

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2021

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

IN-PERSON

LUNCHEON MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
June 7 @ 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon – \$12.00

Face Masks Required
Except at Tables

ZOOM OPTION

Available Every Meeting

GREETERS

- Sherry Perez
- Carla Stokowski

PLEDGE & INVOCATION

- Jackie Gilles

LUNCHEON

Lasagna (2 kinds)
Potato | Vegetable
Salad | Dessert

PROGRAM

ADULT LITERACY

- John Meisinger
- Dave Obergfel

MEETING

Dixie Wheeler, *Chair*
PARTA President



ROGER HAMPTON
SOUNDINGS EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, PARTA members,
We will be asking for your help during our June meeting. On your tables you will find a list of PARTA members for whom we have little or no information. If you know anything about these members, please list your information on the sheet. Also, be sure to check out the new member information sheet included in this month's Soundings. Use it as talking points to potential members!



Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS

ALTERNATE ZOOM OPTION FOR EACH MEETING

If you are not currently comfortable with attending in-person meetings, or if you are not able to attend, please consider joining us via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 812 522 6549 | Passcode: 1eZRzQ

September will begin a **MASK OPTIONAL** policy.

SEPTEMBER 13 (2nd Monday)

TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS) UPDATES
RICH FRANKENFELD, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

OCTOBER 4

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL
NECROLOGY SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 - AUGUST 31, 2021

NOVEMBER 1

POW/SABER TABLE
PRESENTED BY LIMESTONE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC

DECEMBER 6

HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES

Check webpage for updates, menus, programs, etc.
PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM Sally Weber, Webmaster

PARTA Board Meetings - Lakeview Branch PPL
August 23 & November 15 at 10:00 A.M.

SOUNDINGS

GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

11:30 AM, MAY 3, 2021

Together Again

The PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on May 3, 2021, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Dixie Wheeler opened with a prayer and the pledge to the flag. Forty-seven (47) in-person members and guests were in attendance. The Zoom platform was also available for members who were not able to attend in person.

Due to a family emergency, the presenter from the Peoria Charter Coach was not available.

Ann Winget, the outgoing program chair, thanked the members for the support over her 11-year tenure. She gave special recognition to the committee members who worked diligently with her and provided her with many program ideas.



President Wheeler recognized outgoing officers and committee chairs.

PARTA will be working with Zees's Blessed Dress Project. This project is an outreach project initiated by Zelena Williams. Mrs. Williams volunteers with teens at the Juvenile Detention Center, where she uses pillowcases, jewelry, articles of clothing, and purses to create artwork. Ann Winget will collect the items at the June meeting for Mrs. Williams.

President Wheeler informed the members about the work in which the Board was currently working. The goal for this year is membership recruitment, participation, and sustainability. President Wheeler will share a document with the membership in the Soundings regarding the membership plan. The membership committee wants programs for PARTA to be relevant to members of PARTA and IRTA. They encourage members to frequent the PARTA website (pa-rta.weebly.com) and the IRTA website (irtaonline.org) to become informed. Members were directed to the Suggestion Box at the back of the room to use for comments and ideas on programming or other areas of interest. Members were encouraged to invite prospective members. Members of PARTA do not have to be teachers. Our membership goal this year is to recruit 25 new members. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn. Peggy Shane made the motion, and Linda Horton seconded it.



Respectfully Submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

DONATIONS FOR ZEE'S BLESSED DRESS NEEDED

PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO OUR JUNE MEETING

LACE	RUFFLES	RIBBONS	TIE DIE KITS	HOT GLUE GUNS
ZIPPERS	PATCHES	T-SHIRTS	FABRIC GLUE	HOT GLUE STICKS
ELASTIC	BUTTONS	APPLICA'S	PILLOWCASES	SCRAPS OF MATERIAL

<div style="background-color: #e0ffe0; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">TREASURER'S REPORT</div> <p>Summary</p>	Total Investment Balance	\$ 52,126.46
	Savings Balance	9,016.84
	Checking Balance	2,459.85
	Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	342.43
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	93.83
<i>Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer</i>	Grand Total	\$ 64,139.41

At my age I need glasses...



SOUNDINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING (VIRTUAL)

APRIL 19, 2021

The PARTA Board Meeting started at 10:03 AM with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. The members present were: Roger Hampton, Dixie Wheeler, Patti Monks, Jeff Vallosio, Peggy Shane, Dave Barnwell, John Rathbun, Jeannie Blane, Valda Shipp, Sally Weber, Susan Leighty, Abby Humbles, and Deloris Turner.



President Wheeler posed some questions to the Board regarding membership input, with references to what we do as a Unit. John Rathbun felt there has always been some level of input.

However, the current meeting setting makes it hard for members to participate actively.

Some suggestions to generate membership input: filling out cards and not requiring the person's identity and placing a suggestion box at the back of the meeting room; pose topics to incite thinking and discussion among the membership; ask members to recruit other members; use the comment section of the PARTA website; a display with names of the retiree and their district displayed at meetings: members at the meeting could connect with these individuals.

Sally Weber stated that our mission statement focuses on Advocacy, Education, Cooperation, and Socialization. Sally felt we currently hit on all of them. She suggested since membership is our focus this year, it would be prudent to stay with

MEMBERSHIP membership as the sole focus. Sally suggested having a suggestion box at the back table at the May meeting. President Wheeler asked for a reasonable number we should focus on to increase membership this year. No one suggested a specific number at the meeting. It was noted, Peoria area has around seventy-five teachers retire each year.



Jeff Vallosio provided membership data for PARTA to show membership gains and losses: 2017(38), 2018(29), 2019(44), 2020(16). The significant loss in 2020 was attributed to the pandemic and the lack of in-person meetings. President Wheeler posed the following questions to the Board:

1. How do we perceive ourselves as a Unit?
2. Do people know the purpose of our meetings?
3. Are people aware of the reasons we meet?

Board members responded with a plethora of answers: socialization, food, and relevant programs.

President Wheeler would like eligible retirees to join PARTA and IRTA. She also encouraged Board members to participate in IRTA by supporting it and registering for the conferences. Dave Barnwell mentioned we have always been active in the past with IRTA.

Information on this year's IRTA conference will be in the Soundings. All IRTA members are encouraged to participate. All new retirees will also receive a conference invite from IRTA.

President Wheeler would like PARTA members to go to the IRTA website for information.

Jeff Vallosio suggested that at the end of the May PARTA meeting, a provision will be made to explain the Zoom platform for those who are technology challenged and hesitant about using Zoom.

Jeannie Blane announced the programs for May and June: May - Peoria Charter Coach will be discussing their schedule of trips; June - John Meisinger and Dave Obergfel - Adult Literacy President Wheeler called for the meeting adjournment. Peggy Shane made the motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Patti Monks.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

If you see someone falling behind, walk beside them.

If you see someone being ignored, find a way to include them.

Always remind people of their worth.

One small act could mean the world to them!



SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Cornelius	Peggy Baird	4517 Triangle AVE APT 419	Austin	TX	78751-3523	New Address
Campbell	Lynn	821 E Hines AVE	Peoria Heights	IL	61616-7623	685.0351 New Member
lynnelizabethcampbell@gmail.com						
Day	Christine	3031 W Willow Knolls DR APT 301	Peoria	IL	61614-8106	713.1995 New Address/Phone
Clemmer	Rodger	6901 N Galena RD OFC	Peoria	IL	61614-3193	New Address
Huey	Lynne	4622 Crystal AVE	Bartonville	IL	61607-2622	369.8376 New Member
lhuey@mtco.com						

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

Altruistic Committee Chair: Denise Smith – fonmomnow2@itv-3.com
History & Archives Chair: Susan Leighty – rlleighty@sbcglobal.net
Please help PARTA keep accurate and up-to-date member information by contacting Denise and Susan with any information regarding PARTA members who have passed.

MESSAGE FROM PATTI MONKS, CHAIRPERSON FOR THE CALLING COMMITTEE MONTHLY CALLERS

I am still in need of 2 more people who would be willing to be callers on a monthly basis. This would involve calling 25 members on a monthly basis to see if they would like to attend the monthly luncheon/business meeting. It would take 45-60 minutes of your time. I am in constant contact with the callers and keep them aware of any new developments. Without the wonderful callers who take their time to reach out to the members each month we wouldn't have our luncheons. The callers are the heart and soul of the meetings.

SUB CALLERS

Additional substitute callers needed. A sub caller would be given all of the lists. They would be called upon to call a specific list in the event a monthly caller cannot make the calls for that particular month. This is also a very important job.

LUNCHEON CHECK-IN

I need one or two people who would be willing to sit at the back table and check people in each luncheon meeting each month. This is also a very important job and so very necessary to the smooth running of the luncheons.

CALLING COMMITTEE FOR 2021-2022

SUB CALLERS 2021- 2022

Denise Adams		Sharon Couden		Glenda Trollope		Pat Hampton
Marcia Becker		Sonja Durand		Marty Sprecher		Molly Bright
Laveine Birditt		Lillie Foreman		Susie Pierce		
Mary Lou Boettger		Kathy Simpson		Valda Shipp		

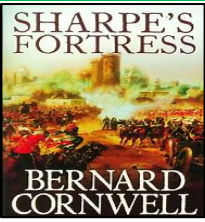


PLEASE CONTACT ME, Patti Monks, if you are interested in being a monthly caller, a substitute caller, or would help out by checking people in at the back table on a monthly basis. Call me and leave a message @ 309.697.3385, or if you are at the June meeting you may leave me a note with your information.

THANK YOU, Cora Coleman and Pat Jackson. Cora and Pat have served as callers and have also served as checking people in at the back table. Their many years of service is greatly appreciated.

In 20 years, I bet there's going to be a college course called eye contact.

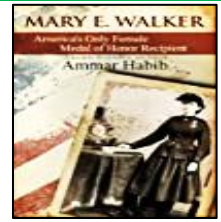
SOUNDINGS



PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

Sharpe's Fortress
by Bernard Cornwell

Critically acclaimed, perennial New York Times bestselling author Bernard Cornwell makes real history come alive in his breathtaking historical fiction. Praised as "the direct heir to Patrick O'Brian" (Agincourt, The Fort), Cornwell has brilliantly captured the fury, chaos, and excitement of battle as few writers have ever done—perhaps most vividly in his phenomenally popular novels following the illustrious military career of British Army officer Richard Sharpe during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In Sharpe's Fortress, Ensign Sharpe's adventures in India reach a grand finale at the Siege of Gawilghur during the Maharatta War in December 1803, as Cornwell's hero uncovers a foul treason and seeks a righteous revenge. Perhaps the San Francisco Chronicle said it best: "If only all history lessons could be as vibrant."



***Mary Edwards Walker:
America's Only Female
Medal of Honor Recipient***
by Ammar Habib

In the history of America, only one woman has ever received the Medal of Honor: Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. However, Mary's life was more than just a medal. Not only was Mary a leading suffragist, the first female surgeon to serve in the United States Army, and an advocate of women's dress reform, she was a woman who put the lives of others before hers. She sacrificed her personal happiness, her comforts, and her reputation in order to fight for the ideals she believed in, both during and after her service in the American Civil War. Mary was a nonconformist in every way, refusing to bow down to society's establishments. When society towered above her, demanding her to surrender, Mary planted herself like a tree and stood her ground. Mary's life is a testament to the idea of selflessness. Today, many Americans stand on her shoulders. This book is more than a simple biography of Mary's life. Instead, this book seeks to understand the woman behind the medal. It seeks to discover the core of Mary's being and the inspirations that turned her into who she was.

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS **RECOVERY CARE HOSPITAL INDEMNITY**

Aetna's plan can help you manage your expenses. It offers you a level of care and comfort you deserve in case of an accident or illness that requires assistance. This IRTA Endorsed Program provides Care IN YOUR HOME, Nursing Home or Assisted Living Facility, and will help with the costs of Hospitalization. Benefits are paid directly to you regardless of what is paid by your Health Insurance. To learn more, contact:

Gary DiVito, AMBA District Manager | 847-668-0531 | gary.divito@amba.info

For a full list of IRTA member-only benefits and discount codes:

Log on to: www.irtaonline.org Click on: "Member Benefits"



Sometime the thoughts in my head get bored and go for a stroll out through my mouth. This is never a good thing!



SOUNDINGS



VOTERVOICE GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

Use this IRTA resource to receive informative and action alerts and to contact your state and federal representatives.

CRITIQUE OF "WHAT NEWSPAPERS ARE REPORTING" | JEFF VALLOSIO



(Capitol Fax article printed in the April Soundings)

As the State of Illinois considers the budget, spending, and taxes, it is of importance to teachers, and particularly retired teachers, to pay attention. The State of Illinois continues to underfund our TRS pension system in order to use the money for current day expenditures thus allowing continued avoidance of taxing to pay for the levels of spending that are approved. This problem should be clear to anyone who has paid attention to what continues to occur year after year. While state officials may say they are funding the pension levels needed to pay current retirees they have continued to fail to put into the system the money needed to provide for future benefits. The only reason the TRS has



continued to survive is because of an overall good investment result. If the stock market tanks, TRS (and other Illinois retirement system) retirees are in for a scary and difficult time as the current funding by the state would need to increase and there is not money for that. This is the same problem with Social Security--it is easy for the federal and state governments to spend money rather than "to save it in the bank" for future retirement commitments.

This is also why we here in PARTA need to continually remember that while we have a nice investment portfolio, we need to resist the temptation to see a pot of money that we can spend on various good projects. The money paid for life membership, like the pension systems, should be reserved for the future needs of those



Reserve Funds



who have paid into the system and have every rightful expectation to receive the benefits for which they have paid. While news reports and Governor Pritzker's budget address may say "Illinois state government already spends less money per person than the majority of states in the nation", they left out the important fact that much of Illinois' educational spending comes from the local level and not the state government. That is not so in other states. Thus, while the statement may be true as written, it is not a fair comparative statement concerning total spending. Some "Pinocchios" should be assessed to both the governor for saying that and the media for not pointing out the unfair comparison.

What the article should have said was that both more cuts in spending over the long term and general tax increases also over the long term will be required because of decades of overspending and "borrowing" from the pension funds.

A man was fishing and saw a frog. He reached down and picked it up. The frog told him, "Kiss me and I'll turn into a princess," but the man instead stuck the frog in his pocket. The frog said, "Aren't you going to kiss me?" The man replied, "I'm 80 years old. I'd rather have a talking frog!"



Teacher: "Which book has helped you the most in your life?" Student: "My father's check book!"

SOUNDINGS



IRTA AREA 4 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 17TH AT 9:30 A.M.

YOU ARE INVITED to the IRTA 2021 Area 4 Virtual Conference. The conference is a fully online, virtual experience. We are excited that a virtual event makes it possible to broaden the informational, learning opportunities and engagement with all the members of our Association.

As an attendee you will be able to participate virtually in reports and panel discussions around legislation, philanthropic opportunities, the Teachers' Retirement System, member benefits, and an external organizational effectiveness review. After each report you will have the opportunity to ask questions via a chat feature or by video.

The conference agenda is robust, but our aim is to deliver as much information as we can without causing much fatigue. Association staff will be present up to two hours before the meeting to troubleshoot any technical problems. We encourage you to log-in earlier than the start time to test your connection.



All sessions will be **SIMULCAST** on **YOUTUBE.COM**, in the unlikely event you experience connection difficulties. For the best experience, we ask that you use a computer or laptop when joining this meeting. Best of all, all sessions will be recorded and easily accessible for **ON-DEMAND VIEWING** at a later time at your convenience.

We greatly look forward to seeing you at the 2021 Area Conference. Registration is highly encouraged but not required. However, you must register to be eligible for up to \$200 in door prizes. There is a lot of new information this year - we hope you plan to attend.



- 9:30 - 9:40 Opening Remarks & Introduction
- 9:40 - 10:00 State of IRTA and IRTF
- 10:00 - 10:30 Legislative Update
- 10:30 - 10:40 Political Action Committee (PAC) Report
- 10:40 - 11:00 Teachers Retirement System (TRS) Update
- 11:00 - 11:25 Organizational Effectiveness Review & Consultant Report
- 11:25 - 11:35 Member Benefits Informational Review
- 11:35 - 11:45 Closing Remarks
- 11:45 - 2:45 Small Table Networking



Register Online: airmeet.com/e/f50d8c50-b26c-11eb-bb89-19b6782e25c3

A new supermarket opened near my house. It has an automatic water sprinkler to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain. When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and experience the scent of fresh hay. When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying. The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn. I do NOT buy toilet paper there anymore!



SOUNDINGS

WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION (WEP) & GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET (GPO)

WEP, enacted in 1983, reduces the Social Security benefits of workers who receive pensions from a federal, state, or local government for employment not covered by Social Security. {affects nearly 2 million retirees)



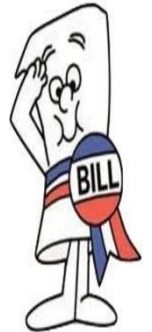
GPO, enacted in 1977, reduces or eliminates Social Security spousal benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers who receive even partial pensions from a federal, state, or local government. (affects more than 700,000 retirees, 83% women, 71% lose ALL benefits)

WEP and GPO cut the earned benefits of more than two million retirees.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AFFECTED

- TEACHERS IN 15 STATES: AK, CA, CO, CT, GA, IL, KY, LA, MA, ME, MO, NV, OH, RI, TX
- STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND SPECIAL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES IN 26 STATES
- FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ON THE CSRS RETIREMENT SYSTEM IN EVERY STATE

Today's mobile population assures that there are impacted individuals in every state. Most importantly, the offsets represent unfair public policy and primarily hurt middle-income as well as low-income retirees.



CURRENT BILLS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL H.R. 82 | SENATE BILL S. 302

More information and calls to action at <https://ssfairness.org/>

Join the mailing list to keep informed: <https://ssfairness.org/join-us/>

LEGENDARY WORDS: One day, the Churchill couple walked through a posh neighborhood in London. People greeted and exchanged words with the Prime Minister. A street sweeper, on the other hand, greeted Mrs. Churchill in particular, and the two stepped aside for a while in a familiar conversation. Churchill then asked his wife what she had had to discuss with a street sweeper for so long. "Ah... he was in love with me a long time ago," she said. Churchill smiled and said, "You see, if you had married him, you would be the wife of a street sweeper today."

Mrs. Churchill looked at her husband in amazement and said the legendary words:

"But no Darling, if I had married him, he would be Prime Minister today."

A six-year-old came crying to his mother because his little sister had pulled his hair. "Don't be angry," his Mother said. "Your little sister doesn't realize that pulling hair hurts." A short while later there was more crying and the Mother went to investigate. This time the sister was bawling, and her brother said... "Now she knows!"



CREATE YOUR OWN LIST OF SUMMER EXPERIENCES

FIND EVENTS ONLINE:

- peoriaevents.com/
- enjoyillinois.com/
- eventful.com/

Plan now to attend PARTA's Luncheon Meeting on September 13 to share with your tablemates the special memories you were able to create this summer. ✓