

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2020

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

Roger Hampton
Soundings Editor



If PARTA does not have your email address, you miss vital information important to retired teachers.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PARTA Members,
While we know the end of this school year did not go as planned, we hope you enjoy this mailed edition of the Soundings. With overwhelming support, the board agreed to mail this issue rather than send it only online. We hope in some small way this makes you feel closer to your friends of PARTA.



MEETING

We plan to start our fall PARTA luncheon meetings as usual, unless our Governor tells us otherwise.

Please stay safe and enjoy your summer at home.

Thank you to all our members, officers, callers, and committee volunteers.



Blessings, Abby Humbles, PARTA President



UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 14 (2nd Monday)

"MANUAL LABOR" DICK VANSCYOC AND DAUGHTERS
DR. JAN BOGLE & GWEN WESTENDORF

Legendary Manual basketball coach will sign copies of his book on Manual hoops history.



OCTOBER 5

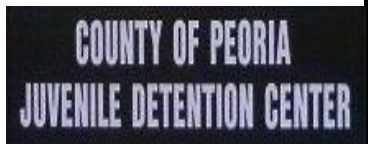
TBD - MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION (if available)

ALTERNATE: AGING CARE - HELPING THE ELDERLY FIND THE CARE THEY NEED

NOVEMBER 2

ZELENA WILLIAMS, Volunteer with teenage girls at JV Detention,

Zee's Blessed Dress: *Zelena welcomes donations of buttons, zippers, lace, pillowcases, T-Shirts, fabric glue, and scraps of material.*



DECEMBER 7

Barbershop Quartet



And Then It's
2021



SOUNDINGS

TOTAL PARTA FINANCES	Investment Balance		\$42,172.79
	Savings Balance		6,007.86
	Checking Balance		2,044.87
	Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	315.64
Jeff Vallosio Treasurer	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	108.65
Grand Total			\$50,749.81

PARTA has gained back much of the large March loss (-\$11,000) in the past two months, and we are back closer (about \$3,000) to the beginning of the year (which was way up — over \$6,000 year to year).

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY							
Bixby	James	815 Ravinwoods RD	Peoria	IL	61615-1331	689-3027	New member
		jbixbyaolnilx@comcast.net					
Bott	Virginia	Virbott75@gmail.com					New email
Bouris	Jodi	4000 N Harvard AVE	Peoria	IL	61614-7945		New address
Caldwell	Sue	1332 N Forrest DR	Germantown Hills	IL	61548-9440	645-8904	New member
		jackandsuecaldwell@yahoo.com					
Coleman	Cora	c.coleman5234@gmail.com					Email change
Cullinan	Patricia	4725 N Grandview DR	Peoria Heights	IL	61616-5418		New address
Duran	Nancy	1905 Springfield RD	East Peoria	IL	61611-4344	264-2214	New member
		nancy.duran3171@gmail.com					
Illuzzi	Gail					397-0414	New phone number
Illuzzi	Michael					369-0703	New phone number
Kruger	Midori	irodimk@aol.com					Add email
Murray	Kathleen	mkm46@hotmail.com					Add email
Peacock	Debra	debkpeacock@gmail.com					New email
Stewart	Eleanor	candestew@comcast.net			243-9740		New email & phone

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

PARTA Altruistic Committee Chair – Frances Farraher
Please contact Frances with any information regarding a death of PARTA members in 2020. Phone 688.1424 or E-mail: fkf35@yahoo.com



Jane Hatton, 77

01/06/1943 - 03/13/2020



I started a new exercise routine.
Every day I do Diddly-squats!

EXERCISE???
*I thought you said
Extra Fries!!!*

SOUNDINGS

GREAT NEWS FOR OUR IRTA MEMBERS

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, the Appropriations Bill was introduced, and it has full funding for the TRIP/TRAIL program and pensions.

Both are funded at the certified amounts provided by TRS.

The General Assembly adjourned early Sunday, May 24 SENATE BILL 264 was passed and is now being sent to the Governor. This is the budget bill and it is fully funding TRIP/TRAIL and TRS.



SENATE BILL 1857 was also passed and is headed to the Governor's desk. This bill will allow retirees to continue to work 120 days for the 20-21 school year.

Thank you so much for all your efforts and for sending emails to your legislators so that our voice could be heard.

MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN IRTA'S VOTERVOICE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

All TRS Annuitants should actively participate in defending our pensions.

All retirees involved would better insure our continued successes.

Are you a member of IRTA and a participant in VoterVoice?

JOIN TODAY online at irtaonline.org or call 1.800.728.4782



How It All Began - Origin of Post-it Notes

In 1968, Dr. Spencer Silver, a scientist at 3M in the United States, was attempting to develop a super-strong adhesive. Instead, he accidentally created a "low-tack", reusable, pressure-sensitive adhesive. For five years, Silver promoted his "solution without a problem" within 3M, both informally and through seminars, but failed to gain acceptance. In 1974, a colleague, Art Fry, who had attended one of his seminars, came up with the idea of using the adhesive to anchor his bookmark in his hymn book. Fry then utilized 3M's officially sanctioned "permitted bootlegging" policy to develop the idea. The original notes' yellow color was chosen by accident, as the lab next door to the Post-It team had only yellow scrap paper to use.

KEEP YOUR HUMOR & SMILE 😊 Humor can make a serious difference. In all areas of life, looking for a reason to laugh is necessary. A sense of humor helps us to get through the dull times, cope with the difficult times, enjoy the good times, and manage the scary times.

My refrigerator just growled at me, closed its eyes, and hissed at me: "NOT YOU AGAIN!"

Now I get it! When things get 'hot' they expand...I'm not fat. I'm HOT!!!

I went to the paint store today. I heard you could get thinner there.



I washed my hand so much due to COVID-19 that my exam notes from 1985 resurfaced!

Had I known in March that it was the last time I would be in a restaurant for several months I would have ordered the dessert!!!

Thankful for my wine - surviving quarantine one sip at a time!

TRS "BUYOUT" PROGRAMS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

Interest in the state's two pension "buyout" programs has proved to be so strong that officials must increase the amount of money appropriated to meet all lump-sum payments. In all, participating TRS members have requested \$269 million in buyout funds, which is \$56 million more than what state government originally had allocated to TRS for the programs.



The Governor's Office of Management and Budget is planning to allocate additional money to TRS – enough for the remaining payments in fiscal year 2020 and for anticipated payments in FY 2021, which begins in July.

At the end of the first year of "buyouts," newly retiring TRS members participating in the "Accelerated Automatic Increase" program shared approximately \$90 million. In all, 17.4% of retiring members decided to participate.

Inactive members in the "Accelerated Pension Benefit" program shared \$180 million. The participation rate in this program was 10.4% of all eligible inactive members.



124,700 RETIREE BENEFITS PAID ON TIME

All TRS member benefits for May were paid in full and on schedule despite coronavirus restrictions. Working from home, TRS staff processed and certified payments for 124,700 retired members and beneficiaries and sent the payment requests to the Illinois Comptroller's Office. The Comptroller's Office then transferred the funds on time to the bank accounts of all eligible members.

The benefits paid using "work from home" procedures totaled \$589.6 million in May 2020.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED:



More than 60 years ago, CBS aired "Lucy is Enceinte," the Season 2 episode of "I Love Lucy" in which Lucy (Lucille Ball) and Ricky (Desi Arnaz) find out they're going to have a baby. The episode, which aired on December 8, 1952, made Lucy TV's first pregnant character, but the script did not use the word "pregnant" once. "Lucy Is Enceinte" was scandalous at the time, at least in the eyes of the CBS executives who balked at the idea of its star — who slept in a twin bed next to her husband onscreen — actually acknowledging and openly displaying the biological consequences of S-E-X. The script famously had to dance around saying the word 'pregnant,' a term CBS deemed too vulgar for air, hence the French word for pregnancy in the episode title.



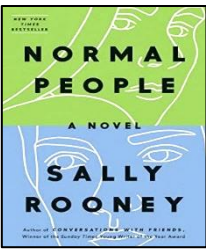
Take your clothes out of the closet regularly to air and allow them to be in the sunlight. Recent studies have shown that clothes kept in closets during quarantine will shrink!!!

4 BASIC FOOD GROUPS

- ✓ Canned
- ✓ Frozen
- ✓ Take Out
- ✓ Junk Food

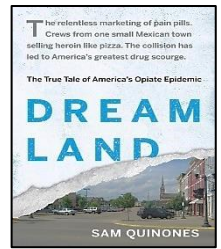


PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



Normal People by Sally Rooney

Normal People is a story that explores the subtleties of class, the electricity of first love, and the complex entanglements of family and friendship. At school Connell and Marianne pretend not to know each other. He's popular and well-adjusted, star of the school soccer team while she is lonely, proud, and intensely private. But when Connell comes to pick his mother up from her housekeeping job at Marianne's house, a strange and indelible connection grows between the two teenagers - one they are determined to conceal. Throughout their college years they circle one another, straying toward other people and possibilities but always irresistibly drawn back together. Then, as she veers into self-destruction and he begins to search for meaning elsewhere, each must confront how far they are willing to go to save the other.



Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quinones

Dreamland is a scathing and incendiary account of drug culture and addiction spreading to every part of the American landscape. Sam Quinones weaves together two classic tales of American capitalism: The stories of young men in Mexico, independent of the drug cartels, in search of their own American Dream via the fast and enormous profits of trafficking cheap black-tar heroin to America's rural and suburban addicts; and that of Purdue Pharma in Stamford, Connecticut, determined to corner the market on pain with its new and expensive miracle drug, Oxycontin; extremely addictive in its own right. Quinones illuminates just how these two stories fit together as cause and effect: hooked on costly Oxycontin, American addicts were lured to much cheaper black tar heroin and its powerful and dangerous long-lasting high.



THE STARFISH STORY

One day, a man walking along the shore, looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself thought of someone who would dance to the day,



and so, he walked faster to catch up. As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean. He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean." "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man. To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die." Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!" At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "*It Made A Difference to That One.*"

SOUNDINGS



Illinois Retired Teachers Association
teams with
Association Member Benefits Advisors



to make member-only benefits available to you. You will find many insurance related benefits available at special group rates along with numerous merchant discounts that your association has selected for you. Founded in 1981, AMBA provides benefits to over 6 million members of over 60 associations.

SPOTLIGHT ON ONE OF IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

FLEXIBLE CHOICE CANCER, HEART ATTACK & STROKE POLICY

This IRTA endorsed program will pay a lump sum benefit from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to use any way you like, upon a diagnosis of Cancer, or if you have a Heart Attack, Heart Surgery or Stroke. The Money comes in a lump sum payment, and is PAID DIRECTLY TO YOU, regardless of any other insurance you may have. This money can be used to help pay deductibles, rehabilitation, experimental treatments, or any unexpected expenses. The program also includes a recurrence benefit which will pay upon multiple incidents. For information contact:



Larry Newman: 708.878.2814 | larry.newman@amba.info

For a full list of IRTA member-only benefits and discount codes:
Log on to: www.irtaonline.org Click on: "Member Benefits"

A study from the Illinois Policy Institute estimates the state's economic activity has dropped more than 7.4% in the first quarter of 2020, costing the state about \$183 million a day.

ILLINOIS RECORD UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD RATES

Lowest: 3.4% in November 2019

Highest: Over 17% in May 2020

The unemployment rate in Illinois reached a staggering 16.4% in April 2020, the highest rate recorded since the modern system of tracking joblessness began in 1976. The previous record of 13.9% was set in February 1983.

The numbers reflect an overall loss of 762,200 nonfarm jobs since March, the largest single-month decline in state history, and a decline of 822,800 jobs since April 2019.

MEDICAID & CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS (CHIP)

ILLINOIS

- 2,494,277 Enrolled in Medicaid
- 279,103 Enrolled in CHIP

**JANUARY 2020
ENROLLMENT
DATA**

TOTAL UNITED STATES

- 63,920,268 Enrolled in Medicaid
- 6,791,910 Enrolled in CHIP



It was at a miniature golf course on a brutally hot day when I saw a father with 3 kids. "Who's winning?" I asked cheerfully. "I am" said one "no, I am" said another. "No," the father said, "their mother is!"



SOUNDINGS

PARTA SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE:

In addition to our annual foundation scholarship, our members donated enough money for an additional \$1,000 scholarship for the ICC students who are planning to become teachers. Your generosity to our commitment to support our profession is sincerely appreciated.



Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Chair

Think deeply ~ Speak gently ~ Love much ~ Laugh a lot ~ Work hard ~ Give freely ~ And be Kind

IRT FOUNDATION - AREA 4 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR FALL 2020



**Bailee Mueller
Normal, IL**

Bailee attended Parkland College where she graduated with Honors and earned an Associate in Arts Degree. She will be

starting her senior year at Illinois State University where she is an Elementary Education major.

**Karlie Kniep
Morton, IL**

Karlie will be an incoming junior at Illinois State University where she will pursue a degree in Middle Level Teacher Education. Her plans are to become a middle school math teacher.



FOR IRTA, GIVING BACK IS SOWING SEEDS

IRTF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

Due to school closing in Spring 2020, application submission date has been extended to October 1, 2020.

The Illinois Retired Teachers Foundation continues to work toward the future by offering \$36,500 in grant money to educators. This special grant will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects.

Please download, complete, and submit the application online at:

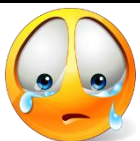
<https://irtaonline.org/index.php/foundation/Grants>. All proposals must be submitted by October 1, 2020. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money over the fall. Grant awards will be presented thereafter.

(Chicago Public School employees are not eligible for this grant program.)

**GIVE
INFORMATION
TO CURRENT
TEACHERS**

Watch Illinois Retired Teachers Foundation 2019 Grant Winners Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTIF4fJj7Yk&feature=youtu.be>



***When life gives you a hundred reasons to break down and cry,
show life you have a thousand reasons to smile and laugh.***

STAY STRONG!



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Retired Teachers' Association
308 James Parkway
Washington, IL 61571-1041

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PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



PARTA OFFICERS 2019 - 2020

- Abby Humbles, *President*
- Dixie Wheeler, *1st Vice President*
- Ann Winget, *2nd Vice President*
- Kathy Simpson, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 65 YEARS**

online @
PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM/
Sally Weber, *Webmaster*