

# PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2019

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## LUNCHEON MEETING

February 4, 2019  
11:30 A.M.  
Barracks Cater Inn  
Luncheon: \$12.00

## GREETERS

-  Dixie Wheeler
-  Frances Farraher

## INVOCATION / PLEDGE

-  Sherrell Perez

## LUNCHEON

Oven Roasted  
Breast of Chicken  
Vegetable - Roll  
Assorted Salads  
Dessert

## PROGRAM

**NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
STORY  
TELLING**



**Danira Parra, Pastor**  
Dayspring Native American  
United Methodist Church

## MEETING

Chairperson:  
**Abby Humbles,**  
*PARTA President*



ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all!

We hope you enjoyed the holidays in your own special way. In our household, we look forward to celebrating the Year of the Pig! Chinese New Year is always something we enjoy. Happy Year of the Pig to you.



We at PARTA are ready for a great line-up of speakers during the 2019 year. We hope you will join us when you can. We enjoy good food and wonderful company!

*BRING A FRIEND!*

PARTA officers continue to look for ways to develop a culture of welcoming others and building relationships. Please invite a friend to join you during the PARTA luncheon.

As always, if you need any special meal requests or help with a ride, please let your caller know. Hope to see you soon!

Thank you, Abby Humbles, Ed.D., PARTA President  
*Retired to Begin Learning Again!*

## UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

### MARCH 4

**"DRIVERLESS VEHICLES"**  
Sam Kherat, Ph.D

*Professor of Robotics at Bradley University*



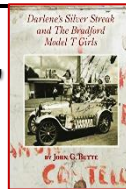
**center for  
prevention  
of abuse.**

### APRIL 1

**"HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS"**  
Center for Prevention of Abuse

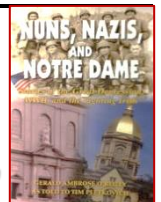
### MAY 6

**"THE BRADFORD GIRLS"**  
John Butte, *Author*



### JUNE 3

**JEOPARDY GAME ON  
"NUNS, NAZIS,  
AND NOTRE DAME"**



*(signing and sale of books available)*

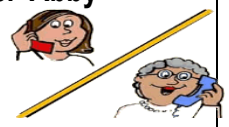
Organized by Tim Pletkovich

**NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST**

Details and updated information about each of our meetings are online  
[pa-rta.weebly.com/](http://pa-rta.weebly.com/)  
(Sally Weber, Webmaster)

# SOUNDINGS

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone. Ninety-eight people were present. Peggy Bragg led the Pledge and gave the Invocation. Abby thanked today's greeters, Lillie Foreman and Joyce Moore. Abby recognized two first time attendees.



After the luncheon, Abby opened the business meeting.

- If you want to pay dues today, pay Jeff Vallosio.
- If you need a ride to a meeting, let Frances Farragher or Abby Humbles know and they will find you a ride.
- Roger had a petition to sign for Douglas Strand, IRTA's TRS Annuitant Trustee Candidate.
- The minutes were approved, with the correction of Ann Winget sending in her idea for a bench instead of being present.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the *Soundings*. The report was filed for audit.

- Abby thanked the Nominating Committee of Lee Ann Meinhold, Peggy Shane, and Pat Hampton. She recognized the outgoing 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Nancy Miller. Lee Ann installed the following officers for 2019 – 2020: Treasurer – Jeff Vallosio, Secretary – Kathy Simpson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Dixie Wheeler, and President – Abby Humbles. Ann Winget introduced the storyteller presenter, Chris Mangold, who told stories and sang. Next, we played a Christmas Trivia Game, prepared by Pat Hampton. The winners will receive a free PARTA Lunch: Denise Adams, Maxine Blane, Peggy Bragg, Camilla Ratcliff, Laura Shane, Luan Stoskopf, Peter Wessler, and Sandy White. Then we enjoyed a Sing-along led by Denise Adams. The meeting was adjourned.



**Respectfully Submitted** **Kathy Simpson, Secretary**

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

9 issues of Soundings published each year.	The February and September issues are mailed. The other issues are available at the monthly meetings. All issues are on the PARTA webpage.
--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**AT EVERY MEETING**

<b>BOOK EXCHANGE TABLE:</b> Bring books, calendars, magazines, and other paper goods to share with our members.	<b>USED BATTERY RECYCLING COLLECTION</b>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------



Investment Balance	\$40,700.28	<b>Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer</b>
Savings Balance	6,970.16	
Checking Balance	1,396.54	
Working Cash ( <i>cash boxes</i> )	100.00	
Post Office Bulk Mail Fund ( <i>unchanged</i> )	359.92	
Post Office Returned Mail Fund ( <i>unchanged</i> )	45.62	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$49,572.52</b>	



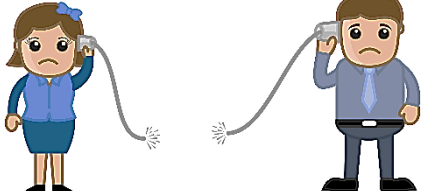


**2019 PARTA MINI VERSION DIRECTORY**

Due to a lack of a volunteer to publish a 2019 PARTA directory, only a mini edition will be created late February 2019. This mini edition will only list:

- |                                                                               |                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>All NEW PARTA MEMBERS</b> since the last publication in March 2017.</p> | <p><b>Known changes</b> to contact information of members listed in the 2017 Directory.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

If your information is listed incorrectly in the 2017 PARTA Directory, please send that information to John Rathbun, on or before Friday, February 15, 2019. John's Email: [genrebun@aol.com](mailto:genrebun@aol.com)

# SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY							
Arney	Helen	Phone Disconnected					
Behrends	Jeanette	Phone Disconnected					
Fahnestock	Richard	Phone Disconnected					
Gillett	Grant	Phone Disconnected					
Grewell	Johanne	Phone Disconnected					
Hay	Gail	Phone Disconnected					
Heiricksen	David	309.648.4477			New phone #		
Johnson	Eric	309.453.1029			New phone #		
Johnson	Janice	309.472.5209			New phone #		
Kosier	Jeannette	309.251.1642			New phone #		
Meisinger	John	Phone Disconnected					
Rastatter	Maryanne	309.415.0120			New phone #		
Rathbun	John	309.231.0042			New phone #		
Redlinshafer	Toni	604 Harbor Pointe DR	East Peoria	IL	61611-5805	309.698.4656	New member
		tredlingshafer@att.net				309.690.5905 (C)	
Thomas	William	Phone Disconnected					
Trilixsis	Betty	Phone Disconnected					
Wagner	Connie	Phone Disconnected					
Wiest	Susan	313 Pine Ridge DR	Washington	IL	61571-2005	309.645.2540	New member
		swiest49@yahoo.com					
Dorothy Vallosio		January 2, 1927 – December 7, 2018 (91)					
Glenda Leverett		June 20, 1939 – December 25, 2018 (80)					

**DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN**

## NEW YEAR? TIME *for* ANNUAL PARTA MEMBERSHIP DUES



For many of our members, the new year represents the beginning of a new membership year. Dues for Annual Members and Associate Members is \$15.00. Dues may be paid at a regular PARTA meeting or sent to John Rathbun, Membership Chair.

Checks should be made out to PARTA. If you joined last fall, your first year's membership extends through 2019. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John at [genrebun@aol.com](mailto:genrebun@aol.com). Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the onetime fee is \$120 (BEST OPTION). For anyone you may know who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained from <https://pa-rta.weebly.com>.

**John Rathbun, Membership  
308 James Pkwy  
Washington, IL 61571**

An elderly shopper at our supermarket used a check to buy such items as cotton balls, cotton swabs, powder, and cold cream. On the memo line, she'd written, "Repairs."

# SOUNDINGS

## TRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION TO BE HELD MAY 1, 2019

TRS will hold an election on May 1, 2019 for two active teacher trustees and ONE ANNUITANT TRUSTEE to serve on the Board of Trustees for 4-year terms beginning July 15, 2019.

**ELECTRONIC VOTING** for the nominated candidates will be available April 1 through 10 a.m. on May 1. To vote by electronic ballot, please ensure we have your valid email address on file.

**PAPER BALLOTS** will only be mailed if we do not have your email address or you request a paper ballot.



**ALL TRS ANNUITANTS – PLEASE VOTE  
DOUG STRAND – IRTA’S CANDIDATE**



## TEACHER SALARIES & TRS PENSIONS BOOST THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY BY \$16.1 BILLION



- The after-tax earnings of active TRS members was \$6.5 billion, which generated a total economic impact of \$9.5 billion.
- The after-tax payments to TRS benefit recipients who live in Illinois was \$4.5 billion, which generated a total economic impact of \$6.6 billion.

**ISSUE:** The salaries paid to Illinois public school teachers and the pension benefits received monthly by retired teachers and their families who live in Illinois have a positive economic impact on the state that is estimated to be \$16.1 billion per year. In addition, active and retired TRS members' earnings and benefits support more than 110,600 jobs in Illinois with a payroll of \$4.7 billion.

**DISCUSSION:** The cascading impact of wages and pension benefits on Illinois or its individual counties can be calculated using formulas and standards established by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the U.S. Department of Labor; and the Office of Trade & Investment in the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

At the time of the study, TRS had a total of 412,451 members. Of that, 160,500 were “active;” 108,000 were “retired” and 12,000 were “benefit recipients,” such as spouses of deceased members and dependent children. Of the retirees and benefit recipients, 79 percent lived in Illinois.

Using statistics compiled during the spring of 2018, the wages paid to active TRS members (public school teachers working in districts outside the city of Chicago) and pensions paid to TRS retirees who lived in Illinois translated into a total economic impact of \$16.1 billion.

Nationally, a new study released in May by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems reported that in 2016, retired public employees in the United State received \$303.1 billion, which in turn generated a \$757.8 billion boost to the economy, including \$151.9 billion in state and local tax revenues.

*Updated: October 1, 2018 (Source: trsil.org)*

**In America the you are always ready to give to those who are older than themselves the full benefits of their inexperience.**



# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA Foundation (IRTAF) 2019 \$22,000 in IRTAF Scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The IRTA Foundation awards six \$1,500 scholarships to incoming juniors or seniors in college that are pursuing a degree in education. 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. The eight winners were chosen through competition with other applicants from their own area of the state. Applications are available on the IRTA website [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) under "Foundation", or by contacting Susan Goetz at the IRTA Office: 1.800.728.4782.



MARCH 7, 2019

**IN ADDITION:** Moler-Austin Scholarships (2) - \$3,500 each  
Applicants must be graduates of a Kendal County High School

## \$36,500 in IRTAF Teacher Grants

APPLICATION DEADLINE



**Excellence in Education Grants for Teachers:** Educators often think of this phrase - Extra Funds Needed - when it comes to planning special projects for their students? Due to state budget cuts, teachers may find that additional revenue sources are no longer available for such unique activities. 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.

Please download, complete, and submit the application online at:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/9ZnwdK5eQDewEfqp1>

JUNE 1, 2019

## Two "BUYOUT" PROGRAMS for TRS MEMBERS AVAILABLE

A voluntary "accelerated annual increase" program for retiring Tier 1 members began in January and TRS continues to make steady progress on implementing a separate "buyout" program for eligible inactive members in spring 2019.



### "ACCELERATED ANNUAL INCREASE"

For the next two years, when a Tier 1 member informs TRS that he/she wants to retire, TRS will ask whether the member has any interest in participating in what is being called the "Accelerated Annual Increase" program, or "AAI." If a member is interested, the program will be explained, and he/she will be given an estimate of the AAI payment and a formal election form.

### INACTIVE MEMBER BUYOUT

Inactive members in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 may be eligible for this program. The buyout amount will equal 60% of the present value of the member's anticipated pension benefits. In return, a member who accepts the buyout will give up any future rights to a reoccurring TRS benefit when they get older.

Currently, approximately 20,000 TRS members are eligible for this accelerated payment, out of a total of 131,812 inactive members.

An elementary teacher was preparing to discuss magnetism with her class. She held a magnet over a box filled with pins and ten said, "My name begins with an 'M' and I pick up things. What am I?" A boy in the front row immediately yelled out, "MOM!"



# SOUNDINGS

## SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

### LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE

IRTA partners exclusively with Liberty Mutual Insurance to help save members up to \$782 on auto and home insurance. IRTA member benefits information and resources are online under the "Members Only" tab at: [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org).



Jerry & Carla Stokowski  
Dale & Dixie Wheeler  
Pat & Roger Hampton

Members from the Peoria Area joined other IRTA members aboard the Celebrity Equinox for a 7-day Eastern Caribbean Cruise. Making new friends, experiencing new adventures, and creating awesome memories are some of the perks of retirement.



Upcoming  
IRTA  
Experiences



↘ June 2  
Cubs / Cardinals Game

↘ October 20-28  
IRTA Irish Adventure

Details Online @ [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)

## ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (IRTA) MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP PAYS FOR ITSELF

You'll save thousands of dollars when you use IRTA's popular member benefits.



As the voice of Illinois's retired educators, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) defends pension and healthcare protection via its lobbying efforts, advocates for retirees, provides group rate dental and vision insurance among other benefits, and provides travel and entertainment options for its members.

### WHY JOIN IRTA?

- Pension Protection: Legislative representation and advocacy for improved retirement benefits (health insurance, pension funding, etc.)
- Legislative Updates
- Member Benefits
- Pension Protection
- Supplemental Insurance
- New Friendships
- Domestic and International
- A n d S o M u c h M o r e !

**YOUR IRTA MEMBERSHIP WILL ENRICH YOUR RETIREMENT**

# SOUNDINGS

## EARLY 2019 IMPORTANT RETIREE TAX & PAYMENT REMINDERS FROM TRS

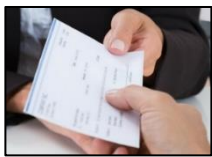
### ARRIVAL OF 1099-R

If you received a TRS benefit in 2018, the Office of the Comptroller will mail an IRS Form 1099-R to you by January 31, 2019. This form will report your income received from TRS during 2018.

If you do not receive a 1099-R form by February 15, 2019, or you need a duplicate copy sent to you, please log in to the secure Member Account Access area.

<input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTED (if checked)		
PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and phone no.	1 Gross distribution	OMB No. 1545-0119
	\$	2018
	2a Taxable amount	

If you have not yet set up your online member account, please watch the video at [www.trsil.org/videos/accessing-your-trs-member-account-online](http://www.trsil.org/videos/accessing-your-trs-member-account-online) to learn how. Your Member ID is required to set up an account.



### ANNUAL INCREASE REFLECTED ON FEBRUARY 1, 2019 CHECK

TRS pays your monthly benefit in arrears. The check issued January 1, 2019 is your payment for the month of December 2018. Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases, certain insurance premiums and federal tax withholding changes will be reflected on the check issued February 1, 2019, which is your monthly annuity for January 2019.

The annual 3% COLA will be reflected on your February 1, 2019 check. With some exceptions, recipients of monthly survivor benefits will also see a 3% increase. The COLA increase is first effective on January 1 following either your first retirement anniversary or your 61<sup>st</sup> birthday, whichever is later. TRS only sends a notification letter before your first COLA occurs. Retirees may log in to the secure Member Account Access area to view their monthly and annual earnings statements.

### FEDERAL INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING TABLES CHANGES

Revised federal income tax withholding tables went into effect on January 1, 2019. As a result, the federal taxes withheld from your January 1, 2019 annuity payment may increase or decrease based on your filing status.

If you would like to change your withholding election, you must complete a new Form W4-P. You may print a personalized Form W4-P online within the TRS secure Member Account Access area after you have signed in.

### RE-ENROLLMENT IN TRIP & TRAIL

A new law signed in August of 2018 allows TRS members and their dependents who have previously opted out of the Teachers'

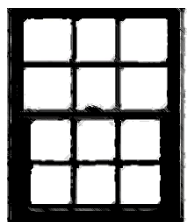
Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) or the Total Retiree Advantage Illinois Medicare plan (TRAIL) to re-enroll in the programs if they wish. TRS members and their dependents who are still otherwise eligible for TRIP and TRAIL can re-enroll "during any applicable annual open enrollment period" set up by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS), which administers TRIP and TRAIL. Historically, the open enrollment periods are:

TRIP – the spring of each year TRAIL the fall of each year



**AN IRTA INITIATIVE  
THANK YOU IRTA**

I got a call from my contractor complaining that his work had been completed over a year ago and I had not yet paid him. Boy, oh boy, did we go around! I proceeded to tell him just what his fast-talking sales guy had told me last year. He said that in one year, the windows would pay for themselves. There was silence on the other end of the line, so I just hung up, and he hasn't called back. Guess he was embarrassed.



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

Nonprofit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit 378  
Peoria, IL

Address Service Requested



# PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association

## **PARTA OFFICERS 2019 - 2020**

- Abby Humbles, *President*
- Dixie Wheeler, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*
- Ann Winget, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*
- Kathy Simpson, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING  
RETIRED TEACHERS  
FOR OVER 68 YEARS**

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