

# PARTA SOUNDINGS

MARCH 2017

## LUNCHEON MEETING

March 6, 2017  
11:30 A.M.

Barrack's Cater Inn

Lunch: \$12.00

*First time attenders eat free!*

## GREETERS

- ✿ Judy Cagle
- ✿ Sharon Couden

## INVOCATION

- ✿ Ann Christopher

## PLEDGE

- ✿ Ann Christopher

## LUNCHEON

Corn Beef  
Cabbage  
Assorted Salads  
Assorted Desserts



## PROGRAM



Speaker:

Bob  
Phillips

Topic:

*Duties of a chaplain  
in the military*

## MEETING

Abby Humbles  
Chairperson

Roger Hampton  
Soundings Editor



Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PARTA Members,

We have been blessed with a very mild winter! Regardless of the weather, we know that many of our members may have difficulty with transportation any time of the year. If you need a ride to attend PARTA luncheons, please contact Frances Farraher at 688-1424. We care about all our members and would like to help.



At the last meeting, our members were encouraged to invite a fellow teacher to attend our meetings. What a great way to catch up with old friends and make new friends. If this is the first visit, your guest's meal paid for by the association.

Thank you to our board members for their work on various committees and assignments. Your time is greatly valued. If any member would like to get more involved in committee work, there are many ways to join the team. Feel free to contact me or any of our board members.

We hope you can join us for our next PARTA luncheon. We look forward to the food, fellowship and a guest speaker!

Abby Humbles, PARTA President  
*Retired to Begin Learning Again!*



## Upcoming Meetings – Bring a Friend

**April 3, 2017**

*Peoria Public Schools District #150*

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat  
Superintendent of Schools



**May 1, 2017**

*Water Use and Abuse*

Dr. Robert Fuessle

Professor, Bradley University



**June 5, 2017**

*Senior Citizens Band*

Dave Mathews, Director



Check website for updates – [pa-rta.weebly.com/](http://pa-rta.weebly.com/)  
Sally Weber, *Webmaster*

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked today's greeters, Mary Lou Breedlove and Susie Pierce. Attendance today was 79. Abby presented Dave with an appreciation gift for his last four years of service as president. She then gave the group a short introduction of herself, led the pledge and gave the invocation. Ann Winget recognized Cater Inn's Chef Don Freeman with a short biography and thanked him. After the luncheon, Abby introduced Ann and thanked her for her work in finding programs. Ann introduced the speaker, Mike Miller from the Peoria Park District. He gave a talk about the economics of our park district. Abby called the business meeting to order.



- The minutes were in the *Soundings*. They were approved as printed.
- Copies of the Treasurer's Report were on the tables and summarized in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit. The 2017 budget was approved at the board meeting. See Jeff Vallosio if you have any questions.

- The board members introduced themselves and their roles in PARTA.
- Legislative – Roger Hampton reported that the state continues to fund TRS at substandard levels. He encouraged us to be participating, vigilant members to make a difference.
- Scholarship – Valda Shipp reported she attended the Scholarship Banquet with Delores Turner. Valda said we received a letter from the father of one of our two scholarship recipients. He said the scholarship "was a blessing". Valda reminded us that if we know of any education students at ICC to let them know about the scholarships.
- Altruistic – Frances Farraher said we lost one member since the printing of the *Soundings*. The Peoria Women's Civic Federation meets on February 22 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 9:30 A.M.
- Sally Weber reported that there are new rules for substitute teachers, which are becoming more lax due to a shortage. The new rules are on the web site.
- IRTA dues can be paid through PARTA or online. It was moved to adjourn.



Substitute Teachers



## PARTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2017

Present: Nancy Wing, Sally Weber, Eric Johnson, Peggy Shane, Nancy Miller, Jeff Vallosio, John Rathbun, Dave Barnwell, Abby Humbles, Ann Winget, Valda Shipp, Frances Farraher, and Kathy Simpson

Abby called the meeting to order. She thanked PARTA for trusting her with the office.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff distributed the written report. He said the investments gained some. He then presented the budget. After discussion, Frances moved to approve the 2017 budget. Valda seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

New Business:

- Sally Weber will get a sub-committee together to help Roger with the directory.
- Maxine Blane resigned as parliamentarian. A new one is needed, and Dave will try to find one.
- Kathy Simpson, secretary, will provide the fourth signature needed for the CEFCU account.
- The Unit 23 Peoria Area Activity Report comes from IRTA to Jeff and John. It is about members and contains email addresses of retired teachers in the Peoria area. An email could be sent out to them occasionally.
- A letter is sent to new retirees for the September meeting. We could contact them again in the spring.
- June could be "Bring A Friend" month. If a person attends for the first time, his/her dinner would be free. This membership drive could be put in the newsletter for several months.



Committee Reports:

- Investment – Eric said the committee's main job is keeping an eye on our investments. They meet with Legacy every three months.
- Programs – Ann will try to get a school group to perform in December. She suggests a possible alternating rotation between PARTA members and a school at the December meetings. She has several ideas, such as recognizing one of the workers of Barrack's at each meeting. The following programs are planned: March – David Leitch, "Mental and Behavioral Health"; April – PPS Superintendent, Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat; June – Senior Citizens Band, Mike Matthews, Director; and September – Roger Hampton and Rich Frankenfelt.
- Reservations – Nancy Wing reported that the dinner price remains \$12. First timers get a free meal. All callers are calling again this year.
- Membership – John said there was a significant increase in lifetime memberships. We had fewer new members, but a steady flow. Membership is holding steady from year to year.
- Altruistic – Frances reported we've lost three members since December.
- Region 10 – Sally attends meetings of those units in Region 10. A new Director of Membership & Marketing was hired by IRTA to help gain membership. Sally moved to adjourn, Frances 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary



I just read that 4,153,237 people got married last year.

Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?



## SOUNDINGS

### Illinois Retired Teachers Association Political Action Committee (IRTAPAC)

Governor Rauner's budget proposal zero's out funding for Illinois Retired Teachers Insurance Program (TRIP). Don't let the state get away with dramatically increasing the cost of your health care. Join the ITRAPAC to help stop this assault on retirees.

IRTAPAC is a statewide, nonpartisan Political Action Committee (PAC) organized by members of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association to benefit the entire retired educator community through political contributions to state candidates.

Sign up today! Only \$1.00 per month deducted from your TRS check.

PAC deduction form can be downloaded from: [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)

or send a check to:

IRTAPAC, 828 S Second ST, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Springfield, IL 62704



Senate Bill 11, the pension reform component of the Senate Grand Bargain, failed in the Senate: 18 yes - 29 no - 10 present.



Most likely there will be a reincarnation of this bill in the future.

IRTA will continue to be vigilant and update our members on any proposed legislation that could affect retiree's pensions.

### FOUR "SMART" STUDENTS?

Source: [www.moralstories.org/](http://www.moralstories.org/)

One night four college students were out partying late night and didn't study for the test which was scheduled for the next day. In the morning, they thought of a plan. They made themselves look dirty with grease and dirt. Then they went to the Dean and said they had gone out to a wedding last night and on their way back the tire of their car burst and they had to push the car all the way back. So, they were in no condition to take the test. The Dean thought for a minute and said they could have the re-test after 3 days. They thanked him and said they would be ready by that time. On the third day, they appeared before the Dean. The Dean said that as this was a Special Condition Test, all four were required to sit in separate classrooms for the test. They all agreed as they had prepared well in the last 3 days.



The Test consisted of only 2 questions with the total of 100 Points.



1) Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Points)

2) Which tire burst? \_\_\_\_\_ (99 Points)

Options: (a) Front Left (b) Front Right (c) Back Left (d) Back Right

### MORAL

Be Responsible, Else You Too Will Learn Your Lesson!

**JUNE IS** PARTA's Board is making a concerted effort to add to the local membership during the next few months. The June 5, 2017 PARTA meeting is designated Bring a Friend month, **BRING A FRIEND MONTH** but new friends are welcome at any meeting. Be sure and let your Caller know your friend's name and phone number. If anyone needs a ride for any meeting, please call Francis Farraher at 309.688.1424. **First time attendees will receive a free meal.**

When one door closes, another one opens but we often look so long and regretfully at the closed door that we fail to see the one that has opened for us. *-Alexander Graham Bell*

# SOUNDINGS

**BUDGET FUNDING CHANGES:** Governor Rauner is again proposing four changes to pension funding. These four changes would save an estimated \$750 million in fiscal year 2018 in general funds with additional savings in subsequent years, along with a reduction in unfunded liability. These changes include:



- Ending salary spiking
- Reallocating pension costs for high-salaried employees
- Smoothing the impact on state payments for the systems' changes in assumptions
- Basing the funding formula on full payroll

**CONSTITUTIONALITY:** All these proposals should withstand constitutional scrutiny because, unlike PA 98-559, which was struck down by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2015, there is no diminishment of any current pension *benefits* (According to Governor's Office).

**RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE:** The Governor's budget reflects general funds savings of \$130 million by **NOT providing funding for health insurance for retirees of TRS or SURS** or a health insurance/pension subsidy to the pension fund for Chicago Public School teachers.



## STATE OF ILLINOIS RAINY-DAY FUND



Illinois uses the Budget Stabilization Fund as its rainy-day fund. The cash balance in this fund is currently less than \$50 million and is one of the lowest rainy day fund balances as a percentage of general fund spending of any state in the nation.

## OTHER DISTURBING FACTS:

- Illinois has \$11 billion backlog of bills.
- From 2010 to 2016, Illinois experienced a population loss of more than 40,000 people – the worst in the nation.
- Illinois consistently has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, exceeding the national average for over a decade.
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our nation added millions of new jobs, but during this same time period, Illinois actually lost jobs.
- In the past six years alone, Illinois has accrued close to \$1 billion in late penalties.



<b>TOTAL PARTA FINANCES</b>	<b>INVESTMENT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$40,050.16</b>
	SAVINGS BALANCE	3,938.59
	CHECKING BALANCE	4,559.79
	WORKING CASH (CASH BOXES)	100.00
	POST OFFICE BULK MAIL FUND	424.75
<b>Jeff Vallosio Treasurer</b>	POST OFFICE RETURNED MAIL FUND	73.79
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,147.08</b>

I needed a password eight characters long so I picked "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".

# SOUNDINGS

## Elected State Leader's Comments

### Bruce Rauner (R) Current Illinois Governor:



In office: 2015 – Present - [www.illinois.gov/gov/contactus/Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx](http://www.illinois.gov/gov/contactus/Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx)  
Now is the time for bipartisan cooperation to enact changes that will fix our broken system and make Illinois more competitive, leading to more jobs and economic growth. In order to have truly balanced budgets, our economic growth must exceed our government spending. This budget submission includes proposals to achieve savings for pensions, state employee health insurance programs, procurement, and other areas. By working together, we can achieve a balanced budget for fiscal year 2018 and enact necessary changes to improve our state's competitiveness in order to sustain fiscal long-term stability.

State of the State Address: [www.illinoispolicy.org/gov-bruce-rauners-2017-state-of-the-state-address/](http://www.illinoispolicy.org/gov-bruce-rauners-2017-state-of-the-state-address/)

Illinois FY 2018 Operating Budget – 571 Page Document Online at:

[www.illinois.gov/gov/budget/Documents/Budget%20Book/FY2018%20Budget%20Book/FY2018OperatingBudgetBook.pdf](http://www.illinois.gov/gov/budget/Documents/Budget%20Book/FY2018%20Budget%20Book/FY2018OperatingBudgetBook.pdf)

### John Cullerton (D), Current Illinois Senate President:



In office: 1979 – Present - [www.senatorcullerton.com/contact-us](http://www.senatorcullerton.com/contact-us)

“The Senate is well aware of the state of our state. That’s why we are working together to put an end to the budget impasse and restore economic stability to Illinois. Our state is filled with wonderful people and places. It is state government that has failed and fallen behind. Our efforts continue in the Senate to turn this

around and I remain optimistic that we are near an agreement.” Source: [www.senatorcullerton.com/](http://www.senatorcullerton.com/)

Senate Democrats’ Analysis of Governor’s Budget Plan – 93 Page Document Online at:

[www.illinoisenedemocrats.com/caucus-news/blog-archive/5376-senate-dems-analysis-of-governor-s-budget-plan-raises-questions](http://www.illinoisenedemocrats.com/caucus-news/blog-archive/5376-senate-dems-analysis-of-governor-s-budget-plan-raises-questions)

### Michael J. Madigan (D), Current Illinois Speaker of the House:



In office: 1971 – Present - [mmadigan@housedem.state.il.us](mailto:mmadigan@housedem.state.il.us)

While Madigan began his remarks on the first day of the new session lamenting the difficulty of the just-concluded one and calling for both the sides to “work to end the acrimony and find the best in each other,” he went on to make it clear that he was not caving to Rauner’s demands, which the governor has made a condition of a larger budget agreement. “Some of us believe that we can grow the economy by changes in workers’ compensation, collective bargaining and prevailing wage,” Madigan said, referring to Rauner without using his name. “These people would argue that changes in those areas would lower the cost for Illinois businesses, which would act as an incentive for businesses to locate in Illinois or stay in Illinois. Obviously, this approach focuses almost exclusively on cost. In my opinion, this would be a race to the bottom that would unjustifiably hurt Illinois workers.”

Source: [www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-michael-madigan-reelected-met-0112-20170111-story.html](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-michael-madigan-reelected-met-0112-20170111-story.html)

Interesting Read: “*The Man Behind the Fiscal Fiasco in Illinois*” by Dave McKinney

[www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-illinois-madigan/](http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-illinois-madigan/)

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you; but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?



Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

## SOUNDINGS

### **AARP Opposes 'Age Rating' Bill that Threatens to Drive Up Health Costs**

*Legislation would allow insurance companies to charge older Americans significantly more for health insurance*

AARP Senior Vice President Joyce Rogers opposes the just introduced *State Age Rating Flexibility Act of 2017*, legislation that would allow insurers to charge older Americans significantly more for health insurance...[and] severely limit, not expand, access to quality, affordable healthcare.”



AARP also announced the launch of a campaign to protect Medicare from cuts or efforts to convert it to a voucher-based system. Separately, AARP's Public Policy Institute released a fact sheet examining the topic of age rating: Protecting Affordable Health Insurance for Older Adults: The Affordable Care Act's Limit on Age Rating.

Rogers says that “Relaxing the current 3:1 age band is a bad deal for Americans and will lead to higher costs and reduced coverage. For these reasons, AARP strongly opposes the *State Age Rating Flexibility Act of 2017* and urges you to reject any efforts to expand age rating bands that shift large costs to older Americans.

### **First Sundays at Pettengill-Morrison House and Flanagan House**

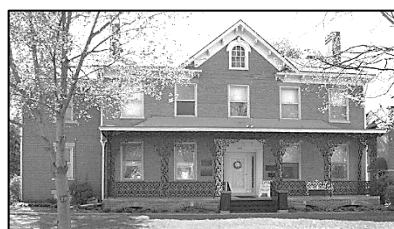
*The two museum houses owned by the Peoria Historical Society are open the first Sunday of every month from 1 to 4 p.m.*

The **Pettengill-Morrison House** is located at 1212 W Moss Avenue. It was built by Moses Pettengill in 1868 in the



Second Empire architectural style and has eleven rooms. The museum contains a unique collection of objects from several Peoria families. In 1900 a colonial revival porch and porte-cochere were added, giving the home a grand Victorian appearance. Jean Morrison acquired the property from the John Boyd Stone family in 1953 and owned the house until her death in 1966. After her death the house and its contents were given to the Peoria Historical Society.

The **John C. Flanagan House** is located at 942 NE Glen Oak Avenue. It was built in 1837 on Peoria's east bluff by Judge John C. Flanagan and is the oldest standing



house in Peoria. This American Federalist style house offers a spectacular view of the Illinois River Valley. Collections of antique glass, china, furniture, toys, quilts, and vintage clothing are displayed. The Society acquired the house in 1962 and it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Displays include: Empire furnishings and period artifacts, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century area history, Peoria's distillery industry, collections of antique glass, china, furniture, toys, quilts, and vintage clothing.

*Displays in both homes change periodically and tours are conducted by trained docents. Tour one home for \$10 or both homes for \$15.*

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, “Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today.” The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. “That’s interesting,” she said, “how do you make babies?” “how do you make babies?” “It’s simple,” replied the girl. “You just change ‘y’ to ‘i’ and add ‘es’.”



# SOUNDINGS

## Information for TRS Annuitants



### **Setting Up an Online Member Account**

If you have not yet set up your online member account, please watch a video at:

<http://trs.illinois.gov/members/videos/acctAccess.htm> to learn how.

Your member ID is required to set up an account. To obtain your member ID, please contact TRS Member Service at (800) 877-7896.

## Are You Receiving Email Alerts from TRS?

To receive email alerts, email TRS, [members@trs.illinois.gov](mailto:members@trs.illinois.gov), using your "home" email address (not work) and include your full name/address/last four digits of your Social Security number or TRS member ID so we may quickly contact you about important TRS news.

You can also sign in to TRS Member Account Access online and enter your email address under "Contact Information."

## IRTA Endorsed TRS Board Candidate

IRTA has received confirmation that Larry Pfeiffer is the only nominated candidate for the open TRS Annuitant Trustee position with over 1,300 submitted signatures to TRS. Since no election will be needed, Larry will take his post on the TRS Board of Directors starting July 1, 2017. Larry will be filling the position held by Bob Lyons, who is retiring from the TRS Board after 12 years of exceptional service.



### **Bob Lyons**

July 2005 – July 2017

THANK YOU BOB

[trustee\\_lyons@trs.illinois.gov](mailto:trustee_lyons@trs.illinois.gov)



### **Daniel Winter**

July 2015 – July 2019

IRTA Endorsed

[trustee\\_dwinter@trs.illinois.gov](mailto:trustee_dwinter@trs.illinois.gov)



An elderly shopper at our supermarket used a check to buy such items as cotton balls, cotton swabs, powder, and cold cream. On the memo line, she'd written, "Repairs."



## S u c c e s s D e p e n d s O n Y o u r P e r s p e c t i v e



A neighbor was watching a little boy playing with a ball and bat in his backyard. "I'm the greatest hitter in the world" the boy exclaimed as he threw the ball into the air. He swung with all his might but missed the ball and fell down himself. "Strike One" he says as he gets up. He throws it up again and swings. Again the ball falls to the ground with a thud. "Strike Two" he yells still undeterred. "I'm the greatest" he says as he swings once again hitting only air as the ball falls to the ground. This time he dances around the backyard as he yells "Strike Three.... I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"



# SOUNDINGS

## SPRINGFIELD NEEDS A FRESH DEFINITION OF 'WIN'

Source: [www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20170217/ISSUE11/170219872/illinois-democrats-need-to-redefine-winning](http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20170217/ISSUE11/170219872/illinois-democrats-need-to-redefine-winning)

"Together," Governor Bruce Rauner said to the Illinois General Assembly during his February 15 budget address, "let's look at each regulation we have, at every law we pass, and ask ourselves a simple question: How does this impact job creators?" Representative Will Guzzardi, a liberal Chicago Democrat, angrily responded via Twitter: "People w/disabilities? Children being murdered in streets? Immigrants living in fear? No no, with every vote, consider the CEO." It was "the moment when Rauner lays bare what he really believes." It was the governor's much-vaunted Turnaround Agenda "stripped down to its core essence." The economic philosophies of Rauner and Guzzardi are a million miles apart, but that doesn't mean that Guzzardi doesn't see a path toward ending this two-year gridlock. "I really do think that there's a way to get out of this that people from different sides of the spectrum could actually agree to," he says. "But that requires compromise from both parties. And it also requires an understanding that everybody needs a win."

Guzzardi and some of his colleagues have been calling on their party leaders to work with them to develop priorities that could help unite the public behind Democrats. The state simply can't wait two more years for new revenues without dramatic and horribly painful cuts. But now that the governor has encouraged the talks in the Senate aimed at forging a bipartisan "grand bargain," Guzzardi thinks Democrats should start being "clear about what our priorities are and make some demands. If we don't give people something tangible so they can say, 'My life is better in this way,' it's going to be hard for us to maintain our credibility."

Guzzardi makes the exact same point that the governor did in his budget address when he said that the state's "incredible challenges" provide "unprecedented opportunity."

Excerpts from: *Rich Miller and CapitolFax.com.*

## SIMPLE WAYS TO THINK FASTER

Peter J. Snyder, professor of neurology at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island states that starting moderate aerobic exercise, at any age, will absolutely help protect brain health. Recent research has convincingly shown that a regular program (such as fast-paced walking for 30 minutes, 3 times per week), for just 6 months, leads to the growth of brain cells and their connections in parts of the brain that are critically important for learning and memory.

**Tone up your brain with these simple, research-proven brain-boosting strategies.**

- Don't Skimp on Vitamin D
- Trust Your Instincts
- Speed-Read the Right Way
- Say These Words:  
"I can do better!"
- Go for a Drive
- Get Physical 4 hours After Learning  
Something New
- Never Stifle a Yawn
- Pretend You're  
in *Hamilton*
- Crack Open a Classic
- Think on Your Feet
- Chew Gum
- Stay Curious
- Hop on a Bike
- Give Pokémon Go a Whirl
- Jog Your Brain
- Aim for 8 Fruits or Veggies
- Get at Least 7 Hours of Sleep a Night
- Laugh with Larry David
- Don't Practice Too Hard



**For a complete explanation of each of these strategies, go to:**

Source: <https://parade.com/544038/lisamulcahy/19-simple-ways-to-think-faster/>



**My childhood punishments  
have become  
my adult goals.**



1. Sitting in the corner.
2. Not attending the party.
3. Going to bed early.

