

ZETA MU CHAPTER OF PSI IOTA XI MEETING

JASPER— Tuesday, Dec. 10 The December meeting of Zeta Mu Psi Iota Xi was called to order by Leisa Lowrey, President at the Jasper Group Event Room with 17 active members, 5 Honorary Retired members, one inactive member, and 6 Alumnae members attending. The members recited the Psi Iota Xi opening verse. Lynn Maitlen, Secretary conducted roll call with members sharing their favorite Christmas Carols. Minutes from the November meeting were approved as distributed. Deb Stemle provided the

Treasurer’s report. Leisa reminded members that we will present our Donation to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Fund on Thursday, Dec. 12, 5 p.m. Deb Stemle, Treasurer, announced that we will make a presentation of the Breaking Barriers grant check from our national organization at Redemption Church in mid-January. Leisa discussed options for housing our old scrapbooks with the Dubois County Museum. We will explore alternatives and discuss further at the next meeting. Marci Backer reported on

the nut and candy sales. She reminded members a few bags are available and encouraged additional orders to be placed online at <https://psi-iota-xi-zeta-mu.terrilynn.com>. Leisa reminded members the 2025 Nominating committee will be formed in January. Mary Zehr reported on the 2025 Senior Art Awards. Two awards will be presented: 2-D and 3-D entries. Volunteers will be needed at the Jasper Community Arts Commission on the morning of March 4th to hang artwork. The presentation/reception will be held at the Youth

Art Month Reception on Thursday, Mar. 6, 5:30 p.m. Wanda Haas provided information on a possible Moose Lodge fundraiser. Alumnae members Ann Czerwinski and Emily Meyer provided some insight to the project. Wanda and Leisa will talk to the Moose members for additional information. Leisa reminded members to take prospective new member forms and consider possible new members. The Psi Iota Xi Memorial Service will be held Friday, Dec. 13, at Trinity UCC for Linda Troxler, former Auxiliary Member. Patty

Boeglin will lead the service. Toby Jaent will host our next Lunch Bunch at Legacy Steakhouse on Thursday Jan. 23, 11 a.m.; please RSVP to Toby. Alumna member Sue Taylor thanked Patty Boeglin for her monthly cards and notes to her while she lived in Indianapolis. They were greatly appreciated. Leisa reminded members of the next meeting, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Jasper Group Event Room. The very short business meeting will be followed by Tina Drew leading Chair Yoga-all mobility levels can participate! The meeting

was adjourned with the closing verse. The Christmas Party followed. A delicious meal was catered by the Schnitzelbank with fun and fellowship enjoyed by all. Committee members were recognized: Pam Jarboe, Vienna Renner, Toby Jaent, Cynthia Kempf, Wanda Haas and Ruth Jarboe for a very enjoyable evening. Leisa Lowrey won the 50/50 drawing & Mary Zehr won the candy jar guessing game. The President’s gift was presented to Leisa, and multiple members won centerpieces as door prizes.

DCRTA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MEETS

BY LOCAL SOURCE Dubois County Retired Teachers President Sarah Sergesketter welcomed 37 members and four guests to the December meeting at The Eagles in Huntingburg on Dec. 11, 2024. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Sergesketter asked everyone to introduce themselves. Members of the Southridge High School Choir, directed by Erich Kendall, and accompanied by Ms. Sergesketter, then performed traditional Christmas carols and sang several concert songs. A donation was given.

Clara Fromme read the necrology report to memorialize those members who passed away in 2024: Cindy Seng, Denny Lewis, Sister Mary Oliver Reising, Dana Tretter, Bev Alles, Don Lucchi, and Jane Witte. A donation will be made to the IRTA Foundation in their memory. Membership records are continually being updated. Those who do not receive a newsletter and a phone call about the meetings are asked to inform an officer, as is anyone with a concern for a member needing a greeting card.

Minutes from the September meeting were accepted following a motion by Sandy Miller and a second by Judy Martindale. The treasurer’s report, with emphasis on donations to the IRTA Foundation and SWIACC, was given by Dorothy Rasche.

Community Services Chair Susan McGovren thanked everyone for donations to the three organizations we supported for our special project during the year: Ronald McDonald House, SWIACC, and WIC. She stated that last year’s number of volun-

teer hours totaled 14,000, and she asked everyone to submit this year’s hours, dedicated to “youth” and “other,” to Ms. Seger by Dec. 27. To contact Sylvia, phone 812-630-5485, or email her at sylseger@twc.com. Ms. McGovren also asked for ideas for a special project for next year.

Area Director Gene Van Stone reminded all present that our September check was higher, due to the tireless effort of Laura Penman, IRTA Executive Director, and our IRTA lobbyist, Steve Beebe. All were asked to thank their State Representatives for their support of the passage of SB20 during the “short” 2024 session. At the present time, there is “no plan” for the upcoming session. Ms. Penman and Mr. Beebe are negotiating with other PERF stakeholders to develop a plan which will address the needs of retired teachers. Van Stone stated, “We have only two weeks left to make a final push. They need to hear our voice.”

Ms. Sergesketter stressed that new officers are needed, stating, “Ours is a strong organization, but it is time for new leadership.” She thanked member Cindy Franklin for her donations of professionally painted rocks, which were welcomed as attendance prizes. Other prizes were donated by Huntingburg businesses The Little Soap Shop and Ella and Ivy. Recipients were Ms. McGovren, Virginia Eichmiller, Joe Niehaus, and Barb Kendall. Adjournment followed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, and a joint meeting with Spencer County members will likely be held in the fall. A plated fried chicken lunch was served.

Indiana Child Abuse Hotline unveils new look, urges action

BY IDCS INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Department of Child Services has launched a new look and message for its Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline poster, with versions now available in Spanish, Burmese and Haitian Creole. The message — “If You Don’t Call ... Who Will?” — emphasizes

the important role every Hoosier plays in protecting Indiana children from abuse and neglect. “Too often, people suspect a child is in harm’s way but think it isn’t their business or that someone else will report it,” said DCS Director Eric Miller, MPA, MBA. “Even if you have told someone of your concerns, the only way

to know for certain that abuse or neglect has been reported is to make the call yourself.” In 2023, the Hotline handled 199,991 calls and 215,852 reports. Through November of this year, the Hotline has received 181,092 calls and has handled 198,564 reports. “Our Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days

a year, with the sole goal of protecting Indiana children,” Miller said. “But we need Hoosiers’ help to make that call, because every minute counts if a child is at risk.” Hotline staff also are available to provide community outreach presentations on how to report suspected abuse or neglect.

One-time bonus — but no pay raise — for state employees

BY NIKKI KELLY INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

Gov. Eric Holcomb is giving a one-time bonus to all state employees, but no pay raises this year after a modest revenue forecast.

“It is important to recognize your efforts to improve the lives of Hoosiers but also in a way that our current state biennial budget, which ends June 20, 2025, will support,” he said in a letter sent to state employees Monday morning.

“In most years, we have been able to provide employees with a base-building salary adjustment; this time, full-time employees of the executive branch employed on or before Dec. 20, 2024, will receive a one-time, non-base building stipend of \$1,250 in their Jan. 15, 2025, paycheck. Part-time and intermittent employees will receive \$650.”

That stipend will cost state coffers between \$20 million and \$22 million, according to budget officials. Indiana has about 32,000 full-time state employees — the highest in recent memory. The number has grown steadily except for a dip around the pandemic. Last year, state employees received a performance-based bonus between \$500 and \$1,500 as well as a 3% cost-of-living adjustment or pay raise. To address low pay, Holcomb previously implemented a \$1,300 salary increase, followed by a 2.5% salary increase for all state employees in January 2022; this salary adjustment resulted in an average increase of 5% for employees and was the first general salary increase in Indiana since 2008. The move to deny pay raises comes as statewide elected officials will receive

substantial hikes starting in January. Lawmakers included the increases in the current budget. For instance, the governor’s pay will jump from about \$133,000 to \$221,000. Similar hikes were included for lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, treasurer and secretary of state. After back-to-back years of explosive revenue growth, fueled by federal dollars and an uptick in consumer spending, Indiana’s incoming dollars have slowed to pre-pandemic levels. Budget writers have urged their fellow lawmakers to tighten funding requests and prepare themselves for a lean two-year cycle. In the letter to employees, Holcomb praised the significant contributions state employees made to improve the lives of Hoosiers. “It was my great honor

to cut the ribbon on the final leg of I-69 from Evansville to Indianapolis this summer, opening even greater opportunities for us from border to border. The Department of Health is finishing the first year of Health First Indiana, bringing more resources to local communities to improve the health of their residents. And I’ve traveled across the state to see the progress we’re making on capital projects that will impact Hoosiers in a variety of ways, from the Indiana Archives building in downtown Indianapolis to the new lodge at Potawatomi Creek State Park and a state-of-the-art facility for the Department of Correction at Westville that will be known as the Northwest Indiana Correctional Facility. I’m so proud of these efforts and so many more that you are working to execute each and every day.”

Three gubernatorial cabinet secretaries also named agency heads

BY WHITNEY DOWNARD INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

INDIANAPOLIS — Three more secretaries in Gov.-elect Mike Braun’s cabinet will also lead agencies, bringing the total number of people serving dual roles to five.

Braun unveiled a new cabinet structure earlier this month where eight appointed secretaries will oversee “verticals,” or related agencies. Each would get a salary and have the power to hire additional staff, adding new positions under Braun’s administration.

The three additional secretaries also serving as agency heads now includes:

Mike Speedy, the secretary of Business Affairs, will also lead the Department of Labor

David Adams, the secretary of Commerce, will also lead the Indiana Economic Development Corporation

Jennifer-Ruth Green, the secretary of Public Safety, will also be the director of Homeland Security

They join Katie Jenner, who will be both the secretary and agency head of

education, and Lisa Hershman, the secretary of Management of Budget who is also the director of the Office of Management and Budget. Suzanne Jaworowski, Gloria Sachdev and Matthew Ubelhor will also serve as the secretaries of Energy and Natural Resources, Health and Family Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, respectively. They will not also serve as agency leaders. The final cabinet members include Anthony Scott as the superintendent of the Indiana State Police, Brigadier General Lawrence Muennich as the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard, Lt. Gov.-elect Micah Beckwith and Chief of Staff Joshua Kelley. Braun previously said this layer of management would create government efficiencies and be “entrepreneurial” and “accessible.” In contrast, Gov. Eric Holcomb had nearly two dozen members of his cabinet. In addition to Kelley, three others have been named as part of Braun’s

office: Jason Johnson, the deputy chief of staff who will oversee legislative affairs; Jessica Wedgewood, the deputy chief of staff who will oversee operations; and Patrick Price, who will be the governor-elect’s legal counsel. Twenty others will lead various agencies under Braun alongside the secretaries included above. In addition to Jenner, who will spearhead education efforts, Braun retained ten agency leaders previously appointed under Gov. Eric Holcomb. THEY INCLUDE: Holly Lambert, Insurance Commissioner Steve Russo, the executive director of the Indiana Public Retirement System Lindsay Hyer, the execu-

tive director of the Professional Licensing Agency Thomas Fite, the director of the Department of Financial Institutions James Michaels, the superintendent for the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired David Geeslin, the superintendent for the Indiana School for the Deaf (though he previously announced he would be retiring in 2025) Lindsay Weaver, Indiana Health Commissioner Steve Cox, the director of the Indiana Broadband Office Dan Huges, the chair of the Indiana Finance Authority and Don Lamb, the director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Hoosier Lottery

Midday Daily 3: 7-3-5
(January 1)

Evening Daily 3: 0-2-9
(December 31)

Midday Daily 4: 5-2-8-1
(January 1)

Evening Daily 4: 3-7-4-3
(December 31)

Cash 5: 5-14-21-30-45

Lotto: 2-26-32-40-41-42

Powerball: 9-19-33-38-39

The Powerball was 1

The Power Play was 3

The Herald Reader Guide

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