

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2015

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

## Welcome New Retirees

### MEETING

**September 14**  
**Barracks Cater Inn**  
**11:30 A.M.**  
**Luncheon – \$12.00**

### NEW RESERVATION PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

See Page 7

If you pay by check, make check payable to "Cater Inn".

### Greeters

-  Ann Christophel
-  Susan Bartlow

### Invocation

-  Jan Deissler

### Pledge

-  Jan Deissler

### Luncheon

Roasted Chicken Breast  
Rice Pilaf  
Assorted Salads  
Assorted Desserts

### Program

### "Alp Horns"

*Al Hedeman  
and Company*

### BUSINESS MEETING

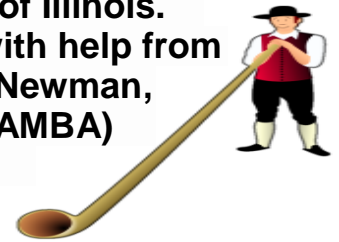
Dave Barnwell, Chair



**Roger Hampton**  
**Soundings Editor**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! I hope you've had a great summer and will be joining your fellow PARTA members at our September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will be honoring and welcoming our newest members who retired in June. The Regional Office of Education will join us in honoring this group. You will also have an opportunity to (again), sign a petition calling for geographic, rather than political legislative districts, in the State of Illinois. Al Hedeman will highlight our program with help from other "Alp Horn" musicians and Larry Newman, Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) representative, will update us on IRTA member benefit options.



See you at Cater Inn.

*Dave Barnwell, PARTA President*

## UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS

**OCTOBER 5, 2015**

### "Look! It's My Book"

| *Janet Roth*



**NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

### Jewish Traditions

| *Rabbi Karen Bogards*



**DECEMBER 7, 2015**

### PARTA Members Group Sing

| *Directed by Denise Adams*



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

It's impossible to be involved in all situations, but there's no excuse not to be involved in something, somewhere, somehow, with someone. — Richelle E. Goodrich

## BE INVOLVED



## PARTA ONLINE – NEW LOCATION

**PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM**

**Sally Weber, New Webmaster**

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA Luncheon Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2015

Jean Thieman led us in the Pledge and gave the invocation. Roger Hampton then led us in singing "God Bless America". President Barnwell thanked the greeter, Becky Michel, for welcoming everyone. Attendance was **105**.

Representatives from Legacy Investments, Trent Strong and Marc Minor, gave an overview of the money managed by them for PARTA. Our investments have done well under their management efforts. The total investment balance is \$41,742.84.

Dave Weiman was the main speaker for the day and his topic was Care Compass – A Guide for Long Term Care. He had a list of best practices the nursing homes should follow in order for residents to be more satisfied and healthier. He is available to speak to any group who is interested in more information.

Dave then opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were in the Soundings. They were approved as printed.
- The Treasurer's Report was on the tables and will be filed for audit.
- Membership - Two new members were introduced.
- Altruistic – John Monks died on May 14, 2015.
- Roger Hampton, Area 4 Representative, reminded us that the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that pensions could not be diminished. Governor Rauner has not appropriated any money for the insurance subsidy, but the budget he proposed was rejected by the General Assembly, so for now, the subsidy continues.
- Sally Weber is the new Webmaster for PARTA and will have the new website available July 1.
- The meeting was adjourned.



**Respectfully submitted, Maxine Blane, Secretary ProTem**



Total PARTA Finances	Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
Investment Balance	40,834.31
Savings Balance	933.26
Checking Balance	4,112.48
Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00
Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	497.92
Post Office Returned Mail Fund	98.29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$46,576.26</b>

**ALL PARTA MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO JOIN IRTA**

### PARTA DUES

- Annual: \$10.00
- Life: \$75.00

### IRTA DUES

- Dues Deduct: \$30.00 per year (*\$2.50 deducted each month from your pension check.*)
- Annual: \$40.00 each year
- Life Members: \$400.00



**To pay your PARTA and IRTA dues, contact John Rathbun.**

IRTA provides legislative representation and advocacy for YOUR retirement benefits.

**MEMBERSHIP COUNTS – EVERYONE NEEDS TO PARTICIPATE**

### COWBOY WISDOM

- Don't squat with your spurs on.
- Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.



- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA Board of Director's Meeting Minutes August 18, 2015

**Present:** Dave Barnwell, Laveine Birditt, Maxine Blane, Nancy Wing, Jeff Vallosio, Linda Sedgwick, Roger Hampton, Terry Knapp, Sally Weber, John Rathbun, Peggy Shane, Eric Johnson, Nancy Miller, Susan Leighty, and Kathy Simpson.

Jeff distributed the Treasurer's Report. He said the investment total value is down \$461.85 from this time last year. He had two suggestions for us to consider, but not act on at this time. First, he asked us to consider raising the life membership fee, and second to consider the need to have a little more money in an insured account. There was some discussion. John moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Laveine seconded it, and the motion carried.

**New Business:** Sally said that this year, the new retirees have received a letter telling them that they're invited to the PARTA meeting in September. Linda said they will be called a week before for reservations. September's program is the Alp Horns. Larry Newman will also tell us about IRTA benefits. We will honor the new retirees with recognition and a flower. A nice list of new retirees was received from the Regional Office.

Roger reported that the IRTA Convention is scheduled for October 26-27. Dave should get a letter with a form to fill out and the cost. Shirley Horwedel will be the honoree from PARTA on Monday night. She will attend on Monday night only, with her driver as her guest. John moved to pay for all Shirley's expenses. Terry seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. Registration is Monday, from 8:00 – noon. The convention will include an inspirational speech combined with information about Abe Lincoln. Each local unit donates an auction item. We will ask for suggestions at the September meeting.

**PLEASE HELP**

A future increase of the fee to a speaker (when appropriate) was discussed. A \$50 honorarium is given to some speakers. The budgeted amount for honoria and free meals for speakers is \$300. We may need to look at an increase for the new budget.

**Old Business:** Roger reported that the IRTA Legal Defense Fund has less than \$100,000 left. If there is a lawsuit, it will need more. Roger would rather wait to see if there is a lawsuit before we contribute.

According to our bylaws, we, as an organization, cannot make a donation to the Children's Museum.

### Committee Reports:

- Reservations – Nancy said we would start billing for those who make reservations and don't show. The cost is the same through December.
- Membership – John said that this is the time of year when we gain new members.
- Publicity – Laveine reported that the *Journal Star* can no longer get us on the monthly calendar. Terry said *Community Word*, a monthly community paper, would work with us.
- Scholarship – Terry reported that we have three recipients for the ICC scholarships, all education majors. The banquet is October 22, at 6:00 P.M. at Embassy Suites. PARTA pays for two people to go. Dave will go with Terry and Sharon. The 2010 recipient, who has five children, graduated from Bradley cum laude.
- Historian – Sue reported that Helen Dunn passed on several scrapbooks to finish. She will buy new ones and take the finished ones to Bradley. She will contact Frances Farragher about the names of members who have passed away.
- IRTA news and publications – Roger said the September *Soundings* will also be mailed to new members. He reported that Sally will be the new Region 10 Director, starting January 2016. He also said that Sally is the new Webmaster for PARTA.
- Region 10 representative – Sally reported that the new website is up and running. The address is [pa-rta.weebly.com/](http://pa-rta.weebly.com/).

Jeff will not be at the September meeting, so he gave Nancy Miller the checkbook. Roger said a few PARTA life members are not listed in the directory. The next PARTA luncheon meeting is September 14, due to Labor Day.

*Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary*

**2015 SCHOLARSHIPS to College Students**  
PARTA - \$3,000      IRTA Area 4 (Includes Peoria County) - \$4,000  
**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

*I view education as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in. – Abraham Lincoln*

# SOUNDINGS

## Request to extend deadline to appeal Illinois Supreme Court's Decision

In May, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that the constitution prohibits reducing any benefits that were promised to retirees when they started in the Teachers' Retirement System. On July 28, 2015, Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Office filed a request to extend an August 6<sup>th</sup> deadline to appeal the Illinois Supreme Court's decision that protects pensions to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her office will now have until September 10 to file an appeal.



The attorney general will now have additional time to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule the Illinois Supreme Court's decision, arguing that Illinois can institute emergency police powers, allowing the general assembly and governor to decide when they can undercut the protections listed in the pension clause of the constitution.

Senate Bill 1, passed by the Illinois General Assembly in December of 2013, proposed allowing the state to cut a retiree's cost-of-living adjustments, increase the retirement age of current employees and make cuts to the pensions of working and retired members of TRS. Their goal was to cover a nearly \$100 billion shortfall in payments to the pension systems that was caused by decades of underfunding.

John Fitzgerald, one of the attorney's representing the IRTA, says they will continue to fight if the Attorney General decides to pursue with the appeal. "This is entirely a matter of Illinois State Law. There is no basis for the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene."

The Attorney General's petition to the U.S. Supreme Court says the pension case "raises important questions" about states' rights to use police powers to modify contracts, like public pensions. The principal questions presented are:

(1) Does the reserved powers doctrine prevent a State from abdicating its police powers authority to modify its own contractual obligations in extreme circumstances that imperil the general welfare?



(2) If not, did the Illinois Supreme Court identify the correct standard by which the validity of a State's exercise of its police power is judged?

Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.  
– George Washington

Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.  
– John Quincy Adams

What do you think your Mom and Dad have in common? "Both don't want any more kids." – Timmy, age 8

For centuries, people thought the moon was made of green cheese. Then the astronauts found that the moon is really a big hard rock. That's what happens to cheese when you leave it out. 😊 – Suzy, age 6

"I don't think there's anyone in there." – Billy, age 6  
*in response to seeing his father hanging pictures and tapping on the walls to find the support beams.*

# SOUNDINGS

## TRS EARNs A 4.1% RATE OF INVESTMENT RETURN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Preliminary estimates indicate that Teachers' Retirement System investments generated a positive 4.1% rate of return, gross of fees, during fiscal year 2015. The preliminary 30-year investment return for TRS is 9.04%, net of fees, which exceeds the System's long-term investment goal of 7.5%. TRS ended FY 2015 on June 30 with \$45.8 billion in assets, which places the System among the top 40 largest pension funds in the United States.

### FY 2015 - Preliminary Estimates

Real Estate Investments +14.4% Domestic Equity +9.1%

Absolute Return +6.05% Fixed Income +3.49%

International Equity -4.36%



Source: [trs.illinois.gov/](http://trs.illinois.gov/)

## GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

Raising teenagers is like nailing JELLO to a tree.

Laughing helps. It's like jogging on the inside.

Families are like fudge ... mostly sweet with a few nuts.

If you can remain calm, you just don't have all the facts.

My mind not only wanders, sometimes it leaves completely.

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.



Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

There is always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

## **THE ILLINOIS PENSION DISASTER: WHAT WHEN WRONG?**

It didn't happen by accident. Governors and legislators, Republicans and Democrats, repeatedly approved financially toxic changes that created the worst-funded pension system in the country.

Article online at: [www.chicagobusiness.com/section/pensions](http://www.chicagobusiness.com/section/pensions)

## **House Propose Pension Cost Shift, \$200 Million for Chicago Public Schools**

The bill proposes a "cost shift," meaning all downstate and suburban school districts would pay their own teacher pension costs – as opposed to having the state pay those costs, as it does now. Article online at:

[chicagotonight.wttw.com/2015/08/12/house-democrats-propose-pension-cost-shift-200-million-cps](http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2015/08/12/house-democrats-propose-pension-cost-shift-200-million-cps)

Want more legislative news? <https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisRetiredTeachers?fref=ts>

## EMBARRASSING MOMENT – THUMB SUCKING



A boy had reached four without giving up the habit of sucking his thumb. His mother had tried everything from bribery to reasoning to painting his thumb with lemon juice to discourage the habit. Finally his mother tried threats, warning her son that, "If you don't stop sucking your thumb, your stomach is going to blow up like a balloon." Later that day while walking in the park, the mother and son saw a pregnant woman walking towards them. The four-year-old looked closely at her for a minute, and then spoke to her saying, "Uh-oh... I know what you've been doing!"



# SOUNDINGS

## ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENT ONLINE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIHjqgoVMhw>

## READ THE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT DECISION ONLINE

[www.illinoiscourts.gov/Opinions/SupremeCourt/2015/118585.pdf](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Opinions/SupremeCourt/2015/118585.pdf)



## IRTA 2015 CONVENTION – CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

October 26 - 27

Springfield Crowne Plaza

Non-delegate  
Registration is due no later than September 15, 2015. Forms will be found in the latest edition of IRTA ACTION.

IRTA Hotel Reservations at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield must be received by October 15. Reservations may be made online at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) or by calling Crowne Plaza at 1-800-589-2769. Indicate you will be attending the IRTA Convention.

IRTA ACTION has information about the candidates for IRTA office who will be elected during the Convention.

## Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) for IRTA Members

MEMBER  
BENEFITS

*IRTA has partnered with AMBA to make member only benefits available exclusively to IRTA members!*

IRTA has two types of member benefits: Endorsed and Informative Benefits. In an effort to improve the quality of benefits available to IRTA members, the IRTA board agreed to endorse products. These products were selected because they provide superior benefits and competitive premium rates. These products have been heavily negotiated on behalf of retired school educators, and the IRTA board believes that they are the finest available anywhere. Informative benefits are products that are available to IRTA members as a service.

Member Benefit Information online: <https://irtaonline.org/MemberBenefits.aspx>

## DO NOT WASH YOUR HAIR IN THE SHOWER!

*It's so good to finally get a health warning that is useful!*

It involves the shampoo when it runs down your body as you shower with it.

### A WARNING TO US ALL!

Shampoo Warning! I don't know why I didn't figure this out sooner! I use shampoo in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and yet printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning:

**"FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME"**

No wonder I have been gaining weight!!! Well, I immediately got rid of that shampoo and I am going to start showering with *Dawn* dish washing soap. Its label reads:

**"DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE"**



*Problem solved! If I don't answer the phone, I'll be in the shower!*

(Source: <http://thereporterandthegirl.com/>)



# SOUNDINGS

## LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MADE - MUST BE PAID

**RESERVATION**

Cater Inn prepares PARTA Monday buffet luncheons based on the number of reservations received on the Friday prior to the meeting. Realizing that unexpected things can happen to change members' plans between Friday and Monday morning, please call Nancy Wing (243.9218) or your caller (names and phone numbers are listed in the front of the PARTA directory) to explain your situation.

**Due to the number of members that have not been courteous enough to do this in the past, bills for the cost of the luncheon are now going to be sent when reservations are not kept.**

**PAYMENT**

### DIRECTORY CHANGES - *Please make changes in your PARTA Directory*

Applegate	Lisle	1812 W Clarewood AVE	Peoria	IL	61614-5642	256.3862	New member
Epstein	Marianne	5917 N Roxbury LN	Peoria	IL	61614-4121	692.9322	New member
		Mariann130@aol.com					
Oliver	Henri	1500 W Tomar CT	Peoria	IL	61614-5756	681.1538	New member
Petzing	Eldon	2221 W Arrowhood LN	Peoria	IL	61604-2325	635.2437	New member
		epetzing@aol.com					
Benway	Robin	5906 W Charleston CT	Peoria	IL	61607-1075	966.0956	Address change
Livingston	Ruth	6016 N Knoxville AVE	Peoria	IL	61614-3553	682.6706	Address change
Stewart	Eleanor	1217 W Woodside DR	Dunlap	IL	61525-9518		Address change
Knight		Regina E. (Jean)	Deceased: Wednesday, July 15, 2015				
Little		Emma Lou	Deceased: Friday, July 10, 2015				
Monks		John F.	Deceased: Thursday, May 14, 2015				

### DATABASE KEPT BY JOHN RATHBUN (309.745.8375)

PARTA members, **PLEASE** help keep the database current.  
Let John Rathbun know of ANY **changes to your status.**

**HUMOROUS**

Electrician's truck: "Let Us Remove Your Shorts"  
 Music teacher's door: "Out Chopin"  
 Podiatrist's window: "Time Wounds All Heels"  
 Butcher's window: "Pleased to Meat You"  
 Beauty shop: "Dye Now"  
 Taxidermist's window: "We really know our stuff."

Computer store door:  
 "Out for a quick byte."  
 Outside a hotel: "Help! We need inn-experienced people."  
 Dry cleaner's window:  
 "Drop Your Pants Here"

**SIGNS**

W.C. Fields Quotes:           It ain't what they call you; it's what you answer to.  
   I cook with wine. Sometimes I even add it to the food.  
 You can fool some of the people some of the time, and that's enough to make a decent living."

Peoria Area  
Retired Teachers' Association  
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Washington, IL 61571-1041

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# PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## **PARTA OFFICERS 2015 - 2016**

- Dave Barnwell, *President*
- Nancy Miller, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*
- Ann Winget, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*
- Kathy Simpson, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS  
for OVER 50 YEARS**

**NEW WEB ADDRESS**

**[pa-rta.weebly.com](http://pa-rta.weebly.com)**

*Sally Weber, Webmaster*