

PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2017

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

LUNCHEON MEETING

February 6, 2017
11:30 A.M.
Barracks Cater Inn
Luncheon: \$12.00

Greeters

 Mary Lou Breedlove

 Susie Pierce

Invocation

 Abby Humbles

Pledge

 Abby Humbles

Luncheon

Oven Roasted
Breast of Chicken
Vegetable
Roll
Assorted Salads
Dessert

Program

The Power of Parks



Mike Miller

Supervisor of
Environmental &
Interpretive Services at
Peoria Park District

Meeting

Chairperson:

**Abby Humbles,
PARTA President**

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

Meetings are free.



ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! What a lovely holiday meeting we had in December! Thank you to all who helped with the meeting and music sing-a-long. It was a wonderful way to usher in the season!

Also, I would like to thank Dave Barnwell for his years of service in the role of PARTA President. His leadership and genuine kindness are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Dave. I shall keep your phone number close at hand!

Thank you also to those who have reached out to offer to help me with this transition. You all have been very thoughtful. I look forward to learning more about the mechanics of PARTA and meeting even more PARTA Members.



We hope you can join us on February 6 for the next association meeting at Barrack's Cater Inn.

Abby Humbles, PARTA President

UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

March 6, 2017



Mental and Behavioral Health in Illinois
David Leitch

April 3, 2017

Peoria Public Schools

Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent



May 1, 2017 - TBD (Check Online)



June 5, 2017

Senior Citizens Band
Dave Mathews, Director

**BRING A
FRIEND
MONTH**

*Details and updated information about each of our meetings
is online at: pa-rta.weebly.com/
(Sally Weber, Webmaster)*



NEW 2017 PARTA DIRECTORY INFORMATION ON PAGE 7

SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES December 5, 2016

Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked today's greeters, Sherry Perez and Chris Mangold. Linda Sedgwick led us in the Invocation and Pledge. Attendance today was 98.



After the luncheon, Dave called the business meeting to order. He thanked Roger Hampton for the *Soundings*.

- The minutes were in the *Soundings*. They were approved as printed.
- Copies of the Treasurer's Report were on the tables and summarized in the *Soundings*. \$3,000 was transferred from the investments to CEFCU account. See Jeff Vallosio if you have any questions. The report will be filed for audit.
- Publicity – Laveine Birditt reported that information about today's meeting was in the *Journal Star* on Sunday.
- Membership – John Rathbun said he is now collecting annual dues for 2017, which are \$15. Life membership cost is increasing to \$120 in January, but you can become a lifetime member for \$75 before the end of December. You can send him a check.

- The Peoria Women's Civic Federation meets on December 21 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

- Installation of Officers – The following were installed for 2017-2018:

- President – Abby Humbles, 1st Vice President – Nancy Miller, 2nd Vice President – Ann Winget, Secretary – Kathy Simpson, and Treasurer – Jeff Vallosio.



Ann Winget introduced the program leader, Denise Adams. Denise directs the Morton Civic Chorale, which has donated over \$1.5 million to the Kidney Foundation. She directed a delightful program. The PARTA Chorus sang Christmas songs from Broadway, followed by a Christmas Sing-a-Long. Terry Knapp thanked Dave for the last four years of service to PARTA as president.

Mike Olsen reminded everyone of the *Journal Star* Sing-a-Long.

PARTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 5, 2016

Present: Dave Barnwell, Abby Humbles, Nancy Miller, Peggy Shane, Ann Winget, Nancy Wing, Laveine Birditt, Frances Farraher, Valda Shipp, Linda Sedgwick, John Rathbun, Jeff Vallosio, Susan Leighty, Roger Hampton, and Kathy Simpson.

Dave called the meeting to order. Jeff distributed the proposed budget for 2017 for officers to look over before the January Board meeting. We will need a new Directory in 2017. The state IRTA convention will be in October 2017. Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at Lakeview Library at 10:30 A.M.



Susan, our historian, makes an annual notebook, including the *Soundings*. She asked if it is necessary in this electronic age to continue to put it in the archives at Bradley University. The consensus was it is necessary, especially the *Soundings*. Jeff asked Frances to send him a list of deceased members so he can send in a memorial. Jeff was told by IRTA that if we haven't filed for tax-exempt status, then don't do it. Abby will reserve the room at Lakeview for the January meeting.

Respectfully Submitted Kathy Simpson, Secretary



T R E A S U R E R	Investment Balance	\$ 38,647.13	R E P O R T
	Savings Balance	3,938.09	
	Checking Balance	4,816.48	
	Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00	
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i> 485.20	
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i> 77.86	
	Grand Total	\$ 48,064.76	
Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer			

Little Johnny, why is your little sister crying? Because I helped her.
But that is a good thing! What did you help her with? I helped her eat her gummy bears.

SOUNDINGS

PARTA's Board is

**MEMBERSHIP
BLAST**

making a concerted effort to add to the local membership during the next few months. The June 5, 2017 PARTA meeting is designated Bring a Friend month, but new friends are welcome at any

meeting. First time friends will receive a free meal. Be sure and let your Caller know your friend's name and phone number. If anyone needs a ride for any meeting, please call Francis Farraher at 309.688.1424.

**FREE
MEAL**

PLEASE HELP PARTA GROW

FEBRUARY: MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE UP-TO-DATE

Benefits of PARTA membership include the monthly phone calls from our calling committee for meeting reservations and the PARTA Directory. Both depend on up to date membership and contact information. For the February meeting, the calling committee was given new calling lists based on our current membership and the phone numbers we have available. If you are local and did not get a call, it may be your membership is not up to date or we do not have your current phone number. If you need to get back on the calling list, contact John Rathbun at genrebun@aol.com with the needed information or get up to date with your dues.

CONTACT

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The PARTA Directory depends on up to date membership, phone numbers, addresses and email addresses this month. When the calling committee reports disconnected phone numbers or the Soundings come back from the post office, we know that our contact information for some of our members is not correct. Those members' names are not included in the directory and a directory is not reserved for them. Even life members can be left out if we have no phone number or no address. To confirm your membership status and to update us with any changes in your contact information, contact John Rathbun at genrebun@aol.com.

REQUEST

John Rathbun, PARTA Membership Chair

Teachers Retirement System (TRS)

Finances Fiscal Year 2016

Assets: \$45.2 billion (- 2.5%)
Revenue: \$4.7 billion (earnings & contributions)
Benefits Paid: \$5.9 billion (+ 5.4%)
Investment Return: +0.01% (net of fees)

Membership Fiscal Year 2016

Total - 406,855 (+ 1.56%)
Active: 159,735 (+ 0.02%)
Inactive: 129,470 (+ 2.78%)
Benefit Recipients: 117,650 (+ 2.37%)
Average Pension, all retirees: \$54,252 (+ 2.84%)

Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) Central Management Services (CMS) hired Morneau Shepell to administer benefits for active and retired state employees, as well as Teachers Retirement System (TRS) retirees. This transfer occurred on October 1, 2016, but...

- TRS is still processing monthly retiree benefits through CMS
- Continuing issues with Morneau Shepell over proper deductions, insurance coverage, etc.
- You will be contacting Morneau Shepell, not TRS

TRIP

Probably the worst thing you can hear when you're wearing a bikini is, "Good for you!"



SOUNDINGS

Two ICC Education majors received financial assistance from PARTA's Endowment Scholarship Fund.

PAIGE HOHNER

is a secondary education major with a focus on mathematics. She is from Morton and plans to attend Lubbock Christian University in Texas to complete her degree.

Again, thank you for so generously supporting our children and our future educators.

Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Chair

JORDAN RAY

is an English major from Princeville and plans to teach English in Asia.



Illinois Retired Teachers' Association Foundation (IRTAF)

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS Eight scholarships will be offered again this year (6 at \$1,500 each and 2 at \$2,500 each) to junior or seniors who have been accepted into an accredited Teacher Certification Program. Applications are due on or before March 7, 2017.

Application and additional information are online at:

<https://irtaonline.org/documents/2017ScholarshipApplicationandInformation.pdf>

IRTAF

REVISED PROGRAM for 2017

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION TEACHER GRANTS IRTAF will offer \$36,500 in grant money to educators throughout Illinois this year. This special grant will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects. Proposals are due on or before June 1, 2017. **SPREAD THE NEWS!**

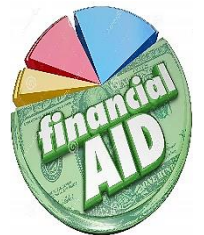
Proposal guidelines, application and additional information are online at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSef2gyDch7MQdSvcGgQzo92IfUBQgOJSK90iXcOvEYNrAvPiQ/viewform?c=0&w=1>

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RETIREES The Foundation provides financial assistance to retired educators who are living in times of acute financial stress. If you or anyone you know is having difficulty meeting financial obligations, **PLEASE CALL** for information at 800.728.4782 or submit a financial assistance form for consideration.

You can download the financial assistance form online at:

[irtaonline.org/docs/APPLICATIONFORASSISTANCE24-14-11%20\(1\).doc](http://irtaonline.org/docs/APPLICATIONFORASSISTANCE24-14-11%20(1).doc)



Historical Society Tour Guides Needed

If you are interested in history and not afraid to speak in front of others, you could become a tour guide for the Peoria Historical Society for the upcoming season of bus tours. Tours run June to October, three times a week. Guides are given a script to work from and help to learn it. In addition, an experienced guide will ride along with you one or more times. Guides give a tour under the guidance of trained docents in order to earn certification. Guides are welcome to carry notecards with them on tours, so memorization is not needed. Tour guides choose which tour to learn of the six we run and choose when they are willing to narrate the tour. Each tour lasts about 1 ½ hours. A modest stipend is available. Call 309.674.1921 for more information. You may also contact the History Tour Chairperson, Beth Johnson, at 309.264.6119.



Keep the dream alive: Hit the snooze button!

SNOOZE

SOUNDINGS

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIPS CURRENT

PARTA ANNUAL DUES NOTICE The membership year begins each January. Dues for 2017 are now due. Either send a check to John Rathbun, 308 James Pkwy, Washington, IL 61571 or pay at the next meeting you attend. Checks should be made out to PARTA for **\$15.00**. If you wish to switch to life membership, the cost is \$120.00.

Questions can be sent to John, PARTA Membership Chair, at genrebun@aol.com

IRTA DUES The most economical way to pay your IRTA dues is to have **\$2.50** deducted each month from your pension check (\$30.00 per year). This is a very inexpensive way to have a voice in Springfield regarding your pension. IRTA lawyers were paid over \$1,000,000.00 to defend your pension. Each retiree should do their part.

PARTA LUNCHEONS – RESERVATIONS – CALLS

Please remember a reservation made is a reservation paid. We realize that your circumstances may change between the time your reservation is made the week before the meeting and the meeting date. However, please be courteous and call your caller or Nancy Wing (309.243.9218) to let us know that you will be unable to keep your reservation.



If you live in the Peoria Area and have received calls in past years with regard to making a reservation for the upcoming meeting, but did not receive one this month, please let Nancy Wing know (309.243.9218, njwing44@gmail.com). We have had several cases in the past where names were omitted from the new year's calling lists and we want to make sure those incidents are corrected.

Nancy Wing, PARTA Attendance and Reservations Chair

IRTA NOTICE: If you received a letter from UTA regarding long-term care insurance premium increases, please contact Larry Newman of AMBA at 708.878.2814.



There was a man visiting a doctor for his check-up. As he was leaving he asked the doctor if he could recommend a specialist for his wife. "What's wrong with her?" asked the doctor. The man explained that her hearing was getting so bad that it was almost embarrassing. The doctor said he knew of several specialists that could help but he wanted the old man to do a little test when he got home to help the doctor determine the severity of her hearing loss. The doctor said, "When you get home, make sure your wife's back is turned to you and ask her a question. If she doesn't respond, walk closer and ask her again. Keep doing this until she answers and let me know the results."

That night when the man opened the door of his home he could see his wife in the kitchen preparing dinner. She was at the counter with her back to the door. "What's for dinner?" the man asked. His wife did not respond so he walked to the doorway of the kitchen and asked the question again. Still, he was greeted with silence. This time he walked up just behind her and asked once again "What's for dinner?" His wife spun around a bit agitated and said, "For the third time, Fried Chicken!!"



If you're not supposed to eat at night, why is there a light bulb in the refrigerator?

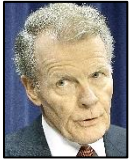
SOUNDINGS

CONFLICT STILL HAPPENING IN SPRINGFIELD



Governor Rauner continues to insist that parts of his agenda needed to be passed before he would entertain talk of tax increases to help balance the budget.

House Speaker Michael Madigan has insisted that the budget be dealt with separately from the pro-business reforms that Rauner wants.



Neither Madigan nor Rauner was involved in negotiating the bills that Cullerton and Radogno want to pass.

My favorite mythical creature? The honest politician.

BILLS THAT WERE INCLUDED IN THE CULLERTON/RADOGNO PACKAGE PROPOSAL:

- Increasing the personal income tax rate to 4.95% from the current 3.75%. The income tax increase would generate \$4.1 billion.
- Pension changes that would make employees choose between continuing to receive 3% increases in pension benefits at retirement or continuing to have future raises count toward their pension benefits. Also, a change in how pensions are funded. Essentially, this backloads the pension payment so the state pays less now and more later. So, the state is once again kicking the can down the road.
- A spending plan that would take the state through the end of its current fiscal year June 30.



- Authorization to borrow \$7 billion that would be used to immediately pay down some of the state's \$11 billion bill backlog.
- Gradually increase the state's minimum wage from \$8.25 an hour to \$11 an hour by 2021.
- A proposal making it easier to abolish township governments.
- The Senate package will also take up a constitutional amendment to limit the amount of time lawmakers can serve as the top leaders in the House and Senate. There will also be bills dealing with workers' compensation and a two-year property tax freeze, although parts of those are still under discussion.



OTHER RUMORS FLOATING AROUND SPRINGFIELD:

- The "sugary drink tax" appears to be a dead issue.
- Senate Minority Leader Radogno doubts that any of the "Grand Compromise" will be voted on until February, at the earliest. The GOP caucus is wanting to take it off the fast track.
- An opportunity tax may be in the making. That would tax businesses based on employee payroll on a sliding scale.
- A service tax is being proposed on storage, amusements, repair and maintenance, landscaping, and laundry and dry cleaning.

The House passed a bill to provide money for higher education and some social services through the end of the fiscal year. A stopgap budget that provided those areas with funding for the first six months expired December 31. Money to cover those expenses would come from a portion of the state income tax set aside to support education and human services. Rauner has said he won't accept any more temporary spending plans unless lawmakers enact term limits and a permanent property tax freeze.



Spotlight on IRTA Member Benefits

NEW for 2017

Travel with Globus family of brands or Avalon Waterways



Enjoy an exclusive discount for IRTA members when you book a Globus, Cosmos, Monograms vacation, or an Avalon Waterways river cruise! With nearly 90 years in travel, the award-winning Globus family of brands creates vacations that offer travelers culture-rich experiences featuring must-see sights, the stories behind the scenes and countless joy-filled memories in more than 65 countries on six continents across the globe.

For a full list of our member benefits:

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

SOUNDINGS

NEW PARTA DIRECTORY for 2017-2018

If any of your information is not correct in the 2015-2016 directory, or if you want to add any other information, YOU MUST CONTACT JOHN RATHBUN, PARTA membership chair IMMEDIATELY (or at least by Wednesday, February 15, 2017) PLEASE don't wait! PLEASE do it now!



Also, consider giving us your email address. In addition to PARTA information, we will plan to send pertinent and timely retiree pension and insurance information from Springfield.

SUBMIT: NAME ADDRESS PHONE NUMBER EMAIL

Directories will be available for pick up at the March and April PARTA luncheon meetings. All directories not picked up will be bulk mailed on April 5, 2017.

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Ranney	Sandra	121 Fawn Haven DR	East Peoria	IL	61611	698-0656	New member
Schlifeling	Joan	1105 Bluff Creset CT	West Peoria	IL	61604	648-1002	New member
jcfcrick98@yahoo.com							

Gene Clayton Deceased: December 12, 2016

Mary Wissel Deceased: December 18, 2016

Mabel Tolliver Deceased: December 21, 2016

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

A pastor of a church is sitting in his study when the phone rings. "Hello, is this Reverend Jones?" the caller asks. "It is." replied the pastor.



"This is Bill Johnson with the Internal Revenue Service. I was wondering if you could answer a few questions?" "I'll try." said the pastor.

"Do you know a John Timmons?"

"I do." "Is he a member of your congregation?" "He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?" "He will."



My cousin has 2 tickets for the 2017 SUPER BOWL, both box seats. He paid \$2,500 for each ticket, but he didn't realize last year when he

bought them, that it was going to be the same day of his wedding. If you are interested, he is looking for someone to take his place. It's at First Methodist Church at 3pm. Her name is Michelle. She is 5'6 and 135 pounds, a good cook and loves to cuddle. She'll be the one in the flowing white dress!!!



The AARP Fraud Watch Network connects you to the latest information about ID theft and fraud so you can safeguard your personal information and your pocketbook.

Online at: <http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/fraud-watch-network/>

If you or someone you know has been a victim of identity theft or fraud, contact the AARP Foundation Fraud Fighter Center at: 877.908.3360

January 1, 2017 signified a new beginning.

However, each day allows for a new beginning, and hence it is a reset.



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

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PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PARTA OFFICERS 2017 - 2018

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

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR OVER 60 YEARS**

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