

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2022

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

WELCOME

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES!
FREE LUNCH
YOU ARE OUR GUESTS!

September 12
Barracks Cater Inn
11:30 AM

LUNCHEON – \$13.00
NOTE PRICE CHANGE
Please bring exact change or make check payable to Barrack's Cater Inn



RESERVATIONS

→ Patti Monks
309.697.3385

MADE = PAID

ZOOM OPTION
EACH MEETING
→ (Go to Page 7)

GREETERS

 Carla Stokoski
 Sherry Perez

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

 Ann Christophel

LUNCHEON

Italian Spaghetti
Vegetable
Assorted Salads
Dessert

BUSINESS MEETING

Dixie Wheeler,
CHAIRPERSON
Roger Hampton
SOUNDINGS EDITOR 

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall Greetings, Everyone!
It is great to be back together sharing what we've been doing, anticipating excellent programs coming up and chowing down on great food! I would like to invite any of you who are not IRTA members to seriously consider doing so. As you will hear from our presentation this month, IRTA has member benefits—just for us! And IRTA keeps us informed about retired teacher issues—proposed changes, for example, to health insurance. (Does anyone know if the state has ever proposed a good change for us?)



My favorite resource for IRTA is Coffee with Jim Bachman. It occurs every second Thursday of each

month via ZOOM. Last month there were over 60 people. This format is an open discussion about whatever people want to talk about regarding teacher retirement. I know I have mentioned this event before, and it is just such a great way to find out about IRTA and all it can do for us. I mostly drink my coffee and listen!
Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 12 (2ND MONDAY)

LORI FAIRFIELD, *BENEFITS SPECIALIST*
ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS



OCTOBER 3

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

NECROLOGY: SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 - AUGUST 31, 2022
Remembering and Honoring deceased PARTA members.
Family members are invited to attend – Reservation Required



NOVEMBER 7

TRS PRESENTATION
RICH FRANKENFELD,
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH



DECEMBER 5

MUSICAL PRESENTATION
ORGANIZED BY
DENISE ADAMS



Additional information and updates available online at
pa-rta.weebly.com

Sally Weber, Webmaster

SOUNDINGS

If speaking kindly to plants helps them grow, imagine what speaking kindly to humans can do!



The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good and how he treats people who can't fight back.

GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2022, 11:30 AM

The June PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on June 6, 2022, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. There were 61 (sixty-one) members in attendance. President Wheeler thanked the meeting Greeters, Dan Walther, and Ann Christophel. Linda Horton led the Pledge and Invocation. Lee Ann Meinhold introduced the meeting speaker, Captain Doug Wright, Commander Submarine Squadron, and his wife, Jeanne. Captain Wright spoke on: *For the Love of Navy Life*. Following his presentation, he entertained questions from the members.



directory of Federal and State elected officials and candidates. Roger also reported that the healthcare issue is still in the courts with no decision. He will update the membership on the progress via email. Patti Monks needs Callers and Sub-Callers for the meetings. Please get in touch with her. Denise Smith announced the PARTA Directories were available at the back table for pick-up. Jeff Vallosio announced the Treasurer's report was on the tables. Dan Walther announced Election Day is June 28. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane moved to adjourn the meeting. Sherry Perez seconded the motion.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Roger Hampton explained the IRTA's Grassroots Action Center and gave instructions to access the

Respectfully Submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

AUGUST 2022 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 62,189.15				Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
Investment Balance	\$ 52,851.43	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00		
Savings Balance	8,023.02	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	432.67		
Checking Balance	689.64	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	92.39		

PARTA DUES | 324 Members

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

IRTA

- Dues Deduct: \$30.00 per year
- Only \$2.50 deducted each month from your pension check.
- A very small price to support the only association that solely advocates for your pension.**
- Please consider joining both associations.**

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERS STATUS ON THE FRONT OF THIS MAILING.

ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

Numbers make a difference and show unity.

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

Contact **Roger Hampton** with any PARTA or IRTA membership questions.

Just fired myself from cleaning my house! I don't like my attitude and I got caught drinking on the job!



TO MY CHILDREN:

Don't make fun of me for asking questions about my cell phone! I once taught you how to use a spoon!!!



SOUNDINGS

Are you keeping on top of actions at the state and federal level that could impact your retirement benefits?



Are you actively involved in contacting your state and federal representatives regarding your retirement benefits?

DID YOU KNOW?

POSSIBLE CHANGE IN TRIP/TRAIL HEALTH INSURANCE!

The Department of Central Management Services recently concluded their review of submitted applications for health insurance carriers for the TRAIL program. Aetna Insurance Company has been chosen as the provider. United Health Care has appealed the decision. This change would be effective January 1, 2023.

This change could be problematic because of the sensitive nature of our health care needs, our relationships with our healthcare providers, and our reliance on my prescription drug coverage. Of equal concern is that the condensed timeline for the switch could result in disruptions to our care and could lead to poor clinical outcomes for us. IRTA's understanding is that this change in health insurance vendors provides no financial benefit to the State of Illinois. Given the lack of benefit to anyone involved, we implore CMS to please not rush to this change in vendors.



IRTA informed its membership of this information. **This is another reason to be a member of IRTA.**

IRTA asked members to contact Governor Pritzker regarding this matter. **Did you contact Pritzker?**

PROGRESS ON REPEALING THE WEP & GPO !

GREAT NEWS! Illinois House Resolution #0082 has passed one hurdle which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) of Social Security that affects many retired teachers. This bill has MORE THAN 290 co-sponsors! "The rules mandate a floor vote on any bill that receives 290 co-sponsors". These unfair, outdated provisions of the Social Security code eliminated earned Social Security benefits and must be repealed. There should be Social Security fairness for all.



Were you aware of this information? IRTA informed its membership of this information. **This is another reason to be a member of IRTA.**

IRTA asked its members to please submit a personal message about how WEP/GPO has affected them to their congressman and requested to urge Speaker Pelosi to bring the bill H.R. 82 up for a vote. **Did you contact your congressman?**

More information regarding what IRTA is doing on behalf of its members is continued on page 4.

MAYO CLINIC: *Stress relief from laughter? It's no joke! When it comes to relieving stress, more giggles and guffaws are just what the doctor ordered. A good sense of humor can't cure all ailments, but data is mounting about the positive things laughter can do.* (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/>)

I tried the Japanese method of decluttering where you hold every object that you own and if it does not bring you joy, you throw it away. So far I have thrown out all of the vegetables, my bra, the electric bill, the scale, a mirror, and my treadmill!



SOUNDINGS

IRTA LAWSUIT – ON YOUR BEHALF (continued from page 3)

IRTA filed a lawsuit challenging the underfunding of the Teacher Health Insurance Security Fund and is proceeding in the Circuit Court for Sangamon County. The defendants have answered IRTA's complaint, and they responded to our requests for discovery. IRTA's attorneys and expert witness will carefully analyze the data they have produced about the current fiscal status of the Fund. The answer and discovery responses have pointed to one key legal dispute in this case. The defendants acknowledge that "retired teachers have a constitutionally protected right to the benefits specified in sections of the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971" but they "disagree that retired teachers have a constitutionally protected right to a particular program of benefits that CMS has established under that authority at any given time." This appears to mean that the defendants believe you have a constitutionally protected right to participate in some type of health insurance program, but not to any particular level of benefits. IRTA strongly disagrees with that argument and will continue to advocate for the full extent of **YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS** in this litigation.



This lawsuit is funded by IRTA members.
Are you an IRTA member?

Lawsuit expenses should be shared by all retired teachers in Illinois.
Are you doing your fair share?

IRTA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (IRTAPAC)

IRTAPAC is a voluntary not-for-profit, unincorporated association established in the State of Illinois. IRTAPAC is organized to protect, preserve, and improve benefits for individuals receiving a pension from the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System. IRTAPAC funds are used to support candidates for political office. These candidates support Illinois Retired Teachers Association members and the issues important to you.



Contributions to the IRTAPAC will be used to enhance political awareness of Illinois Retired Teachers Association members and increase their contacts with elected officials and candidates.

Only \$1.00 per month from your pension check!
Have you signed up?

IRTA members who support this endeavor finance this important endeavor.
Are you contributing your fair share?

TEACHER'S NOTE TO PARENTS

Source: Facebook- Bored Teachers Real Talk

Parents, if you let your child argue with you, they will argue with me. If you let your child speak to you in a disrespectful tone, they will take that tone with me. If you allow your child to break rules without consequences, they will not do what I say either. You see, you are your child's first and most important teacher. We can only build on the foundation you've laid at home.



SOUNDINGS

BARRACK'S CATER INN CURBSIDE PICKUP

Pickup Curbside: 1224 W Pioneer Parkway | 4:30-5:30 P.M.
\$12.00 (including tax) Cash, Check, or Charge
Order online at: <https://caterinn.com/> 309.692.3900

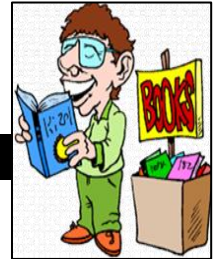


BATTERY COLLECTION CONTINUES

Please bring your used batteries to be recycled to any of our upcoming fall 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!



Once there was a little boy who lived in the country. For facilities, they had to use an outhouse. The little boy hated it because it was hot in the summer, cold in the winter and smelled all the time. The outhouse was sitting on the bank of a creek and the boy determined that one day he would push that outhouse into the water.

One day after a spring rain, the creek was swollen so the little boy decided today was the day to push the outhouse into the creek. So, he got a large stick and pushed. The outhouse toppled into the creek and floated away. That night his dad told him they were going to the woodshed after supper. Knowing that meant a spanking, the little boy asked why.

The dad replied, "Someone pushed the outhouse into the creek today. It was you, wasn't it, son?" The boy answered yes. Then he thought a moment and said, "Dad, I read in school today that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree and didn't get into trouble because he told the truth."

The dad replied, "Well, son, George Washington's father wasn't in that cherry tree at the time."



SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT

Fixed Index Annuity

Enjoy the Rewards of the Stock Market Without Any of the Risk

If you're concerned with your income level or your future income, a Fixed Index Annuity might be right for you.

If you're concerned about leaving your beneficiaries something, this can help make that dream a reality.



An annuity can help you maximize your future income. Plus, the single premium tax-deferred annuity from IRTA and AMBA features tax-deferred accumulation of interest, a guaranteed competitive interest rate, multiple payout options, and a nursing home waiver.
Discount Code: Call the IRTA office at 1.800.728.4782 or go online to: irtaonline.org



Tutoring

Peoria Public Schools is seeking tutors for this school year. Call the school district office at 309.672.6512 for information.

My house is not messy; I just have everything on display - like a museum.

SOUNDINGS

TRS FALL BENEFIT INFORMATION MEETINGS RESUME

TRS will host statewide Benefit Information Meetings and webinars for active TRS members, from September through early November, that are designed to explain the TRS benefit structure, including retirement, disability, and death benefits. The retirement process, health insurance benefits, and post-retirement employment will also be discussed. The Benefit Information Meeting booklet will be coming soon and will be posted on the TRS website. No printed copies will be provided at the in-person meetings.

TRS BENEFIT INFORMATION MEETING SCHEDULES @ 4:30 P.M.

IN-PERSON: REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED

East Peoria High School - The Commons
1401 E Washington ST, East Peoria, IL
Tuesday, October 24

VIRTUAL: REGISTRATION REQUIRED

16 days this fall
Links to the virtual webinars are online at:
https://www.trsil.org/Fall_Member_Meetings



TRS COMMITS MORE THAN \$1.5 BILLION TO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Source: <https://www.trsil.org/news-and-events/TRS-Commits-More-Than-1.5B-to-investment-opportunities>

The Teachers' Retirement System Board of Trustees reviewed more than \$1.53 billion in investment commitments made during June and July. The System committed \$680 million and \$130 million to 12 private equity opportunities, €200 million to an opportunity in the Real Assets Portfolio and up to \$650 million to an opportunity in the Global Income Portfolio.

The Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois is the 42nd largest pension system in the United States, and provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to teachers, administrators and other licensed public-school personnel employed outside of Chicago. The System serves 434,000 members and had assets of \$63.1 billion as of June 30, 2022.

TRS BENEFITS REPORTS ONLINE

Active and inactive members may sign in online to view their service credit, refundable contributions, beneficiary refunds, beneficiaries, sick leave service, and 2.2 upgrade information. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CAREFULLY REVIEW ALL INFORMATION.** If you find any discrepancies, please contact our Member Services Division at (877) 927-5877 so that your record may be corrected.

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?" The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?" The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, Norma Findlay, Room 302." The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room." After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her Physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow." The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news." The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?" The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me anything."



Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.



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 12:15 PM.

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR PARTA DIRECTORY

Sedgwick	Linda	309.645.6321	New phone number
Geeseman	Jo	Phone Disconnected	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">If you have any updated information on these member's phone numbers,</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">please contact John Rathbun ASAP at genrebun@aol.com</p>
Gray	Judy	Phone Disconnected	
Hanlon	Earlene	Phone Disconnected	
Ingwersen	William	Phone Disconnected	
Jackson	Annette	Phone Disconnected	
Jackson	Patricia	Phone Disconnected	
Jenkins	Maggie	Phone Disconnected	
Kelly	Grace	Phone Disconnected	
Metzger	Kathryn	Phone Disconnected	

Barbara L Sullivan (85)

November 23, 1936 - May 21, 2022



If you know any PARTA members who are recently deceased and are not listed, PLEASE send that information to John Rathbun.

PARTA Members: **PLEASE HELP** keep the database current.
 please contact **John Rathbun** with **ANY CHANGES** to your status.
 Email: genrebun@aol.com

A WISE MAN: A wise man once faced a group of people who were complaining about the same issues over and over again. One day, instead of listening to the complaints, he told them a joke and everyone cracked up laughing. Then, the man repeated the joke. A few people smiled. Finally, the man repeated the joke a third time—but no one reacted.

The man smiled and said, "You won't laugh at the same joke more than once. So, what are you getting from continuing to complain about the same problem?"



THE MORAL: You're not going to get anywhere if you keep complaining about the same problem but do nothing to fix it. Don't waste your time complaining, expecting other people to continue to react to your complaints. Instead, take action to make a change.

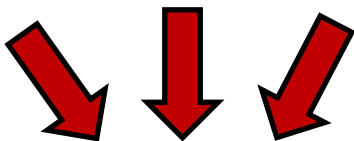
<i>My stomach is FLAT!!! The "L" is silent!!!</i>	<i>I keep trying to lose weight, but it keeps finding me.</i>	<i>If we're not meant to have midnight snacks, why is there a light in the fridge?</i>
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AWESOME FALL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE TRI-COUNTY AREA
 Various activities listed at: <https://www.peoria.org/events/>

PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
406 WOODCREST
WASHINGTON, IL 61571

Nonprofit
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YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS

PAID THROUGH:

PARTA: 10/15/2022

IRTA: 1/1/2003

Fyrne Gonerka
PO BOX 104
Pine Plains, NY 12567-0104



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*