

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2015

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

LUNCHEON MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
June 1 @ 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon – \$12.00

Greeter

 Becky Michel

Invocation

 Jean Thieman

Pledge

 Jean Thieman

Luncheon

SUMMER PICNIC

Brats & Hamburgers
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts



Program

Dave Weiman



Care Compass
A Guide for Finding
Long Term Care

Meeting

Dave Barnwell, Chair
PARTA President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! It's hard to believe another school year is ending! I'm sure many of you have been to friends' and relatives' graduations or other end of the school year activities this month. It is always a great time of year.

Eleven of your fellow PARTA members attended an IRTA Conference on May 21st, conducted by our own Roger Hampton, IRTA Area 4 Representative.



He will be giving us the latest news, and what it means, from Springfield at our June meeting. Even though the Illinois Supreme Court upheld our constitutionally protected retirement benefits, the future will need to be watched carefully.

In cooperation with the Regional Office of Education, PARTA will be reaching out to new retirees this summer. A big "thank you" to Sally Weber and Linda Sedgwick for their work on this project. You can help too! Be sure to invite a new retiree or non PARTA member to our September meeting.

INVITE

INVITE

Have a great summer!

Dave Barnwell, PARTA President

NEXT PARTA MEETING - SEPTEMBER 14

"Alp Horns"

| Al Hedeman and Company

Association Member Benefits Advisors

| Larry Newman, AMBA Representative



IRTA has partnered with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to make member only benefits available exclusively to IRTA members!



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.

*Our mission in life is not merely to survive, but to **thrive**; and to do so **with** some **passion**, some **compassion**, some **humor**, and some **style**.*

~ Maya Angelou

SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2015

Claudia Ulavege gave the Invocation and led the pledge. There were 104 members present. Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone, especially Kirk Wessler. He thanked the greeters.

After the luncheon, Dave introduced our speaker, Kirk Wessler, manager of the sports department at the Peoria Journal Star. He spoke on "Evolution in High School Sports", which included changes that have occurred, obstacles to overcome, and competition.

Dave then opened the business meeting.

- Dave announced that those who have special dietary needs should notify their reservation caller of these needs, and Barrack's will accommodate them.
- The minutes were in the Soundings. Terry Knapp said that under his report on scholarships, the minutes should be amended to say that we added two new scholarships.

- The Treasurer's Report was on the tables and will be filed for audit.

- Jon Rathbun said two new members joined today.

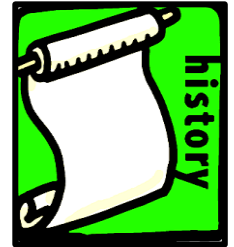
- Frances Farraher reported the passing of one member.

- We have a new historian, Sue Leighty. Helen Dunn has been the historian for many years and wished to retire.

- Maxine Blane said to watch "Voters' Voice" about a problem with funding TRIP. If you have any problems with benefits, call Central Management System. So far, the Legal Defense Fund has spent \$500,000. The Fund has only \$62,000 left, so please continue to contribute.

- The Area 4 Spring Conference is May 21 in Springfield.

The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully Submitted

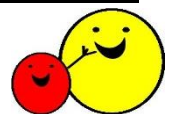
Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary

Life Membership Fund*	\$27,991.61 previous + 150.00 =	\$ 28,141.61
<i>*This is not an additional amount but is included within the Investment Balance.</i>		
Total PARTA Finances	Total Investment Balance	\$ 41,742.84
	Savings Balance	932.80
	Checking Balance	4,503.98
	Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund (0 this month)	297.92
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund (\$.57 this month)	99.43
Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	Grand Total	\$ 47,675.83

SPREAD THE WORD

Jason Warner and Peoria High School students would be happy to perform their Civil War program for other groups. This is the group that presented at PARTA's February 2015 meeting. Jason can be reached at:
 Peoria High School or jason.warner@psd150.org

It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings. ~ Ann Landers



Illinois Supreme Court Pension Reform Decision

The Illinois Supreme Court unanimously rejected Illinois' effort to reform its public employee pension system. The justices ruled that the law, passed in December 2013, violates the pension protection clause in the 1970 Illinois State Constitution. In their decision, the justices — four Democrats and three Republicans — rejected the state's argument that the pension obligations had become so great that the state could no longer properly fund essential parts of state government.

"The circumstances presented by this case are not unique. Economic conditions are cyclical and expected, and fiscal difficulties have confronted the State before. In the midst of previous downturns, the State or political subdivisions of the State have attempted to reduce or eliminate expenditures protected by the Illinois Constitution, as the General Assembly is attempting to do with Public Act 98-599. Whenever those efforts have been challenged in court, we have clearly and consistently found them to be improper," the justices wrote.

Supreme Court Gave No Guidance for Lawmakers on Pension Issue

At oral arguments in March, Justice Robert Thomas had indicated skepticism that the state had done everything in its power financially when, just two months earlier, it had allowed its personal and corporate income tax rates to fall by 25%. Proponents of the controversial law had hoped that, if the court were to rule the law unconstitutional, its decision would give some guidance for amending the law to make it pass constitutional muster while still allowing the state to save money on pensions. The decision gave no such instruction.

Instead, the court quotes from debate during the 1970 constitutional convention and states that the meaning and intent of the pension protection cause is clear:

"Those provisions not only created a new right of constitutional dimension, conferring enforceable contractual status on the benefits of membership in public retirements systems, they also defined the scope of the protection afforded such benefits. Under the plain language of article XIII, section 5, not only may the benefits not be impaired, they also may not be 'diminished,'" the decision states.

Source: www.rebootillinois.com/author/mattdietrich/

Wait, wait... you're telling me...



If I pee in the yard, I get a TREAT?

DOG MATH

A farmer is wondering how many sheep he has in his field, so he asks his sheepdog to count them. The dog runs into the field, counts them, and then runs back to his master. "So," says the farmer. "How many sheep were there?" "40," replies the dog. "How can there be 40?" exclaims the farmer. "I only bought 38!" "I know," says the dog. "But I rounded them up."

SOUNDINGS

IRTA Call to Action - TRIP Funding

Recently formed "legislative working groups" began meeting in Springfield and what we have learned so far is that the Rauner administration has already put forth proposals to fill the \$6 billion hole in the 2016 state budget. Of the many reforms he has put forth, his administration has stated they want to cut the state funding to TRIP.



State funding into TRIP is vital. Without the state's \$95 million assistance to the program, insurance premiums will rise drastically.

Please contact your state representatives and senators and let them know how cuts to TRIP funding will affect you.

DIRECTORY CHANGE- PLEASE CHANGE YOUR DIRECTORY

Jack Monks

Deceased: May 14, 2015

DATABASE KEPT BY JOHN RATHBUN

QUIRKS ABOUT LIFE

- The one who snores will fall asleep first.
- Most people deserve each other.
- All the good ones, no matter what it is, are taken.
- If you help a relative in need, he/she will remember you the next time they are in need.



- The probability of meeting someone you know increases greatly when you are out with someone you do not want to be seen with.
- Toothaches always start on Friday night right before the weekend when the dental office will be closed.



INFORMATION FOR CURRENT TEACHERS



The IRTA Foundation continues to work toward the future by offering \$15,000 in grant money to educators. Applications are available online at:

irtaonline.org/documents/FormforGrantProposal2015.doc

Proposals must be postmarked by September 4, 2015. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money in October 2015.

PLEASE SHARE this information with teachers in our area.

TRAVEL QUOTES

You got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there.

~ Yogi Berra

I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places.

~ Henny Youngman

Laughter is an instant vacation.

~ Sara Jeannette Duncan



SOUNDINGS

Illinois Pensions Boost Illinois Economy

TRS pensions and benefits paid in Illinois create a \$5.58 billion economic stimulus annually and support 41,725 Illinois jobs.

The study, conducted by TRS using benefit statistics from February 2015 benefit payments, found that:

- 80% of the System’s 89,817 total benefit recipients live in Illinois
- \$3.8 billion in pensions and benefits paid to Illinois residents is 83% of the total pensions and benefits distributed by TRS annually

The statewide economic impact of TRS pensions and benefits can be measured in real terms:

TOTAL OUTPUT - \$5.584 BILLION

This is the overall measure of economic activity in Illinois stemming from TRS pensions and benefits. It includes all TRS payments, salaries earned in those jobs, and increases in the state’s Gross Domestic Product.

JOBS SUPPORTED - 41,725

This is the total number of full-time jobs supported by the \$3.821 billion in TRS pensions and benefits pumped into the Illinois economy.

EARNINGS CREATED - \$1.562 BILLION

These are the total salaries earned by persons employed in Illinois jobs that are fueled by TRS benefit payments.

ILLINOIS GDP VALUE - \$3.272 BILLION

This is the amount added to the Illinois Gross Domestic Product – the total value of goods and services produced within Illinois – due to TRS pension and benefit payments.



COUNTY	Benefit Recipients	Annual Net Benefits Recipients	Retirees Alone	Annual Net Benefits Retirees Alone	Average Current Age
Peoria	1,890	73,436,013	1,707	71,098,911	70
Senator - District	Benefit Recipients	Annual Net Benefits Recipients	Retirees Alone	Annual Net Benefits Retirees Alone	Average Current Age
Darin LaHood - 37	3,076	115,766,958	2,786	111,961,689	70
David Koehler - 46	1,807	68,488,299	1,601	65,814,542	71
Representative / District	Benefit Recipients	Annual Net Benefits Recipients	Retirees Alone	Annual Net Benefits Retirees Alone	Average Current Age
David R. Leitch - 73	1,479	56,134,394	1,349	54,367,588	70
Michael Unes - 91	1,020	38,395,480	902	36,871,207	70
Jehan Gordon-Booth - 92	787	30,092,820	699	28,943,335	71

Source: trs.illinois.gov/pubs/PUB09.pdf

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

SOUNDINGS

State Actuarial Value Funded Ratios at end of Fiscal Year 2014

Pension System <i>(In millions)</i>	Total Pension Funded Liability	Total Value	Net Pension	Funded Ratio
Teachers' Retirement System	\$ 106,682.7	\$ 45,824.6	\$ 60,858.3	43.0%
State University Retirement System	37,429.5	15,844.7	21,584.8	42.3%
State Employees Retirement System	41,685.1	14,581.6	27,103.5	35.0%
Judges Retirement System	2,231.3	776.0	1,455.3	34.8%
General Assembly Retirement System	397.5	56.8	340.7	14.3%
Total State of Illinois Pension Liability			\$ 111,342.6	

The numbers above are based on each system's annual report for the fiscal year ending on June 2014. The pension liability numbers represent what the total cost of the pensions for the entire active and retired membership of the five systems would come to over the next thirty years, so the \$111 billion is not a bill which is due today.

Based on the expected revenue for this fiscal year and the next, the State of Illinois will be paying approximately 20% of the money that it takes in on its pension obligation.

For most states the average pension obligation would be more like 3%, and 5% would be considered high.

Under the current law, the once fifty-year plan to bring the combined pension systems up to 90% (even payments of that percentage) are still less than what is needed to increase our current funding ratio. The fifty-year plan calls for balloon payments in the last five years to make up most of the underfunding.

Bob Lyons, TRS Trustee

Results from the 2015 TRS Board of Trustees Election

Three seats on the 13-member Board were up for election.

Elected: 4-year terms by active TRS members

- Andrew J. Hirshman - Oak Park
- Cinda J. Klickna - Rochester

Elected: 4-year term by retired TRS members

- Daniel Winter - Decatur

The new trustees' terms begin on July 15, 2015.



March 31, 2015	39 th largest pension system in the US	Serves 395,000 members	\$45.5 billion in assets
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FIRST GRADE PROVERBS

A miss is as good as a.....Mr.
Strike while the.....bug is close.
A penny saved is.....not much.
The pen is mightier than the.....pigs.
Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty.
Better be safe than.....punch a 5th grader.
You can't teach an old dog new.....math.

An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.
Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents.
It's always darkest before.....daylight savings time.
As you shall make your bed so shall you.....mess it up.
When the blind leadeth the blind.....get out of the way.
Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded.
If you lie down with the dogs, you'll.....stink in the morning.



SOUNDINGS

NEW PARTA WEBSITE

PARTA will have a new website when you come back in the fall. The old website will be retired on June 30 with the new one up and going on July 1.

The new website address will be:

www.p-a-r-t-a.weebly.com

Sally Weber, New PARTA Web Master



ILLINOIS PENSION HISTORY

1917

The Illinois legislature issued a report saying that state and municipal pensions were moving toward a crisis of insolvency, because the funding was “entirely inadequate for paying the stipulated pensions when due.”

1949

A different commission said, “At this time, every fund in Illinois suffers an actuarial insolvency.” This commission continued to sound an alarm every couple of years.

1969

The same commission again sounded the same alarm when the state pension funds were in the hole to the tune of \$2.5 billion, holding 41.8% of the assets that would be needed to pay benefits that employees had already earned.

Benefit protections are often evaded or ignored. Michigan has a state constitutional protection that says a pension plan is a contract that can't be modified, but a U.S. bankruptcy judge held that federal law trumps that; Detroit could change pension benefits as part of its restructuring. Too bad for the deadbeats of Illinois: The Detroit ruling can't apply because states can't file for bankruptcy.

Illinois law doesn't allow municipalities to file for bankruptcy, either, but the would-be deadbeats of Chicago have been flirting with the idea of bankruptcy for some time, and the Illinois legislature has a bill on the docket that would change the law. Governor Bruce Rauner even stated recently, “Bankruptcy law exists for a reason. It's allowed in business so that businesses can get back on their feet and prosper again by restructuring their debts...It's very important for governments to be able to do that, too.”

BANKRUPTCY

Source: online.barrons.com/

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

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

If you get out of the shower clean, then how does your towel get dirty?

How is it that our nose “runs” and yet our feet “smell”?

If “money is the root of all evil”, then why do they ask for it at church?



SOUNDINGS

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS SUMMER



Peoria Chiefs

Minor League Baseball Games
All Summer - Dozer Park
peoria.chiefs.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t443

Bach Festival

May 31 – June 8
www.peoriabachfestival.org
Many events are FREE to the public.



Princeville Heritage Days

June 19 – 21
Events throughout the weekend
www.princeville.org



Bach Festival

May 31 – June 8
www.peoriabachfestival.org
Many events are FREE to the public.



More on 34

June 19-20
Route 34 Aurora to Galesburg
100+ Miles of Bargains

Delavan Cruisers

3rd Saturday Each Month
facebook.com/delavancruisers/timeline



Brown Bag-It

Mondays & Wednesdays
June - August 11:30 - 1:00
Peoria County Courthouse Plaza

Historical Trolley Rides

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays
All Summer in Peoria Heights
peoriaheightschamber.com



10th Duryea Festival

Saturday, June 20 10 AM - 10 PM
Peoria Heights



Laser Light Nights

July 11, 2015 at 6:00 PM
Peoria Riverfront Museum



CIAO 1st Fridays Artists' Tour
First Friday of Each Month
ciaopeoria.com

10 different locations in downtown Peoria

Girls Softball State Finals

June 5 - 6 & 12 - 13
Eastside Center, East Peoria



Concerts in the Vineyard

Saturdays All Summer
Mackinaw Valley Vineyard

Art and Wine Festival

Sunday, July 26
Mackinaw Valley Vineyard



Wizard of Oz Festival

Saturday, August 15
Butler Haynes Park, Mapleton
www.facebook.com/Wizardofozfest

Elmwood Strawberry Festival

Saturday, June 6
Free Admission
elmwoodil.org/SrawberryFest/StrawberryFest.html



Annual Grape Stomp

August 23 - 12:00PM - 6:00PM
Kickapoo Creek Winery



Soda Pop Tour 2015

Saturday, June 13
www.sodapoptour.us
Pekin Riverfront Park



Erin Feis - Annual Irish Festival

August 28 – 30
Peoria Riverfront

When I call a family meeting

I turn off the house wifi and wait for them all to come running.

