

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2023

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

September 11
Barracks Cater Inn
11:30 AM

GREETERS

 Carla Stokowski
 Sherry Perez

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

 Chris Stevens

LUNCHEON

\$14.00 Cash or Check
payable to Barrack's Cater Inn

RESERVATIONS

→ Patti Monks
309.697.3385

Entrée: Spaghetti
w/meat sauce

Vegetable | Salads
Dessert
Coffee, Ice Tea, Water

PROGRAM

BUSINESS MEETING

Dixie Wheeler,
CHAIRPERSON 

Roger Hampton
SOUNDINGS EDITOR

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

Sally Weber
PARTA WEBMASTER 

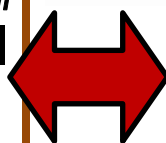
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to PARTA!

What a wonderful summer I had! Books and flowers filled my time; things I don't do during the school year. Yes, I still build my life around school because I sub. Can't get it out of me! But I am doing what I want to do, which includes PARTA and IRTA.

You are a PARTA member because that is what you want to do. Whether it's just for getting together with people like yourself, wanting to know what's going on with your hard-earned money, or just wanting to enjoy a program where you can learn something new, welcome back—and

if you are new, please join us by becoming a member of PARTA and IRTA. We are good people!
Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President



If you do not receive a call from a PARTA CALLER asking for your LUNCHEON RESERVATION by Wednesday prior to each meeting, then **PLEASE** call Patti Monks to make your reservation.

PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 11 (2ND MONDAY)

IRTA/AMBA MEMBER BENEFITS

LORI FAIRFIELD, *BENEFITS SPECIALIST*
ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to LORI FAIRFIELD and AMBA for their support in promoting PARTA and IRTA.



OCTOBER 2

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL CEREMONY



TRENT STRONG

Senior Partner,
Legacy Investment Services

NOVEMBER 6

GREATER PEORIA HONOR FLIGHT

GENE WALLACE,
ALLINE WALLACE, BOB REED



DECEMBER 4

MUSIC OF THE SEASON

 **ORGANIZED BY**
DENISE ADAMS

STAY SOCIALLY CONNECTED WITH PARTA

Research shows that social connectedness can lead to longer life, better health, and improved well-being.

SOUNDINGS

GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2023

The June PARTA meeting was held at the Cater Inn on June 5, 2023. President Dixie Wheeler presided. Sixty-five members were in attendance. There were no new members or guests. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Peggy Maas and Debbie Wargo. Linda Horton led the Pledge and Invocation.

Jeannie Blane introduced the guest speaker, Captain Doug Wright (USN Ret.), and his wife, Jeanie Wright. Captain Wright shared some fascinating facts regarding submarines, their design, and the living conditions while on board. He allowed for a question-and-answer period following his presentation.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Wheeler announced some additional members to sign-up for the IRTA Conference in October. Patti Monks announced that she is creating a new Callers' List. She encourages members to pay dues to get the monthly meeting reminder. Patti extended special thanks to the dedicated meeting Callers. Please have any Retirees notify Patti so she can make sure they are on the list.



LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION: President Wheeler highlighted Bills signed by the Governor that affected Education.

- Two hundred fifty million dollars was awarded to Education for the first year.
- K-12 was awarded 350 million dollars to fill teacher vacancies.
- One hundred million dollars was awarded to Higher Education.
- One hundred million dollars was awarded to Public Universities.
- They extended the 120 days for Retirees to work without a pension penalty.
- HB 3504 requires 120 days' notice.

\$ 570,000,000



If members want specific details, visit the IRTA website under Legislative Information.

Jeff Vallosio informed the members the treasurer's report is on the tables, and he is collecting PARTA and IRTA dues.

Roger Hampton informed the membership that the IRTA Convention would have a fully packed agenda due to the many proposals to update the constitution. He is the chair of the Constitution Committee and will bring forth the recommendations to the body.

He also mentioned that **DELORIS TURNER** is on the slate for Area 4 Representative.

AMBA will contact all new retirees before the September meeting and pay for their lunch.

Please view the May Soundings to glimpse some of the House and Senate Bills passed.

There were 6600 Bills presented.

President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane moved to adjourn the meeting and Roger Hampton seconded the motion.

AREA IV REPRESENTATIVE

Respectfully Submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

SEPTEMBER 2023 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 61,396.55		Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
Investment Balance	\$ 54,731.43	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
Savings Balance	4,049.70	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	216.46
Checking Balance	2,232.18	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	66.78



Learn as if you will live forever. Live like you will die tomorrow. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

SOUNDINGS

PARTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Congratulations to our latest scholarship recipient **KATRINA L. JOHNSON**. Katrina recently moved to Peoria with her grandmother from Barstow, California. She is attending ICC and majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Katrina will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from PARTA to assist her in achieving her goals. Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Committee Chair

IRTA AREA 4 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



REESE MARKLEY
Reese will be an incoming junior at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

where she will be studying Mathematics Education. Reese will receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the IRTA Foundation.



BRANDON YAZELL
Brandon will be a junior in the fall and will attend Illinois State University where he has been accepted into the Geography Social Science Teacher Education program. Brandon will receive a \$3,000 scholarship from the IRTA Foundation.

If a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a MILK DUD or an UDDER FAILURE?



PARTA CALLING COMMITTEE

NOT CALLED?

PARTA members, if you haven't been called by September 6th, **please contact Patti Monks. Her phone # is 309.697.3385.** This is the Wednesday before the Monday luncheon. We want to make certain that every member who wishes to be contacted on a monthly basis is contacted.

A huge thank you goes out to Roger and Pat Hampton. They put in many hours contacting members in an attempt to have our member lists as accurate as possible. The calling committee will be contacting the members on their given list. It is our goal to include every member and extend an invitation to attend our monthly luncheons.

DO NOT CALL

If you are contacted and asked to attend our monthly luncheons at Barricks Cater Inn, **and you do not want to be called, please let your caller know.** We will honor your request.

Hoping to see everyone real soon. Patti Monks, PARTA Calling Chairperson



Research shows mental activity could stave off age-related cognitive and memory decline. Lifelong learning can also enhance self-esteem while giving you a sense of purpose and hope and feelings of competency.

Stay coachable through all ages of life. Never stop learning and listening.

SOUNDINGS

PARTA 341 Members

- Annual Dues: \$15.00
- Life Dues: \$120.00

784

IRTA Members live in Peoria County.

IRTA 40,414+ Members

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

PARTA is Unit # 32 of IRTA

Are YOU a PARTA

Please consider joining both associations. and an IRTA Member?
Contact **Roger Hampton** with any PARTA or IRTA membership questions.

A very small price to support the only association that solely advocates for your pension.

ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

Numbers make a difference and show unity.

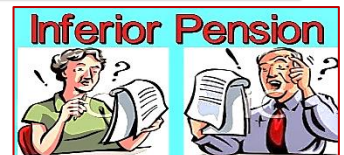


IRTA LAWSUIT

*IRTA has settled their lawsuit filed over a year ago against Governor Pritzker, Central Management System of Illinois (CMS), and the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) that dealt with the funding of our health insurance. CMS and Susana Mendoza, Illinois Controller, wrote letters that were filed with the court stating that the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) was in a good financial position and that they saw **no need over the next five years to make any type of change because of this financial position.** Both stated they would do everything they needed to do to keep TRIP funded. The comptroller was approximately 200 million dollars in arrears of funding the TRIP program at the time of the hearing. In lieu of IRTA's lawsuit, the comptroller paid the full unpaid amount, creating a balance of over \$450 million dollars in the fund.*

STATE HEARINGS ON TIER 2 TEACHER BENEFITS

Andrew Bodewes, IRTA's contract lobbyist and TRS's contracted legislative consultant, recently testified at the second of six scheduled hearings regarding Tier II teacher benefits. Hearing #2 was primarily on the topic of TRS's compliance with Social Security and other Federal Laws. Andrew expects something to be filed by January and something poised for passage by May 2024. Andrew's role has been to educate the committee and members of the Illinois General Assembly. This will not effect our pension benefits, but the reality is that eventually 100% of IRTA's membership will be Tier II retirees.



WANT TO KEEP UP ON WHAT IS HAPPENING?

IRTA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Details on the IRTA website.

Wednesday, September 6 at 9:30 A.M.

"COFFEE WITH JIM" - ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday, September 27 at 9:30 A.M.

- ❖ I've gotten to the age I can laugh, cough, sneeze, and 'pee' at the same time!
- ❖ Halfway through the church service, Grandpa leaned over and whispered in Grandma's ear: "I've just let out a silent 'fart'. What do you think I should do?"
Grandma replies, "Put a new battery in your hearing aid."
- ❖ My granddaughter and I are inseparable. She keeps me wrapped around her little finger.



SOUNDINGS



Grandview Drive is one of the top spots in the U.S. for marriage proposals, according to Mixbook, a design platform for photo books. Mixbook asked 3,000 singles to name their ideal spot for a marriage proposal. Grandview Drive in Peoria Heights was the 47th most popular out of 250 sites throughout the U.S., and the most popular site in Illinois.

Proclaimed the World's Most Beautiful Drive by President Theodore Roosevelt during a visit to Peoria in 1910, the two-and-a-half-mile scenic drive along a bluff overlooking the Illinois River provides views of the Illinois River Valley all the way to Chillicothe and beyond. Grandview Drive is a popular spot for picnics, selfies, and formal family portraits.

Source: Peoria Journal Star | July 13, 2023 | Leslie Renken

CREATIVE THINKING – OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

In a small Italian town, hundreds of years ago, a small business owner owed a large sum of money to a loan-shark. The loan-shark was a very old, unattractive looking guy that just so happened to fancy the business owner's daughter. He decided to offer the businessman a deal that would completely wipe out the debt he owed him. However, the catch was that he would only wipe out the debt if he could marry the businessman's daughter. Needless to say, this proposal was met with a look of disgust.



The loan-shark said that he would place two pebbles into a bag, one white and one black. The daughter would then have to reach into the bag and pick out a pebble. If it was black, the debt would be wiped, but the loan-shark would then marry her. If it was white, the debt would also be wiped, but the daughter wouldn't have to marry the loan-shark.

Standing on a pebble-strewn path in the businessman's garden, the loan-shark bent over and picked up two pebbles. While he was picking them up, the daughter noticed that he'd picked up two black pebbles and placed them both into the bag. He then asked the daughter to reach into the bag and pick one. The daughter naturally had three choices as to what she could have done: (a) refuse to pick a pebble from the bag; (b) take both pebbles out of the bag and expose the loan-shark for cheating; or (c) pick a pebble from the bag fully well knowing it was black and sacrifice herself for her father's freedom. She drew out a pebble from the bag, and before looking at it 'accidentally' dropped it into the midst of the other pebbles. She said to the loan-shark; "Oh,



how clumsy of me. Never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked." The pebble left in the bag is obviously black, and seeing as the loan-shark didn't want to be exposed, he had to play along as if the pebble the daughter dropped was white and cleared her father's debt.

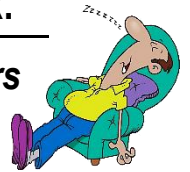
MORAL OF THE STORY

It is possible to overcome a tough situation by not giving in to the only options from which you think you have to pick.



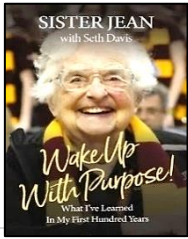
*I found a fun way
to carry my meds around.
I load them in a PEZ dispenser.*

*My bedtime lately has been 2 hours
after I fall asleep in my chair!*



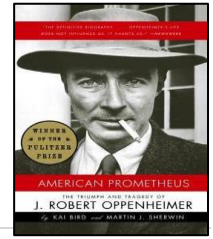
SOUNDINGS

PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



WAKE UP WITH PURPOSE!
by Jean Dolores Schmidt
Seth Davis (Contributor)

Known to millions as simply "Sister Jean," the Loyola Chicago matriarch and college basketball icon invites you into her remarkable memoir filled with history, wonder, and common-sense wisdom for this century and beyond. As Sister Jean wisely says, "I've seen so many changes in the last 102 years, but the important things remain the same." Part life story, part philosophy text, and part spiritual guide, Sister Jean's wit, wisdom, and common sense has broad appeal and application that transcends religious creed, belief, and even feelings on Loyola's basketball team. As you learn about Sister Jean's century-long life, you'll feel just like the Loyola students do when they knock on her office door, plop down in a chair, and ask if she would have time to chat, an activity that she still does daily.



AMERICAN PROMETHEUS
by Kai Bird
and Martin J. Sherwin

American Prometheus is a full-scale biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer, "father of the atomic bomb," the brilliant, charismatic physicist who led the effort to capture the awesome fire of the sun for his country in time of war. Immediately after Hiroshima, he became the most famous scientist of his generation—one of the iconic figures of the twentieth century, the embodiment of modern man confronting the consequences of scientific progress.

American Prometheus is a rich evocation of America at mid-century, a new and compelling portrait of a brilliant, ambitious, complex, and flawed man profoundly connected to its major events—the Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. It is at once biography and history, and essential to our understanding of our recent past—and of our choices for the future.

SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT MEDICAL AIR SERVICES ASSOCIATION (MASA)

Medicare may not cover all of your medical transportation costs. Because a ground ambulance could cost thousands of dollars, and air transport can be \$50,000 or more, it's important to cover the gaps.

- Emergency Air Transportation
- Helicopter Transportation
- Ground Transportation
- Mortal Remains Air Transport

- Worldwide Coverage
- Escort Transportation
- Recuperation/Repatriation
- Return Transportation
- Minor Children/Grandchildren Return

MASA provides plans for lifesaving emergency transportation services. Services are paid in full, with no deductibles, co-pays or dollar limits. Whether home or traveling, MASA covers your ambulance or airlift, regardless of your age or medical condition.

- Visitor Transportation
- Vehicle Return
- Organ Retrieval
- Pet Return

Call Lori Fairfield, AMBA Benefits Specialist, at 815.647.8716
for details and information regarding all IRTA/AMBA Benefits.

*My grandpa always says,
"When one door closes, another opens."
He was a good man, but a lousy cabinet maker.*




*I told my grandkids that
I'm older than Google.
They think I'm joking!*

SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR 2023 PARTA DIRECTORY

Wargo	Deborah	2123 W Jubilee LN	Dunlap	IL	61525-8601	309.645.0358	<i>New Member</i>
Wooley	Leta	318 Flag ST	Metamora	IL	61548-9371	309.360.0072	<i>New Contact Information</i>
		Letawooley@icloud.com					
Smith	Denise	Grandmateacher55@gmail.com				<i>New Email</i>	
Denzer	Patricia	dilligara70@gmail.com			309.844.0173	<i>New Email & Phone Number</i>	
Crowson	Barbara			309.657.8107		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Epstein	Marianne			309.360.8371		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Evans	Ann Haddick			309.370.2256		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Horwedel	Shirley A			309.318.1811		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Risinger	Joyce			309.453.4252		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Stoner	Sue			309.696.8540		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Westendorf	Chuck			309.264.0905		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Westendorf	Gwen			309.229.7830		<i>New Phone Number</i>	
Wygle	Andrea			309.253.6816		<i>New Phone Number</i>	

<i>In Loving Memory</i>	ROBERT KOZELKA, 101	January 13, 1907 - April 10, 2008	<i>Life Members' Information Recently Received</i> 
	DORIS WINSHIP, 91	July 2, 1921 - June 3, 2013	
	EARLENE HANLON, 92	February 27, 1931 - June 21, 2023	
	JOAN REIDER, 96	January 26, 1927 - July 27, 2023	
	JEANETTE BEHREND, 85	November 20, 1937 - August 20, 2023	

PARTA Members: **PLEASE HELP** keep the database current. please contact **Roger Hampton** with **ANY CHANGES** to your status.

Email: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

ALSO, submit names of PARTA members who are recently deceased.

We have no current contact information for Life Member SUE ROBERT



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.



DAD JOKES ✦ *Last night, I had a dream that I was a muffler. I woke up exhausted.*
 ✦ *My wife traumatically ripped the blankets off me last night, but I quickly recovered.*
 ✦ *Son: Daddy, do trees poop? Dad: Of course, Son. That's how we get #2 pencils!*

PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
406 WOODCREST DR
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-1640

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 2023 - 2024

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

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 73 YEARS**

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