

# News Sheet "Update" March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 ~ #55

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Lambs Farm Magnolia Café & Bakery ~ Noon

Bruce Treadwell, Naval Station Great Lakes Museum  
*Great Lakes Great Women*

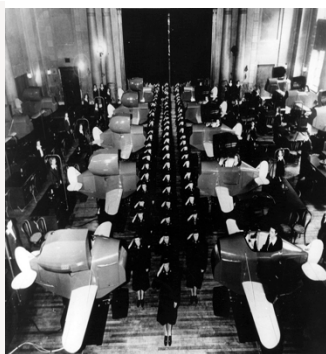


WAVES was a fitting acronym for women serving in the Navy, standing for Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service. That national emergency was World War II, and following President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of legislation authorizing the WAVES on July 30, 1942, women began joining the sea service in greater numbers than in World War I, representing 2 ½ percent of all personnel serving in the Navy by war's end.

In addition, the ranks of jobs for which they were eligible had expanded to include not only the yeoman rate occupied in the Great War, but also service as parachute riggers, aviation machinist's mates aviation ordnance men, control tower operators, and LINK trainer instructors for flight simulators, contributing directly to air operations on flight lines and in hangars at stateside bases and in Hawaii. Even after women were made a permanent part of the Navy in 1948, the WAVES acronym endured into the 1970s, years after the national emergency that triggered its establishment had ended.



Female recruits report for duty at the Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, in the late 1940s, the sign under which they pass to enter the building reading, "Through These Portals Pass the Women of the Greatest Navy on Earth."



A publicity photo shows WAVES sailors ready for duty as operators of LINK trainers, the flight simulators of the day. Many a flight student heard a female voice in their radio headphones as they "flew" LINK trainer flights during their training at air stations around the country.



This image shows Captain Mildred McAfee, the wartime Director of the WAVES, during an inspection at Naval Air Station (NAS) Barbers Point, Hawaii, the farthest away from the continental United States that WAVES were allowed to serve.



TRS (Teachers Retirement System) P.O. Box 19253 Springfield, IL 62702-9253 1(800) 877-7896 <a href="http://www.trs.state.il.us">www.trs.state.il.us</a>	IRTA (Illinois Retired Teachers Association) 828 S. Second Street Springfield, IL 62702 1(800) 728-4782 <a href="http://www.irtaonline.org">www.irtaonline.org</a>	LCRTA (Lake County Retired Teachers Association) Box 8107, Gurnee, IL 60031 <a href="http://www.lcirta.net">www.lcirta.net</a>
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2026 LAKE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION	
April 14	Attorney Michael A. Goldberg Encore Presentation: Important Documents
May 12	Lida Rivera ~ Discovering Elawa Farm, Lake Forest
June 9	Lake County Forest Preserves: Woodpeckers of Lake County
July	NO MEETING! HAPPY 250 <sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, USA!
Aug. 11	TRS Trustees: Doug Strang, Rainey Kaplan
Sept. 8	Marti Swanson: Meet the Candidates
Oct. 13	Fall Luncheon Edizon Dayao, Entertainer
Nov. 10	Dave Wieggers ~ Lincoln and Gettysburg
Dec. 8	Holiday Fun

**IRTA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS –  
May 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline**  
<https://www.irtaonline.org/foundation/scholarships/>

- \$2,000 Area Scholarships** – Open to any incoming college *Freshman, Sophomore (new)*, Junior or Senior accepted into a *Teacher's Certification Program* to be used for educational expenses.
- \$2,000 Helen Kennedy Scholarship** – Open to any IL High School graduate Sophomore through Senior with a declared major in education.
- \$2,000 Rose Sandstrom Scholarship** – for an incoming Senior at either Western IL Univ. or Monmouth College with a declared major in physical education.



**An Irish Blessing**  
*May the road rise to meet you,  
 May the wind always be at your back.  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
 and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
 And until we meet again, may God hold  
 you in the palm of His hand.*