

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2021

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

WELCOME

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES!
FREE LUNCH
YOU ARE OUR GUESTS!

IN PERSON MEETING

September 13
Barracks Cater Inn
11:30 AM

ZOOM OPTION

AVAILABLE EVERY MEETING
See page 7 for information

LUNCHEON – \$12.00
RESERVATIONS

→ Patti Monks
697.3385 (see Page 4)
**RESERVATION
MADE = PAID**

GREETERS

 Carla Stokowski
 Sherry Perez

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

 Jan Deissler

LUNCHEON

Italian Spaghetti
meatballs & marinara sauce
Vegetable
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts

BUSINESS MEETING

Dixie Wheeler,
CHAIRPERSON



Roger Hampton
SOUNDINGS EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, PARTA Members,
How great to be meeting again
this September! Unfortunately,



we need to resort to masks again while we gather in the back and while we get our meal. Even though most of us are vaccinated, no one needs a break-through infection. For the next few months each of our board officers will be sharing their own little biography in Soundings. I will

COMMENTS

bet that we all learn something new and interesting about each other!

Thanks to those of you who filled out comments in June. They were shared with the board. These included:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Raising the thermostat
—dress accordingly | 4. Lawyers for teachers
—addressed at August Board meeting |
| 2. Introduce all new members | 5. Food offering stated in Soundings
was not offered—addressed with
management and accepted apologies |
| 3. A volunteer to be a caller
—thank you! | |

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 13 (2ND MONDAY)

TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS (TRS) UPDATES

RICH FRANKENFELD, TRS DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

A presentation you WILL NOT want to miss!



OCTOBER 4

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

NECROLOGY: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 - AUGUST 31, 2021

Remembering and Honoring deceased PARTA members.
Relatives are welcome to attend.



NOVEMBER 1

POW/SABER TABLE
LIMESTONE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC

DECEMBER 6

MUSIC PROGRAM
DENISE ADAMS

Additional information and updates available online at
pa-rta.weebly.com Sally Weber, Webmaster

Don't let yesterday take up too much time today. ~ Will Rodgers

SOUNDINGS

GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 7, 2021, 11:30 AM

The June PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on June 7, 2021, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Jackie Gilles offered prayer and led the pledge to the flag. Fifty- three (53) in-person members and guests were in attendance. The Zoom platform was also available for members who were not able to attend in person. Program chair, Jeannie Blane, introduced John Meisinger and Dave Obergfel from the Regional Office of Education. John and Dave are coordinating the Peoria County ROE Adult Literacy Program. A grant through the Illinois Secretary of State and administered by the Peoria Regional Office of Education is the funding source for the program. The literacy grant's focus is to help meet the needs of adults classified as functionally illiterate. In the Central Illinois area, the following counties - Peoria, Woodford, and Marshall - are served by the literacy grant. An affiliate of Pro-Literacy America, the grant provides direct service within our community. Under the grant provisions, the coordinators engage in public awareness, recruit, train, and match volunteer tutors with adults in need of basic skills.



Lynn Campbell was introduced as PARTA's newest member. President Wheeler thanked the meeting Greeters Sherry Perez and Carla Stokowski, and Jackie Gilles for the opening prayer and pledge. Eric Johnson was recognized for working with investments and finance for PARTA.



PARTA's goal for this year is membership recruitment, participation, and sustainability. So that all members can assist in the recruitment process, the membership committee placed a sheet with retirees' names on each table. Our task was to peruse the sheets to identify retirees we knew and supply any current information about them. Pat Hampton, Sally Weber, and Dixie Wheeler will be working on a more extensive membership database



for prospective members. Roger Hampton summarized the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) referenced on page 8. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn. Peggy Shane made the motion, and Linda Horton seconded it.



Respectfully Submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

AUGUST 2019 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 66,424.44				Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
Investment Balance	\$ 54,467.33	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00		
Savings Balance	9,017.99	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	342.43		
Checking Balance	2,402.86	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	93.83		

PARTA DUES | 343 Members

IRTA DUES | 39,757+ Members

- Annual: \$15.00
- Life: \$120.00 ◆ Best Deal ◆

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

➤

 During John Rathbun's absence, **Jeff Vallosio** will be collecting your membership dues payment.
 ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

PARTA is Unit # 32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA)
 Contact **Roger Hampton** with any PARTA or IRTA membership questions.

THE FIRST RULE OF CLEANING: *The toilet brush is NEVER the microphone!*

SOUNDINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 23, 2021

The PARTA Board Meeting started at 10:00 AM with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. The members present were Roger Hampton, Dixie Wheeler, Jeff Vallosio, Peggy Shane, Dave Barnwell, Jeannie Blane, Valda Shipp, Sally Weber, Susan Leighty, Abby Humbles, and Deloris Turner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER: Jeff Vallosio reported the treasurer report was sent and will be in the Soundings. Jeff renewed the Bulk Mail Permit. PARTA's investments are doing well due to gains in the Stock Market. The audit done this summer showed the books are in order.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Kathy Simpson reported our meeting notices are on the CIProud and WEEK 25 websites. Roger Hampton suggested we invite the



news media to our next PARTA meeting to educate the public about who we are as an organization.



BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

SIZE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: After discussion, a unanimous vote to maintain the current size but change the number of members to determine a quorum at a meeting. Language with this change will be written and reflected in the By-Laws.

ATTORNEY SERVICES/BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS: The subject of attorney services benefitting teachers has been a PARTA member's ongoing concern for several years. The Board is requesting information regarding these services at a Board meeting for understanding and clarification.

MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION CHANGE PROPOSAL: President Wheeler informed the Board of the numerous letters sent to retirees on the IRTA list in

the Peoria Area. The purpose was to tell the retirees about PARTA and its presence as an organization. Sally Weber, Dixie Wheeler, and Pat Hampton took on this task. Dixie reported that the membership committee used the database from 2010 to the



current year to solicit these members. For many years John Rathbun has kept PARTA's database for members. President Wheeler proposed in addition to the database; it would be prudent to add recruitment under membership. Sally Weber moved to add recruitment under membership. Abby Humbles seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to add the recruitment component to membership.

AREA 4 CONFERENCE REPORT: Roger Hampton reported that Area 4 has 12 counties. There are currently 40,000 members in IRTA, the numbers have increased. There has been a 7% growth with a 90% retention rate in the last five years. The IRTA Foundation generated \$330,000, an increase from the previous year.

Roger also updated the Board on the Mentoring Program through IRTA. It is an excellent program and is very effective.



He further reported it is a need to build a relationship with our Legislators.

IRTAPAC donations have a 78% success rate.

\$100 CONTRIBUTION TO FOUNDATION: Abby Humbles moved that PARTA would donate \$100 to the Foundation. Peggy Shane seconded the motion. The Board made a unanimous vote.

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION: President Wheeler took an informal poll of Board members attending the IRTA



Convention on October 18 and 19. Five members are attending.

ADJOURN: Abby Humbles moved to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary



I visited my doctor today. He told me my sugar was too high. So, I went home and moved it to a lower shelf!

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

My doctor told me that jogging could add years to my life. He was right—I feel ten years older already.

My doctor said at my age I should really install a bar in the shower. So, I Did!!!



SOUNDINGS

LUNCHEON

*If you pay by check, make check payable to "Cater Inn".
Contact Patti Monks at 697.3385 by FRIDAY MORNING
prior to a meeting if you were not called about your reservation(s).*



LUNCHESES: 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 at no charge if you are unable to be at the luncheon. The meeting will usually start around 12:20, depending on attendance and occasional pre-lunch agenda items. Please check the PARTA website for information and updates.

OVERVIEW OF PARTA APRIL 19, 2021 BOARD MEETING MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION RESULTS

1. WAYS TO GET INPUT FROM MEMBERS

- Select a main topic, perhaps each month, or have a dominant topic like MEMBERSHIP.
- Encourage members to peruse the website PA-RTA.WEBLY.COM. Offer suggestions in suggestion area—no name required.
- Add an idea or comment to the suggestion box on the Book Table--no name required.
- Tell an officer or board member your idea or comments.
- Have a recurring notice in *Soundings* regarding suggestions and comments.

2. PARTA MEMBERSHIP

- Goal: 25 new members for 2021-2022
- Devise a system so that PARTA members can see names of IRTA members who are not members of PARTA and have current PARTA members contact them.
- Devise a system so that PARTA members can see names of recent retirees and have current members contact them.



3. SOCIAL GATHERING VS AN INTEREST GROUP (*We need to meet the requirements of both.*)

• SOCIAL GATHERING:

- Make sure members, potential members, and guests feel welcome.
- Make sure purchasing meal ticket is easy.
- Make sure food accommodations are met.
- Continue educational programs.
- Continue to see that small initiatives like the book table, battery recycle, Zee's Blessed Dress project are continued.



• INTEREST GROUP:

- Provide educational programs geared to retirees' needs.
- Provide community and state updates of interest.
- Assist new members to know what benefits they may receive.
- Understand PARTA's mission.

4. IRTA GOALS

- PARTA maintains continual communication with state-led organization through officers, legislation, programs, committees, workshops, conferences, and conventions. This information is communicated to PARTA members on a regular basis.
- PARTA members participate in IRTA membership and its activities.



Your input and suggestions help keep PARTA moving forward!



I'm on a diet.
I used to eat
eight pieces of pizza.
Now I'm only eating three!



All of my childhood punishments
have become my adult goals:
Eating Vegetables, Staying Home,
Taking A Nap, Going to Bed Early!

SOUNDINGS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TWO ICC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

M. Luisa Horton-Mesa, *Princeville*

I'm sincerely honored to have been selected to receive your scholarship. As a working parent, I can't tell you enough how this scholarship helps me to get closer to my dream of becoming a teacher. I am proficient in English and Spanish, and someday I hope I can use my skills to help dual language learners.



Kirkland Herold, *Edelstein*

Your scholarship has opened a door and the prospect of a brighter future and will play a key role in shaping me into a successful person in the future. Donors like you make life brighter for us and I can only hope that one day, I too will be in a position to bring a smile to another needy student.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

VALDA SHIPP, SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

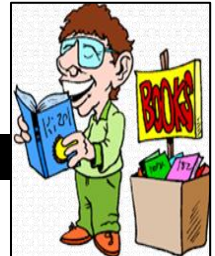


BATTERY COLLECTION CONTINUES

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.



Better to take a book and not have time to read, than have time to read and have no book to read!



A child and his father were visiting an elderly neighbor. They were raking the neighbor's leaves, organizing the neighbor's garage, putting the trash out, and performing other small jobs around the neighbor's house. The child had not really seen the elderly neighbor up close, but on this day the child was going to meet the neighbor up close for the first time. When the child met the neighbor up close, he asked the neighbor how old he was, and the father was flabbergasted by his child's question and attempted to apologize to the neighbor, but the neighbor laughed and said that was ok, the child is curious. The elderly neighbor told the child he was 92 years old. The child had a look of disbelief and asked the neighbor, "Did you start at the number one?"

#1

SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT

ROAD SCHOLAR - Adventures in Lifelong Learning

Road Scholar is the world leader in educational travel offering 5,500 educational tours in all 50 states and 150 countries. AMBA association members, first time Road Scholar participants, are eligible for either a \$200 gift certificate good toward any international trip, or a \$75 gift certificate good for any North American Adventure.



Discount Code: Call the IRTA office at 1.800.728.4782 or go online to: irtaonline.org

If only opening a *Vitamin Water* could be classified as working out.

SOUNDINGS



TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS NEWS **TRS INVESTMENTS SOAR**

TRS investments closed out FY 2021 with more than \$10 billion in investment income, an extremely strong rate of return and record assets under management, despite the worldwide economic upheaval caused by the pandemic.

On June 30, 2021, TRS managed assets totaling approximately \$62.7 billion – a record for the System and a 20% increase in assets during the year. TRS closed fiscal year 2020 with \$52.3 billion.

Through June 30, 2021, the preliminary fiscal year to-date investment return is expected to exceed 23.1%, net of fees. TRS long-term investment return exceeded the System's long-term assumed investment return of 7% with a 40-year return during fiscal year 2021 of 9.3%.

TRS FALL VIRTUAL MEMBER MEETING

TRS will host statewide webinars for members from September through mid-November that are designed to explain the retirement process and to provide members with information about disability, death and insurance benefits. Both Tier 1 and Tier 2 information is available in all sessions. This year meetings will again be held virtually via WebEx.



Register for any one of the 35 meetings in order to receive the email link that will allow you to join.

All webinars start at 4:30 p.m. and will last approximately an hour.

VIRTUAL BENEFIT INFORMATION MEETING HANDOUT AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
<https://www.trsil.org/sites/default/files/documents/FallMbrMtgBooklet.pdf>

REPORTS THAT SHOULD CONCERN US

ILLINOIS BUDGETS IN THE RED FOR 21 YEARS IN A ROW (state comptroller report)

<https://www.illinoispolicy.org/fact-check-pritzker-claims-balanced-budgets-state-reports-show-hes-wrong/>

REPORT: ILLINOIS' PENSION DEBT TOPS \$300 BILLION

<https://capitolnewsillinois.com/NEWS/report-illinois-pension-debt-tops-300-billionz>

WHAT HAPPENED TO DICK INGRAM (Former Executive Director of TRS)

<https://teacherpoetmusicianbrown.blogspot.com/2020/08/what-happened-to-dick-ingram-former.html>

Victoria was telling her friend that her children and grandchildren did not send thank-you notes for the very generous checks she had sent them. Her friend told her that her kids used to do the same thing, but this year ALL the kids had come over personally to thank her.

She asked her friend what she did to make that happen. "Well, this year I didn't sign the checks!"



PARTA MEETINGS Connecting with others is more important than you might think. Social connections can lower anxiety and depression, help us regulate our emotions, lead to higher self-esteem and empathy, and actually improve our immune systems.

SOUNDINGS



VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION (ZOOM) FOR EACH MEETING

If you are not currently comfortable with attending in-person meetings, or if you are not able to attend for any reason, please consider joining us virtually via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 812 522 6549 | Passcode: 1eZRzQ

Zoom access will be available by 11:20 AM each meeting.

However, programs and meetings begin after the luncheon, usually around 12:20 PM.

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR PARTA DIRECTORY

Mary	Howard	3718 W Golf Creek DR	Peoria	IL	61615-7816	839.0933	new address/phone
Judith R	Chelin	13256 Canopus DR	Littleton	CO	80124-2604	303.953.0905	new address

Susan Fink (78)

June 11, 1943 - July 28, 2021

Lois Jean Powers (86)

May 25, 1935 - August 4, 2021



PARTA Members: **PLEASE HELP** keep the database current.

During John Rathbun's absence,

please contact **Roger Hampton** with **ANY CHANGES** to your status.

Cell: 309.360.6190 (text or call) or Email: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com



GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARTA OFFICERS

Both my husband and I are products of Central Illinois farm families. Dale and I met when we were in Wyoming High School, and both sang with a double ensemble. We were married in 1967 while Dale was in the Air Force, stationed in Texas and then California, resulting in son Darren; and in Darmstadt, Germany resulting in second son David. Through numerous moves over the years, we are now Chillicothe residents. And we are the proud grandparents of Sophie (sophomore Iowa State), Holden (junior in high school), and Amy (first year middle school).

My education resulted in a BS education degree from WIU and a MA in education administration from Bradley. Besides working in 2 private schools in Georgia and South Carolina and 3 school districts over the years in Illinois, I've served as a school board member, worked at an ROE office (now closed!), and have been subbing since I retired in 2005. The most fun was working for the ROE and interacting with teachers every day. The least fun was being a school board member, although we managed to build a new school in Lacon.

Other accomplishments include getting a broker's license and selling real estate; performing with the Peoria Area Civic Chorale for over 25 years; and serving in many leadership positions through education and church.

But most important to me is being a Christian. I was introduced to the Lord through Campus Crusade for Christ as a freshman at the University of Illinois. Jesus has been my companion for all these years, and I'm very blessed for His salvation. I hope my life is a testimony to His mercy and goodness.

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President



AWESOME FALL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE TRI-COUNTY AREA

Various activities listed at: <https://www.peoria.org/events/>



PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
11138 N STONE CREEK DR
DUNLAP, IL 61525-9797

Address Service Requested



Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 378
Peoria, IL



PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



PARTA OFFICERS 2021 - 2022

- Dixie Wheeler, *President*
- Roger Hampton, *1st Vice President*
- Jeannie Blane, *2nd Vice President*
- Deloris Turner, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 67 YEARS**

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