

PARTA SOUNDINGS

MARCH 2019

PEORIA Area Retired Teachers Association

LUNCHEON MEETING

March 4, 2019
11:30 A.M.
Barrack's Cater Inn
Lunch: \$12.00

GREETERS

- ☘ Peggy Shane
- ☘ Eldon Petzing

INVOCATION

- ☘ Scott Montgomery

PLEDGE

- ☘ Scott Montgomery

LUNCHEON

Corn Beef 
Cabbage
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts

PROGRAM

Speaker:

Sam Kherat, Ph.D.
Professor of Robotics
Bradley
University



Topic:

DRIVERLESS
VEHICLES

MEETING

Abby Humbles
Chair

Sally Weber
Webmaster

Roger Hampton
Soundings Editor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greeting PARTA Members,
We look forward to seeing you in March. As always, please let your caller know if you have any meal restrictions or need a ride. We love to take care of our PARTA members.

I would like to thank our callers for all their hard work every month. Your efforts are so appreciated and truly help us give Barrack's Cater Inn a final count for our luncheons.

May the luck of the Irish be with you all!



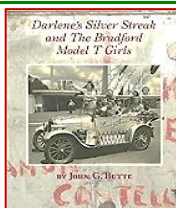
Abby Humbles, PARTA President

UPCOMING MEETINGS – BRING A FRIEND

APRIL 1

"HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS"

center for
prevention
of abuse.



MAY 6

"THE BRADFORD GIRLS"

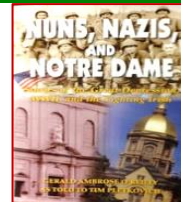
JOHN BUTTE, AUTHOR
(signing and sale of books available)

JUNE 3

JEOPARDY GAME ON

"NUNS, NAZIS, AND NOTRE DAME"

Organized by Tim Pletkovich



NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 9 (2nd Monday)

Check website for updates – pa-rta.weebly.com/

May You Always Have...

Walls for the winds; A roof for the rain;
Tea beside the fire; Laughter to cheer you;
Those you love near you;
And all your heart might desire.



SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2019

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone. Sixty people were present. Cheryl Perez led the Pledge and gave the Invocation. Abby thanked today's greeter, Frances Farraher. Abby also thanked Nancy Miller for picking up the *Soundings* and taking them to be mailed. Any changes to the mini directory should be sent to John Rathbun this week or let Jeff Vallosio know today. After the luncheon, Abby thanked Cater Inn, the callers, and the money takers for the successful meal. She introduced Chris Mangold. Chris introduced the speaker, Danira Perra. Danira displayed many interesting Native American items, explained some Native American history, and shared Native American customs and stories.

Abby opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were approved as they were printed in the *Soundings*.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the *Soundings*. The report was filed for audit.
- At the board meeting, a possible summer camp scholarship was discussed.
- Also discussed was the possibility of placing a basket of candy and informative flyers about PARTA in each school.
- Frances Farraher reported on two members' deaths.
- Valda Shipp reported that we would start collecting for the scholarships next month. PARTA gave three scholarships last year.
- Ann Winget said there is a plant sale on the day of the Komen Race, May 11, with the proceeds going to Whitney's Walk. If you are splitting plants, you are welcome to donate any to the sale.



The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary

PARTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2019

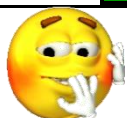
Present: Abby Humbles, Roger Hampton, Frances Farraher, Dave Barnwell, John Rathbun, Jeff Vallosio, Eric Johnson, Ann Winget, Valda Shipp, Sally Weber. Abby called the meeting to order.

Future Board Meetings for 2019 are April 4 and August 19. Jeff distributed the Treasurer's Report. The Area Conference will be June 4 in Springfield offering breakout sessions. The State IRTA Convention will be October 14-15, 2019 in Springfield. A Unit Honoree will be selected to represent PARTA. Delegates are needed. Roger indicated that a Mini Directory (new members and changes only) will be available in late February. Several new logos were distributed, and one

was selected to replace the current one. John presented the Membership Report. Ann proposed offering summer camp scholarships in the future. This was tabled for a future meeting when more information is available. Sally along with Abby, Mary Nelson and Jeannie Blane will organize and distribute Spring Information Candy Baskets to area schools. Frances clarified that no cards are sent to members in the hospital as stated in PARTA policy. The March meeting will begin Scholarship Fund collection. Valda stated PARTA awarded 3 scholarships in 2018. A motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted, Sally Weber, Secretary Pro Tem

TOTAL PARTA FINANCES	INVESTMENT BALANCE		\$ 43,270.86
	SAVINGS BALANCE		6,972.52
	CHECKING BALANCE		1,025.52
	WORKING CASH (CASH BOXES)		100.00
	POST OFFICE BULK MAIL FUND	SPENT \$60.88	299.04
	POST OFFICE RETURNED MAIL FUND	UNCHANGED	45.62
Jeff Vallosio Treasurer	GRAND TOTAL		\$ 51,713.56



My kids are at an age now where they are beginning to understand embarrassment. This is my time to shine.



SOUNDINGS

PRITZKER WANTS TO PUT OFF PENSION PAYMENTS

Chicago Sun Times – Monday, February 18, 2019 – Rich Miller, Columnist



Governor Pritzker's administration has confirmed that its new public pension plan will slash \$800 million from the state's scheduled pension payment next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2019. That reduction is a direct result of Pritzker's proposal unveiled by Deputy Governor, Dan Hynes, which would extend the state's pension payment "ramp" by seven years, from 2045 to 2052.

"Stretching out the payment funding schedule would reduce short-term costs. But one person's pension funding schedule restructuring is another person's pension "holiday," as skipping and skipping the payments were called back in the days before all heck broke loose."

"Remember, a dollar saved today by not putting it into the pension fund results in multiple investment dollars lost that will have to be put in by taxpayers, years down the road. This is the biggest reason why the state's pension payments are so high right now. Payments were deferred and, therefore, investments were not made and then debt piled up to mountainous levels and taxpayers are currently being forced to make up the difference."

"Pritzker has said over and over again that he opposes any sort of constitutional change to allow for reduced pension benefits going forward. The only remaining option is to pay the piper. The temptation appears intense right now to once again try to shift those payments into the future."

GOVERNOR PRITZKER'S ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING SELLING STATE BUILDINGS AND LAND TO PAY FOR PENSIONS

Chicago Tribune – February 18, 2019 – Dan Petrella, Rick Pearson

"To provide a faster cash infusion, Pritzker wants to sell state assets and deposit the proceeds into the pension funds. Deputy Governor, Dan Hynes, estimated they could be worth tens of billions of dollars. He didn't suggest which assets might be sold, and Pritzker has put together a task force to evaluate the options. Some of the state's biggest holdings include the Illinois Toll Highway Authority, the Illinois Lottery and real estate such as the James R. Thompson Center in the Loop, among others."



"Hynes said that the priority will be identifying assets, such as buildings and land, that could be sold quickly to generate money for the pension system. 'The tollway doesn't really meet that standard, quite honestly, because that's not something that could be done quickly,' he said. 'There are bond covenants that are attached to the tollway. There's complicated history and governance structure there. That's really a long-term process.' However, he didn't take the idea off the table, stating that they were going to rely on the task force to do a full inventory."



A grandfather was trying to help his young grandson learn addition. "Look, Tom," he said. "Imagine you reached into your pocket and took out a nickel. Next you reached into your other pocket and took another nickel. Then what would you have?" The boy brightened, then grew somber. "Someone else's pants," he said.

Consequences of Irresponsible Pritzker Budget Proposal Will Cost Illinois and Future Generations \$150B More, Say Retired Teachers

RETIRES IMPLOR PRTZKER TO STOP RAID OF \$500M FOR 2019 PENSION FUND

Members of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) are imploring Governor J.B. Pritzker to cease the decades-long practice of not fully funding the pension systems. IRTA members appreciate the difficult fiscal condition that the Governor inherited but taking pension holidays is not the solution.

“The Illinois Retired Teachers Association has serious concerns about the Governor’s proposed pension holiday,” IRTA President Roger Hampton said. “We are supportive of the proposals to infuse additional revenues into the pension funds for solvency, but not to underfund systems by hundreds of millions of dollars or by raiding one fund to give more to another. Delaying pension payments just kicks the can down the road again and costs future generations of Illinois taxpayers (if any left) billions of dollars.”

During his budget address Wednesday, Governor Pritzker proposed allocating \$4.237 billion into the Illinois Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS), a figure \$576,000,000 too short of what is legally and ethically required to pay for the pension benefits of retired teachers and current teachers. It will result in reduced pension payments to TRS for years to come but will generate a nearly \$150 billion in increased costs to Illinois taxpayers, including the 417,292 members of TRS.

“TRS is currently very poorly funded by actuarial standards at 40% of the assets needed for current benefits,” IRTA Executive Director Jim Bachman said. “If Illinois had not taken pension holidays, like the ones being proposed, the cost of TRS would be \$1.2 billion. The State is paying 400% more because of statutory underfunding and a history of pension holidays. The Illinois Retired Teachers do not believe that the solution to the poorly funded pension systems is to make them more poorly funded and to continue the tradition that got Illinois in this problem in the first place.”

“The State of Illinois must keep its promises to the people, like retired teachers, that have always kept up their end of the bargain,” Hampton concluded. “The State must fund its pensions and retiree healthcare promises at levels that are both legally and ethically justified.” It should be noted that this pension holiday is focused only on teachers outside of the City of Chicago. Pritzker did propose increasing the payments to the Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund.

IRTA Press Release: February 20, 2019

The little boy was helping his mother put away the groceries. His mom looked over to him and saw him open the box of animal crackers and carefully examine the animals, one by one. “What in the world are you doing?” she asked. “It says on the box that you shouldn’t eat them if the seal is broken,” the boy explained, “so I’m looking for the seal.”



SOUNDINGS

ILLINOIS TEACHERS STRONGLY IMPACT ILLINOIS' ECONOMY

**Salaries paid to active TRS members teaching in schools
and pensions and benefits paid to retired members:**

create a \$16.1 billion economic stimulus annually in Illinois.

support 110,600 jobs throughout Illinois with a combined payroll of \$4.7 billion.



ILLINOIS ECONOMIC STUDY – NOVEMBER 2018

County	Active Members	Benefit Recipients	Active Members' Estimated Annual Net Earnings	Benefit Recipients' Annual Net Payments
Peoria	2,315	1,816	\$ 80,481,641.00	\$79,356,288.00
TOTAL COUNTY	154,804	91,694	\$ 6,693,860,541.00	\$ 4,398,809,577.99
TOTAL OUT OF STATE	4,631	25,203	272,938,432.00	1,029,474,563.00
GRAND TOTAL	159,435	116,897	\$ 6,966,798,973.00	\$ 5,428,274,140.00

District	Senator	Active Members	Benefit Recipients	Active Members' Estimated Annual Net Earnings	Benefit Recipients' Annual Net Payments
37	Chuck Weaver	3,737	2,355	\$ 134,059,094.00	\$ 132,433,081.00
46	David Koehler	2,166	1,704	73,721,809.00	71,697,713.00

District	Representative	Active Members	Benefit Recipients	Active Members' Estimated Annual Net Earnings	Benefit Recipients' Annual Net Payments
73	Ryan Spain	1,853	1,499	\$ 66,334,716.00	\$ 65,040,560.00
91	Michael Unes	1,246	973	43,346,550.00	40,341,243.00
92	Jehan Gordon-Booth	920	731	30,375,259.00	31,356,471.00

“These numbers prove, without a doubt, the strong impact that teachers have on the economy of Illinois,” said TRS Executive Director

Dick Ingram. “Active teacher salaries and the pensions teachers receive in retirement don’t disappear into thin air. The benefits are invested back into communities large and small in all 102 counties. That money finds its way into grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware and department stores, and local restaurants, as well as charities and volunteer causes,” he added. “In particular, a TRS pension not only allows many retired teachers to live with safety and dignity in retirement, but also allows them to continue to be productive members of their communities.”



The economic study also found that 78% of all TRS benefit recipients, or 91,694, and 97% of active TRS members, or 154,804, reside in Illinois. Formulas used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the U.S. Department of Commerce determined that in 2018 TRS members’ salaries and benefits added \$9.2 billion to Illinois’ gross domestic product – goods manufactured and services provided. In 2017 Illinois’ total GDP was \$832.4 billion. The “added value” of TRS members on the state’s GDP was greater than the combined \$7.2 billion contribution of agriculture, fishing and hunting, mining and oil and gas extraction to the economy.

If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble,
you wouldn't sit for a month. ~ Theodore Roosevelt

SOUNDINGS

ILLINOIS 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATOR KOEHLER

Sponsor of 27 Bills

Committees:

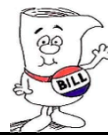
- Agriculture
- Committee of the Whole
- Education
- Environment & Conservation
- Labor
- Local government
- Subcommittee of Capital (TR)
- Transportation

SENATOR WEAVER

Sponsor of 40 Bills

Committees:

- Committee of the Whole
- Education (Spokesperson)
- Higher Education
- Insurance
- Labor
- Licensed Activities
- Transportation



REPRESENTATIVE GORDON-BOOTH

Sponsor of 21 Bills

Committees:

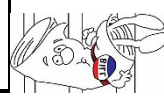
- Appropriations-Capital
- Appropriations-Public Safety
- Child Care Access & Early Childhood
- Economic Opportunity & Equity
- Executive
- Public Utilities

REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN

Sponsor of 19 Bills

Committees:

- Appropriations-Capital
- Executive
- Financial Institutions
- Mental Health
- Prescription Drug Affordability
- Public Utilities



LEGISLATION CURRENTLY FILED IN THE 2019 ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Two items of legislation that are of interest to IRTA members have been filed.

House Bill 6

Representative Flower's perennially-filed resolution urging Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Program (WEP). IRTA always supports this

Resolution, but this remains a Federal Issue and not a State Issue.



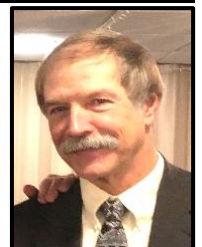
House Bill 32

Representative McSweeney's perennially-filed resolution that commemorates the dangers of taxing retirement income. IRTA

always supports this Resolution, but it is not binding in any way.

TRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES' ELECTION – MAY 1, 2019

The TRS Board of Trustees' regular election for two teacher trustee seats and one annuitant trustee seat is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Voting will be done online, or a ballot will be mailed to those who do not receive TRS electronic communications.



DOUGLAS STRAND IS IRTA'S ENDORSED TRS TRUSTEE CANDIDATE.

ANCIENT PROVERBS TO PONDER

One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world.

What soap does to the body...

Laughter does to the soul!

A person who gives little – WITH A SMILE

GIVES MORE THAN

The person who gives much – WITH A FROWN



SOUNDINGS

Leading Chicago Business Group Proposes Raising Income Taxes and Taxing Retirement Income to Fix Illinois' Finances

Chicago Tribune - Dan Petrella, Contact Reporter – February 6, 2019

The Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago called for increasing the state's individual income tax rate to 5.95% from 4.95% and the corporate tax rate to 8% from 7%. The plan also calls for starting to tax both retirement income and some consumer services.



To try to soften the blow of a tax on retirement income, the Civic Committee proposes

lessening the burden on retirees by increasing the income tax exemption for taxpayers 65 and older from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

REQUESTING A DUPLICATE TRS 1099-R TAX FORM



If you did not receive a 1099-R form from TRS, or you need a duplicate copy sent to you, please log on to the TRS Member Account Access at <https://member.trsil.org/> and follow these instructions:

Select "Forms & Reports" from the navigation bar.

Select 1099-R for your retirement claim.

Your request will be processed by the Illinois Comptroller's Office.

A duplicate 1099-R form will be mailed to your home address within 7-10 business days.

Retired members may print a report showing their current gross monthly benefit amounts.

CHANGING THE AMOUNT OF YOUR FEDERAL TAX WITHHOLDING

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
 2815 W Washington St | PO Box 19253
 Springfield IL 62794-9253
 Richard W. Ingram, Executive Director
 members@trsil.org | <http://www.trsil.org>
 877-927-5877 (877-9-ASK-TRS) | FAX: 217-753-0964

Need to change the amount you have withheld from your pension check? Download a W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments Form from:

<https://www.trsil.org/sites/default/files/documents/W4P.pdf>



FINAL REMINDER
IRTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019
Details and application online at: www.irtaonline.org

Last year the IRTA Foundation (IRTAF) distributed \$21,000 for student scholarships and \$26,500 for teacher grants.

IRTA TEACHER GRANTS
PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019
Details and application online at: www.irtaonline.org



SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS



With **American Hearing Benefits** (AHB), IRTA members are entitled to a **FREE** annual hearing screening for you and your immediate family, referrals to AHB's network of recommended local hearing healthcare professionals, advanced hearing solutions with the latest in hearing aid technology, up to **60% OFF** suggested retail prices, and a **FREE** full two-year extended warranty with every purchase.

As an IRTA member, you and your spouse are entitled to **FREE** annual hearing screenings, Hearing Aid Discounts from 35% - 70% (off MSRP), 3-year repair warranty, 3-year loss and damage coverage, 3 years of free batteries, office service (cleanings, adjustments, etc.) hearing aids through **Hear In America**.



For a full list of IRTA Member-Only Benefits and discount codes, log on to the "Members Only" section of www.irtaonline.org and click on "Member Benefits"



Silver Sneakers is still available if you are in a United Health Care plan. They have dropped this benefit on some of their contracts, but not the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program.

LOCATIONS IN PEORIA

RIVERPLEX OSF EXERCISE PROGRAM
600 NE Water ST

LANDMARK RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB
3225 N Dries LN

GREATER PEORIA FAMILY YMCA
7000 N Fleming LN

CURVES
3709 N Sterling AVE



IPMR
6501 N Sheridan RD

FITNESS AMERICA
2707 N Main ST

PLANET FITNESS - PEORIA
4125 N Sheridan RD

TITAN FITNESS PEORIA
7620 N University ST

GOLD'S GYM - PEORIA
5131 W American Prairie DR



LOCATIONS IN EAST PEORIA

PLANET FITNESS
105 N Main ST

EASTSIDE CENTRE
1 Eastside DR

ICC COUGARPLEX
1 College DR



LOCATION IN CHILLICOTHE

PEARCE COMMUNITY CENTER
610 W Cedar ST

Other facilities are available in Peoria, Chillicothe, Pekin, Morton, and other communities around the Peoria area. Location lookup and programs available can be found online at: www.silversneakers.com

DIETERS, BEWARE!!!

I'm serious about losing weight, So I have a diet soda with my donut!



I cooked a good, Healthy, Nutritious dinner for three – for myself!



Those low-cal pastries taste a whole lot better, smothered in butter!