

PARTA SOUNDINGS

FALL 2020

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PARTA Members,
We certainly miss all our friends at PARTA.



At the last officers' meeting, we decided to

survey our members on the likelihood of their attendance at a meeting in December. Callers have reported that the numbers would be quite questionable. Many members said they were uncertain or would not attend. Although some members reported they would attend, we felt it in the best interest of all to continue to wait. However, we encourage you to get together with your PARTA friends in smaller groups. Please feel free to reach out if you have other suggestions or ideas. There is more information in this month's issue of the Soundings. Thank you to Roger Hampton for his work on our newsletters. Stay well and I hope to see you soon.
Most sincerely, Abby Humbles, PARTA President



*I miss people, places, and things;
so nouns, essentially. I MISS NOUNS!*



2021 – 2022 SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTA OFFICERS

President: Dixie Wheeler
1st Vice President: Roger Hampton
2nd Vice President: Jeannie Blane
Secretary: Deloris Turner
Treasurer: Jeff Vallosio



PARTA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

LeeAnn Meinhold, Chair
Pat Hampton
Peggy Shane



ELECTION

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020 AT 10:15 A.M.

INSTALLATION

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020 AT 10:15 A.M.

IMPORTANT ZOOM DETAILS ON PAGE 4

Zoom PRACTICE Meeting: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:15 A.M.

UPDATES & CHANGES *will be posted on the website and via email.*

KEEP CONNECTED DURING THESE BIZARRE "COVID" DAYS
A PARTA Member may need and cherish your friendly call today!

Roger Hampton
SOUNDINGS EDITOR

pa-rta.weebly.com

Sally Weber
WEBMASTER

SOUNDINGS

PARTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 24, 2020

Meeting Location: Lakeview Parking Lot
 Present: Deloris Turner, Valda Shipp, Roger Hampton, Peggy Shane, Dixie Wheeler, Dave Barnwell, John Rathbun, Sally Weber, Jeff Vallosio, Patty Monks, Kathy Simpson, Abby Humbles

Meeting Minutes

MEETINGS: It was decided that we would not hold meetings in September, October, or November. The callers will ask if members are interested in meeting in December. Barrack's Cater Inn could make the following changes: seat only four at a table, serve the dinners instead of having a buffet, or box the meal to be taken home after we've held a meeting.

OFFICERS: Abby Humbles, PARTA President, appointed LeeAnn Meinhold, Pat Hampton, and Peggy Shane to the Nominating Committee. John moved to put the slate of officers in the Soundings and vote when we next meet. Dave seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The callers will let the people know the slate is coming out.

TEACHER GRANTS: Deloris Turner, PARTA Grant Chair, has the applications ready for the five PARTA teacher's grants of \$200 each. Beth Crider will send an email to all the Peoria County principals, informing them of the grants and asking them to tell their teachers. The applications should be returned by October.

Deloris needs help to go through the applications. The teachers will be notified that their applications have been received. The checks for the grants will be sent to the building principals.

TEACHER EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIPS: Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarships Chair, reported she has the names of the two recipients of the scholarships. They are from Lacon and Eureka.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jeff Vallosio, PARTA Treasurer, gave an overview of the investments. The market is back up after a slump. He transferred \$3,000 from the investment income into the checking account.

WEB SITE: Sally Weber, PARTA Webmaster, is in the process of revising the PARTA website.


MEMBERSHIP: John Rathbun, PARTA Membership Chair, said there is no retiree list this year, so no invitations to PARTA have been sent.

Contact Roger if you know of any member's death.

Deloris moved to adjourn, Peggy seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Simpson, Secretary

SEPTEMBER 2020 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$55,210.62 Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer				
Investment Balance	\$ 44,096.11	Working Cash (<i>cash boxes</i>)	\$ 100.00	
Savings Balance	\$ 6,010.03	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$ 262.03	
Checking Balance	\$ 4,642.22	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$ 0.23	

MOST USELESS PURCHASE OF 2019 A 2020 PLANNER!



BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR *Sam wished he didn't have to go to school every day!*

Sam had to write a letter to his teacher about his week and tell her one thing that he learned so far. Sam wrote: "I learned that 2 hours of homeschool is way worse than 8 hours of regular school."

SOUNDINGS

NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR COMING UP? TIME FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Membership Dues

For many of our members, the fall represents the time to pay dues for the 2021 membership year. Dues for Annual Members and Associate Members are \$15.00. Dues may be paid at a regular PARTA meeting which could take place later this fall or sent to John Rathbun, Membership, 4 Elm Creek DR, Apt 304, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Checks should be made out to PARTA. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John at genrebun@aol.com.

Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the one-time fee is \$120.



Due to the disruption of the pandemic, the usual recruitment program for new retirees did not take place. If you know a recently retired teacher, please let them know about PARTA and IRTA. For anyone who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained from <https://pa-rta.weebly.com>. Or you may contact John Rathbun at genrebun@aol.com.



DIRECTORY CHANGES - Please make changes in your PARTA Directory

Robinson	Julie	8108 W Pfeiffer RD	Mapleton	IL	61547-1111	309.251.7777	New member
Stoskopf	LuAnn	156 E Madison ST	Rushville	IL	62681-1614	309.256.4814	New address
Williams	Ed	2814 Lakeview DR	Lenoir	NC	28645-9133	828.572.1707	New address

Elizabeth Stanfel, 80	November 6, 1939 - December 14, 2019
Linda Wood, 67	September 18, 1952 - June 5, 2020
John Jorgensen, 82	April 4, 1938 - August 1, 2020
Jessie Daniels, 91	November 17, 1928 - August 6, 2020
David Moore, 83	March 8, 1937 - September 6, 2020



The Annual Celebration of Life Ceremony, to remember and honor deceased PARTA members, will be postponed to Spring 2021. This will include all deceased members from September 2019.

John Rathbun | PARTA Membership Chair | genrebun@aol.com



WISDOM OF A CHILD BRINGS REALITY CHECK: “Mom, I know that it feels like everything is falling apart with no school, being stuck at home, and all that stuff... but is there no better time for this to happen? I mean, think about how beautiful it was last Spring and this Fall. The sun was shining, and we were able to go on walks together.”

WEIGHT GAIN DURING QUARANTINE:

- We get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. So, I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more and it started filling up the rest of me!
- They say that your body is 80% water. I'm not fat, I'm flooded!
- Anyway, I'm not overweight - my bones are just heavier than most people's.

THAT'S MY STORY AND I'M STICKING TO IT!!!



SOUNDINGS

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETINGS: IMPORTANT DETAILS

- PARTA must have your email address for you to participate in virtual meetings.
- If we do not have your current email address, please submit it to Roger Hampton before October 27, 2020 at: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com
- A zoom meeting link will be sent to everyone's email address (those for whom we have a current email address) that will give you access to the virtual meeting. Each virtual meeting PARTA has will have a different meeting ID.
- First-time users will be directed to download Zoom on their device.
- **PRACTICE ZOOM SESSION** A Zoom practice session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:15 A.M. If you want to participate, please send your request to Roger (roger.hampton11138@gmail.com) to receive a link to this practice meeting.

ALSO HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS

KINDNESS, PATIENCE, LOVE, ENTHUSIASM, AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Don't wait to catch it from others. BE THE CARRIER!

RETIRED TEACHERS GIVING BACK

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

PARTA awarded two scholarships this year to ICC students enrolled in a teacher education program.

IRTA FOUNDATION awarded ten scholarships this year to college juniors or seniors enrolled in an accredited teacher education program.



EDUCATION GRANTS TO TEACHERS

PARTA will be presenting five \$200 checks (\$1,000 total) to teachers in Peoria County this fall to help fund their classroom projects.

IRTA FOUNDATION will grant \$36,000+ to classroom teachers to enrich their instruction with materials not otherwise available to them.



VALDA SHIPP, SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR



DAILY CHORES NOT DONE? - SOUND FAMILIAR?

I needed to do the laundry, but then I realized I was out of detergent. So, I went to write a shopping list and realized how disorganized the junk drawer was and, during this process, I started checking pens for ink.

When I went to toss all the junk, I saw that the trash was full. I decided that before I took it out, I wanted to get rid of old food in the refrigerator. That's when I realized a juice jug had leaked and I needed to clean it up.

However, when I went to grab a rag, I saw that the pantry closet was a nightmare, so I started organizing it. That is how I ended up on the floor looking at my old photo albums from the 1980s and not doing the laundry.

Today I'm doing NOTHING!


I started doing it yesterday! I wasn't finished! I'M NO QUITTER!!!

SOUNDINGS

Note from Patti Monks, PARTA Callers Chair To All PARTA Members,



Due to the current pandemic we have currently cancelled the fall luncheons. We do intend to continue having our luncheons as soon as it is safe to do so. At this particular time, it is best for us all to stay safe and stay away from large crowds.

 You should have been notified by phone of the cancelling of the September, October, and November luncheons. If you did not receive a call it is probably because we do not have a current phone number for you. It is important that you keep us up to date of both address and phone number changes. If you would like to be added to the calling list, please let Patti Monks know. You may reach her by e-mail at jpwmonks@telstar-online.net or you can call her and leave a message on her answering machine at 309.697.3385. It is her intention that every PARTA member be contacted by phone on a monthly basis.

In addition, the December luncheon has now been cancelled. However, there will be PARTA virtual meetings in November and December utilizing Zoom. Details of the Zoom meeting are in this issue of Soundings, will be posted on the PARTA website, and will be sent via email to those members for whom we have an email address.



I am personally looking forward to the day that we can resume having our PARTA luncheons again.

WHAT HAPPENED TO TRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DICK INGRAM?

<p>Former IRTA retiree representative on the TRS board, Bob Lyons, comments on the events stating the word in Springfield was that TRS Executive Director, Dick Ingram, was 'forced' to resign, and that the pressure came from the Pritzker appointed members of the board. It was reported that the appointed board members wanted to bring certain investment opportunities to the board and that TRS Executive Director Dick Ingram and TRS CIO Stan Rupnik, were uninterested.</p>	<p>It has been learned that there had been a three-hour executive meeting during the regular scheduled board meeting. At the end of that meeting the TRS Board voted to put Director Ingram on 'administrative leave'. Reportedly, by law and board policy, nothing can be disclosed.</p>	<p><i>Crain's Chicago Business</i> reported that an investigation led by former U.S. Attorney Fardonled resulted in the ouster of Dick Ingram. TRS confirmed Dick resigned on August 3rd. That was three days after the board placed him on administrative leave after they received results of a review into 'performance-based issues covered by his employment contract' from Chicago law firm King & Spalding.</p>	<p>TRS spokesman Dave Urbanek said he did not know if the investigation had been completed. He also stated that he is not authorized to say whether the review involved any possible financial impropriety or alleged failures of leadership. Ingram has not been available for comment.</p>
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QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- Can you get cornered in a round room?
- What should one call a male ladybug?
- Why is it called a "building" when it is already built?



- Why are the numbers on a calculator and a phone reversed?
- If you were traveling at the speed of sound and you turned on your radio would you be able to hear it?



Trouble knocked at the door, but, hearing laughter, hurried away. ~ Benjamin Franklin

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT

FIXED INDEX ANNUITY - A NEW IRTA Endorsed Benefit

Are you concerned about being jolted by sudden changes in the stock market? If so, the Fixed Index Annuity may be for you. With this annuity, you can create guaranteed income with a guaranteed interest rate.

Why a Fixed Index Annuity?

- No medical underwriting
- Offers guaranteed interest rates
- You can protect your investment by never losing money
- Enjoy market gains without downside risk
- Provides income for your entire lifetime
- From a carrier you know and trust: A+ rated by Standard and Poor's



In this time of economic uncertainty, it's apparent that state government will be looking for ways to deal with increasing budgetary pressures. Based on past actions and threats, it is also apparent that TRS, and we retirees, will come under scrutiny again. We know, based on the past, that members of the General Assembly are very impressed with the fact that our association is aggressive in protecting our rights and benefits, and that we have such a large, vibrant, and active membership. Large numbers have an important bearing on politicians who rely on the votes of constituents in every election year. In order to maintain that advantage, we must continue to add new members. In this year of pandemic, that's especially difficult since units have had a serious challenge in contacting 2020 retirees, as well as inviting them to meetings that can't be held. Members need to contact and invite new retirees to join IRTA and Impress on them that IRTA is the only state organization solely dedicated to protecting and preserving our state benefits. Membership information is online at: irtaonline.org

Michael Schmidt, IRTA Membership Chair

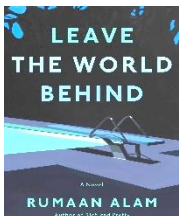
SIGN UP ONLINE | Dues Deduct Membership | \$2.50 per month

JOIN →

<https://irtaonline.org/Join.aspx>

← **JOIN**

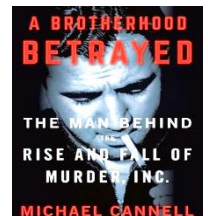
Call the IRTA Office for assistance or additional information at: 1.800.728.4782



Leave the World Behind
by Rumaan Alam
A magnetic novel about two families, strangers to each other, who are forced together on a long weekend gone terribly wrong.

PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

The Brotherhood Betrayed
by Michael Cannell
The riveting true story of the rise and fall of Murder, Inc. and the executioner-turned-informant whose mysterious death became a turning point in Mob history.



2020 IRTPAC CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

The IRTPAC strives to support candidates who understand the importance of retired educators' pension and health insurance benefits. For the 2020 Election, IRTPAC selected to endorse 40 candidates from the House of Representatives and five candidates from the Senate. Only those who returned a questionnaire were considered. A list of endorsed candidates can be found on the IRTA website.

SOUNDINGS

TRS FY2020 REPORT (JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

37th Largest Plan in U.S.A | 434,313 Members | 51,600,000,000 in Assets

BY AUGUST 30, 2020, ASSETS GREW TO \$54,000,899,000

TRS VIRTUAL FALL MEMBER MEETINGS

Teachers Retirement System of Illinois (TRS) will host statewide webinars for members through October that are designed to explain the retirement process and to provide members with information about disability, death, and insurance benefits.



Although both Tier 1 and Tier 2 information is available in all sessions, this year TRS will offer several webinars covering Tier 2 benefits only. Tier 2 members are those whose first day of work in any of the Illinois pension systems was on or after January 1, 2011. All others are Tier 1 Members. All webinars start at either 3:30 p.m. or 5 p.m. and last approximately an hour. This year, meetings will be held virtually via WebEx. Although they are shown by location, you may register for *any* of the virtual meetings regardless of where you live. Register for the one most convenient for your schedule. You must register for a meeting in order to receive the email link that will allow you to join. A list of 26 possible meeting dates in October and a link to register is listed online at: https://www.trsil.org/Fall_Member_Meetings

TRAIL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Plan Monthly Contributions Effective January 1, 2021

UnitedHealthcare (PPO)	Member Rate \$42.48 (2020 rate was \$54.19) Dependent Rate \$127.45 (2020 rate was \$162.56)
Aetna Medicare Plan (HMO)	Member Rate \$38.75 (2020 rate was \$36.90) Dependent Rate \$116.32 (2020 rate was \$110.69)

2021 TRIP TRAIL Open Enrollment Materials Available Online at
https://www2.illinois.gov/cms/benefits/trail/trip/Pages/2021_TRIP_Open_Enrollment.asp



- ☺ I asked to switch seats on a plane because I was sitting next to a crying baby. Apparently, that's not allowed if the baby is yours!?!?!?
- ☹ It would be nice to spend billions on schools and roads, but right now that money is desperately needed for political ads.
- ☺ Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes.
After that, who cares? He's a mile away and you've got his shoes!

In 20 years when kids ask about the 2020 toilet paper shortage, I'm telling them we had to drag our bottoms across the lawn, in the snow, uphill, and both ways!



I was in the jail holding cell and was asked what I was in for. I had to admit that I was caught walking in the wrong direction down the grocery aisle!



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RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
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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*