

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

DECEMBER 2015



PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING

December 7
11:30 A.M.

Barracks Cater Inn
\$12.00

GREETERS

-  Eldon Petzing
-  Lisle Applegate

INVOCATION

-  Linda Horton

PLEDGE

-  Linda Horton

LUNCHEON

A Christmas Feast

- Glazed Ham
- Au gratin Potatoes
- Assorted Salads
- Assorted Desserts

PROGRAM

11:10 Before Luncheon

"Sounds of Memories"
with Al Hedeman

12:30 After Luncheon
Holiday Sing-along

Business Meeting

Dave Barnwell, Chair



Soundings Editor

Roger Hampton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! This month's PARTA meeting should help put us in the Christmas spirit. DON'T FORGET, we are going to have an earlier, than usual, starting time. Al Hedeman has a vocal group who will be performing Christmas favorites and, because of another commitment, they will perform about 11:10 a.m. on Monday, December 7th. Therefore, let's try to check in by 11:00 and be prepared to have a "musical appetizer" before we eat at the regular 11:30 time. After we eat, we will have our business meeting (short) and some of our own "elves" will lead us in Christmas carols.



I am very pleased to announce that we will continue to have our regular meetings at Cater Inn for 2016 and that there will be no price increase (\$12.00). A big "thank you" to Cater Inn for the great food and service they provide.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dave Barnwell, PARTA President

UPCOMING PROGRAMS IN 2016

February 1, 2016 Program

The Inside Story of the Outhouse

Frank Hubbell - Slide Presentation



March 7, 2016 Program

Peoria Playhouse	Celebration of the Arts	District 150 Foundation
Rebecca Herz	Mary Rous	Cindy Morris

Cost of lunches at Barracks Cater Inn will remain at \$12.00.

Reminder: There is no PARTA meeting in January.

Watch What You Eat Over the Holidays!

I cannot remember the books I've read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

SOUNDINGS

LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Jeff Vallosio gave the invocation and led us in the pledge of allegiance. PARTA President Dave Barnwell thanked the greeters, Henrietta Oliver and Melanie Anderson, for welcoming everyone. Attendance was 117.

After the exceptional luncheon, Dave introduced our speaker, Rabbi Karen Bogards. She gave us a brief history of Hanukkah, told us how it is celebrated in America today, and spoke about some of the more important Jewish holidays.

Terry Knapp shared a poster of pictures of the ICC Scholarship Recognition event and our scholarship recipients.

Dave then opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were in the *Soundings*. They were approved as printed.
- The Treasurer's Report was on the tables. Jeff said our investments showed a loss last month, but have gained some back this month. The report will be filed for audit.
- Membership – John Rathbun said he is collecting yearly dues for 2016.



• Program – Ann Winget said if we could come a little early to the December meeting, Al Hedeman's group would sing at 11:10, and we would still eat at 11:30. After dinner, we would have a business meeting followed by a sing-a-long.

• IRTA Report – Roger Hampton was elected Vice President of IRTA at the biennial convention in October. He has been serving as the Area 4 Representative for the past 4 years. Sally Weber will be the new IRTA Region 9 Director. She has been serving on the IRTA Information Services Committee this past year. Maxine Blane will finish her term as Region 10 director at the end of 2015. Let Roger know if you would be willing to serve on an IRTA committee. TRS has to sell off investments each month to pay the retirement because the state is not paying its share each month. Roger encouraged us to contact the governor, house and senate leaders. Information about the increase in Medicare payments for some retirees was in the November *Soundings*.

• It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Simpson

Recording Secretary

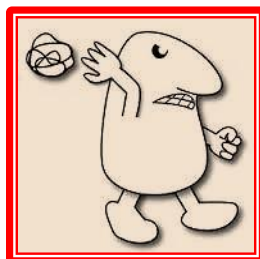
The funded status of Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) improved slightly during fiscal year 2015 to 42% – up from 40.6% a year earlier.



PARTA Website: <http://pa-rta.weebly.com/>

If the site does not load, search:

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association
Sally Weber, Webmaster



The Sheriff pulled up next to the guy unloading garbage out of his pick-up into the ditch. The Sheriff asked, "Why are you dumping garbage in the ditch? Don't you see that sign right over your head." "Yep," he replied. "That's why I'm dumpin' it here 'cause it says":

Fine For Dumping Garbage

SOUNDINGS

IRTA CONVENTION – Celebrating 60 Years

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) held its biennial convention on October 26th and 27th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located in Springfield, IL. Retired educators were well represented with over 500 retirees from across the state of Illinois in attendance. Nine members from the Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association (PARTA) attended.



During the Convention, the IRTA's Delegate Assembly conducted the business of the Association and elected new officers and area representatives. A number of other exciting actions and activities took place during the packed two-day 60th Anniversary event. Gino DiVito (Tabet, DiVito & Rothstein Attorney) opened the Delegate Assembly with a video presentation on how IRTA won the landmark decision by the Illinois Supreme Court on our lawsuit which argued that the pension reform law, SB1, was a violation of the pension protection clause of the constitution. Guest speaker and presidential award-winning historian Barry Bradford also enlightened IRTA members on how to utilize Abe Lincoln's strategies to be happier, more fulfilled, and more effective leaders by combining funny stories with deeply moving anecdotes and intriguing insights. At the Monday night banquet, IRTA unit honorees and past IRTA presidents were recognized for their service to IRTA, local chapters, and their communities. Banquet attendees also enjoyed and celebrated our 60th Anniversary with entertainment from the well-known and musically talented St. Louis Big Band.



Shirley Horwedel
PARTA's Unit Honoree

New IRTA Officers & Area Representatives – 2016 - 2017

President: David Davison, Rockton
Vice President: Roger Hampton, Dunlap
Treasurer: Shirley Dodds, Godfrey
Secretary: Doris Heaton, Benton

Area 2 Representative: Bob Kaplan, Schaumburg
Area 4 Representative: Donna Sargent, Rushville
Area 6 Representative: Bill Funkhouser, Godfrey



Peoria Public Library
December 1 - February 29
Start Anytime - All Ages
Win Weekly Prizes!
Grand Prize: Kindle Paperwhite

I have been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened. Mark Twain

SOUNDINGS

T R E A S U R E R ' S R E P O R T	O C T O B E R	Investment Balance		\$ 38,581.28
		Savings Balance		933.50
		Checking Balance		3,660.62
		Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00
		Post Office Bulk Mail Fund		428.61
		Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$4.13 spent	94.16
		Grand Total		\$ 43,798.17
T R E A S U R E R ' S R E P O R T	N O V E M B E R	Investment Balance		\$ 38,919.00
		Savings Balance		933.50
		Checking Balance		3,975.67
		Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00
		Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	428.61
		Post Office Returned Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	94.16
		Grand Total		\$ 44,450.94

Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer

The next investment meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2016 at 1:00.

Did you ever notice. . .

When you put the words "The" and "IRS" together they spell "Theirs"?

Creative Student

– Anonymous

The kids filed back into class Monday morning. They were very excited. Their weekend assignment was to sell something, then give a talk on productive salesmanship.

Little Sally led off: "I sold girl scout cookies and I made \$30," she said proudly, "My sales approach was to appeal to the customer's civil spirit and I credit that approach for my obvious success." "Very good," said the teacher.

Little Jenny was next: "I sold magazines," she said, "I made \$45 and I explained to everyone that magazines would keep them up on current events." "Very good, Jenny," said the teacher.

Eventually, it was Little Johnny's turn. The teacher held her breath. Little Johnny walked to the front of the classroom and dumped a box full of cash on the teacher's desk. "I made \$2,467" he said. "\$2,467!" cried the teacher, "What in the world were you selling?" "Mouthwash," said Little Johnny. "Mouthwash" echoed the teacher, "How could you possibly sell enough mouthwash to make that much money?" "I found the busiest corner in town," said Little Johnny, "I set up a Dip and Chip stand and gave everybody who walked by a free sample." They all said the same thing, "Hey, this tastes like dog 'doo'!" Then I would say, "It IS dog 'doo'. Wanna buy some mouthwash?"



I used the government's approach of giving you something crappy for free, and then making you pay to get the taste out of your mouth."

SOUNDINGS

One Conclusion from a Recent Actuarial Study

For some years we have all heard the statistic that half of all starting teachers quit in the first five years, and of course that was before the advent of Tier II. At our October TRS Board Meeting we learned from our actuaries based on their experience review that they assume that only 37% of our 25 year old teachers will retire from teaching in our state. It would be expected that only a couple percent will die or be disabled before they can retire, so the great majority that will leave will either quit all together, be dismissed, or transfer to another state. About 63% will never see a monthly retirement check.

I am sure that in recent years you have considered that if you were in college today would you go into teaching, and specifically in Illinois? I would not and would not recommend

that anyone become a teacher in our state. I have been retired from teaching for 21 years and from coaching for 13 years, so what I know of education today is hearsay, but based on that I can only consider that I was fortunate to have taught in what was the "Golden Age of Education in Illinois".

All of the teachers that joined the profession since January 1, 2011, and are members of Tier II are making full contributions to an inadequate pension and will need to go on and contribute to social security before they can retire. In Illinois today we can only expect a little more than one-third of our new teachers will have a full career in education in our state. That is more than sad, it is a travesty.

– Bob Lyons, TRS Annuitant Trustee



Dr. Young vs Dr. Geezer

An old geezer, who had been a retired farmer for a long time, became very bored and decided to open a medical clinic. He put a sign up: →

Dr. Geezer's Clinic
Get your treatment for \$500.
If not cured, get back \$1,000.

Doctor "Young," who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000, so he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic. This is what transpired:



Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Aaagh! This is GASOLINE!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations Dr. Young! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."



Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Oh no you don't, that is GASOLINE!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."



After having lost \$1,000, Dr. Young leaves angrily, but comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak. I can hardly see."

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so, here's your \$1,000 back."

Dr. Young: "But this is only \$500!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."



Moral of Story

Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an old "Geezer"!!!!

Source: turn2.proboards.com/thread/7689

SOUNDINGS

Draft Document Suggests Rank-and-File Budget Compromise

www.capitalnewyork.com/article/illinois/2015/11/8583059/draft-document-suggests-rank-and-file-budget-compromise

Illinois' top leaders may not be able to find common ground on a budget, but rank-and-file legislators did reach a working compromise that took on some of the main issues now dividing the state legislature. It was learned that last month a bicameral, bipartisan group of lawmakers had reached far more consensus over the state's budget impasse than their leaders. That included putting on the table a personal and corporate income tax increase, a controversial proposal to consider taxing retirement income over \$50,000 and "allow (but not require) all school districts to bargain over 3rd party contracting, layoffs, class size, school year and technology (like CPS)."



The confidential draft also laid out the possibility of "substantial workers compensation reform" and property tax freezes — both items that Governor Rauner has said are must-haves for him to approve more revenue. House Speaker Mike Madigan has repeatedly said the budget should be decided separate from such issues, and has cast the governor as holding "extreme" anti-union positions that his caucuses cannot support.



Those involved said the group's discussions indicate much more room for movement than what the state has seen so far on its budget impasse. "There is definitely enough to work with for both sides to reach a compromise," said Representative Karen McConnaughay of St. Charles. "That really represents the desire on everybody's part to have movement."

Both sides say the document reflects what both parties could live with moving forward, though neither side considered it ideal. "It's not a take-it-or-leave-it plan. It's here's a possible path forward, we've got to end this," said Senator Heather Steans. "We're destroying our state right now. All of our constituents want us to end this. We're saying: here's what an agreement would look like, you don't like this one, come up with one you do like. This is rank and file saying they need to get to an agreement." Steans and McConnaughay were careful to note their leaders had not signed off on the ideas. "All you're looking at is a menu of ideas that a variety of rank-and-file legislators were discussing. The group got as far as it could in terms of identifying ideas without getting more ideas from their caucuses and their leaders," McConnaughay said.

N A T U R A L H I G H S

Hot chocolate

Being part of a team

Sweet dreams

Swinging on swings

Running through sprinklers

Playing with a new puppy

Having someone play with your hair

Laughing for absolutely no reason at all

Making new friends or spending time with old ones

Waking up and realizing you still have a few hours left to sleep



☉ My neighbor put up his Christmas lights today.

I bet he's upset that I beat him to it. I put mine up three years ago.

☉ The awkward moment when Santa Claus has the same wrapping paper as your parents.

☉ When you stop believing in Santa Claus is when you start getting clothes for Christmas.

☉ Christmas isn't about how big the tree is, or what's under it. It's about who's around it.



SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Breedlove	Mary Lou	6427 S Cheyenne DR	Bartonville	IL	61607-9269	697-3158	Renewal
Crothers	Doris	1621 Holland CT	Chillicothe	IL	61523-1379	274-2782	New member
dac116@mchsi.com							
Livingston	Ruth	6016 N Knoxville AVE, #203	Peoria	IL	61614-3551	Email & APT # change	
ruth.g.livingston@gmail.com							
Meis	Sharon	113 Siesta DR	Washington	IL	61571-2938	694-6176	New member
sharonmeis@att.net							
Pierce	Susie	1152 N Upper Skyline E4	East Peoria	IL	61611-1294	698-0817	New member
davesusie@yahoo.com							

Jack Clinton	Deceased: Sunday, November 15, 2015
George Gibons	Deceased: Saturday, January 31, 2015
Palma Lee Pittman	Deceased: Friday, November 6, 2015
Phyllis Russell	Deceased: Tuesday, November 10, 2015

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

H A P P I N E S S I S A C H O I C E

The 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud lady, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coifed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy. "Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room, just wait." "That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied.



"Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged, it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away, just for this time in my life." She went on to explain, "Old age is like a bank account, you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. Thank you for your part in filling My Memory Bank. I am still depositing."



And with a smile, she said: "Remember the five simple rules to be happy":

Free Your Heart from Hatred	Free Your Mind from Worries	Live Simply	Give More	Expect Less
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Source: <http://www.fullerbrushdwt.com/moments.htm>

SOUNDINGS

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)

TRS Benefits Report Now Available

The 2014-2015 TRS Benefits Report is now available for active and inactive members through the secure Member Account Access area of the TRS website. The report summarizes your TRS account information, including beneficiaries and creditable service time. Annuitants do not receive TRS Benefits Reports. To view your report, sign in to your TRS account in the secure TRS Member Account Access area.

Proof of Birth Now Required

For active and inactive members, TRS requires proof of your birth date to be on file with the System in order to help safeguard your account. Acceptable proof includes a copy of either a birth certificate, a valid driver's license, valid passport or a valid state-issued identification card. For instructions on how to send TRS your proof of birth, go to the secure TRS Member Account Access area.

Source: trs.illinois.gov/

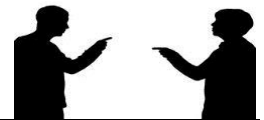
Recent Poll of Registered Illinois Voters

Source: www.capitalnewyork.com/users/natasha-korecki

Who is to blame for the state's financial dysfunction?

35% say the Illinois General Assembly

26% say Governor Rauner



How should Illinois plug its multi-billion dollar shortfall?

66%
Cut state
spending

15%
Raise
taxes

4%
Raise taxes &
cut spending

3%
More
borrowing

1%
Raise taxes
& borrow

Is Illinois heading down the "right track"?

81% - NO

11% - YES



To help close the state budget shortfall, which program/service would you prefer to see cut?

53%
Government Employee
Pensions

22%
Public Assistance
Programs

6%
Medicaid
Funding

3%
Education
Money

If state lawmakers were to increase taxes, what would you want increased?

53%
NO increase

28%
New sales taxes

13%
State income tax

5%
End retirement income tax exemption



Major Theme of the Survey

Illinoisans want cuts in spending and do not want higher taxes.

If they are forced to swallow higher taxes, by a 2 to 1 margin they want an equal amount of cuts to tax hikes.

Estimates have said the state is upward of \$8 billion in the hole as court orders, consent decrees and contracts dictate how the state spends its money.

So when someone asks you, "Where is your Christmas Spirit?"; is it so wrong to point out your liquor cabinet?

