

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2018

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## WELCOME NEW RETIREES

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES!  
**FREE LUNCH**  
YOU ARE OUR GUESTS!

**September 10**  
**Barracks Cater Inn**  
**11:30 A.M.**  
**Luncheon – \$12.00**

## RESERVATION REQUIRED

If you do not receive a call from a PARTA "caller", please call

**NANCY WING at:**  
**(309) 472-2536**  
If there is no answer, please leave a message.

## GREETERS

 Ann Christophel  
 Susan Bartlow

## INVOCATION/PLEDGE

 Lee Ann Meinhold

## LUNCHEON

Italian Sausage &  
Meatballs  
Pasta w/sauce  
Vegetable  
Assorted Salads  
Assorted Desserts

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## BUSINESS MEETING

Abby Humbles, Chair



Roger Hampton  
SOUNDINGS EDITOR

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

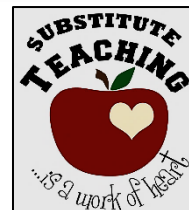
Hello PARTA Members,

Greetings to all! It is that time of year when we look forward to seeing our friends of PARTA to share our summer adventures.

This Fall many retired teachers will enjoy helping with the teacher shortage by substitute teaching. I truly admire those of you who sub. Schools are in such need of good teachers.

Ann Winget and her committee have a slate of interesting speakers and fun events scheduled for this PARTA year. I appreciate their efforts and sincerely thank all our volunteers. We look forward to seeing you this year at Cater Inn!

Abby Humbles, PARTA President



## PROGRAMS

### SEPTEMBER 10: PENSION UPDATES

Topics: IRTA, TRS, CMS: TRIP/TRAIL,  
Legislation, Benefits, & much more  
Speaker: Jim Bachman  
Executive Director,  
Illinois Retired Teachers Association



### OCTOBER 1

In Memoriam:

*Celebration of Life*

Lead by Frances Farraher  
Relatives Invited to Attend

Candidate Updates:

*Your Representatives*

Roger Hampton &  
Dixie Wheeler, Presenters

### NOVEMBER 5

Topic: "THE BEEKEEPER" Presenter: Sarah Stevens

### DECEMBER 3

Topic: *STORYTELLING*

Presenter:  
Chris Mangold

Game: *CHRISTMAS TRIVIA*

Organizer:  
Pat Hampton

PLUS a *SING-A-LONG* lead by Denise Adams

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

# SOUNDINGS

## General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2018

President Abby Humbles called the general meeting to order at 12:40 P.M. She thanked greeter Dixie Wheeler and Marcia Becker for their service as well as Inez Norgard for giving the invocation and leading the pledge. Just prior to the business meeting, Denise Adams and representatives of the Morton Civic Chorus entertained with a delightful music program. Following an enthusiastic applause in recognition of their talents, Abby asked program chairs for reports.



The minutes of the May meeting were approved as written in the June Soundings. Copies of the treasurer's report had been distributed to each table prior to the meeting. The report was approved.

Members of the Executive Board were asked to remain for a short meeting following this general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Frances K. Farraher, Secretary, Pro tem*

**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.

### LUNCHEON

*Reservation Made = Reservation to be Paid*

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



Contact **NANCY WING** at (309) 472-2536 by **FRIDAY MORNING** prior to a meeting you were not called about your reservation(s).

Alternate Contact: Abby Humbles at (309) 472-0455

### LUNCHES

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.

### MEETINGS

You are welcome to attend just the PARTA meeting if you are unable to be at the luncheon. The meeting will usually start around 12:20, depending on attendance and occasional pre-lunch addenda items. Please check the PARTA website for information and updates.

**Celebration of Life | October 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting:** Remembering and Honoring PARTA members deceased from September 1, 2017 through September 1, 2018. Names will be available prior to this meeting and relatives are welcome to attend.

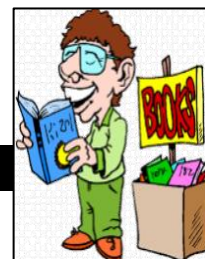


### **BATTERY COLLECTION CONTINUES**

Please bring your used batteries to be recycled to any of our meetings.

### **BOOK EXCHANGE TABLE CONTINUES**

Bring books, calendars, magazines, and other paper goods to share with our members.



What did the left eye say to the right eye?



Between you and me, something smells!



# SOUNDINGS

## 2019 – 2020 SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTA OFFICERS

**President:** Abby Humbles  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Dixie Wheeler  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Ann Winget  
**Recording Secretary:** Kathy Simpson  
**Treasurer:** Jeff Vallosio


### PARTA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Lee Ann Meinhold, Chair**  
**Pat Hampton**  
**Peggy Shane**

### PARTA BYLAWS: ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIONS:

ELECTION

- B.** At the **October** meeting the **election** of the officers for the ensuing biennium shall be conducted. Elected officers then can begin the task of filling positions on the Board and for various committees.
- C.** At the **December** meeting the incoming officers shall be **installed** and shall assume office on the following January 1.

<b>AUGUST 2018 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 51,622.86</b>			<b>Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer</b>	
Investment Balance	\$ 42,408.72	Working Cash ( <i>cash boxes</i> )	\$ 100.00	
Savings Balance	\$ 6,958.57	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$ 182.63	
Checking Balance	\$ 1,916.15	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$ 56.80	

### PARTA DUES - Currently 400+ Members

- Annual: \$15.00    ➤ Life: \$120.00    ♦ **Best Deal** ♦



**PARTA is Unit # 32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA).**

If you have membership questions, please contact  
**John Rathbun, PARTA's Membership Chair at: Genrebun@aol.com**

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**PARTA** awards 3 scholarships each year to ICC students enrolled in a teacher education program.

**IRTA FOUNDATION** awards 10 scholarships each year to college juniors or seniors enrolled in an accredited teacher education program.

Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Chair



### EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

Each year the **IRTA FOUNDATION** awards \$36,000.00+  
 to classroom teachers to enrich their instruction with materials  
 not otherwise available to them. Their students are the real winners!



BILLY's maternal grandmother had just come for a visit, and he was ecstatic. "Now Daddy can do his trick!" yelled Billy with glee. "What trick is that?" Grandma asked. "Well," answered Billy, "Daddy said that if you stayed for a whole week, he'd climb the walls. I never saw anyone do that before."

# SOUNDINGS

## TWO RECENT IRTA INITIATIVES SIGNED INTO LAW!

### TEACHERS RETIREMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM OPTION

On August 21, 2018 Governor Rauner signed into law SB3046 (Public Act 100-1017). **SB3046 was one of IRTA's initiatives.** The bill provides that on and after the effective date of this amendatory Act, **eligible TRS benefit recipients and TRS dependent beneficiaries may elect to participate in TRIP (this includes participants in TRAIL) if they previously opted out of the program.** The bill provides that the election must be made during the benefit recipient's annual open enrollment period, subject to specified conditions. SB3046 becomes effective immediately. Senator Manar and **Representative Gordan-Booth** were the main sponsors of this legislation. In addition, there were several other representatives and senators that co-sponsored the legislation.

### RETIRED TEACHERS MAY SUBSTITUTE 120 PAID DAYS

On June 29, 2018, Governor Rauner signed into law HB5626 (Public Act 100.0596). IRTA's proposed legislation, sponsored by Senator Manar, passed both chambers unanimously. The language from the previous bill HB3080 was amended onto HB5627. This bill increases the amount of employment as a teacher that a retired teacher may perform without impairing retirement status – 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in a school year, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom.

### REMEMBER to THANK YOUR LEGISLATORS for THEIR SUPPORT!

*Make sure your legislators who voted for these bills receive a thank you.  
You can check at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) if you are not certain how they voted.*

**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

*IRTA Currently has 38,000+ Members*

➤ Dues Deduct: \$30.00 per year  
(\$2.50 deducted each month from your pension check.)

➤ Life Membership: \$400.00

**JOIN** →

**SIGN UP for Dues Deduct Membership ONLINE**

with E-Signature at: <https://irtaonline.org/Join.aspx>

← **JOIN**

Call the IRTA Office for assistance or additional information at: (800) 728-4782

- If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
- Important letters that contain no errors will develop errors in the mail.
- Never delay the ending of a meeting or the beginning of a cocktail hour.
- Machines that have broken down will work perfectly when the repairman arrives.

**MURPHY'S  
LAW**

## SOUNDINGS

### PARTA and IRTA Promotional Videos



Nathan Mihelich, IRTA Director of Membership and Marketing, will be attending PARTA's September meeting. He will be bringing his video equipment to capture several short clips of our members to use as promotions for PARTA and/or IRTA. Nathan is asking for several volunteers to present a short and personal nugget of information – 30 seconds to a maximum of 2 minutes. Nathan is very easy to work with and will assist with your comments during taping. The information you share can be about the importance of these organizations, benefits you get from membership, advocacy done in your behalf with legislators in Springfield, efforts of the Foundation and PAC, or other similar comments. Let Roger Hampton know if you will volunteer.



### **IRTA ON FACEBOOK! POLITICAL UPDATES POSTED!**

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

### **IRTA Members Attend Illinois State Fair for #RetiredEducatorsDay (August 13, 2018)**



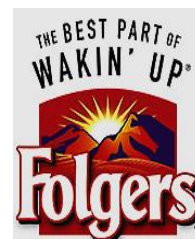
**Ready to travel with the IRTA and meet some new friends?**

IRTA members, friends, and family are eligible for group rates on a "Tour of Portugal" on October 19–26, 2018, or on a "Celebrity Cruise to the Eastern Caribbean" on January 5–12, 2019.

**IRTA Travel Details are online at: [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)**

There are myriads of **AWESOME FALL ACTIVITIES** throughout the Tri-County area during September and October. Keep active and check out some of these activities listed at: [explorepeoria.com/pages/EventsCalendar](http://explorepeoria.com/pages/EventsCalendar)

A sweet little boy surprised his grandmother one morning and brought her a cup of coffee. He made it himself and was so proud. He anxiously waited to hear the verdict on the quality of the coffee. The grandmother had never in her life had such a bad cup of coffee, and as she forced down the last sip she noticed three of those little green army guys in the bottom of the cup. She asked, "Honey, why would three little green army guys be in the bottom of my cup?" Her grandson replied, "You know grandma, it's like on TV, 'The best part of wakin' up is *soldiers* in your cup.' "



# SOUNDINGS

## TRS INVESTMENTS BEAT EXPECTATIONS

The long-range rate-of-return for the TRS investment portfolio was 8.3% for fiscal year 2018, which beat the system's assumed return of 7%.

**THE TRS PORTFOLIO TOTALS \$51.3 BILLION. ASSETS HAVE INCREASED 80% IN 10 YEARS.**

This good news refutes a recently-published story in Crain's Chicago Business which implied that the TRS portfolio carries a high degree of "risk" that "poses a threat" to member pensions. That is incorrect. The truth is the portfolio's risk profile is the same as a generic portfolio comprised of 60% stocks and 40% bonds. The amount of risk carried by the TRS portfolio is monitored closely by the Board of Trustees and investment staff and is lower than comparable public pension systems. TRS maintains a highly-diversified portfolio – a mix of stocks, bonds, real estate, private equity – as well as investments designed to protect the portfolio in the event that there is a future downturn in the economy.



Source: <https://www.trsil.org/investments-beat-expectations>

- There were a total of 268,608 active and retired TRS members in 2017.
- The average active TRS member salary in 2017 was \$71,773.
- The average TRS pension in 2017 was \$54,180.

## TRS FALL MEMBER MEETING

October 23, 2018 | 4:30 P.M. | Richwoods High School Auditorium

TRS is hosting statewide meetings from August to November that are designed to explain the retirement process and to provide you with information about disability, death and insurance benefits.

For a list of other locations throughout the state go to:  
[https://www.trsil.org/Fall\\_Member\\_Meetings](https://www.trsil.org/Fall_Member_Meetings)



## SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT

IRTA members receive additional discounts on **Vacations by Rail**, North America's most comprehensive provider of rail travel and tours. Travelers may choose independent or escorted rail vacations in North America, Europe, and beyond.



**SURPRISED** to see a number of students suddenly leave the room only halfway through an exam, the professor followed them into the corridor. He discovered the students completing the balance of the questions while leaning against the walls. When he asked for an explanation, one student pointed to the third question, which read: "Describe Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea. You may supply a drawing, but please leave room to answer."

# SOUNDINGS

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

Catherine Maureen Crews, 84	Deceased July 18, 2018
Ruth Martin, 100	Deceased August 18, 2018



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

### FREE EVENT AT PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY NORTH BRANCH

Thor Hanson, internationally known author, Guggenheim Fellow, Switzer Environmental Fellow, speaker, biologist, researcher and conservationist, will present both a children's program and adult program on Wednesday, October 3 at Peoria Public Library North Branch. A reception, talk and book signing with Mr. Hanson will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The public is invited to this free event and will enjoy refreshments and meet the author as well as hear him speak. His books, including his latest, Buzz, will be available for sale and signing. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Friends of the Library.



The main program will be preceded by a children's program at 5:00 p.m. in the Beehive. Thor's book for children, Bartholomew Quill, uses the explorations of a quizzical young crow to explain biodiversity. Thor is currently involved in projects on Tufted Puffins and native bees, and his work on the interface between warfare and biodiversity conservation has been covered by news outlets around the world, including Reuters, Scientific American, The New York Times, The Huffington Post, and The Times of India.

**RETIREMENT – THINK HEALTH, NOT WEALTH:** More than 80% of today's retirees say health is the most important ingredient for a happy retirement, meaning that the majority value good health even over financial security. So, the best retirement plan involves not just your finances but also ways to stay mentally and physically healthy. Gardening, walking, joining a gym, and eating healthy are all proven ways to stay physically healthy. Staying vital, having a purpose, and challenging yourself mentally are great ways to maintain your mental health.

Dear Mom,  
\$chool i\$ really great. I am making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tudying very hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need, \$o if you would like, you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you.  
Love,  
Your \$on



Dear Son,  
I kNOW that astroNOmy, ecoNOmics, and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOR student busy. Do NOT forget that the pursuit of kNOWLEDge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh.  
Love,  
Mom



Peoria Area  
Retired Teachers' Association  
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# PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

**SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS FOR OVER 60 YEARS**

## **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*

**[PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM/](http://PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM/)**

*Check for Updates!*

**Sally Weber, *Webmaster***