

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2022

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

LUNCHEON MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
June 6 @ 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon – \$12.00

GREETERS



PLEDGE & INVOCATION

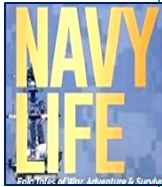
 Linda Horton

LUNCHEON

Fried Chicken
Potatoes w/Gravy
Kernel Corn
Salads | Dessert

PROGRAM

**FOR THE
LOVE OF
NAVY
LIFE**



DOUG WRIGHT
Commander
Submarine Squadron

MEETING

DIXIE WHEELER, Chair
PARTA President



ROGER HAMPTON
SOUNDINGS EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**TALK to YOUR
LEGISLATORS**

Greetings, PARTA members,
This past week I met with a representative from Win Stoller's office (who just happens to be another "Dixie".) As part of my responsibility as legislative representative for IRTA Region 10, I am to pass along IRTA's purpose and concerns to our legislative representatives. My message, "Just don't take our benefits away." This summer if you come across a legislator/or want-to-be legislator, introduce yourself and tell them you are an IRTA member—and tell them we vote!
It will be my privilege to introduce a local scholarship winner at our June meeting.
Thank you to those who support the IRTA Scholarship fund!

**IRTA
Scholarship
Winner**

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 12 (2nd Monday)

IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

LORI FAIRFIELD, Benefits Representative
Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)



OCTOBER 3

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL

NECROLOGY SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2022



NOVEMBER 7 & DECEMBER 5
T B A

PARTA Board Meetings – Lakeview Branch PPL
August 22 & November 28 at 10:15 A.M.

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

Have a great



A perfect summer day is:
when the sun is shining,
the breeze is blowing,
the birds are singing,
and the lawnmower is broken.

SOUNDINGS

GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

11:30 AM, MAY 2, 2022

The May PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on May 02, 2022, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. There were 63 (sixty-three) members in attendance and two (2) members on Zoom. One new member, Cindy McCumber, was present. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Carla Stokowski, and Sherry Perez. She also thanked Valda Shipp and Rhonda Kokos for assisting at the check-in table. Catriona Ritenhouse led the pledge and gave the invocation.



President Wheeler announced the Membership Committee had filled candy bags to distribute to schools and sent letters to new retirees. Members were reminded that the treasurer's report was on the tables. Lee Ann Meinhold introduced the meeting speaker, Aimee Shinall, Victims Services Coordinator for the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. Aimee provided the membership with valuable information on fraud, scams,



and identity theft. Aimee mentioned there are many scams and frauds. Some prevalent scams and frauds are IRS imposters, grandparent scam, foreign lottery scam, contract

fraud, ruse burglary, Microsoft phone scam, home repair fraud, Ameren Illinois customer phone scam, and telemarketing fraud. She cautioned everyone to be vigilant and report them if they have been affected.



BUSINESS MEETING:

President Wheeler thanked board members for submitting their job descriptions to her. They will be posted on the PARTA website. The Area 4 IRTA Conference is on June 16, 2022. It is Virtual. President Wheeler encouraged members to register and attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lindsey Butler, an IRTA scholarship recipient, will attend our June meeting. Jeff Vallosio informed members he would be collecting dues at the back table. Patti Monks needs callers and substitute callers. Members were reminded to pick up their 2022-2023 PARTA directory. They will also be available at the June meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No reports were given. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Olson moved to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

<p>PARTA TREASURER'S REPORT Summary</p>	Total Investment Balance		\$ 49,542.12
	Savings Balance		8,022.21
	Checking Balance		1,240.37
	Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund		178.78
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund		92.39
Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer		Grand Total	\$ 59,175.87

NEVER GIVE UP! *I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game-winning shot, and I missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.* ~ Michael Jordan

PARTA DISTRIBUTES CANDY BAGS TO AREA SCHOOLS



A committee of PARTA members (Abby Humbles, Mary Nelson, and Sally Weber) delivered candy bags and information sheets to several Peoria County schools.

The information sheet explained who PARTA is and what we do. It also highlighted how PARTA helps current educators with teacher grants and assists aspiring teachers with scholarships.

The county schools were divided into thirds with each third receiving candy bags over a three-year period. We hope to become better known to area educators and when retirement comes, they will choose to join our association.



IRTA FOUNDATION (IRTAF) SCHOLARSHIPS

The IRTAF awards six \$1,500 scholarships to incoming juniors or seniors in college that are pursuing a degree in education. Starting in 2023, the scholarship amount will be increased to \$2,000 per IRTA Area. Thanks to a very generous private donation from one of our members, Areas 4 and 6 each will award a second scholarship of \$3,000 each. The eight winners were chosen through competition with other applicants from their own area of the state.

IRTA AREA 4 WINNERS (2022 – 2023 School Year)

LYNDSEY BUTLER - Peoria, IL



Lyndsey initially attended Illinois Central College. She will be a senior in the fall and attends Illinois State University

where she is pursuing a Middle-Level Teacher Education degree. Lyndsey's motivation for being an educator is students. She has a heart for making a difference in students' lives and she hopes to help navigate students to their interests and fullest potentials.



MONTANA MULL - Normal, IL
Montana attended Sauk Valley Community College where she earned her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. She will be a senior in the fall and attends Illinois State University

where she is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. Montana has been interested in teaching since her freshman year of high school. She has worked part-time at a daycare while attending college full-time. She loves working with children and looks forward to being an inspiration to many young children as she helps them through their educational journey.

Information regarding the IRTAF and its programs (Financial Assistance, Grants, and Scholarships) and information on the other winners, please go online to:

<https://www.irtaonline.org/index.php/foundation>

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. ~ Benjamin Franklin

SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR NEW DIRECTORY

Macomber	Cynthia	519 Hampton CV	Peoria	IL	61607-1082	697-9348	New Member
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IN MEMORY...

William S “Bill” Brunner, 95	May 22, 1926 – February 19, 2022
Barbara L Sullivan, 85	November 23, 1936 – May 21, 2022



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.

ALTERNATE ZOOM OPTION FOR EACH MEETING

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

Zoom Meeting



<https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 812 522 6549 | Passcode: 1eZRzQ
A one-click link will be sent via email prior to meeting.
Meetings begin around 12:15 P.M. Join any time after 11:30 A.M.

GOOD NEWS STORY: KIDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/kidspost/>

WILLIAM WINSLOW, 14, NORTH CAROLINA | CAUSE: ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER

William Winslow could spend the long Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend playing basketball in the driveway at his home in Raleigh, North Carolina. Instead, the founder of the Food Drive Kids sits at the kitchen table with his 10-year-old brother, Alexander, and their parents to plan his nonprofit’s annual food drive. “I will do whatever it takes to end childhood hunger,” he said. William was in the first grade when he first learned that as many as 1 in 5 kids in his state were at risk for hunger — including some of his classmates. “That came as a shock,” he said. “I thought everyone had the same life as me. It was a rude awakening to the real world.” He persuaded his mom to drive him to a local Food Lion. There, he talked shoppers into buying food — 1,400 pounds worth — to send home in backpacks with kids during spring break. Seven years later, he’s collected more than 55,000 pounds of food, raised \$63,000 and been recognized as a Prudential Spirit of Community honoree. He’s expanded his mission, too. With Alexander working as head of advertising, Food Drive Kids also provides emergency food relief to the community, has helped build four school gardens to give kids access to healthy food and has set up two Little Food Pantries, which the brothers stock with food and toiletries each Friday.



SOUNDINGS

PARTA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED

Thank you to all the dedicated monthly callers and the substitute callers. If we didn't have our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to have our monthly meetings. Many of the callers have done this for years. They have asked our membership that when they receive a call to respond back. Many people are called and just let the caller keep reaching out to them. They do not respond if they are not able to attend.



I am asking our membership to please respond and return the calls with either a 'yes' or 'no'.



The dedicated callers are doing their absolute best and would really appreciate your cooperation.

Again, the success of our organization solely depends on our volunteers.

Patti Monks, PARTA Calling Committee Chairperson



Calling Committee Chairperson Patti Monks is seeking the help of dedicated volunteers that can help and assist her to make monthly

calls to our membership. Also, she needs dedicated substitute callers who can make the calls when asked in the absence of one of the monthly callers. A monthly caller will receive a list for the members that they will call each month. The substitute callers will receive a list



The substitute callers will have a list of all of the monthly callers in the case they are called upon to make calls for that particular caller.

Please reach out to Patti if you would agree to help in any way possible.

I don't have gray hair. I have 'wisdom highlights'.

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS



CHOICE HOME WARRANTY



PASSPORT[®]
CORPORATE

Informational Benefits through PASSPORT

Save up to \$120 on your home warranty coverage.

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

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

CREATE YOUR OWN LIST OF SUMMER EXPERIENCES

FIND EVENTS ONLINE:

- peoria.org/
- enjoyillinois.com/
- centralilattractions.com/

Plan now to attend PARTA's Luncheon Meeting on September 12 to share with your tablemates the special memories you were able to create this summer.

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take. ~ Wayne Gretzky
Every strike brings me closer to the next home run. ~ Babe Ruth

SOUNDINGS

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION:

In 2022 ONLY, the General Primary Election is scheduled for June 28, 2022.

NOMINATION OF:

- Federal Officers
- State Officers
- Legislative Officers
- Judicial Officers
- County Officers

ELECTION OF:

- Political Party Officers
- State Central, Township, Ward, & Precinct Committeepersons
- School District Officers (District 150 only)
- Referenda
- Special Elections



PRIMARY VOTING

The Peoria County Election Commission released the new voting precinct map. The precincts have changed as a result of the 2020 census results, and a change to the election law that allows an increased number of voters per precinct.



“The number of precincts in Peoria County is decreasing by 32%, as changes to State of Illinois law now allows for more voters per precinct,” Executive Director of the Peoria County Election Commission Tom Bride said. “However, most of our polling places will remain the same and will not be reduced by this amount. Every registered voter in the County will receive a new voter registration card with specific information.”

votervoices

IRTA'S GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER



Directory of Federal and State Elected Officials and Candidates

OFFICIALS' OR CANDIDATES' PROFILE (Based on YOUR address)

- Name
- Picture
- Political Party
- District

CONTACT INFORMATION

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Capitol Address ➤ Capitol Phone Number ➤ Capitol Fax Number | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ District Address ➤ District Phone Number ➤ District Fax | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Email Address ➤ Web Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facebook ➤ Twitter ➤ You Tube |
|---|---|---|---|

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Home
- Education
- Occupation

POLITICAL INFORMATION

- Date Began in Office
- Committees Appointed To

In addition, an option to compose and send a message to one or all your elected officials.

- ✿ *People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable!*
- ✿ *Retirees don't mind being called 'Seniors' because it comes with a 10% discount.*
- ✿ *New RETIRED sign: "Under new management. See spouse for details.*
- ✿ *Wear a smile and have friends; wear a scowl and have wrinkles*
- ✿ *When you can't find the sunshine, be the sunshine!*



SOUNDINGS



IRTA AREA 4 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH AT 9:30 A.M.

MEMBERS OF THE IRTA ARE INVITED to the 2022 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 IRTA.

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

8:30 - 9:20 Small Table Networking and Test Your Connection

- 9:30 - 9:40 Opening Remarks and Introductions - Donna Sargent, Area Representative
9:40 - 9:55 PRESENTATION: IRTA - Bill Funkhouser, President
9:55 - 10:05 PRESENTATION: IRTA Foundation (IRTAF) and Fundraiser Update - Bill Funkhouser, IRTAF Chair
10:05 - 10:20 PRESENTATION: Legislative Update - Jim Bachman, IRTA Executive Director; Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist; and Courtney Hayes – Government Affairs Coordinator
10:20 - 10:30 PRESENTATION: IRTAPAC - Sharon Teefey, IRTAPAC Committee Chair
10:30 - 10:40 PRESENTATION: TRS Update – Doug Strand, TRS Annuitant Trustee
10:40 - 10:50 PRESENTATION: Nominations Committee Report – Roger Hampton, Nominations Chair
10:50 - 11:05 PRESENTATION: IRTA Member Benefits - Larry Newman, AMBA Regional Vice President
11:05 - 11:15 Closing Remarks and Wheel of Names giveaways - Donna Sargent, Area Representative
11:15 - 12:00 Networking Small Tables Available/Possible Unit President Meetings; Nominations Succession Breakout with Roger Hampton & Deloris Turner

**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

Networking is a cornerstone of these annual events and attendees will be able to partake in interactive and engaging experiences through small breakout networking rooms. The breakout rooms will be open both before and after the formal conference reports.

Association staff will be present up to one hour before the meeting to troubleshoot any technical problems. We encourage you to log-in earlier than the start time to test your connection.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2022 Area Conference. Participants are eligible for up to \$200 in door prizes. There is a lot of new information this year you don't want to miss.

Question: *What is one of the biggest gripes of retirees?*

Answer: *There is not enough time to get everything done.*

Question: *Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?*

Answer: *Tied shoes.*

Question: *When is a retiree's bedtime?*

Answer: *Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.*



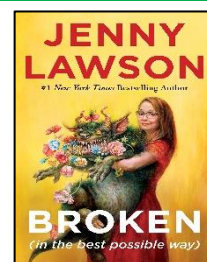
PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

RED HANDED: *How American Elites Get Rich Helping China Win*

by Peter Schweizer

Red Handed is the 2022 Peter Schweizer book detailing (81 pages of endnotes) the Chinese Communist Party influence among American elites. This includes big name tech giants, universities, businesses, sports and sports equipment entities, and equally well-known names among both democratic and republican politicians including not just Hunter Biden and the Biden family but also the Bushes, Trudeaus, McConnells, Pelosis, Feinsteins, and a host of other recognizable names. Indeed, the subtitle How American Elites Get Rich Helping China Win seems sadly appropriate.

The list of names and entities and the details provided are both depressing and scary. Quoting from the final chapter Schweizer states, “America is in a grim position. Beijing’s effort at ‘elite capture’ appears to be working spectacularly. We have exposed how elites, from Washington to Wall Street, from Silicon Valley to academia, have been coopted and are helping the regime...” (p. 236) “For decades the mantra from Washington, D. C., is that ‘engagement’ with China is our only hope for a peaceful world. Engagement was supposed to help the American trade balance with China, reduce Beijing’s ambitions, and help them embrace the international community of nations. But by every single measure, that policy has failed.” (p. 242) He continues “(i)n short, this policy has been good for China, and it has been great for American elites who continue to profit from their special access in China.” (p. 243)



BROKEN *(In the Best Possible Way)*

by Jenny Lawson

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Furiously Happy* and *Let’s Pretend This Never Happened* comes a deeply relatable book filled with humor and honesty about depression and anxiety. As Jenny Lawson’s hundreds of thousands of fans know, she suffers from depression. In *Broken*, Jenny brings readers along on her mental and physical health journey, offering heartbreaking and hilarious anecdotes along the way.

With people experiencing anxiety and depression now more than ever, Jenny humanizes what we all face in an all-too-real way, reassuring us that we’re not alone and making us laugh while doing it. From the business ideas that she wants to pitch to Shark Tank to the reason why Jenny can never go back to the post office, *Broken* leaves nothing to the imagination in the most satisfying way. And of course, Jenny’s long-suffering husband Victor—the Ricky to Jenny’s Lucille Ball—is present throughout.

A treat for Jenny Lawson’s already existing fans, and destined to convert new ones, *Broken* is a beacon of hope and a wellspring of laughter when we all need it most.



- It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.
- I thought growing old would take longer.
- These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'
- I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.