

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

**JUNE 2023**

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

**Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association**

**Local Unit 32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association**

## LUNCHEON MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn  
June 5 @ 11:30 A.M.  
Luncheon – \$14.00

**FREE LUNCH  
FOR FIRST TIME  
ATTENDEES**

## GREETERS

- ☀️ Peggy Maas
- ☀️ Debbie Wargo

## PLEDGE/INVOCATION

- ☀️ Linda Horton

## LUNCHEON

Fried Chicken  
Potatoes/Vegetable  
Assorted Salads  
Assorted Desserts

## PROGRAM

**NAVY LIFE  
PART II**  
**CAPTAIN WRIGHT  
& JEANIE WRIGHT**  
*You won't want to miss  
this program.*

## MEETING

Dixie Wheeler, Chair  
**PARTA President**

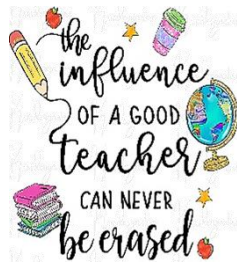
- ☀️ Check website ☀️  
for updates

PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM

Sally Weber  
Webmaster

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, PARTA Members,  
Our June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our last meeting until September in the fall. Everyone will be into summer activities that we enjoy — for me, reading and flower gardening. Most graduations are over, and those graduates will be on their way to the next stage of their education. Even if we don't have anyone in our family who has graduated this year, I'm sure that we all have had an important hand in helping some of the graduates of 2023. We may have no idea in what way we positively influenced any student at any time — by our actions, by what we taught, by what we said at a particular moment — we have blessed some students at some time. Job well-done, retired teachers.



Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

## UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS

**SEPTEMBER 11 (2nd Monday)**

**IRTA/AMBA BENEFITS**  
**LORI FAIRFIELD,**  
**AMBA BENEFITS SPECIALIST**

**Invite a  
New  
Retiree**

**OCTOBER 2**

**IN MEMORIAM: CELEBRATION OF LIFE**  
**NECROLOGY SEPTEMBER 1, 2022-AUGUST 31, 2023**

**NOVEMBER 6**

**PATRIOTIC THEME**

**DECEMBER 4**

**MUSICAL THEME - DENISE ADAMS**



*Then followed that beautiful season...SUMMER...  
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light;  
And the landscape lay as if new  
Created in all the freshness of childhood.*

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

# SOUNDINGS

## GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 1, 2023**

The May PARTA meeting was held at the Cater Inn on May 1, 2023. President Dixie Wheeler presided. Sixty-five members were in attendance. There were no new members. President Wheeler thanked the meeting Greeters, Peggy Shane and Jackie Gilles. Mary Ann Kaufman led the Pledge and Invocation.

Jeannie Blane introduced the guest speaker, Bill Funkhouser, President of IRTA. Mr. Funkhouser has been a Life Member of IRTA for 25 years. He has served as an Area Representative for 12 years, a Regional Director for 15 years, and the IRTA foundation for 15 years. Bill highlighted a few significant points regarding IRTA:



- IRTA has forty thousand members;
- IRTA loses about eighty members per month;
- The organization continues to seek new methods to attract new members;
- Some Units have stopped meeting or have disbanded;
- Members can keep abreast of happenings in the organization by tuning in to *Coffee with Jim* monthly. Jim Bachman is the Executive Director of IRTA.
- The *Good Dog News* publication is another avenue members can stay informed.
- The Area Conferences are virtual and are open to all members.
- The IRTA Convention is scheduled for October 16 and 17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL.
- Significant issues to be discussed at the Convention are proposed Constitution changes: size of the Board of Directors (from 33-10 members), eliminating Regional Directors.



Bill also recognized PARTA members working at the State level on various committees and offices: Roger Hampton, Pat Hampton, Dixie Wheeler, Jeff Vallosio, Sally Weber, and Deloris Turner.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Jeff Vallosio reported the Executive Board approved the PARTA budget on April 24, 2023. The Treasurer's report is on the table. President Wheeler informed the membership one hundred dollars was donated to PAC. Ten delegates will be attending the IRTA Convention. PARTA will pay their expenses.

Sally Weber announced that she, Abby Humbles, and Jeannie Blane had delivered candy bags to all schools in Peoria County. Spring Celebration is at the courthouse plaza from 11:00-2:00 daily. Sally is encouraging the membership to support this event.




**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Denise Adams announced *Encore 2023* by Morton Civic Chorus for the Central Illinois Memorial Kidney Fund at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center in Morton. Dixie Wheeler announced *An American Rhapsody* by Peoria Area Civic Chorale. She and Roger Hampton are performing. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Henz moved to adjourn the meeting, and Peggy Shane seconded the motion.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

**DELORIS TURNER, RECORDING SECRETARY**

*If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present...Gratefully. ~ Maya Angelou*

 <b>PARTA</b> <b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b> <b>Summary</b>	Investment Balance	\$ 53,331.94
	Savings Balance	4,045.10
	Checking Balance	2,672.30
	Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	269.99
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	67.52
<b>Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer</b>	<b>G R A N D T O T A L</b>	<b>\$ 60,486.85</b>

# SOUNDINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING PPL LAKEVIEW BRANCH

APRIL 24, 2024

The PARTA Board Meeting started at 10:17 A.M., with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. The members present were Dixie Wheeler, Jeff Vallosio, Abby Humbles, Peggy Shane, Dave Barnwell, LeeAnn Meinhold, Sally Weber, Valda Shipp, Patti Monks, Susan Leighty, and Deloris Turner.



## BUSINESS MEETING

**DIRECTORY DECISION:** President Wheeler contacted other Units inquiring about their directory process. She was informed that many Units have no directories, including one of the largest with 1600 members. Some used the same method PARTA uses by adding to it during designated times.

Others send out a PDF file to be amended. Sally Weber moved to print directories during the off year of the IRTA Convention. Valda Shipp seconded the motion.

**BUDGET REPORT/VOTE:** Jeff Vallosio presented the budget to the Board. Abby Humbles moved, and Dave Barnwell seconded the motion to accept the budget as printed.

Jeff Vallosio said that PARTA had not filed taxes. The PARTA Board decided not to file taxes per past practices.



**AREA 2 CONFERENCE REPORT:** President Wheeler attended the IRTA Area 2 Conference on March 15, 2023. IRTA is in the process of looking for a new Executive Director. The current Executive Director, Jim Bachman, is retiring. IRTA is currently assisting ten (10) retirees who have encountered financial hardship.



The Excellence in Education Scholarship application is available. She also reported that members who have issues with Aetna Insurance should use *Voter Voice* to lodge any complaints. IRTA Silent Auction at Convention- It was moved by Valda Shipp and seconded by Peggy Shane that PARTA would contribute \$100 to the silent auction.

Historically, PARTA has donated either monetary or items representing our area.



**IRTA CONVENTION:** The following Board members will attend the IRTA Convention in October: Sally Weber, Peggy Shane, Dixie Wheeler, Valda Shipp, Deloris Turner, Abby Humbles, and Roger Hampton. Pat Hampton will attend as Chair of the Benefits

Committee. Delegates have ten (10) votes. President Wheeler will ask at the upcoming PARTA Meeting for additional volunteers. Members will register and be reimbursed.

**IRTA PAC:** All candidates endorsed by IRTA were elected. A report outlining the spending of all candidates is available.

**CONSTITUTION CHANGES:** Roger Hampton sent a written reported of proposals to be voted on at the Convention. The proposals are reducing the IRTA Board from thirty-three (33) members to ten (10) and a name change from Nominating Committee to Leadership Development Committee. A significant proposal that will go before the body for a vote is making provisions for all IRTA members to vote.



**PARTA MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT:** Sally Weber reported that she and Abby Humbles and Jeannie Blane had placed candy bags in the teacher lounges in all Peoria County Schools. This effort is done every three years, costing \$380. Information regarding teachers' scholarships is included in the bags. There are Twenty-one (21) retirees from Peoria County.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**PROGRAMS:** LeeAnn Meinhold reported that the committee is trying to find someone for November to conduct a patriotic program—other suggestions; include a program on Native Americans and a presentation on Scams.

**ATTENDANCE/RESERVATIONS:** Patti Monks reported that members responded favorably to fulfilling their financial obligations for missing meetings.

**GREETERS:** Peggy Shane reported all Greeters are on the schedule.

**PARTA TEACHER GRANTS:** Deloris Turner reported all obligations for PARTA Teacher Grants had been fulfilled.

President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abby Humbles moved to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane seconded the motion.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DELORIS TURNER RECORDING SECRETARY

*Make peace with your past so it won't disturb your present.*



# SOUNDINGS

## ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This legislative session has been extended and is now scheduled to be concluded on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. However, the budget is still a wild card as to whether the General Assembly will be able to adjourn on time. Concluding this session, please read the latest updates on the IRTA website to find out information that pertains to retirees.



### PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR 2022 PARTA DIRECTORY

Macomber	Cindy	519 Hamptons CV   Peoria   IL   61607-1082   309.697.9348	New Member
		cmaco4717@yahoo.com	
Millen	Gary	garymak1942@gmail.com	Add Email
Murray	Kathleen	mkm46@hotmail.com	Add Email
Ritenhouse	Catriona	crit48@yahoo.com	Add Email

Patricia Seymour, 86 | January 5, 1937 - April 20, 2023



DATABASE MAINTAINED BY Roger Hampton, PARTA Membership Chair



## PANAMA CANAL CRUISE

*Time to dust off your passport and get out with fellow retirees!*

Panama City, Panama to Fort Lauderdale

**October 20-30: 11 DAYS | 5 TOURS | 6 COUNTRIES**

*Every state room has a balcony and ocean view! All excursions included!*

*Prices start at \$3,599/pp - double occupancy. Airfare from only \$899.*



**VIKING  
MARS**

Viking Cruise Ship

- Day 1: Panama City (Fuerte Amador), Panama
- Day 2: Scenic Sailing - Panama Canal
- Day 3: Colón, Panama
- Day 4: Puerto Limón, Costa Rica
- Day 5: Sail the Caribbean Sea

- Day 6: Roatán, Honduras
- Day 7: Belize City, Belize
- Day 8: Cozumel, Mexico
- Day 9 - 10: Sail the Caribbean Sea
- Day 11: Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States

*Immerse yourself in nature and discover the colonial gems of Central America. Relax in serene tropical surroundings in Cozumel and discover the remnants of Belize's ancient Mayan civilization. In Honduras, take a stroll along idyllic beaches, and explore the lush rainforests of Costa Rica. Embark on a scenic crossing of Panama's famed canal, and witness centuries-old tribal life as you experience the traditions of the indigenous Emberá people.*

- One complimentary excursion in every port of call
- Free Wi-Fi (*connection speed may vary*)
- Alternative restaurant dining at no extra charge
- 24-hour room service
- Self-service laundrettes
- Beer, wine & soft drinks with onboard lunch & dinner
- 24-hour specialty coffees, teas & bottled water
- Access to top-rated spa & state-of-the-art fitness center
- Port taxes & fees
- Ground transfers with Viking Air purchase

For more information: <https://form.jotform.com/223456682328058>



Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.

~ John Lubbock

# SOUNDINGS

## THE ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (IRTAPAC)

IRTAPAC is a voluntary not-for-profit, unincorporated association, organized to protect, preserve, and improve benefits for individuals receiving a pension from the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). Contributions are used to support candidates for political office who support issues important to our members.

**PLEASE CONSIDER  
JOIN IRTAPAC  
TODAY  
ONLY \$1 PER MONTH**

- IRTAPAC – the political advocacy arm for you, your pension, and your healthcare benefits.
- IRTAPAC – exists to elect, educate, and build rapport with legislators and officials who understand the important role pensions and healthcare benefits are to retired educators.

[www.irtaonline.org/pac/donate/](http://www.irtaonline.org/pac/donate/)



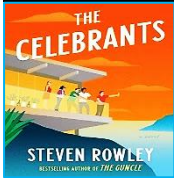
### RETIREMENT FUN - GET INVOLVED IN A SPORT

*Being physically active comes with a whole host of health benefits: You can improve your flexibility, boost your immune system, and keep your heart and lungs healthy. Playing sports is also an easy way to meet new people and have fun.*

*Bocce, pickleball, bowling, golf, tennis, and water aerobics are just some of the sports that are popular among retirees. You could join a team for older adults or use your athletic expertise to coach younger people.*

[www.greatseniorliving.com/](http://www.greatseniorliving.com/)

*Books are like umbrellas. They're only useful if they're opened.*

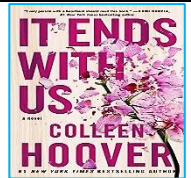


### PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

***THE CELEBRANTS***  
by Steven Rowley

A decades-old pact offers a group of college friends the chance to throw each other "living funerals," in the next poignant and humorous novel by the bestselling author of *The Guncle*. The night after one of their own is tragically taken away from them, a group of seven college friends form a pact: a promise to reunite every few years to throw each other "living funerals," constant reminders that life is worth living, if not for them then for their late friend. Now, twenty-eight years into the hard-worn lines of adulthood, their "funerals" only remind them of all the opportunities they missed. But when one member of the old gang receives an unexpected diagnosis, the pact takes on new meaning, and each friend is forced to confront old secrets, and weigh their now-middle-age lives against the idealistic dreams of their youth.

***IT ENDS WITH US***  
by Coleen Hoover



Lily hasn't always had it easy, but that's never stopped her from working hard for the life she wants. She's come a long way from the small town in Maine where she grew up — she graduated from college, moved to Boston, and started her own business. So, when she feels a spark with a gorgeous neurosurgeon named Ryle Kincaid, everything in Lily's life suddenly seems almost too good to be true. Ryle is assertive, stubborn, maybe even a little arrogant. He's also sensitive, brilliant, and has a total soft spot for Lily. And the way he looks in scrubs certainly doesn't hurt. Lily can't get him out of her head. But Ryle's complete aversion to relationships is disturbing. Even as Lily finds herself becoming the exception to his "no dating" rule, she can't help but wonder what made him that way in the first place.

*Be like a proton - always positive!!!*

# SOUNDINGS

## WHY ALL RETIRED TEACHERS NEED TO BE MEMBERS OF IRTA

*There were 2,581 Senate bills filed and 4,089 House bills this session.*



The IRTA staff closely watches these bills to examine those that could affect our pensions and benefits. In addition, the IRTA Executive Director, Legislative Grassroots/Affairs Coordinator, and contract lobbyist are spending time with legislators reminding them that retirees vote and are concerned that the state funds us as they are constitutionally required to do. As soon as the state budget bill is posted, the staff checks the numbers for funding yearly pension and insurance payments. Budget bills can run 1,500 pages and every funding line needs to be scrutinized.

A deduction of only \$2.50 a month from your pension check can help keep your pension and insurance benefits funded. That is significantly a small amount of your annual 3% increase that you receive because of fellow retirees funding, and winning, the IRTA lawsuit in a unanimous Illinois Supreme Court decision.



votervoicE

### YOUR ACTION IS VITAL FOR SUCCESS

Please keep an eye out for any emails that will alert you if a bill surfaces that could impact us. IRTA will send out a "Voter Voice" alert to every member that has an email address on file with them. You must open it, add any comments that you wish, and send it. It will automatically go to your state representative and senator.

Teacher: *Give me a sentence which includes the words: defense, defeat, and detail.*

Student: *When a horse jumps over de-fence, de-feet go first and then de-tail.*

### SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA/AMBA MEMBER BENEFITS

#### GROUP FLEXIBLE CHOICE

#### CANCER, HEART ATTACK & STROKE PROGRAM

This program will pay a lump sum benefit from \$5,000 to \$75,000 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.



Consult with Lori Fairfield at 815.674.8716 if you have any questions.

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

Log on to: [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)

Click on: "Member Benefits"

*When I was young, I would sneak out of our house to go to parties. Now, I sneak out of parties to go home!*



*I see some people around my age mountain climbing. I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing balance.*



# SOUNDINGS

## TRS FUNDING

TRS board of Trustees certified a \$6.04 billion state government contribution for the System. The contribution is a 2.5% increase over the state's \$5.89 billion contribution for the current fiscal year. Both contributions to TRS and TRIP are set to be fully funded.



Source: trsil.org

## STATE OF ILLINOIS

(Source: [www.illinois.gov](http://www.illinois.gov))

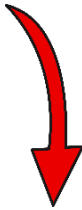
Total Bills Outstanding February 2023: \$ 1,269,000,000

Estimates compiled by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (including data from the Illinois Office of the Comptroller) March 29, 2023.



## LOWER STATE INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Weaker than expected year-to-date State individual income tax receipts led the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) to revise the General Funds FY 23 revenue forecast downward by \$616 million, or 1.2%.



## REVISED FY 2023 REVENUES

The Governor's office now projects the current year will end with \$50.7 billion in revenues collected. In his February budget proposal, he had proposed about \$790 million in supplemental spending for the current year that would have brought total spending to \$51.2 billion – an amount exceeding the new revenue estimate.



## STATE EXPANSION OF HEALTHCARE TO NONCITIZENS

A shortfall in State money was also created by a cost overrun related to State expansion of healthcare to noncitizens. The latest estimate by the Pritzker administration puts the total cost of the program at \$1.1 billion in the upcoming fiscal year. That's almost three times the amount spent so far in the current fiscal year.



## THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

**SIRIUS-LY, IT'S HOT! JULY 3 - AUGUST 11**

The "dog days of summer" has nothing to do with our beloved earth-bound furry companions, but "dog" is part of the equation. According to *National Geographic*, the dog star named Sirius appears to rise just before the sun, in late July. The Greeks and Romans referred to these as the hottest times of the year. The Egyptians referred to Sirius as the Nile Star and when they saw it rising before dawn, they knew the Nile would flood the banks and make their ground more fertile. Sirius, also called Alpha Canis Majoris or the Dog Star, brightest star in the night sky, with apparent visual magnitude -1.46 is a binary star in the constellation Canis Major. The bright component of the binary is a blue-white star 25.4 times as luminous as the Sun.



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



**PEORIA AREA  
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**  
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# PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



## **PARTA OFFICERS 2023 - 2024**

- Dixie Wheeler, *President*
- Valda Shipp, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*
- Jeannie Blane, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*
- Deloris Turner, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING PEORIA AREA  
RETIRED TEACHERS  
FOR 72 YEARS**

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