900 new members. Due to the REPORTER only being 6 pages long we were unable to print all the names, so we opted to do none. We trust you all understand.

## FAKE PATIENTS TEACH PATIENCE TO MEDICAL STUDENTS



You're seated on an examining table in what is undeniably a doctor's office. You're undressed and discreetly draped.

There is a knock on the door and a white clad figure appears, notebook in hand and a stethoscope dangling from the pocket. After a handshake and an exchange of introductions, you're invited to speak.

"I'm miserable," you begin, closing your eyes for emphasis. "The pain is intense," and you point to a part of your body. "How bad? On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd say about an 8."

And so it goes, questions, answers, touching, grimaces, and after 15 or 20 minutes, the figure in white shakes your hand again and leaves the room.

You leap off the table, straighten up the room, and hop back up again, rearranging the sheets covering your body. There is another knock on the door, and another smock garbed figure appears. There is another handshake, another pair of introductions, and the scenario repeats itself, almost word for word.

The scene is replayed over and over for perhaps two or three hours with a different visitor each time. At a given signal, you get off the table, don your street clothes, and stride down the hall to the parking lot, where you

jump in your car and drive off. What's going on? You've just spent the afternoon faking an illness and getting paid for it.

A scam? Hardly. You've been helping medical students learn diagnostic skills and equally important, improve their ability to communicate with their patients. The methodology, known as the Standardized Patient Program (SPP), was explained to RSEA members at their October meeting in Springfield by Mary Aiello, SPP coordinator at SIU School of Medicine.

Introduced at SIU in the late 1970's the program is now standard practice in nearly all medical schools, Aiello said. The simulators are not professional actors but ordinary people who have been carefully trained to familiarize themselves with the specific symptoms of a disease at a particular stage in the course of the illness.

To prove her point, she asked whether any RSEA members in the audience had served as SPs, and several hands shot up. Two, a man and a woman, were still actively involved, one after 22 years of experience and the other after 25. Both willingly responded to questions from the audience.

Stressing that the enactors must be consistent in their replies to the medical students, Ms. Aiello asked the two SPs what was the record number of times they had had to repeat the same scenario, word for word,

one responded "13" and the other shouted out "17", proving that the endless repetitions are an unforgettable part of the job.

SPs are required to keep the case studies confidential, Aiello said, since most are based on actual medical histories. If they are uncomfortable simulating a certain disease because of personal experience or emotional connections to it (if they themselves had a friend or relative with a serious struggle with the conditions) they may simply opt out of participating in it, she said.

The School of Medicine reimburses the SPs for their time, at a rate ranging from \$12 to \$18 per hour. Most work half-day segments, and they have the options of working only occasionally or being on call for steady work. The program has 90 women and 60 men registered as SPs, ranging from 15 to 90 years of age.

How do the medical students respond to the use of the pseudo-patients in their training? By the time they graduate, most students will have worked with more than 60 SPs, Aiello said, and most credit the program with helping them in the development of their clinical skills, even though they may have had initial resistance to the program. Faculty, too, praise the program for enabling them to monitor the students' interpersonal and communications skills.

- Muriel Runyen  
Publicity & Education

---

## TIME TO GET IN A PARTY MOOD ...Continued from Page 1

The committee deliberately sought out chain restaurants for the gift certificates so that out-of-towners attending the luncheon would be able to redeem them in their own communities - or in some cases, on the drive home from Springfield.

Post marks on early ticket orders indicate that RSEA members will be traveling to Springfield from all parts of the state, including a delegation from our new Metro-Chicago chapter. Northfield Inn, with lodging and an indoor pool just down the hall from the banquet room, is ideally arranged for party-goers wishing overnight accommodations and it is offering our members a special rate of \$69.00 per night, plus tax. Please call 217/ 523-7900 for reservations and ask for the RSEA room block.

Deadline for ticket orders is NOVEMBER 30. See the order form on the back of this issue.

So gals, get out those sparkly holiday sweaters, and guys, dig out those Santa Claus neckties and the reindeer lapel pins with lighted antlers! It's time to get in a holiday mood!

- Muriel Runyen, Publicity & Education

# NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, I wrote about October being my favorite month. November is my least favorite month. I think it goes back to my college days. In the mid 60's, college started six weeks later than it does now. In November, I always had to think about midterms, term papers, and other assignments. November days, during my college years, were filled with gray skies, northwest winds, and cooler temperatures. The windows in my college dormitory used to rattle constantly. My dormitory was built in 1873, so folded newspapers in the cracks around the windows helped.

After graduation I lived in Springfield for four years. November was just another month. Then in 1975, I was

promoted and transferred to the Jacksonville Osco Drug Store. November became a dreary month again.

Today, November is not such a bad month. In November of 2004 and 2007, I traveled to Japan with the Sister City Association of Springfield. Japan is a beautiful country and the trees have amazing colors in Ashikaga, Japan during November. I also made a trip to the mountains both times and the views were breathtaking!

As I write this article, it is sunny and in the 70's. The trees still have their leaves and the colors are great! When I bought my house in 1990 and the years afterwards, I

always took off work to rake my leaves the first week of October. The last few years, I have had to wait until November to mulch my leaves. Due to the changing climate, November may have to be included with October as a favorite month.

By the time you read the November "Reporter", our Christmas Luncheon, held December 5th, will be quickly approaching. If you have not done so, there is still time to fill out the registration form and mail to the address on the form before November 30. I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon.

- Bill Curry

---

## CHICAGO METRO CHAPTER

Chicago Metro RSEA is planning a meeting on NOVEMBER 18, 2008 at 1:00 PM

Location: The beautiful office building of AARP at 222 North LaSalle Room 710

This is a very important meeting for the future of the Chicago Chapter.

Your attendance is requested, Please.

You can contact Sylvia Schluter at 1-773-275-1464 or email her at [sweetvyce@aol.com](mailto:sweetvyce@aol.com)

---

## PRESTIGIOUS JOB STILL OPEN: LINE FORMS TO THE RIGHT!

Looking for a job with power, prestige, and permanence? They're not easy to find in these days of economic downturn. The position of RSEA Chairman of Publicity and Education will become vacant in January, presenting a rare opportunity for someone who has a gift of gab and likes to write.

The vacancy was announced in the last issue of THE REPORTER, and surprisingly, there has been no deluge of applications. Maybe it's because the job comes with no pay. But who cares about money? There are intrinsic rewards attached to the job: the sheer pleasure of writing in your style, and pride in seeing the number of people who attend RSEA meetings as a result of your words.

Just think how dull THE REPORTER will be if there are no teasers about upcoming meetings and no reports of what transpired at the last one! Our editor may be relieved at the lack of verbs to be transferred to her computer, but we suspect most readers will miss knowing what's going on at the meetings.

We don't know all our members personally, so you'll have to come to us; we can't contact you individually. But surely there must be some talent in our membership or frustrated would-be writers whose ability was unsatisfied by their career choices.

We're looking for volunteers, but will welcome referrals to persons who might be able to fill our needs. Please contact Bill Curry, RSEA President, at 217/243-4830. ASAP!!!

- Muriel Runyen  
Publicity & Education



Retired  
State  
Employees  
Association

Post Office Box 1974  
Springfield, IL 62705-1974

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Springfield, IL  
Permit No. 723

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*TICKET ORDER - RSEA ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 - 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.  
NORTH FIELD CENTER, SPRINGFIELD*



My/ our choice of entree is:

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets

\_\_\_\_\_ Sliced Turkey

@\$15.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Sliced Sirloin

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to RSEA. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and mail to:

Marcia Hoos - 1241 Urban Ave. Springfield, IL 62704 217/546-1404

DEADLINE FOR TICKET ORDERS: NOVEMBER 30

