

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

## WELCOME NEW RETIREES

*First time attendees  
are our guests.*

### MEETING

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
ON PAGE 2

**September 11**  
**Barracks Cater Inn**  
**11:30 A.M.**

**Luncheon – \$12.00**

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

### RESERVATION REQUIRED

If you do not receive a call  
from a PARTA "caller",  
please call Nancy Wing at:  
309.243.9418

Reservations: MADE = PAID

### GREETERS

 **Susan Bartlow**  
 **Ann Christopel**

### INVOCATION

 **Linda Horton**

### PLEDGE

 **Linda Horton**

### LUNCHEON

Roasted Chicken Breast  
Rice Pilaf  
Vegetable  
Assorted Salads  
Assorted Desserts

### BUSINESS MEETING

Abby Humbles, Chair

Roger Hampton  
Soundings Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PARTA Members,

We hope you all had a wonderful summer! We look forward to another season of PARTA. Our PARTA Board Members have been hard at work planning for another exciting year. We hope you can join us for PARTA fellowship and fun.



Thank you to all the PARTA Board Members. These hard workers do much of the planning, organization, investing, bookkeeping, mailing of letters and taking lunch reservations. Without these hard-working people, our meetings would not be possible. See you all soon!

Abby Humbles, PARTA President

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### TRS & IRTA INFORMATION & UPDATES



**Rich  
Frankenfeld**

*Director of Outreach*

Teachers' Retirement System  
of the State of Illinois

**Roger  
Hampton**

*Vice President*



Illinois Retired  
Teachers Association

### BRING & BUY



### OCTOBER 2

*Members are encouraged to bring "treasures"  
that are looking for a new home.*

*All proceeds go to benefit our scholarship fund.*

Celebration of Life

Frances Farraher

Scholarship Fund

Valda Shipp

### NOVEMBER 6

**SAIDO Learning:** *A promising, non-drug  
Cognitive Therapy Program for dementia that  
has shown to slow symptoms of Alzheimers and other dementias.*



**Presenters: Denise Durst & Allison Marlow**



### DECEMBER 4

Judy Ernst, President  
Peoria Area Accordion Club

Updates online at: [pa-rta.weebly.com/](http://pa-rta.weebly.com/) Sally Weber, Webmaster

# SOUNDINGS

**PARTA MEETINGS** are on the first Monday of each month with the following exceptions:

There are NO MEETINGS in January, July, or August.

The meeting in September is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday due to Labor Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday.

## Lunch

Barracks Cater Inn staff will assist in carrying your plate to your table, or they will serve anyone unable to go through the buffet line. If you have a health or religious need that requires an alternate entrée at any meeting, please let your caller know so that Barracks can accommodate your request.

## Meeting

You are welcome to attend just the PARTA meeting if you are unable to be at the luncheon. The meeting will usually start around 12:15, depending on attendance and occasional pre-lunch addenda items. Please check the PARTA website for information and updates.

Celebration of Life | 11:30–11:45 | October 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: Remembering and Honoring deceased PARTA members from September 1, 2016 through September 1, 2017  
Lunch will be at begin at 11:45. Names will be available prior to this meeting.



## **Battery Collection Continues**

PARTA is continuing its battery collection program. Please bring your used batteries to be recycled to any of our meetings.

## **\$ 1,000,000,000 TRIVIA**

Who was the first confirmed billionaire and in what year?



## *Answers on page 7: "Billionaire"*

How many billionaires are there currently?



## **Do you make purchases from Amazon?**

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases

to IRTA Foundation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.



AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know - same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at:  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1183315>



## **IRTA on Facebook! Political updates posted!**

<https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisRetiredTeachers/>

## **IRTA CONVENTION 2017**

October 30-31, 2017 | Springfield Crowne Plaza Hotel & Conference Center

*Information and Registration Online at:*

*[www.irtaconvention.info/](http://www.irtaconvention.info/)*

One of the agenda items you won't want to miss is this year's Keynote Speaker:  
Attorney John Fitzgerald, Tabet, DiVito & Rothstein

IRTA

CONVENTION



Moses had the first "tablet" that could connect to the "cloud".





# SOUNDINGS

## Some Successful Lobbying **IRTA Has Done for YOU** Over the Decades:

- 1981** Health insurance and prescription drug insurance plan instituted.
- 1982** Survivor's benefit increased to 50% of deceased spouse's current pension and death benefit set to \$3,000.
- 1989** Compounded 3% annual increase (based on Current pensions) for annuitants and survivors – state instructed to increase contributions to the state-funded pension systems in order to amortize unfunded liabilities, with interest, over a 40-year period.
- 2010** IRTA VoterVoice efforts helped prevent the General Assembly from passing legislation that would have allowed the State of Illinois to issue IOU's to TRS for its 2011 pension payments.
- 2012** IRTA was the ONLY opposition to a bill that attempted to force TRS annuitants to choose between their health insurance and their compounded 3% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) – the IRTA made it clear the association would sue the state if the measure became law.
- 2014** IRTA filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Public Act 98-0599 – Court injunction issued May 14 delayed implementation.
- 2015** The Illinois Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the 2013 state law overhauling Teachers' Retirement System benefits was unconstitutional – final chapter in the 15-month-long legal challenge.
- 2017** IRTA worked at stopping another unconstitutional measure aimed at diminishing benefits for retired teachers. The Illinois Senate passed a bill restoring funding for the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (T.R.I.P.), after trying in the first attempt to eliminate it.

**Without IRTA, you would NOT have the same pension benefits you have today.**

**IRTA only exists for its members. Membership is where your obligation begins!**

If you are not an IRTA member, *please* JOIN TODAY!

**IRTA DUES** → **(BEST DEAL)** ← *Currently 48,000+ Members*

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

**JOIN** → **SIGN UP for Dues Deduct Membership ONLINE** ← **JOIN**  
with E-Signature at: <https://irtaonline.org/Join.aspx>

IRTA provides legislative representation and advocacy for YOUR retirement benefits.  
Associate IRTA Membership → Annual: \$25 each year or Life - \$125 one-time fee  
(available to those not drawing a pension from TRS)

**ALL TRS Annuitants ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN IRTA**

Dear automatic flushing toilet...  
I appreciate the enthusiasm, but I wasn't done yet.





# SOUNDINGS

## ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (IRTA)



Investing in the future of retired educators.

The philosophy of IRTA has not changed from its conception in 1945. Their purpose is still to work to maintain and improve benefits for annuitants of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS); promote education and the professional, social, and economic status of all members; and work in cooperation with other organizations to obtain these goals. There are ninety-three units in the state divided into eighteen regions and six areas with over 38,000 members.

828 S Second ST, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor | Springfield, IL 62704 | Phone: 800.728.4782 | [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org)

### IRTA VOTER VOICE GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

IRTA utilizes proven internet-based technology tools from voterVOICE to launch and manage grassroots lobbying campaigns and other governmental affair activities.

This online tool allows members to communicate breaking legislative developments to state and federal lawmakers, along with "Calls to Action" on legislation that is vitally important to Illinois retired educators.



### IRTA FOUNDATION (IRTAF)



In 1985, after identifying a large number of former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and rising inflation, the IRTA established the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation (IRTAF), Inc. The initial purpose of the Foundation was to build an endowment to provide assistance to retired educators. Since that time, the Foundation has assisted retired educators with living expenses, provided scholarships to aspiring teachers, worked to protect the rights of the elderly, and provided grants to educators. IRTAF programs include:

- Financial Assistance
- Scholarships
- Excellence in Education Grants for Teacher

Details online at: <https://irtaonline.org/Programs.aspx>

### IRTA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (IRTAPAC)

CURRENTLY 5,008 MEMBERS



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.

**Contribute only \$1.00 per month**



to support actions to protect your pension. Forms are available at meetings, or **DONATE ONLINE with E-Signature** at: <https://irtaonline.org/IRTAPAC.aspx>

**FYI: MONEY CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED FROM ONE IRTA FUND TO ANOTHER.**

I wish I was a kid again

so everyone would be proud of me for taking a long nap.



# SOUNDINGS

## ILLINOIS' OVERDUE BILLS

### UnPAID BILLS

A major bond rating agency stated that the state should go ahead with a proposal to borrow money that would be used to pay down the bill backlog. S&P Global Ratings said it is likely the state can borrow money at a lower interest rate than it is now paying on overdue bills.

On most of the state's overdue bills, the **late interest fee** comes to **12% a year**.  
The state runs up **\$2 million a day in interest charges on its overdue bills**.

"The state may realize net fiscal savings which we believe Illinois can ill-afford to pass up given its weakened financial position, even if the additional debt ... adds incrementally to its operating deficit," S&P said.



S&P said the borrowing, and subsequent reduction in overdue bills, would give the state back some measure of flexibility in dealing with its finances. It said the borrowing is unlikely to improve the state's credit rating, but it could provide some additional protection against a further downgrade.

### Borrowing

The budget approved by lawmakers in July authorizes up to \$6 billion in borrowing to pay down old bills. S&P said the spending plan assumes a \$360 million surplus that could be used to finance about \$3 billion in borrowing.

Source: [www.sj-r.com/news/20170822/sampp-borrowing-money-to-pay-old-bills-is-ok](http://www.sj-r.com/news/20170822/sampp-borrowing-money-to-pay-old-bills-is-ok)

## I wonder if we tell people the brain is an app, they'll start using it?



A mother was concerned about her kindergarten daughters walking to school. They didn't want their mother to walk with them. She wanted to give them the feeling that they had some independence, but yet know that they were safe. So, she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow them to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so they probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind them as they walked to school. She did this for the whole week. As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, one of them noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally Mckenna asked her sister, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?' Maura nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.' Mckenna said, 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Maura replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.' 'Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?' 'Well,' Maura explained, 'every night Mom makes us say the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm with our prayers, 'cuz she worries about us so much. And in the Psalm, it says, ' Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow us all the days of our life', so I guess we'll just have to get used to it!'



If aliens saw us walking our dogs and picking up their poop, who would they think is in charge?

# SOUNDINGS

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

Kiesling	Beverly	6906 N Stalworth DR	Peoria	IL	61615-9444		Address change
Moore	Joyce					309.264.4803	Phone change
Nelson	Julie	2004 W Ayres AVE	Peoria	IL	61604-5504	309.231.0648	New member
St. Julian	Jeanne	2724 W Reservoir BLVD	Peoria	IL	61615-4137		Address change

Donald (Max) Moore      Deceased: Thursday, July 13, 2017

Betty Jean Steinbach      Deceased: Friday, July 14, 2017

*In Memoriam*



PARTA members, **PLEASE HELP** keep the database current.  
Let John Rathbun, Membership Chair, **know** of **ANY CHANGES** to your status.

“Billionaire”: Answers to questions on page 2

*Source: www.google.com/*

On September 28, 1916, newspapers reported that American oil magnate John D. Rockefeller had become the world’s first confirmed U.S. dollar billionaire.

Many historians however point to the Model T mogul, Henry Ford, as the first billionaire. He reached the 10-figure territory by about 1925.

As of 2017, there are over 2,000 U.S. dollar billionaires worldwide, with a combined wealth of over US \$ 7.6 trillion.



“Go forward in life with a twinkle in you eye and a smile on your face, but with great purpose in heart.” ~ Gordon B. Hinckley

## Student Test Answers

- Germinate: To become a naturalized German.
- Respiration is composed of two acts, first inspiration, and then expektoration.
- For a head-cold: use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat.
- A vibration is a motion that cannot make up its mind which way it wants to go.

- Algebraical symbols are used when you do not know what you are talking about.
- Many dead animals in the past changed to fossils, while others preferred to be oil.
- When electric currents go through them, guitars start making sounds. So would anybody!
- Most books now say our sun is a star. But it still knows how to change back into a sun in the daytime.
- We say the cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.



**White Hair:** One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, “*Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?*” Her mother replied, “*Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.*” The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, “*Momma, how come ALL of grandma’s hairs are white?*”

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

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# PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## **PARTA OFFICERS 2017 - 2018**

- Abby Humbles, *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 60 YEARS**

online @  
**PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM/**  
Sally Weber, *Webmaster*