

PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2015

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

LUNCHEON MEETING

February 2, 2014
11:30 A.M.
Barracks Cater Inn
\$12.00

Greeters



Invocation



Patti Monks

Pledge



Patti Monks

Luncheon

Chicken a la King
Roll
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts

Program

Students from
Peoria High School

Civil War Presentation

Music - Narrations - Slides

Meeting

Chairperson:

Dave Barnwell,
PARTA President

*PARTA meetings begin
after lunch, around 12:20.
Meetings are free.*



ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings! Hope your new year is off to a good start. May 2015 be your best year ever!

The February 1st deposit to your bank account will reflect the 3% raise promised by our State Constitution. Remember, without the efforts of IRTA, you would NOT be receiving this 3% increase. As you know, the Supreme



Court will have the final say on our pension benefits. Now, more than ever, your support, your voice, and your written communication need to be heard in Springfield; and especially, the IRTA legal defense fund needs your monetary support.

One thing each of us can do this year is to invite a retired educator, who is not a member of PARTA, to one of our meetings. Although we have almost 500 members, there are 1400 retired TRS eligible educators in Peoria County. In numbers there is **INVITE** strength! In addition, the food is good, the company is great, and the programs are informative and enjoyable.

Happy New Year, Dave Barnwell, PARTA President

UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS

March 2: ICC / PARTA Scholarships & Programs for Seniors

Elaine Goslin, ICC Alumni Relations

Stephanie Holmes, ICC Resource Development Manager

April 6: Gang Alternative / Prevention Programs

Carl Cannon, ELITE Founder

Sergeant James Chiola, Peoria Police Department

May 4: Sports Stories

Kirk Wessler, Peoria Journal Star Sports Editor/Columnist

June 1: Culture Change Coalition

*Details and updated information about each of our meetings
is online at: peoria.k12.il.us/parta/*

NEW PARTA DIRECTORIES – SEE PAGE 7

My New Year's Resolution is going GREAT!!!

I resolved to enjoy the sweeter side of life –
like chocolate, candy, pie, and ice cream!!!



SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2014

There were 130 members present. PARTA president Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone. Rosemary Swanson gave the Pledge and Invocation.

After the luncheon, Dave introduced Dan Winter, the IRTA endorsed candidate for the TRS board, who spoke briefly. We then enjoyed our "Do It Ourselves" Christmas program, organized by Denise Adams and Ann Winget. We listened to a mixed chorus, a men's quartet, instrumentalists, and a sing-along.

Dave opened the business meeting. The minutes were in the Soundings and were approved as written. The Treasurer's Report was on the table. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. The motion carried.

John Rathbun said he continues to sign up new members. Dues for 2015 are due. Terry Knapp said he is looking forward to the board meeting to discuss new ideas for the Scholarship Committee. Eric Johnson reported that our investments today are worth \$44,967, in September they were \$42,000, and last year they were \$36,000. He also thanked Shirley Horwedel for keeping such good records for the past few years. Roger said the pension court case was struck down by the courts and will now go to the Illinois Supreme Court. It probably won't go through, but the legislature will keep trying.

Maxine Blane installed the new officers for 2015 - 2016. There will be an executive board meeting on December 16 at Lakeview at 10:00. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

PARTA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2014

Present: Dave Barnwell, Nancy Miller, Ann Winget, Maxine Blane, Linda Sedgwick, Nancy Wing, Laveine Birditt, Jeff Vallosio, Frances Farraher, Peggy Shane, Terry Knapp, Roger Hampton, Eric Johnson, and Shirley Horwedel. President Barnwell opened the meeting with a welcome to new board members: Frances Farraher, Terry Knapp, and Jeff Vallosio.

Under New Business, Maxine Blane proposed that Article VIII Elections be amended to allow introduction and voting of new officers be conducted in October of the election year. After some discussion that proposal was voted down. Another proposal was made to have the introduction in October of the election year and voted on in November. That measure passed and will be presented to the members at the February 2015 meeting.

Dave appointed an ad hoc committee to look at all PARTA policies and bylaws prior to the printing of the new directory. Shirley Horwedel, retiring treasurer, wanted to remind the board that spending

more than the organization takes in could become a problem if not carefully watched. A budget committee will look at the proposed finances from each committee. An audit committee meeting is also being set to check into all financial assets of PARTA.

Cater Inn will charge \$12 for lunches in 2015-2016. The Program Chair, Ann Winget, gave an update for programs planned in 2015. Roger Hampton encouraged the members to become more involved with IRTA, going to conventions, being part of committees, and helping to fund the legal defense fund since we are still not out of the woods with our pension problems. Frances Farraher asked everyone to help her by letting her know of those members who have passed away. Terry Knapp reminded the board that our endowment at ICC is at \$25,000, and we need to keep funding it so scholarships to those in need can be continued.

The next PARTA Board of Directors meeting will be at 10:00 on January 13, 2015 at Roger Hampton's house. The meeting was adjourned,

Respectfully Submitted, Maxine Blane, Secretary Pro Tem

A CHILD AND HIS MOTHER

A curious child asked his mother:

"Mommy, why are some of your hairs turning grey?"

The mother tried to use this occasion to teach her child:

"It is because of you, dear. Every bad action of yours will turn one of my hairs grey!"

The child thought for a while and then replied innocently:

"Now I know why grandmother has only grey hairs on her head."



After all is said and done, usually more is said than done!

SOUNDINGS

PARTA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES January 13, 2015

Present: Dave Barnwell, Jeff Vallosio, Frances Farraher, Eric Johnson, Ann Winget, Nancy Wing, John Rathbun, Roger Hampton, Maxine Blane, Kathy Simpson, Peggy Shane, Laveine Birditt, Nancy Miller, Terry Knapp, and Pat Hampton. President Barnwell called the meeting to order. Jeff Vallosio said that the treasurer's report was unchanged since the December board meeting, except for \$407.90 left in the cash boxes. Some of that will be deposited and some will remain in the cash boxes for change. Eric Johnson gave the audit report, saying that the audit focused on the process of handling money – all we get goes into the bank and all expenses are paid with a check. The practice of receiving and depositing is all in order; everything is logged in. He said the policy of life membership that the money is there to keep the group going is doing fine now. He urged caution when planning to spend that money; leave it invested without touching the principle. Maxine Blane made a motion to remove the last sentence of #18 of the policies involving borrowing from the principle and paying it back. Frances Farraher seconded it, and the motion carried. Eric said the books were well maintained and were officially turned over to Jeff Vallosio. John Rathbun moved to accept the audit report, Laveine seconded it, and the motion carried. John moved to commend Shirley Horwedel for her service as treasurer. Jeff seconded it. The motion carried. The proposed budget was presented and discussed. Mileage was added to the IRTA convention and spring conference expenses, and the projected cost of the directory was increased. After a corresponding adjusting of the investment income, the proposed budget was balanced.

Eric made a motion to accept the budget, with the changes, to present to the membership. John seconded it, and the motion passed. Something to think about is the life membership of deceased members. At present we contribute \$10 to IRTA for deceased members. Roger is starting on the directory and will print it at the end of February. It will be handed out at the March and April meetings. The directories left will then be mailed. Nick Knapp at Legacy Investments has donated \$500 to help with the expense of the directories. The IRTA Legal Defense Fund has dropped below \$100,000. A plea will come out to help replenish this fund for the Supreme Court hearing in the spring. Ann Winget, gave a list of the programs for the coming six months. Nancy Wing, Reservations Chair, wondered if there's a way to get numbers for those who retired a while ago and might want to attend PARTA now. We might get a list from John from IRTA with numbers and emails. John Rathbun, Membership Chair, said we get a good percentage of retirees, roughly 30 a year as new members. Frances Farraher, Altruistic Chair, said she is checking the obituaries in the newspaper. Terry Knapp, the Scholarship Chair, said he'd have more news in the spring. A board member offered to give a \$250 matching gift if someone else would also. Helen Dunn is no longer going to be the Historian, so Dave will try to find someone. It was suggested that to welcome new members, we might give them a different color nametag. The meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

**IRTA
IS
MOVING!**

IRTA has purchased
a new building.
The tentative move-in date is
mid-February, 2015.

New address will be:
IRTA
828 S 2nd ST
Springfield, IL 62704

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization of retired educators. The Association serves the needs and interests of its members through advocacy, education, cooperation and socialization in a flexible organizational structure.

Actual Questions Asked of Staff at National Parks

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Canyon National Park Rangers - Was this canyon man made? • Everglades National Park - Are the baby alligators for sale? • Where are the animals kept at night? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What time of year do they turn on Yosemite Falls? • Banff National Park - What's the best trail to take a bike on to see a cougar? • Mesa Verde Park - Do you know of any undiscovered remains? |
|--|---|



SOUNDINGS



We need your help to continue to keep our pensions safe!

As the leading advocate for Illinois retired educators, the IRTA continues to fight to preserve your benefits. Protecting your benefits is our number one mission. That is what we do! We are a proud, strong organization that exemplifies purpose and integrity and working together, we can accomplish anything!

This determination has been demonstrated the past year with our successful challenge in Circuit Court to the unconstitutional legislation known as SB 1. This law, passed in late 2013 would have reduced our COLA and our overall pension benefit by a considerable amount. For example, consider a retired teacher who had 30 years of service credit and draws a pension of \$50,000, which is slightly higher than the average teacher pension. The retiree receives an increase in January of \$1500. [3% of 50,000]. Under SB 1, in year one, the retiree would receive \$900. [30 yrs. x 1000 x 3%]. This is a \$600 reduction in benefits



over one year. If you consider a compounded COLA, you would continue to see a greater reduction year after year. The current COLA is worth the fight! Moreover, if legislators can violate their oath to uphold the constitution on this issue, what issue will be next?

We have won the battle in Circuit Court, but the process continues with a state appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court. We are uncertain how long this case will take to resolve, and even

though we are confident of the outcome, the expense for legal fees continues to grow. As the old adage says, you get what you pay for! Our legal defense team is one of the best in the country. They have the background, and knowledge, of constitutional law that is necessary to ensure the state is not successful in stealing our pensions. We must



maintain our Legal Defense Fund to pay for this action as well as any future action that will no doubt occur

after SB 1 is found unconstitutional.

Through the generosity of you, our members, we have collected almost \$400,000 for the Legal Defense Fund, and for that, we thank you. However, the expense is so great that the fund balance is now below \$100,000. We must continue to contribute to this effort. We cannot afford to not. None of us alone could afford this legal fight, but, collectively we are strong and we will prevail.

Any donation, large or small is appreciated, but a suggested contribution is to compare your take-home pension amount [net] for January 2015 to your take-home amount [net] in February 2015. This is your monthly increase provided by your COLA and demonstrates the value of the 3% compounded annual benefit. We are recommending one month's increase as your contribution.

Thank you for your support!

Respectfully, Bob Pinkerton, IRTA President

TO DONATE TO THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Online at:

irtaonline.org



Send a check payable to IRTA:

IRTA
620 N Walnut ST
Springfield, IL 62702

Write:

"Legal Defense Fund"
on the check memo line

FYI: When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane!

SOUNDINGS

IRTA FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS Applications are being taken for scholarships to full-time junior or senior college students. The deadline to apply is March 2, 2015.

GRANTS This year, public school educators in IRTA Area 3 (Peoria County in this area) have the opportunity to apply for grant money that can be used for materials that will enrich their instruction.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE The Foundation provides financial assistance to retired educators who are living in times of acute financial stress.

DETAILS of EACH of these PROGRAMS are ONLINE at: IRTAONLINE.ORG
You can also CALL the IRTA office for information at: (217) 523-8488 or (800) 728-4782

It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required. — *Winston S. Churchill*

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. — *C. S. Lewis*

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. — *Thomas A. Edison*

A day without smiling is a day wasted. — *Unknown*

TRS Trustee Election on May 1, 2015 – Keep Informed Before Voting

The IRTA Board of Directors has endorsed Daniel Winter as candidate for the TRS Board of Directors.

WHY GOD MADE MOMS – Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

- She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
- To help us out of there when we were getting born.



How did God make mothers?

- He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
- God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of ?

- God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

- I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

Why did your mom marry your dad?

- She got too old to do anything else with him.
- My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

What's the difference between moms & dads?

- Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

- She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
- I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
- I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

- His last name.
- Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

- We're related.
- God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.



SOUNDINGS

A NEW BROOM – by Bob Lyons, TRS Board Member

On Monday, January 12, 2015, there were two open seats on the TRS board and the outgoing Governor Quinn appointed one of his people to the TRS Board that morning, though he should have known that the appointment was made too late. On Tuesday, January 13, 2015 that person and also two Quinn appointees, Marcia Campbell and Mark Harris, who had been appointed but never confirmed by the senate, were told that they were no longer TRS trustees. Campbell, of course, is a state officer of the IFT and has

served with distinction for some years. That means that there are now four openings for gubernatorial appointees that Governor Rauner can make. Two Quinn appointees still have two years on their term. Recall that there are a total of thirteen seats on the board with the State Superintendent of Education as the president. Chris Koch was appointed superintendent under a Democratic administration and Governor Rauner will have new appointments to the state school board as well. Six seats on the TRS are held by active and retired teachers.

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT – NUMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PARTA DUES

Annual: \$10.00

Life: \$75.00

IRTA DUES

Dues Deduct Members: Have \$2.50 deducted each month from your pension check.

Annual Members: Pay \$40.00 each year

Life Members: One-time fee of \$400.00



Contact John Rathbun regarding your dues payments.

One-Bring-One Membership Drive!!!



The IRTA Membership Committee has initiated a membership drive which will end on December 31, 2015—our goal is to have 40,000+ members!! It's an easy process: each member needs to bring a new member into IRTA!!! We have over 35,000 members today, so if we each brought ONE, we could have 70,000 members (wow!). Our goal is definitely attainable. This is NOT a staff/officer activity! It is a membership activity!

Let's ALL join together and ONE-BRING-ONE!!!

Have YOU found your ONE yet??

Mother: How do you like your new teacher?

Son: I don't. She told me to sit up front for the present, and then she didn't give me one!

Teacher: I told you to stand at the end of the line?

Pupil: I tried, but there was someone already there!



Teacher: Why are you late?

Webster: Because of the sign.

Teacher: What sign?

Webster: The one that says, "School Ahead, Go Slow."

SOUNDINGS



NEW 2015 PARTA DIRECTORIES

LAST CHANCE to CORRECT your information (*if necessary*) in the NEW DIRECTORY!!!

If you have ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONS to your:
NAME - ADDRESS - PHONE NUMBER - EMAIL

You MUST get that information to John Rathbun, PARTA Membership Chair.
PHONE: 309.745.8375 - EMAIL: genrebun@aol.com
NO LATER than FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

Directories will be distributed at the March and April luncheon meetings. If you are unable to attend, please ask someone else to pick up your copy, to save on postage.

All directories not picked up will be mailed after the April 6th meeting.

PARTA

ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS MEMBERS

IRTA

PLEASE PARTICIPATE - BE ACTIVE IN EACH ORGANIZATION

PLEASE DO YOUR FAIR SHARE - INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN

NEEDED - PARTA HISTORY & ARCHIVES CHAIR

Helen Dunn has faithfully served as chair of this committee for the past 12 years (2003-2014). She meticulously created "yearbooks" filled with information about the organization and its membership. The yearbooks are housed at the Bradley University Cullom-Davis Library. If you like scrapbooking or history, this is a job you would love. Please consider assuming this vital role in our organization.



THANK YOU HELEN FOR 12 GREAT YEARS AS PARTA'S HISTORIAN!!!

PROPOSED PARTA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES

Article VII – Elections:

A. At the ~~November~~ [October] meeting the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates for the offices to be filled for the ensuing biennium.

B. At the ~~October~~ [November] meeting the election of the officers for the ensuing biennium shall be conducted. Elected officers then can begin the task of filling positions on the Board and for various committees.



Policy #18:

The Life Membership Fund monies shall be invested and accounted for separately from the General Operations Fund. Only the dividends and interest earned may be used for PARTA operational and administrative expenses. ~~However, with a majority PARTA Board approval, needed operational funds may be borrowed from the principle of the Life Membership Fund with the understanding that such transfers should be eventually returned.~~

ADDED WORDS ARE IN BRACKETS - DELETED PARTS HAVE A STRIKETHROUGH



We all know that mirrors don't lie.
I'm just grateful that they don't laugh!!!



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

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PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PARTA OFFICERS 2015 - 2016

- Dave Barnwell, *President*
- Nancy Miller, *1st Vice President*
- Ann Winget, *2nd Vice President*
- Kathy Simpson, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR OVER 50 YEARS**

**online @
PEORIA.K12.IL.US/PARTA**

Roger Hampton, Webmaster