

PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2021

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2021

Greetings to all our PARTA members,

Here we are in the beginning of 2021! I am so hoping that it won't be long before we can again meet in person. But for the time being, I want to play it safe by scheduling our first 3 meetings of the year via Zoom. Getting "zoomed in" is not as hard as you think. Pour a cup of coffee, follow Roger's instructions, and see your PARTA friends like Hollywood Squares! At least we get to look at each other without masks. As



your new president I look forward to this year, and we together will make it a very productive year! And get vaccinated!

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President



PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL 10:00 AM ZOOM MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 8

PAM WINTEROTH, HAPIST



Playing the harp is her passion. She observes that people of all ages enjoy relaxing to the calming sounds of the harp which she calls,

"Harp Serenity".

MARCH 8

WENDY MERIDIAN

Wendy will share her experiences of living in  Jordan as a missionary for 25 years.

APRIL 12

ZELENA WILLIAMS

Zelena volunteers with teenage girls at Juvenile Detention Center - Zee's *Blessed Dress*. She welcomes donations of buttons, zippers, lace, pillowcases, T-Shirts, fabric glue, and scraps of material.

COUNTY OF PEORIA
JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

LINKS to the ZOOM MEETINGS will be posted online and will also be sent to members via email (make sure we have your email address).

EACH ZOOM MEETING WILL HAVE A DIFFERENT ACCESS LINK.

IN-PERSON 11:30 AM LUNCHEON MEETINGS

We are hopeful that we can resume in-person meetings beginning in May.

MAY 3 - BARRACK'S CATER INN

PEORIA CHARTER COACH - *Upcoming Trips*

JUNE 7 - BARRACK'S CATER INN

ADULT LITERACY - **JOHN MEISINGER**

Check PARTA's website for updates and details - Menus will be posted online.

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness. ~ William Arthur Ward

SALLY WEBER, PARTA WEBMASTER

ROGER HAMPTON, SOUNDINGS EDITOR

SOUNDINGS

PARTA VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (ZIA ZOOM) MINUTES

10:00 AM, Monday, January 18, 2021

Present: Dixie Wheeler, Roger Hampton, Abby Humbles, Denise Smith, Susan Leighty, Peggy Shane, Deloris Turner, John Rathbun, Jeff Vallosio, Kathy Simpson, Jeannie Blane, Patricia Monks, Lee Ann Meinhold, Sally Weber and Valda Shipp.

The meeting was opened by the newly-elected President, Dixie Wheeler, presiding. She welcomed the members to the meeting and recognized Laveine Birditt and Frances Farraher for their many years of service as PARTA committee chairs. Minutes from the December Zoom meeting were read by Kathy Simpson. Abby Humbles moved to accept the minutes. Peggy Shane seconded the motion.



MEETING DATES - Dates for upcoming meetings are February 8, March 8, and April 12 via Zoom at 10:00 AM. Roger Hampton will send Zoom meeting links to the membership.



President Wheeler was somewhat optimistic that the May 3rd meeting will be in person at Barrack's Cater Inn. The membership will be notified of any changes.

CONVENTION -The IRTA Convention is planned for October 18 and 19. The venue has been considerably scaled back. Registration for the convention is \$45. Further information and details will be shared at the April meeting. It was decided that PARTA would contribute to the raffle at the convention with a donation or a gift.

FINANCE REPORT -The finance report was given by the treasurer, Jeff Vallosio. Jeff reported if investments are doing well, PARTA will be fine financially.

A motion to accept the FY2021 budget was made by Roger Hampton and seconded by Sally Weber.



DECEASED MEMBERS- John Rathbun observed there were issues keeping up with the yearly actual deceased, due to information coming from different sources. Sally Weber interjected when a death is reported, the member is placed on a list. Jeff Vallosio needed directions on how to send names of deceased PARTA members, including \$10 for that member, to the IRTA Foundation. It was agreed that long time members who have associated with PARTA in the past and could have fallen

ill and not fulfilled their membership obligation should be recognized with the foundation memorial. Two members specifically named were Vivian Todden and Jessie Johnson-Daniels.

SCHOLARSHIPS: No Report from PARTA Teacher Scholarship and ICC Foundation Scholarship. The Board discussed whether we should award additional teacher scholarships mid-year. It was decided it would not be financially prudent for PARTA to grant additional scholarships at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Jeannie Blane, chair, reported the up-coming PARTA Programs:



- February 8th - Pam Winteroth, harpist, was a teacher but never a music teacher. She has played music since she was eight but did not start playing the harp until after she retired. She played at the Ronald Reagan Center in Washington DC for the Stork Ball. She also has Facebook and YouTube pages called "Harp Serenity."
- March 8th - Wendy Meridian, a missionary and resident of Jordan for 25 years will review her previous program and add to it. This program will cover her life experiences.
- April 12th - Zelena Williams, a volunteer with teenage girls at JV Detention, Zee's Blessed Dress
- May 3rd - Peoria Charter Coach (upcoming trips)

CALLING COMMITTEE: Patricia Monks, chair, indicated that there are two Callers to be replaced at this time.

Pat Jackson will not be able to continue with calling members, due to her recent illness. Jessie Johnson-Daniels died in August.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Kathy Simpson will contact Laveine Birditt to gather information regarding this committee position.

MEMBERSHIP: John Rathbun, chair, reported membership has declined due to no in-person meetings.



Peggy Shane moved to adjourn; Patricia Monks seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

STAY INFORMED

MONTHLY ISSUES OF SOUNDINGS DURING 2021

Issues to be Mailed: February, May, September, & December (also online)

All other issues will be online only: March, April, June, October, & November

SOUNDINGS

PARTA VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES 10:00 AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020

Abby Humbles opened the meeting. There were twenty-two people participating online via Zoom. Abby thanked the guest barbershop quartet for providing music. Abby called the meeting to order. The minutes and treasurer's report were printed in the Soundings. Thanks to Roger Hampton for getting the newsletter published. Committee Reports: Sally Weber reported that there is a new page on the website for comments and questions. Jeff Vallosio said to turn in any bills before the ending of the calendar year. The budget will be ready for approval at the February meeting. He will move \$3,000 from the Investment in January. The Investment Committee is scheduled to meet on December 14, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. at the Legacy Building. The Finance Committee needs to arrange for an audit.



Abby thanked the Nominating Committee, LeeAnn Meinhold, Pat Hampton, and Peggy Shane, for their work on the slate of officers for 2021-2022. Abby then thanked the retiring officers for their service:

- Kathy Simpson - Secretary
- Ann Winget – 2nd Vice President
- Dixie Wheeler – 1st Vice President
- Abby Humbles – President
- Dave Barnell – Past President



LeeAnn Meinhold, Parliamentarian, installed the following elected officers for 2021-2022:

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

Congratulations

newly-elected

Board Members

Susan Leighty moved to adjourn, Abby seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Simpson, Secretary



Investment Balance	\$ 48,344.53	Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
Savings Balance	9,014.65	
Checking Balance	3,170.49	
Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00	
Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	153.18	
Post Office Returned Mail Fund	100.23	
Grand Total	\$ 60,883.08	

Respond | React
A Mindful Difference

No matter what happens around us, we have a choice on how we respond. Responding allows us to stay true to who we are. When we react, we let others control who we are. Don't ever give the control away. Always stay aligned to yourself.

HOME COVID TEST

1. Open a can of beer and try to smell it.
2. If you can smell the beer, then drink it to see if you can taste it.
3. If you can taste it and smell it, this confirms you do not have COVID.

Last night, I did this test 15 times and all were negative. Tonight, I am going to do the test again, because this morning I woke up with a headache and feel like I'm coming down with something!

PLEASE Consider Volunteering **CALLERS NEEDED** Call Patricia Monks at 309.697.3385

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make the food right in front of you. So, I took her to Subway and that's how the fight started!



I think men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain and bought jewelry. ~ Rita Rudner

SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY						
Bierley	Frances	209 Hillman ST	Washington	IL	61571-9708	Address change
Mangold	Chris	404 Holland RD	Germantown Hills	IL	61548-9049	Address change
Spurgeon	Dale	spurg5@hotmail.com				New email
Stutz	Donna	1143 River Bend LN	Lisle	IL	60532-4535	Address change
Redlingshafer	Toni	tredlingshafer2@gmail.com				Email change

Mary Lou Baird, 84	March 31, 1936 - June 18, 2020
Maxine Blane, 89	November 9, 1931 - December 4, 2020
Wayne Brodkorb, 85	July 13, 1935 - Tuesday, December 29, 2020
Anna Dufec, 92	March 11, 1928 - June 21, 2020
Hildegard Foster, 91	June 1, 1929 - June 29, 2020
Demetra Polites, 93	September 13, 1927 - December 8, 2020
Barbara Quickstad, 93	May 19, 1927 - December 23, 2020
Barbara Reilly, 89	July 16, 1930 - July 12, 2020
Ronald Roberts, 74	May 6, 1946 - November 16, 2020
Vivian Todden, 94	April 1, 1926 - January 13, 2021
Pete Vallosio, 97	January 18, 1923 - December 13, 2020
Peter Wessler, 63	August 15, 1957 - November 24, 2020



DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

TIME FOR ANNUAL PARTA MEMBERSHIP DUES

For many of our members, the new year represents the time to pay dues for the 2021 membership year. Dues for Annual and Associate Members are \$15.00.

Dues may be sent to:

John Rathbun, Membership
4 Elm Creek DR, Apt 304
Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Checks should be made out to "PARTA".

Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. Anyone wanting 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. PARTA membership forms may be downloaded from:

<https://pa-rta.weebly.com>.

For questions, contact John Rathbun, membership chair, at: genrebun@aol.com

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (IRTA) MEMBERSHIP DUES

Sign Up Today using the **ONLINE IRTA DUES DEDUCTION MEMBERSHIP FORM** at:

<https://irtaonline.org/index.php/forms/irta-membership-dues-deduction-form>

Dues Deduct Members - \$2.50 per month

That is ONLY \$30.00 annually!

Former retirees worked for the benefits we have today.

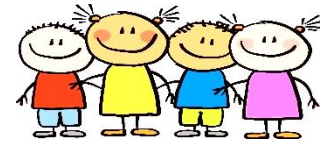
Every Retiree Is Needed! A very inexpensive price for pension advocacy!

SOUNDINGS

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE - HELP LOCAL EDUCATORS

TEACHERS IN PEORIA COUNTY REQUESTING FUNDS FOR CLASSROOM PROJECTS

With teachers and students facing the toughest learning challenges in a generation, you can help provide the supplies to keep kids learning.



800+
Peoria County
Projects Listed
Online

Minimum donation
to a
classroom project
is \$1.

The minimums for gift card
purchases and Friends &
Family Pre-funding donations
are \$10.

Donations
are
Tax-
Deductible

HOW TO SUPPORT A TEACHER'S PROJECT:

Go online to Donors Choose at:
<https://www.donorschoose.org/>

Select: "Find A
Classroom to Support"

In the boxes indicated, type in the
name of a school and the city/state.

You will find a list of projects for that school. If there are not projects listed, try another school or go back later to see if a request has been added.

Everyone can use a little "grammar" update. Is it "complete", "finished", or "completely finished"? No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these words.

In a recent linguistic competition held in London, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, gave his astute answer: When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"



He received a five-minute standing ovation and won a trip around the world and a case of 25-year-old scotch!

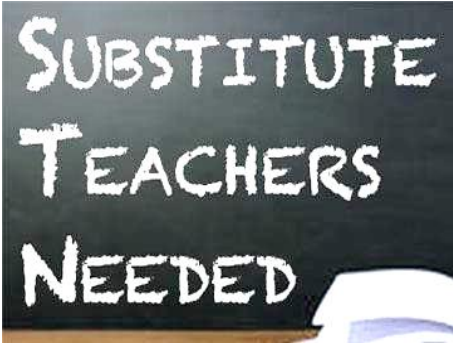
- 😊 Your impact on other people is bigger than you think.
- 😊 Someone still giggles when they think of that funny thing you said.
- 😊 Someone still smiles when they think of the compliment you gave them.
- 😊 The advice you've given has made a difference in people's lives.
- 😊 Someone silently admires you.

Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow.

- 😊 The support and love you've offered others has made someone's day.
- 😊 Your input and opinions have made someone think twice.
- 😊 You are not Insignificant, nor are you forgotten.
- 😊 Your existence makes a positive difference, whether you see it or not.

Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

SOUNDINGS



Peoria Regional Learning Center (PRLC) is looking for substitute teachers. The PRLC is a high school for students who are at risk of not completing their high school academic career. The location at Wildlife Prairie Park offers unique learning opportunities not available in a normal high school setting. If you're interested, please contact Principal Teresa VonRohr at 309.495.6800 or tvonrohr@peoriaregional.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

MyAMBA discounts program, managed by Passport Unlimited, is designed to connect members with **EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS** on **TENS OF THOUSANDS** of online and local vendor **PRODUCTS** including travel, dining, shopping, electronics, sports, entertainment, tickets, wellness, insurance, and so much more. IRTA member benefits information and resources are online under the "Members Only" tab at: irtaonline.org.

YOUR IRTA MEMBERSHIP WILL ENRICH YOUR RETIREMENT



PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

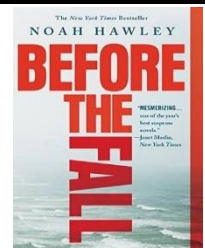
MIDNIGHT SUN by Stephenie Meyer

When Edward Cullen and Bella Swan met in *Twilight*, an iconic love story was born. But until now, fans have heard only Bella's side of the story. At last, readers can experience Edward's version in the long-awaited companion novel, *Midnight Sun*.

This unforgettable tale as told through Edward's eyes takes on a new and decidedly dark twist. Meeting Bella is both the most unnerving and intriguing event he has experienced in all his years as a vampire. As we learn more fascinating details about Edward's past and the complexity of his inner thoughts, we understand why this is the defining struggle of his life. How can he justify following his heart if it means leading Bella into danger?

BEFORE THE FALL by Noah Hawley

On a foggy summer night, 11 people - 10 privileged, one down-on-his-luck painter - depart Martha's Vineyard on a private jet headed for New York. Sixteen minutes later the unthinkable happens: The plane plunges into the ocean. The only survivors are Scott Burroughs - the painter - and a four-year-old boy who is now the last remaining member of an immensely wealthy and powerful media mogul's family. With chapters weaving between the aftermath of the crash and the backstories of the passengers and crew members - including a Wall Street titan and his wife, a Texan-born party boy just in from London, a young woman questioning her path in life, and a career pilot - the mystery surrounding the tragedy heightens.



Email the name and author of a book that you have enjoyed to roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

SOUNDINGS

ANNUAL 3% INCREASE REFLECTED ON YOUR FEBRUARY 1, 2021 TRS CHECK



TRS pays your monthly benefit in arrears. The check issued January 1, 2021 is your payment for the month of December 2020.

Your annual 3% increase, certain insurance premiums, and federal tax withholding changes will be reflected on the check issued February 1, 2021, which is your monthly annuity for January 2021.

Your 3% 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 at the website trs.il.org to view their monthly and annual earnings statements.

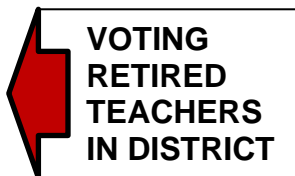


Your annual increase is a reminder of the importance of your membership in the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA). Just a few years ago IRTA advocated on your behalf by filing a lawsuit against the State of Illinois, challenging a state law that changed the Illinois Pension Code and lowered retirement benefits. This culminated in a unanimous decision by the Illinois Supreme Court that upheld the Pension Protection Clause in the Illinois Constitution of 1970.

KEEP IN CONTACT WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS REPRESENTING VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN PEORIA COUNTY

- Senator David Koehler (D-IL-046)..... 2,166
- Senator Win Stoller (R-IL-037) **NEW** 3,737
- Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth (D-IL-092) 920
- Representative Ryan Spain (R-IL-073)..... 1,853



FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS REPRESENTING VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN PEORIA COUNTY

- Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
- Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)
- Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL-017)
- Representative Darin LaHood (R-IL-018)
- Representative Mark Luft (R-IL-091) **NEW**



UTILIZE VOTER VOICE GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER TO CONNECT



Contact information along with personal and political information is listed for all of your elected state and federal officials.

Compose an email message online on this site and send it immediately.

A link to VoterVoice is under the IRTA Members Only Section:

<https://irtaonline.org/index.php/members-only/voter-voice>

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit!



Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.



Do you know the rear-view mirror is smaller than the windshield? That's because the way ahead of you is more important than the one you're leaving behind.



PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
308 JAMES PARKWAY
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-1041

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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*