

PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2020

LUNCHEON MEETING

February 3, 2020
11:30 A.M.
Barracks Cater Inn
Luncheon: \$12.00
RESERVATION REQUIRED

GREETERS

- ◆ Marti Sprecher
- ◆ Katrina Ritenhouse

INVOCATION / PLEDGE

- ◆ Chris Mangold

LUNCHEON

Oven Roasted
Breast of Chicken
Vegetable - Roll
Assorted Salads
Dessert

PROGRAM

Speech Students:
BrandiRose Abel
Peoria HS
Jenny Parker, coach
Richwoods HS
MATT MARSH &
Annalee Anderson
Alyssa Emanuelson, coach

MEETING

Chairperson:
Abby Humbles,
PARTA President



ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to you. I hope that you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to another PARTA luncheon in February. As always, please let your caller know if you have any meal restrictions or need assistance with your service.

Dietary Restriction

Ann Winget and her committee have an exciting roster of speakers for the remainder of this year. Bring a friend to join us sometime this year. All first-time attendees will have a free meal.

Sincerely,
Abby Humbles, PARTA President



UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

MARCH 2

"LIVING IN JORDAN – LIFE & EXPERIENCES"

Wendy Merdian, missionary resident of Jordan for 25 years



APRIL 6

ZELENA WILLIAMS, Volunteer with teenage girls at JV Detention, Zee's Blessed Dress

Zelena welcomes donations of buttons, zippers, lace, pillowcases, T-Shirts, fabric glue, and scraps of material

COUNTY OF PEORIA
JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

MAY 4

"MANUAL LABOR" **DICK VAN SCYOC** AND DAUGHTERS **DR. JAN BOGLE & GWEN WESTENDORF**
Legendary Manual basketball coach, Dick VanScyoc, will sign copies of his book on Manual hoops history.



JUNE 1

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

John Meisinger & Dave Obergfel



NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

Details and updated information about each of our meetings are online
pa-rta.weebly.com/ Sally Weber, Webmaster

SOUNDINGS

President Abby Humbles welcomed all. There were eighty-two present. Abby thanked today's greeters, Susan Bartlow and Ann Christophel. Susie Pierce led the pledge and gave the invocation. After the luncheon, LeeAnn Meinhold introduced Allan Adcock, a magician and ventriloquist. We were further entertained with a holiday sing-along, led by Lee Wenger and accompanied by Denise Adams. The whole program was wonderful fun.



Abby opened the business meeting.

- The minutes are in the *Soundings*.
- Copies of the treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit.
- Abby reviewed that PARTA had given Barrack's employees a small Christmas gift the past few years. Frances Farraher moved to give a \$100 tip to them this year. The motion was seconded and passed. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. 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

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

	Investment Balance	\$46,376.22	Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
	Savings Balance	8,003.29	
	Checking Balance	1,211.83	
	Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00	
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund (unchanged)	204.75	
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund (unchanged)	28.30	
	Grand Total	\$55,924.39	

NEW YEAR: 2020 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 2020. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John

it's time to
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair. Checks should be made out to PARTA. If you joined last fall, your first year's membership extends through 2020. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John

**JOHN RATHBUN
308 JAMES PKWY
WASHINGTON, IL 61571**

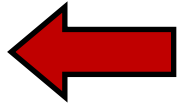
at genrebun@aol.com. Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. For anyone wishing to be a LIFE MEMBER, the onetime fee is \$120 (BEST OPTION). For anyone you may know who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained from <https://pa-rta.weebly.com>.

SOUNDINGS



NEW: 2020 PARTA DIRECTORY

**YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE EXACTLY THE SAME
AS PRINTED IN THE LAST DIRECTORY**



**UNLESS YOU SEND UPDATED INFORMATION TO JOHN RATHBUN
BEFORE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020**



John's Email Address: genrebun@aol.com



Submit CHANGES or CORRECTIONS: NAME – PHONE NUMBER – ADDRESS

**Hopefully, the 2020 PARTA Directory will be available for pickup at the March and April
PARTA Luncheon Meetings. If not picked up, it will be mailed after the April meeting.**

I have been plowing through the *caller sheets* from John. There are most likely names that have been left off. There are several reasons if your number was not on a list:

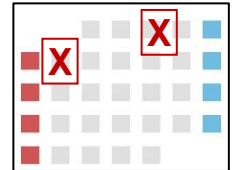
- ▶ your number has been disconnected
- ▶ your dues have not been paid
- ▶ you just attended a meeting and did not give us your phone number



There are 15 callers, including myself. If a member does not get a call by the Thursday before the meeting, please call me, Patti Monks, by Thursday night. PARTA luncheon reservations will be called in on Friday, prior to our meetings. That is why I must have all reservations by Thursday night. Feel free to leave a message on my answering machine if I am not home. My phone number is (309) 697-3385. If you are calling to make a reservation, make sure you give me your name and please leave a phone number where you can be reached.



I want to thank everyone for all their support and kind words. Taking over this job was a labor of love. Nancy Wing had this volunteer position down to a science and was so good at the process. I am trying, believe me. In time it will all work out.



Patti Monks, Chairperson for the PARTA Callers

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer saw a car pattering along at 22 MPH. He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So, he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five older ladies, two in the front seat and three in the back, wide-eyed and white as ghosts. The driver says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?" "Ma'am," the officer replies, "You weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers." "Slower than the speed limit? No Sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly twenty-two miles an hour!!" The woman says a bit proudly. The police officer, trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error. "But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask. Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't made a single peep this whole time," the officer asks. "Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."



SOUNDINGS

TRS ANNUAL INCREASE REFLECTED ON FEBRUARY 1ST CHECK

Teachers Retirement System (TRS) pays your monthly benefit in arrears. The check issued January 1, 2020 is your payment for the month of December 2019.

Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases, certain insurance premiums and federal tax withholding changes will be reflected on the check issued February 1, 2020, which is your monthly annuity for January 2020.



The annual 3% COLA will be reflected on your February 1, 2020 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 61st 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.

J
O
I
N

We each need to THANK IRTA for the LAWSUIT that they filed and won against the State of Illinois, requiring the state to rescind the law they passed which WOULD HAVE CHANGED OUR ANNUAL COMPOUNDED INCREASES.

I
R
T
A

ONLY \$2.50 PER MONTH – A SMALL % OF YOUR COLA

Chicago is the most corrupt city, and Illinois the second-most corrupt state, in the nation, according to a 2019 report by the University of Illinois at Chicago.



CORRUPTION IN ILLINOIS IMPACTS GROWTH RATE ILLINOIS GROWTH SLOWEST OF FIVE LARGEST STATE ECONOMIES

Corruption in Illinois comes with social and economic costs. Not only does corruption lessen residents' faith in the government, it decreases economic growth and disincentivizes investments in the state.

CONSEQUENCES

It is estimated that Illinois' public corruption convictions cost the state economy an estimated \$550 million every year since 2000, totaling more than 10 billion dollars!



Federal corruption convictions per capita were 8% more common in Illinois than in other states during that time period.

Illinois' role in the national economy has declined steadily since the 1960s. An economy that was once the third-largest contributor to the nation's GDP has continued to slip. This shouldn't come as a surprise, because states with higher levels of corruption on average see lower levels of investment and economic growth. Using data from all 50 states, corruption was found to play a significant and causal role in reducing economic growth. Illinois ranks 40th in cumulative economic growth, out of 50 states and Washington, D.C., in gross state product since 1997. With real economic growth of just 1.35% annually on average, Illinois trails the U.S. economy with real economic growth of 2.31%. *Source: Bureau of Economic Status - www.illinoispolicy.org/reports/*

SOUNDINGS



THE ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION
has distributed over **\$1,290,000**
through its 3 programs in the last 13 years

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is given to retired educators who are living in times of acute financial stress. If you or anyone you know is having difficulties meeting financial obligations, please submit a financial assistance form. Form and information: online at irtaonline.org or call 1.800.728.4782

Over \$775,000 in assistance given during the last 13 years

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE JUNIORS & SENIORS

Scholarship information and application:
irtaonline.org/index.php/foundation/scholarships or 1.800.728.4782

APPLICATION DEADLINE – MARCH 7, 2020

Information about the 2019 scholarship recipients is online at: irtaonline.org

Over \$265,000 awarded during the last 13 years

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

Mini grants for Classroom Projects and Supplies

Grant information and an online application will soon be available online at:

<https://irtaonline.org/index.php/foundation/Grants> or call 1.800.728.4782

Information about the 2019 grant recipients is online.

APPLICATION DEADLINE – JUNE 1, 2020

Over \$250,500 awarded during the last 13 years

JOIN PARTA & IRTA – BE A PART OF GIVING BACK

PARTA SCHOLARSHIPS – 2000 TO 2019 STATISTICS

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 29 Scholarships awarded to ICC Students Majoring in Education | • \$500 Scholarship Increased to \$1,000 |
| • \$22,000 Total Amount Awarded | • Initially: 1 Scholarship Awarded – This Year: 3 Scholarships Awarded |

VALDA SHIPP, PARTA SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR



LIFE OBSERVATIONS: It seems inevitable! Those who snore always fall asleep first.

The refrigerator is a clear example that what matters is what's inside.

You can't move your top jaw. So instead of biting down, we are biting up.



It's a good thing not everyone has a smartphone. Someone has to honk when the light turns green.

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

TAX-DEFERRED ANNUITY

LONGTERM CARE BENEFITS – ANNUICARE

AMBA offers a Single Premium Tax-Deferred solution for your retirement featuring tax-deferred accumulation of interest, guaranteed competitive interest rate, multiple payout options, income you won't outlive, and a nursing home waiver.

Contact Larry Newman: 708.878.2814 or larry.newman@amba.info

Other IRTA member benefits information and resources are online under the "Members Only" tab at: www.irtaonline.org

My favorite exercise is somewhere between a lunge and a crunch. It's called lunch.

INGENIOUS SON - THERE IS USUALLY A SOLUTION TO ANY PROBLEM

An old farmer wrote a letter to his innocent son in prison: "This year I'm unable to plant potatoes because I don't have the strength to dig into the ground. I know if you were here you would've helped me."



His son replied: "Dad, please do not dig into the ground, I have hidden the guns there."

The police read the letter and the next day the ground was dug by the police who were searching for the guns, but they found nothing.

His son wrote again: "Dad, the ground has now been dug up, you can now plant your potatoes, It's the best I could do from here. Love you."



NEW YEAR - NEW ILLINOIS LAWS

On January 1, 2020, more than 250 new Illinois laws went into effect, such as:

HB 3113: Health insurance policies will soon also have to cover one annual office visit for a whole-body skin examination for lesions suspicious for skin cancer, without charging the patient a deductible, coinsurance or co-payment.

HB 2146: Requires UIC School of Public Health and IDPH to convene a working group to come up with policy recommendations relating to the health of Illinois residents.

HB 3503: Requires insurers to offer optional coverage for hearing instruments and any related services for all individuals 65 years old and older when so prescribed by a hearing care professional.

SB 69: Tightens up statutes to ensure those who commit crimes against elderly and disabled persons are held accountable.

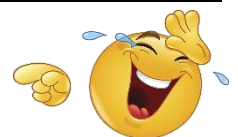
HB 2700: *(AN IRTA INITIATIVE)*

Requires Illinois Central Management Services to identify a situation where a Teacher's Retirement System recipient overpaid for health insurance and refund the overpaid amount as soon as practicable.

Complete List Available Online at: illinoissenatedemocrats.com/images/PDFS/2019/2020-new-bills-list.pdf

☺ You know what keeps me humble? Mirrors! ~ Phyllis Diller

☺ Today you can go to a gas station and find the cash register open and the toilets locked. They must think toilet paper is worth more than money. ~ Joey Bishop



SOUNDINGS



LESSONS FROM YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

One of the perks of grandparenting is an education on how to smile. Babies are the experts. They smile in the womb and continue after they're born. Children smile as many as 400 times a day while only 30% of the general population smile more than 20 times a day and about 14% smile less than five times a day.

In a recent study at Wayne State University, Major League Baseball players who were smiling on their 1952 baseball card lived an average of seven years longer than players with no smile.

How does this work? As Darwin discovered, human beings feel better when they smile, and when we feel better, our bodies can relax, heal, and thrive. Better digestion, stronger immune system – the list goes on. Even when we're in a bad mood, smiling has been proven to lift our spirits. That's how powerful a smile can be – as any baby will tell you. A smile:

- is contagious, costs nothing, but creates much.
- enriches those who receive, without impoverishing those who give.
- happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.
- creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a business, and is the countersign of friends.



- is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote for trouble.
- cannot be bought, bagged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody until it is given away.



None are so rich they can get along without it, and none so poor but are richer for its benefits.



Source: <https://www.laughteronlineuniversity.com/fascinating-facts-about-smiling/>

Making new friends, experiencing new adventures, and creating awesome memories are some of the perks of retirement.



Join fellow Illinois Retired Teachers Association members on April 10, 2020 at Wrigley Field as the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Chicago Cubs!

Game starts at 1:20.

Our suite opens at 11:20!

Purchase Tickets Online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/93114007986156>

Already failed to keep your New Year's Resolutions? Start over with one of these:

- Do random acts of kindness.
- Give one compliment a day.
- Donate clothes you never wear.
- Spend less than \$1,825 on coffee at Starbucks this year.
- Every night write down one thing for which you are grateful.
- Work out to feel good, not be thinner.
- Take the stairs.
- Talk less, listen more.



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, *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*