

PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2022

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, PARTA friends,
And so begins our new year! I'm hoping everyone has not been sick, or at least, just not too sick.



At the check-in table, information will be available from the firms of two lawyers who are willing to help anyone with legal problems. Their rates are included in the information. If there is enough interest we can have them come. Thank you, Terry Knapp, for looking into this for us. Board members are in the process of defining their jobs so that anyone interested in a particular position will know just what the job requires. These responsibilities have not been revised since 1996!

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS - In-Person & Virtual Options

→ FEBRUARY 7

TRENT STRONG

Investment Advisor

LEGACY INVESTMENTS

↳ MARCH 7

KENNY BLUM

Community and Public Relations

AMEREN ILLINOIS

February Menu: Roasted Chicken Breast, Potato, Sides, Dessert

→ APRIL 4 ↳ MAY 2 ↳ JUNE 6

NO MEETING - JULY & AUGUST - NO MEETING

→ SEPTEMBER 12 ↳ OCTOBER 3 ↳ NOVEMBER 7 ↳ DECEMBER 5

All PARTA luncheons begin at 11:30 AM with an 11:00 AM social hour.

Barrack's Cater Inn | 1224 West Pioneer Parkway, Peoria

Luncheon: \$12.00 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Meetings begin around 12:20 PM (*No charge to attend just the meeting.*)

UPDATES on meeting programs and menus will be listed online at:

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

SCHEDULED PARTA BOARD MEETINGS @ 10:00 AM

JANUARY 30
via ZOOM

APRIL 25
PPL Lakeview Branch

AUGUST 22
PPL Lakeview Branch

NOVEMBER 28
PPL Lakeview Branch

Peoria Public Library (PPL) Lakeview Branch | 1137 West Lake Avenue, Peoria

Link to Virtual Zoom Meeting is sent via email or can be accessed from the PARTA webpage.

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

SALLY WEBER, PARTA WEBMASTER

ROGER HAMPTON, SOUNDINGS EDITOR

SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES 11:30 AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

On December 6, 2021, the PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. President Wheeler thanked the meeting Greeters, Ann Christophel and Carla Stokowski. Susan Bartlow led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and offered the prayer. Dixie welcomed new members and thanked Barrack's Cater Inn for their continued hospitality. The servers at Cater Inn were recognized and given a monetary gift. Sixty-nine in-person members attended the meeting. Three new PARTA members were in attendance. They were Scott and Joan Schifeling and Cheryl Rauhaus. John Rathbun was acknowledged as an honoree from the IRTA convention. John was recognized for his many years of service as a PARTA and IRTA member. Denise Smith will take on updating and getting published the PARTA 2022 Directory. A big thank you to Denise.



Denise Adams and the Morton Civic Chorus were the entertainment for the Christmas Program. The chorus rendered several numbers followed by a sing-along with Denise Adams and her husband, Lee Wenger.



Other business and announcements: Jeff Vallosio reminded members that the Treasurer's Report was on the table and in the *Soundings*. Roger **MEMBERSHIP STATUS** Hampton mentioned that the membership status of members was on their mailed copy of *Soundings*. If members did not receive a copy of the *Soundings*, please provide Roger with your mailing address. He also informed members if they wanted an electronic copy of the *Soundings* instead of a mailed copy, send him your e-mail address. President Wheeler asked for committee reports. There were none.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called. Peggy Shane made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sherry Perez seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted **Deloris Turner, Secretary**



Investment Balance	\$ 55,388.15	Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
Savings Balance	9,021.32	
Checking Balance	852.17	
Working Cash (<i>cash boxes</i>)	100.00	
Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	232.56	
Post Office Returned Mail Fund	93.83	
Grand Total	\$ 65,688.03	

IRTA Lawsuit Overview online at:

<https://www.irtaonline.org/index.php/association/lawsuit>

IRTA Overview Video online at:

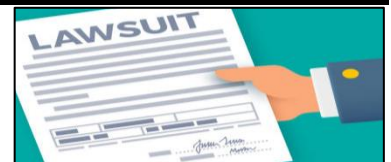
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLywCuPzb68&feature=emb_imp_woyt

Filed Complaint (Lawsuit) available online at:

<https://www.irtaonline.org/view/download.php/association/filed-lawsuit-january-2022>

Actuarial Report available online at:

<https://www.irtaonline.org/view/download.php/association/actuarial-report-january-2022>



SOUNDINGS



RETIRED TEACHERS SUE STATE OF ILLINOIS AFTER ADMINISTRATION DECIMATES HEALTHCARE

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association filed a lawsuit in Springfield on Monday, January 24, 2022, seeking to correct an unconstitutional move by the State of Illinois which dramatically reduced contributions made to the Teacher Health Insurance Security Fund. That move worsens the financial footing of the fund, which is already on the verge of default, and places the health benefits of retired teachers in dire jeopardy.

The lawsuit states that more than 100,000 retired educators depend on the committed funding of the health insurance fund and that personal and family decisions have been made in justifiable reliance on the promises made by Illinois law makers and guaranteed by the Illinois Constitution.

The lawsuit details how the Department of Central Management Services reduced the contribution rates to the retirement healthcare fund from active employees and the State from 1.3% to .9% in FY2023. This decreases the funding to the Teachers' Health Insurance Fund by \$45.6M. Since the State of Illinois's contribution is a matching amount, this automatically reduces the State's contribution. For FY2023, the employer's percentage is reduced from .9% to .67%, which will represent a deficit of millions more being paid into the Teachers' Health Insurance Fund. Actuarially, these actions are causing the healthcare insurance fund to become rapidly insolvent.

According to an independent actuarial review conducted by the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association, the negative cash flows to the fund will result in a 'total depletion of the fund's assets at some point during fiscal year 2023.'



"This is a disastrous blow to retired public servants and soon-to-be-retired public school educators," stated Bill Funkhouser, President of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

"Retirees have medical procedures they have planned for and long-term medical decisions that are projected. They need their healthcare as originally promised. Furthermore, I am shocked and appalled that the government is reducing our health insurance funding during a catastrophic pandemic. It's unamerican, it is wrong, it's not right, and it must be reversed."



Jim Bachman, Executive Director for the Illinois Retired Teachers Association stated: "We understand that flawed decisions made by multiple previous Governors have produced a difficult

financial position for the State of Illinois. However, Illinois retired teachers do not believe that the solution to the financial situation is to poorly fund its health care insurance fund. While the reduction may free up money for the State this year, it increases Illinois' debt exponentially for future years to the sum of three-quarters of a billion dollars. This type of irresponsible underfunding is exactly how Illinois got into the budget situation it is in today."



Because the Health Insurance Security Fund is so close to default, and the health benefits to retired teachers are in immediate danger of being diminished, the Association believes the courts must and will act quickly to reverse a most unconstitutional policy, which will be detrimental to the everyday taxpayer. According to the Terry Group, an actuarial and employee benefits consulting firm based in Chicago, the reduction in contributions reduces the expected revenues of the fund by more than \$750M, from FY2022 through FY2027.

SOUNDINGS

THE APPROACH OF 2022: TIME FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES



For many of our members, the fall represents the time to pay dues for the 2022 membership year that will begin in January. Dues for Annual Members and Associate Members are \$15.00. Dues may be paid at a regular PARTA meeting or sent to John Rathbun, Membership, 4 Elm Creek DR, Apt 304, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Checks should be made out to 'PARTA'. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John at genrebun@aol.com.

The low PARTA dues pays for the printing and mailing of the Soundings. The Soundings connects to our members around the country. The dues maintain our monthly meetings and the calling committee. The social component of PARTA allows it to support retired teachers and the IRTA and our pensions into the future. PARTA has been a reliable part of the Peoria community for 70 years; your dues will keep it there during your lifetime and beyond. Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. Life dues are invested to continue supporting your membership in a similar way to annual dues. For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the onetime fee is \$120. For anyone who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained at a monthly meeting or from <https://pa-rta.weebly.com>. Or you may contact John Rathbun at genrebun@aol.com.



When joining as an annual member in the fall, your membership includes all of 2022.

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (IRTA) MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

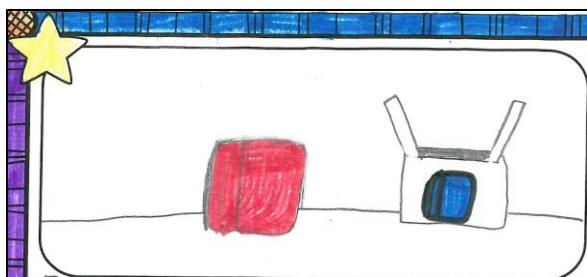
<https://www.irtaonline.org/membership>

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!



Below is one of ten student thank you notes received from Jennifer Lawless, teacher at Hickory Grove Elementary School. She is one of the PARTA Teacher Grant recipients.



Dear PARTA,
.....Thank you for giving Mrs. Lawless money to buy important items for 2L. We are grateful. Sincerely from August.

View all 10 of the students notes and drawings on the PARTA website.

MATH AND SCIENCE VALENTINE'S DAY PUNS

- I sulfur when you argon. 
- You're as sweet as Pi.
- We've got serious chemistry.
- You're acute Valentine.
- My love for you simply radiates.
- You're the ruler of my heart.
- When I tell you how much I love you, I'm not overreacting.
- Are you a 90-degree angle? Because this feels just right.
- I aorta tell you how much I love you. 

Find your focus by seeking all that is good in your life. ~ Lorii Myers

SOUNDINGS

MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT PHONE NUMBER



The calling committee each month does the great work of trying to call local members to see if a reservation to the luncheon is needed. The calling committee is chaired by Patti Monks and her callers are a big reason our meetings are well attended. The callers often find that many of the phone numbers they need do not work. Often the members have dropped their landlines, but there are many other reasons phone numbers become useless as well.

Please keep us up to date on your phone number or any other contact information that has changed, including email addresses.



Also, a new directory will be coming out soon, so please check to be sure we have your current information.

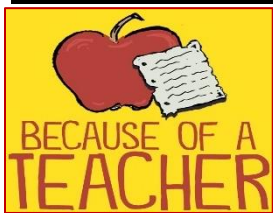
Send information to John Rathbun, genrebun@aol.com, Membership Chair.

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Carpenter	David	805 Chasewood DR	South Elgin	IL	60177-8752	<i>New Address</i>
Clemmer	Roger	2025 E Lincoln ST	Bloomington	IL	61701-5995	<i>New Address</i>
Duran	Nancy J	202 District CT	East Peoria	IL	61611-1411	<i>New Address</i>
Matarelli	Mary Kay	3799 Cadbury CIR APT 720	Venice	FL	34293-5388	<i>New Address</i>
Shekleton	Jo Anne	12503 Greenwood AVE N APT E208	Seattle	WA	98133-8070	<i>New Address</i>
Friedman	Judy				309.360.3290	<i>New phone #</i>
Hanlin	Mary Ann				309.231.6718	<i>New phone #</i>
Kaiser	Patricia				309.251.0216	<i>New phone #</i>
Shane	Laura				309.369.3724	<i>New phone #</i>
Sullivan	Ann				309.219.3900	<i>New phone #</i>
Wagoner	Jo				309.472.0490	<i>New phone #</i>

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF A TEACHER

EMILY BLUNT: FROM STUTTER TO STAGECRAFT



Most people know Emily Blunt as a Golden Globe-nominated film and stage actress. However, between the ages of 7 and 14 she developed a crippling stutter that had her struggling to even hold a simple conversation. "I was a smart kid and had a lot to say, but I just couldn't say it," she claimed. "I never thought I'd be able to sit and talk to someone like I'm talking to you right now."

For Blunt, it was one junior high teacher in particular that she claims helped her overcome her fear of speaking by encouraging her to try out for the school play. At first, Blunt resisted the idea, but the teacher wouldn't give up on her and coaxed her to take acting lessons and experiment with different accents and character voices to help express herself. In the end, those efforts paid off for her immensely. In addition to her incredibly successful career as an actress, she also became a member of the board of directors for the American Institute for Stuttering.

It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up. ~ Vince Lombardi

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS FLOWER DISCOUNTS

VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY 14

MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 8

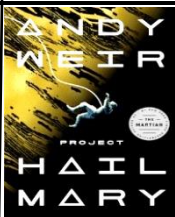
GRADUATIONS

SPRING

Save up to 15% on discounts from 1.800.Flowers when ordering.
phone at 1.800.356.9377 or online at www.1-800-Flowers.com
IRTA member benefits promotion codes, information, and resources are
online under the "Members Only" tab at: irtaonline.org

YOUR IRTA MEMBERSHIP WILL ENRICH YOUR RETIREMENT

PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



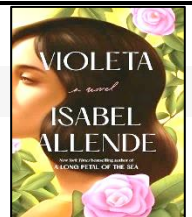
HAIL MARY

by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the Earth itself will perish, except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, he realizes that an impossible task now confronts him.

Alone on this tiny ship that's been cobbled together by every government and space agency on the planet and hurled into the depths of space, it's up to him to conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.

Thanks to an unexpected ally, he just might have a chance.



VIOLETA

by Isabel Allende

This novel tells the epic story of Violeta del Valle, a woman whose life spans one hundred years and bears witness to the greatest upheavals of the twentieth century. Violeta comes into the world on a stormy day in 1920, the first girl in a family of five boisterous brothers. From the start, her life is marked by extraordinary events, for the ripples of the Great War are still being felt, even as the Spanish flu arrives on the shores of her South American homeland almost at the moment of her birth.

Told through the eyes of a woman whose unforgettable passion, determination, and sense of humor will carry her through a lifetime of upheaval, Isabel Allende once more brings us an epic that is both fiercely inspiring and deeply emotional.

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

FUNNY QUOTES ABOUT LIFE TO GET YOU THROUGH THE DAY

- There is no dress rehearsal for life.
- With wisdom comes exhaustion.
- Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.
- Pets: the family members you get to choose.
- Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.



- Life is like a cobweb, not an organization chart.
- If you're around someone who sucks all the air out of the room, go to another room.
- Your life is your story; you can write out any characters who aren't enhancing the plot.

SOUNDINGS

ANNUAL 3% INCREASE REFLECTED ON YOUR FEBRUARY 1, 2022 TRS CHECK

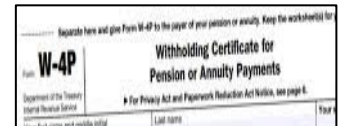


Your annual increase is a reminder of the importance of your membership in the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA). Just a few years ago IRTA advocated on your behalf by filing a lawsuit against the State of Illinois, challenging a state law that changed the Illinois Pension Code and lowered 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.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING

https://www.trsil.org/Retiree_annual-reminders

If you would like to change your withholding election or your Teachers Retirement System (TRS) monthly check, you must complete a new Form W4-P. You may print a personalized Form W4-P online within the secure Member Account Access area after you have signed in. A new Form W4-P replaces any former withholding on file with TRS.



REDISTRICTING AFTER THE 2020 CENSUS



Illinois was apportioned 17 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. This represented a net loss of one seat.

Find out if you live in the same legislative districts and obtain current legislative names and contact information online at: <https://elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx>

PRESIDENTS' DAY - FEBRUARY 21, 2022

- ✓ *Example, whether it be good or bad, has a powerful influence. ~George Washington*
- ✓ *When you abandon freedom to achieve security, you lose both and deserve neither. ~ Thomas Jefferson*
- ✓ *We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. ~Abraham Lincoln*
- ✓ *America's present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy; not revolution but restoration. ~Warren G Harding*
- ✓ *Don't allow our doubts of today limit our tomorrow. ~Franklin D Roosevelt*
- ✓ *A pessimist is one who make difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties. ~Harry S Truman*
- ✓ *As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~John F Kennedy*

☺ Cold weather is here. Had to scrape ice off my windscreen this morning. Used my supermarket loyalty card. Only got 10% off.
☺ There are hailstones the size of golf balls hitting the windows here. We've got a hole in one.

☺ I'm such a rebel! I eat spring rolls in winter.
☺ The snowman keeps having tantrums, they're real meltdowns!
☺ An ig is just a snow house without a loo!
☺ Icy what you did there!

When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us. ~Helen Keller.

PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
406 WOODCREST DR
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-1640

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U.S. Postage
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Permit 378
Peoria, IL



PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



PARTA OFFICERS 2021 - 2022

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

**PARTA: SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 70 YEARS**

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