

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2016

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

LUNCHEON MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
June 6 @ 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon – \$12.00

Greeters

- 🌸 Frances Farraher
- 🌸 Susan Bartlow

Invocation

- 🌸 Marty Sprecher

Pledge

- 🌸 Marty Sprecher

Luncheon

SUMMER PICNIC

Pulled Pork &
Hamburgers
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts

Program

GMOs
Problems
with RoundUp
Organic Farming



Patrick Kirchofer
Peoria County
Farm Bureau

Meeting

Dave Barnwell, Chair
PARTA President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! It's hard to believe another school year has concluded. All of us remember not only the very busy end to a school year, but the anticipation of the welcomed summer break.



I would encourage all of you to attend our June meeting. Several of our members attended the IRTA Area 4 Conference in Springfield last week and were given the latest information on pensions and possible changes in health insurance for 2017. You really need to be informed.

CONFERENCE

Our June program should be informative and interesting. Patrick Kirchofer, from the Peoria County Farm Bureau, will speak about organic farming, GMO's, and problems with RoundUp. See you at Cater Inn on June 6th!

Dave Barnwell, PARTA President

NEXT PARTA MEETING - SEPTEMBER 12

Illinois Teacher of the Year

Kim Thomas,
Peoria Public Schools



Check PARTA's webpage for updates

PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM

Sally Weber, WebMaster

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

One summer a two-year-old disappeared during a lakeside vacation. More than a dozen relatives searched the forest and shoreline, and everyone was relieved when they found him playing calmly in the woods. "Listen to me," his mother said sharply. "From now on when you want to go someplace, you tell Mommy first, okay?" Alex thought about that for a moment and said, "Okay. Disney World."

Of all days, the day on which one has not laughed is the one most surely wasted. ~ Sébastien-Roch Nicolas de Chamfort



SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2016

Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the greeters; Susan Leighty, Denise Madigan, and Sally Weber. Chris Stevens gave the invocation and led us in the pledge. Attendance today was 96, which included two guests. After the luncheon, Dave introduced Ann Winget, Program Chair, who introduced the speakers, Brian Lough and Bradley Krone. They are both engineers who work for Caterpillar and are involved in FIRST, which is an acronym of "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology". There are four levels of the program, ranging from Lego building to robotics competition, for ages five to eighteen. Volunteers and company sponsors are key to the program. If you are interested in participating in any of the many volunteer opportunities, you can go to ILFIRST.org for local information and sign-up.

After the program, Dave opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were in the *Soundings*. They were approved as printed.
- Jeff Vallosio said the Treasurer's Report was on



the tables and summarized in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit.

- Membership – The executive board recommended that dues be raised: yearly from \$10 to \$15 and lifetime from \$75 to \$120. If you have questions about the need for the raises, John will be at the next meeting to explain.
- Scholarship – Valda Shipp thanked everyone who contributed to the scholarship fund last month. There are envelopes on the tables if you weren't here last month and would like to contribute.
- IRTA Area 4 – Sally Weber, the IRTA Region 10 Director, said that May 24th is the date for Area Conference in Springfield for state updates. Insurance updates will also be given.
- Altruistic – Frances reported that there were no deaths this month to be listed in the *Soundings*. After the newsletter was published, there was one out-of-state death.
- The Nomination Committee is meeting. Please consider and contact a committee member if you are willing to volunteer. It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

DUES

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary

<div style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">TREASURER'S REPORT</div> <p>Summary</p>	Total Investment Balance		\$ 38,816.11
	Savings Balance		935.53
	Checking Balance		4,283.61
	Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund (0 this month)		366.29
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund (\$.57 this month)		87.83
Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer		Grand Total	\$ 44,589.37

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Sherman	Patsy	3900 N Stable CT Unit 110	Peoria	IL	61614	Address correction
		patsyns1@yahoo.com				
Leverett	William Charles	Deceased: Saturday, April 16, 2016 – Age 90				

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

My company is better at making sun cream than our competitors, but I don't like to rub it in. What did the air conditioning unit say to its owner? I'm your biggest fan.

I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went. Then it dawned on me. Friend went for a job at a sun cream factory but didn't get it. He's going to reapply.

SOUNDINGS

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Political Action Committee (IRTAPAC)

IRTA

IRTAPAC is a voluntary not-for-profit, unincorporated association established in the State of Illinois. IRTAPAC is organized to protect, preserve and improve benefits for individuals receiving a pension from the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System.

CONTRIBUTIONS to IRTAPAC will be used to enhance political awareness of IRTA members and increase their contacts with elected officials and candidates.

PAC

Together We Can Make a Difference – \$ 1.00 per month

There are currently 722 IRTA members in Peoria County.

Only 43 participate in the IRTAPAC Deduct.

IRTAPAC Deduction Forms will be available at the June PARTA Meeting

Donations can also be made online via credit card or PayPal at:
irtaonline.org

Governor Sued By His Wife's Non-Profit

The number of social service groups suing Illinois is growing. Eighteen agencies are joining a lawsuit against the state to get paid – since they haven't received \$130 million due to the budget impasse. One of the latest groups to sue is notable because of who's in charge.

Governor Bruce Rauner is being sued by his wife. Well, her organization anyway. Diana Rauner is the CEO of Ounce of Prevention, a nonprofit that's owed \$6 million dollars from Illinois per a contract. Ounce's Chief Operating Office Sarah Bradley says there's nothing to make of the First Lady's involvement in the lawsuit.

"This was a business decision that we made with the support and leadership of Diana and the support of the board. And this is for us about fairness and our contracting with the state," she said. "We do hope that this lawsuit brings attention to the fact that the social fabric is fraying as a result of this state budget impasse." Bradley says Ounce of Prevention has continued providing support services to teen moms, even though it's been waiting for Illinois to pay since July.

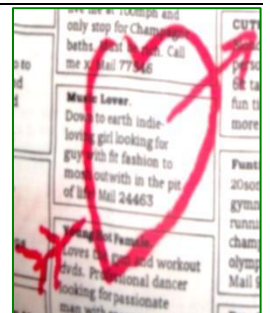


Source: wuis.org/post/governor-sued-his-wifes-non-profit#stream/0

Vintage Classified Advertisements

Youngsters aren't the only people who take out personal ads. Seniors do too! And they have a sense of humor as well. Here are funny classified ads placed by actual senior citizens in Florida and Arizona.

- Male, 1922, high mileage, good condition, some hair, many new parts including hip, knee, cornea, valves. Isn't in running condition, but walks well.
- Active grandmother with original teeth seeking a dedicated flosser to share rare steaks, corn on the cob, and caramel candy.
- I am into solitude, long walks, sunrises, the ocean, yoga, and meditation. If you are the silent type, let's get together, take our hearing aids out, and enjoy quiet times.
- I can usually remember Monday through Thursday. If you can remember Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, let's put our two heads together.



SOUNDINGS

Illinois Legislative News

SB 250 passed in the Senate allowing automatic voter registration in Illinois. It would allow for the automatic registration of eligible Illinois residents to vote when they apply for or renew a driver's license or state ID card unless they opt out. Proponents say the bill also would clean up and update voter files.

SB 2931 passed both the Illinois House and Senate. This would raise the base salary for home care workers from \$13 to \$15 an hour. Roughly 24,000 workers care for disabled residents in their homes.

MAP GRANTS The Illinois General Assembly has passed another bill that would provide money for grants to low-income college students, but it faces a likely veto from Governor Rauner. The latest proposal is similar to previous bills the governor opposed. It would authorize spending \$227.3 million dollars to fully fund MAP grants for the 2015-16 school year. The earlier bill Rauner signed provided \$167.6 million. The major difference – and the major sticking point for Rauner and his fellow Republicans – is that there is no specified funding attached to the new bill. The GOP argues that the state is already spending more than it will bring in this year.



Rauner Laughs At Cullerton Suggestion That Pensions, AFSCME Contracts Are Tied

It's been a year since the state Supreme Court found Illinois' big pension law unconstitutional, and a Lawmakers' attempt to get a new law passed is stalled. The goal is to reduce the state's expenses for its vastly underfunded pensions. The court says it's illegal to do it by reducing employees' retirement benefits. Senate President John Cullerton and Governor Bruce Rauner think they have a way around that.

The idea is to push employees to opt-in to earning a lesser pension benefit; those who don't would have it forced on them in a roundabout way, by not applying future salary hikes toward their pensions (the idea being that raises aren't constitutionally guaranteed). Though it's Cullerton idea, he says there's a reason that the Senate hasn't voted on it. "It's very difficult to pass a pension bill with union opposition, and I can empathize with the folks from AFSCME who don't know what their salary is going to be for the next four years or what their health care package is going to be. So it's kind of difficult to ask them to sacrifice their pensions when we don't even know what their contract is. So if the governor's interested in helping us pass a pension reform he's going to need to deal with the contract with the unions."



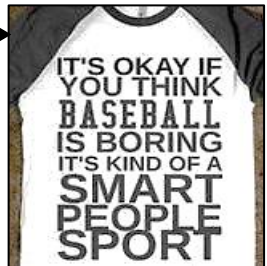
Rauner literally laughed aloud at the notion when asked about it at a press conference Monday. "I love John. That comment's kinda goofy," he said. "I mean, here's the issue: he's advocated for pension reform. I'm advocating his plan. That has nothing to do with any particular round of contract negotiations. They're not related."

Source: news.wsiu.org/post/rauner-laughs-cullerton-suggestion-pensions-afscme-contracts-are-tied#stream/0



T-SHIRTS FOUND ONLINE

Why do we sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" when we're already there?
Why is it called the World Series if only North American teams can play?
"I LOVE IT WHEN MY WIFE LETS ME WATCH SPORTS"



SOUNDINGS

Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) Benefits Choice Periods

Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program Benefit Choice Options Period

The annual Benefits Choice period for TRIP was May 1 – 31, 2016 for all benefit recipients NOT enrolled in the Medicare Advantage Program. Detailed TRIP information booklets were mailed by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) during this time. These Benefit Choice Elections will be effective July 1, 2016.

For more information, please visit the TRS TRIP page:
trs.illinois.gov/members/trip.htm
or the CMS Benefit Choice website:
www.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/Teachers/Pages/default.aspx



TRIP Total Retiree Advantage Illinois (TRAIL) Program

The TRAIL Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period for the 2017 plan year will be October 15 - November 16, 2016. These Benefit Choice Elections will be effective January 1, 2017. If you are enrolled in TRIP and become eligible for Medicare, you must enroll in both Medicare Part A and Part B in order to receive the lower Medicare TRIP premium. No information regarding choices or premiums is available at this time. Informational seminars will be held statewide in October 2016 to give eligible retirees and survivors an opportunity to learn about the Total Retiree Advantage Illinois (TRAIL) Program.





Independent Map Amendment Passes Petition Test

A state review of Independent Map Amendment petitions indicates the submitted petitions likely contain more than the minimum 290,216 valid signatures of registered voters required by law to place the proposed redistricting reform constitutional amendment on the November ballot.

“The citizens of Illinois have signaled very clearly with their signatures that they want legislative redistricting reform on the November ballot,” said Dennis FitzSimons, Chair of Independent Maps. “The huge number of petition signatures is yet another sign of the strong statewide support for an independent, transparent, and impartial process for drawing state legislative maps. Now that the petition review process is complete, we can focus on fighting the lawsuit filed by entrenched political interests looking to deny citizens the chance to change the system,” FitzSimons said.



More information and source @ www.mapamendment.org/news/10420

 An elderly lady was concerned about her husband's hearing. It seemed that every time she would call him, he wouldn't respond. So, the lady went to the doctor to ask his advice. The doctor said to her, “when you go home, tell your husband to stand at the end of the hallway, and you should stand at the other end. Ask him what he wants for dinner. Continue to move him closer towards you until he responds to your question so you know exactly how far away he is from you when he finally hears you.” She thought this was a great idea. When she got home, she placed her husband at the end of the hallway and yelled, “Herbert, what do you want for dinner?” There was no response. She moved 10 feet closer. Again she yelled, “Herbert, what do you want for dinner?” No response. She moved another 15 feet closer to where she was now practically face to face with her husband. She yelled even louder this time, “HERBERT, what do you want for dinner?” Herbert yelled back at her, “For the THIRD time, I want steak!” 

Will a State Tax Increase Be Coming Soon?

Talk of a tax hike looms in Springfield as lawmakers face a growing state deficit and a week to go before blowing yet another budget deadline. An income tax increase and an expansion of the sales tax onto more purchases were part of a "framework" that some rank-and-file lawmakers sent to leaders last week. But a look back at the political climate that ushered in Illinois' 2011 income tax hike (and subsequent rollback) shows how difficult it might be for Democrats and Republicans in a divided Springfield to make a decision on taxes this time around.

In January 2011, Democrats barely mustered the minimum number of votes needed to approve an income tax increase from 3% to 5% in the overnight hours before a new class of lawmakers was to be sworn in. It was two months after the election. Voting for a tax increase can be hard even for a lame-duck lawmaker, and some who did, subsequently landed in state jobs.

This year, a tax increase isn't the only thing preventing agreement on a state budget as Republican Governor Bruce Rauner continues to push lawmakers to approve goals he argues will improve Illinois' business climate. Crucially, the November election is ahead of lawmakers, not behind them. It could help define whether Rauner gains allies in Springfield or loses more ground.

In campaigning against former Governor Pat Quinn two years ago, Rauner criticized the Democrat for the income tax hike and released a plan that called for tax rates to go down by the end of his first term. Now, Rauner says he is open to a tax increase if Democrats sign off on some of his policy goals. "If we put in a big tax hike to cover the deficit in the short term and that's all we do with no reforms, the

stream of businesses leaving the state will turn to a flood," Rauner said. Many Democrats, led by House Speaker Michael Madigan, say Rauner's policy proposals are meant to destroy labor unions in the state, a standoff that has helped define a budget war that is approaching its one-year anniversary. "(Rauner is) not interested in finishing the job he was elected to do," state Representative Lou Lang said at a massive union rally last week. "We may or may not have a budget during the entire term of Bruce Rauner."

Arank and file group of lawmakers working behind closed doors has sent to leadership a so-called framework of taxes and cuts that includes raising the state income tax from 3.75% to 4.85% and expanding the Illinois sales tax. Lawmakers who helped write it say that kind of tax increase plus more than \$2 billion in cuts are needed to make the state budget balance. But the idea hasn't been publicly embraced by many officials. TV and video ads already pushing lawmakers for property tax relief could foreshadow what might follow a move to raise other taxes. If neither side gives in, the Illinois budget stalemate will keep setting records.

Several states in the U.S. have approved two budgets in the time Illinois has been without one.

If lawmakers and Rauner can't cut a spending deal before May 31, the Illinois Constitution requires them to get more votes to approve a new budget, making any final agreement even harder to come by. The 2011 tax increase needed fewer votes because it was done in January, when budget pressure loomed and the election was over. The same vote rules would be in place in January 2017, if the standoff continues that long.



Source: www.dailyherald.com/article/20160523/news/160529467/

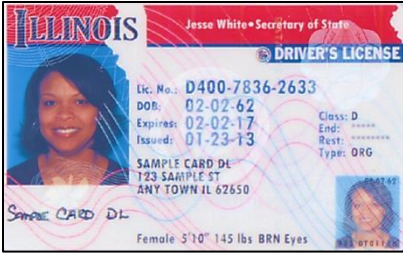
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

- ☺ Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
- ☺ Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
- ☺ What disease did cured ham actually have?
- ☺ Whatever happened to Preparation A through G?
- ☺ How do you know when you're out of invisible ink?

- ☺ Why is it called "after dark" when it is really "after light"?
- ☺ If your car could travel at the speed of light would the headlights still work?
- ☺ Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?



SOUNDINGS



Driver's License / ID Card Changes

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that his office is upgrading security features to the Driver's License/ID card design. With implementation of these changes, Illinois has moved closer to achieving full REAL ID compliance, which is a federal mandate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These types of anti-counterfeiting security features help prevent and deter fraud.

By the end of July, applicants visiting Driver Services facilities will no longer be issued a new permanent DL/ID card at the end of the application process. Instead, they will leave the facility with a temporary secure paper driver's license, which is valid for 45 days and will serve as their DL/ID for driving purposes and proof of identification. The temporary, secure paper driver's license or ID card will contain a photo and the basic information that appears on the permanent driver's license or ID card.

Meanwhile, the applicant's information will be sent to a centralized, secure facility in Illinois. After fraud checks have been conducted to ensure the applicant's identity, a higher quality, more secure DL/ID will be printed and sent via U.S. mail within 15 business days to the applicant's address.

The upgraded driver's license and ID card contain a variety of enhanced security features that take advantage of new developments in technology. For purposes of air travel, DHS states that it will accept the temporary document in conjunction with the old DL/ID to board an aircraft until the permanent card arrives in the mail.

The retired guy goes to the doctor and says, "Doc, I ache all over. Everywhere I touch it hurts." The doctor replies, "OK. Touch your elbow." The guy touches his elbow and winces in genuine pain. The doctor, surprised, then states, "Touch your head." The guy touches his head and jumps in agony. The doctor asks him to touch his knee and the same thing happens. Everywhere the guy touches he hurts. The doctor is stumped and orders a complete examination with X-rays, etc. and tells the guy to come back in two days. Two days later the guy comes back and the doctor declares, "We've found your problem." "Oh yeah? What is it?" asks the retiree. "You've broken your finger!"



Memorial Day, May 20

It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died.

Rather we should thank God that such men lived.

~ General George S. Patton

The brave die never, though they sleep in dust:

Their courage nerves a thousand living men. ~ Minot J. Savage

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

~ President Thomas Jefferson

Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism.

~ President George Washington

SOUNDINGS

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS SUMMER

FESTIVALS

➤ Bach Festival

Sunday, June 5 – Sunday, June 12
Events schedule online (Some free)

www.peoriabachfestival.org

Find other music entertainment events online at
www.peoria.org/Events



➤ Tremont Turkey Festival

Friday, June 10 - Sunday, June 12

Daily Schedule online at:
www.turkeyfestival.com

➤ Craft Soda Festival Tour

Saturday, June 11 - Pekin

Tour information online at:

www.craftsodafestival.com/pekin.html

Find other events online for Pekin, IL at:
business.pekinchamber.com/events/



➤ Steamboat Days Festival

Thursday, June 16 - Saturday, June 18

Event information online:

www.peoriaevents.com/events/steamboat-festival.html

Find other events online for Peoria at:
www.peoriaevents.com/

➤ Duryea Festival

Saturday, June 18 – Peoria Heights

Other events throughout the summer in Peoria Heights

Find Festival and Other Event Information @
peoriaheightschamber.com/



➤ Princeville Heritage Days

Thursday, June 16 – Sunday, June 19

Information online at:

princeville.org/events/2016/



➤ Art and Wine Festival

Sunday, July 17

Concerts every Saturday night

Winery and other event information online at:

www.mackinawvalleyvineyard.com



➤ Peoria Chiefs

Minor League Baseball Games

Senior Sundays Seniors

(55 & over) can get \$5 tickets for all Sunday regular season home games when buying in person at the Dozer Park Box Office.

Find other promotional activities online at:
peoria.chiefs.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t443



➤ Brown Bag-It (Free)

Mondays & Wednesdays

June - August 11:30 - 1:00

Peoria County Courthouse Plaza

Great variety of programs - Schedule online at:
www.peoriaevents.com/events/brown-bag-it.html

➤ Wings & Wheels Fly-in & Cruise-in

June 18 – Pekin Municipal Airport

Free Admission

Event Information online at:

pekinmunicipalairport.com/wings-and-wheels/

Find other events online for Pekin, IL at:
www.pekinparkdistrict.org/program.pdf



➤ Historic Peoria Tours

- ✓ Roll out the Barrel Tour
- ✓ Naughty to Nice Tour
- ✓ River City Tour
- ✓ Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery Tour
- ✓ Abe Lincoln & the Civil War Tour

Peoria Historical Society events online at:
www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org/



➤ CIAO 1st Fridays Artists' Tour

First Friday of Each Month

Information online at:

ciaopeoria.com

11 different locations in downtown Peoria

➤ Delavan Cruise-In

Every 3rd Saturday

Event information online at:

developdelavan.com/downtown_delavan.html



It's a smile, it's a kiss, it's a sip of wine ... it's summertime! ~ Kenny Chesney