

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

MAY 2015

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR
LUNCHEON MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
May 4 at 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon – \$12.00
Reservations Required

GREETERS

- 🌸 Lillie Foreman
- 🌸 Sonya Durand

PLEDGE

- 🌸 Claudia Ulavege

INVOCATION

- 🌸 Claudia Ulavege

LUNCHEON

Baked Chicken
Potato
Vegetable
Salads / Roll
Assorted Desserts

PROGRAM

*Evolutions in
High School Sports*
Kirk Wessler
*Peoria Journal Star
Sports Editor/Columnist*

MEETING

Dave Barnwell, Chair
PARTA President

*Members who are unable
to attend the luncheon,
are always welcome
to attend the meeting.*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings: Our May meeting promises to have an informative and interesting program. Kirk Wessler, Sports Editor of the Journal Star, will be our speaker. I can assure you that his presentation will be both informative and enjoyable.



A big "thank you" to our members who participated in the fund raising for our I.C.C. Scholarship program. Because of your efforts, PARTA will be able to offer, not one, but TWO \$1000 scholarships next year.

Once again, I would encourage you to invite a fellow retired educator to our May or June meetings. There is strength in numbers and, although there is no new news out of Springfield, the support of PARTA and the IRTA is vital in maintaining your retirement benefits.

Enjoy Spring!

Dave Barnwell - PARTA President

UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS

JUNE 1, 2015

"Best Practices" in Nursing Home Care

Dave Weiman

Pioneer Coordinator - LTCOP Region 4



NO MEETINGS in JULY or AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

"Alp Horns"

Al Hedeman and Company



Association Member Benefits Advisors

Larry Newman, AMBA Representative

*IRTA has partnered with Association Member
Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to make member only
benefits available exclusively to IRTA members!*



BE INFORMED

BE INVOLVED

Do what you CAN
With what you HAVE
Where you ARE.

~Theodore Roosevelt

SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2015

Frances Farraher gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 111 members present.

After the luncheon, Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone. Carl Cannon, founder of ELITE, and James Chiola, from the Peoria Police Department, spoke about giving students hope, changing attitudes before they start in gangs, and the need for positive activities as alternatives. Education is the answer, and Heddy Elliot-Gardner spoke on adult education. Rich Frankenfeld, from TRS, gave an update on the Teachers' Retirement System. He also advised us to check our member account online to be sure that the beneficiary listed is the one we want.

Dave opened the business meeting.

- The minutes in the Soundings were approved as written.
- The Treasurer's Report was on the tables and will be filed for audit.
- John Rathbun said two new members joined today. If you haven't paid your 2015 dues, you can



do so now.

- Terry Knapp reported that the Scholarship Fund surpassed \$2,000 today. His son Nick matched a \$500 gift, so the fund is at \$2,335. Terry proposed to give \$100 to Heddy Elliot-Gardner's organization and \$100 to Carl Cannon's organization from the extra amount.
- Eric Johnson reported the investments are doing well, and \$3,000 was transferred for operating expenses.
- Frances Farraher reported the passing of three members.
- May 21 is the Area 4 IRTA meeting in Springfield. See Dave Barnwell if you would like to attend.
- We still need a historian. Helen Dunn will help the new person get acquainted with the job.
- Last year PARTA participated in a retirees' celebration at Wildlife Prairie Park. This year we will not. The Regional High School, housed at Wildlife, has had 92 graduates in four years. A fundraiser for this school will be held on April 23 at Barrack's. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

-

Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary

PARTA Board Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2015

Present: Maxine Blane, Linda Sedgwick, Frances Farraher, Ann Winget, John Rathbun, Roger Hampton, Jeff Vallosio, Laveine Birditt, Dave Barnwell, Terry Knapp, Nancy Wing, Peggy Shane, Nancy Miller, and Eric Johnson.

Nancy Wing discussed the problems of reservations that are made and then the people don't come. Thus meals are prepared by Cater Inn but are not eaten. PARTA Policy states that if you make a reservation and do not attend, you must still pay for the lunch. That policy has not been enforced. The board decided that Nancy has the discretion of asking those who repeatedly do this to honor their commitment by paying for their meal. The treasurer's report was accepted and filed for audit.

The April meeting program is Carl Cannon and his Elite program. Rich Frankenfeld will also present information from TRS. The IRTA Area 4 Conference will be held in Springfield on May 21, 2015. Roger is encouraging a good attendance and especially would like to see



new members attend this meeting where a variety of speakers will inform the attendees of IRTA and TRS activities.

The PARTA Scholarship fund at ICC received \$915 during March. Donations may still be made by contacting Terry Knapp for information.

A motion was made by John Rathbun that PARTA donate \$500 to the IRTA Legal Defense Fund. After much discussion, the matter was tabled until the Budget Committee looks into this.

There is still a need for someone to be the Historian for PARTA.

Laveine discussed ways she might get more publicity for PARTA meetings.

Roger reminded us that the state will no longer have the website on which the Soundings have been published online. Roger is pursuing the use of another free website.

The IRTA Convention is scheduled for October. Shirley Horwedel will be the honoree from PARTA. The next board meeting will be August 18, 2015. The time and place will be announced.

Respectfully submitted

-

Maxine Blane, Secretary Pro Tem



Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches!



SOUNDINGS



Thank You **Susan Leighty**
New PARTA History and Archives Committee Chair



When NOT to Take the Senior Discount

Everyone likes a good deal, but there are times when opting out of a discount is the smarter choice. The discounts are one of the great perks of reaching retirement age. Seniors are often entitled to reduced rates on everything from airfare, cell phone plans, and car rentals to movie tickets, hotels rooms, and restaurant meals. Most of the time, taking advantage of these deals is worth it. However, Art Koff, author of *Invent Your Retirement* and founder of RetiredBrains.com, cautions that special prices should be reviewed carefully to ensure they really offer the bargains promised. Some do come with strings attached, such as restrictions on the times or days they can be used. Unfortunately, seniors can also be the targets of scams that use discounts as a lure. Next time you're tempted to take a deal, look out for these warning signs to be sure it's truly worth your while.



Restrictions: Take the discount if you are entitled to it, but realize that you are probably going to be inconvenienced a bit. Travel discounts, for example, often come with restrictions. Depending on the airline, those could include only offering the senior discount on certain routes or having blackout travel dates. The other hassle: these senior rates are typically not offered online, so you'll have to call the airline directly to take advantage of them.



Medications: Prescription drugs are expensive, which is why many seniors are tempted to buy discounted medications online from unreliable sources. But this is a case where the savings are not worth the risk. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns that some medicines sold online are fake, too strong or weak, have dangerous ingredients, or aren't FDA approved—and all of these differences can be dangerous to your health.



Personal Information: Sellers could get information that could leave you susceptible to fraud or theft, such as your Social Security number or bank account information. When a consumer is asked for personal information from a company, they should first ask themselves why the company needs that information, then they should make sure the company in question is highly reputable.



Too Good to be True: The old adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," applies when it comes to discounts. Use special caution when purchasing services that offer rock-bottom prices. The home security market is a good example of this. You might be offered an unbelievable deal to have a system installed in your home, only to discover after the fact that the company provides questionable customer service when a call for help is received. Over-the-top moving deals are another one to be wary of, as rogue movers may offer super-cheap prices upfront and then hold your possessions hostage while demanding additional payments. The best way to avoid these discount scams is to do your homework before committing to a service. Get price quotes from a few reputable companies and if the discount seems impossibly good, avoid it.



Source: www.athenesmartstrategies.com/foryourfinances/when-not-to-take-the-senior-discount/

Treasurer's Summary Report	
Investment Balance	\$41,378.23
Savings Balance	932.80
Checking Balance	4,502.48
Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00
Post Office Bulk Mail Fund (\$107.49 for booklets this month)	297.92
Post Office Returned Mail Fund (.57 this month)	99.43
Grand Total	\$47,310.86

If things get better with age

 then we must be getting close to
MAGNIFICENT!

SOUNDINGS

Rauner Questions the Need for 850-plus School Districts in Illinois

Governor Bruce Rauner said that it's a "travesty" for Illinois to be "dead last" in general funding for its schools and promised to send more money to classrooms. He told about 600 members of the Education Writers Association at



their annual conference that he is "personally committed" to increasing financial support for his state's schools, which lost millions of dollars during the financial crisis. Earlier this year, he proposed a budget that included a \$300 million increase for K-12 schools next year while calling for cuts elsewhere, including roughly \$400 million from higher education. Rauner suggested that cost saving could be found in the layers of bureaucracy within the state's 850-plus school districts, some of which are just a single school. "The money should be in the classroom with the teachers, with technology, with the infrastructure and with the students. Not in the bureaucracy," he said. "We have a lot of layers that consume the money."

The topic of school district consolidation has been a recurring one in Illinois. Decades ago, Illinois went from 12,000 school districts to roughly the current setup. But separate elementary school districts and high

school districts remain throughout the state, including the Metro East. Beth Purvis, Rauner's adviser on education, said this results in misdirected funds. "When you look at all those levels of government and the money that it is taking away from the classroom — if we could get that money into the hands of principals and into the hands of teachers, that's a much more effective and efficient manner." Rauner added, "The money should be in the classroom ... not in the bureaucracy." Rauner's remarks come at a tumultuous time for Illinois schools, many of which continue to operate in the red. "We've got to bring it back," Rauner said. "We've got to invest so that every child sees a future."

Source: m.stltoday.com/news/local/education/

AS THE OLD ADAGE GOES

It is important to make the time for breakfast. However, when researchers from the USDA surveyed Americans what they eat for breakfast, about 20% admitted to skipping the meal altogether.



time for a healthy meal, you're doing your body and mind good. You will be more productive all day long if you just invest a few minutes in eating a healthy breakfast.

Skimping on breakfast can make your head foggy all day and even make you crave sugary calories later on.

However, if you do make

But that does not mean slurping down a big bowl of sugary cereal or throwing a few microwavable sausages in the microwave. There are ways to save time in the morning while still getting to enjoy a delicious breakfast that's easy to make and good for you, too.

Source: www.imakenews.com/crowleyvw/e_article003120061.cfm?x=bpcmyQ8,bkLcy8p7

Breakfast Ideas: healthyeating.sfgate.com/foods-should-seniors-eat-breakfast-3252.html

Breakfast Really Is the Most Important Meal of the Day

If all is not lost, where is it?
A closed mouth gathers no feet.
Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
I started out with nothing. I still have most of it.



I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.
The first rule of holes: If you are in one, stop digging.
When did my wild oats turn to prunes and All Bran?
I wish the buck stopped here. I could use a few!

SOUNDINGS

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association would like to thank State Senator Terry Link (30th district – Northern Illinois) for his passage of Senate Bill 1583, a measure supported by the IRTA that would allow members of TRS to opt back into TRIP if they had previously opted out of the health care option.

Current bill status online at:

ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1583&GAID=13&GA=99&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=88277&SessionID=88

I R T A P o l i t i c a l A c t i o n C o m m i t t e e

The IRTA PAC Board met last week. At Jim Bachman's suggestion I made a motion that we no longer limit our PAC monies to candidates that voted "No" on SB1. The motion passed.

The issues this year are more towards TRIP funding. The governor's budget contains no funding for TRIP. Currently TRIP funding is a continuing appropriation, so the money is automatically put in. Our fear is that a bill will surface that changes this and could result in reduced, or no, funding for TRIP. We have no reason to be alarmed at this time, but we always need to plan for the worst. Jim Bachman and Mary Shaw should be attending fundraisers for any legislator that we can get to side with us on TRIP funding.

As of today we are counting on funding for TRIP. We are aware of the governor's budget and are working with the House and Senate to ensure that TRIP funding is included in next year's budget.

John Flaherty, IRTA Legislative Committee Chair

Daughter to Dad ... TEXTING Communication in Today's Generation

Daddy, I am coming home to get married soon. Get out your check book. LOL I'm in love with a boy who is far away from me. I am in Australia, and he lives in Scotland. We met on a dating website, *Match.com*, became friends on *Facebook*, had long chats on *Whatsapp*, he proposed to me on *Skype*, and now we've had two months of relationship through *Viber*. My beloved and favorite Dad, "I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding." Lots of love and thanks. Your favorite daughter, Lilly.



Dads reply ...
also by texting:

My Dear Lilly:
Like Wow! Really?
Cool! Whatever.....!
I suggest you two get married on *Twitter*, have fun on *Tango*, buy your kids on *Amazon*, and pay for it all through *Paypal*. Then, when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on *Ebay*.
L.O.L. (Lots Of Love), Daddy.

Almost 9 out of 10 people age 60 and older take at least one prescription medication, 37% use 5 or more.

Source: www.imshhealth.com

Annual amount spent on medications in US was \$329.3 billion (2013).
New generics reduced spending on medicines by \$28.9 billion (2012).
95% of all prescriptions are dispensed using a generic drug (2013).
Top 5 therapy area (2013): Oncology - \$27.9b; Antidiabetes - \$24.3b;
Mental health - \$23.8b; Respiratory agents - \$20.4b; Pain - \$18.7b



SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Farkash	Sandy	7615 N Edgewild DR	Peoria	IL	61614-2118		New member	
		sdfarkash@hotmail.com						
Meisinger	John	1425 W Queens Court RD	Peoria	IL	61614-1703	692.1309	New member	
Merriman	Deanna	5203 Rutledge AVE	Bartonville	IL	61607-2604	648.4482	New member	
		rebel2002124@yahoo.com						
Thomas	Linda	2611 W Windflower CT	Peoria	IL	61615		New member	
		lindathomas128@gmail.com						
Matarelli	Mary Kay	gpaw37@gmail.com				657.2300	New information	
Reel	Lorraine E.	7343 E Sierra Morena CIR	Mesa	AZ	85207-1834		New address	
Swanson	Bonnie	ybj89@gmail.com						Email added
Hattenhaus	Joyce C.	Deceased: Monday, March 30, 2015						

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

TRS Active Member Trustee Election on May 1, 2015

For the first time since 2001, an election will be held to fill seats on the TRS Board of Trustees. Active TRS members will vote during April to select two trustees from four candidates. Ballots will be counted on May 1 and the two trustees will assume their duties on July 15, 2015.

NOTE: Retired TRS members are not eligible to vote in this election.

Eligible voters are active members listed in payroll records filed with TRS as of March 1, 2015. The two seats to be filled this spring must, by law, be elected by active members.

The candidates vying for the two seats are: Bradley D. Cauffman, Hilde I. Elg, Andrew J. Hirshman and Cinda J. Klickna. Under state law, six members of the 13-member Board are elected by members – four by active members and two by annuitants. The trustees serve staggered four-year terms. Six members are appointed by the governor to serve staggered four-year terms. The 13th member, the president of the Board, is the state superintendent of schools.

Never Use the Cruise Control When the Road is Wet or ICY

Do not engage your vehicle's cruise control on slippery or wet roads. Snow, ice, slush, or even rain can cause wheel-spin and loss of control, situations to which drivers must react quickly.

Although cruise control can generally be cut off by the driver's simply tapping the brake pedal, the extra reaction time required for a motorist relying upon cruise control to recognize the danger of the situation when his wheels begins to spin or slide on a slippery surface, bring his foot up off the floor to the brake pedal, and disengage the cruise control can be crucial.



Source: www.snopes.com

DRIVING

TIP

Tech Support OK Bob, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter 'P' to bring up the Program Manager. **Customer** I don't have a 'P'.

Tech Support On your keyboard, Bob. **Customer** What do you mean?

Tech Support 'P' on your keyboard, Bob. **Customer** I'm not going to do that!

SOUNDINGS

Turnaround Illinois PAC Will Let Rauner Reward Friends, Punish Enemies



Rich Miller, *Reboot Illinois* - Apr 19, 2015

Governor Bruce Rauner devised a new way to reward his friends and punish his enemies on April 16th when he created a campaign committee called *Turnaround Illinois*. Turnaround Illinois is an independent expenditure committee; meaning contributions to it and by it are not capped by law. The committee's official purpose is to "support state legislative candidates who support Rauner's bold and needed reforms, and to oppose those who stand in the way." According to Rauner insiders, the new committee will be given \$4-5 million within days of its founding. That's in addition to the \$20 million the governor has in his own personal campaign account, which won't be touched for this particular effort. Spending on advertising is expected to begin soon after the money comes in.

The governor's campaign also released a polling memo which purports to show that the public backs his agenda. While his job approval rating is just 38%, his disapproval rating is five points below at 33% and his favorable rating is 42%, versus 34 who view him unfavorably.

By contrast, the General Assembly's job approval rating is a mere 20%, with 57% disapproving. House Speaker Michael Madigan's favorables are just 24%, with 51% viewing him unfavorably.

The poll also found that 57% agree with: "Rauner is trying to shake things up in Springfield, but the career politicians are standing in his way," and 56% agree that the governor is "working to find bipartisan solutions that will help fix Illinois's budget mess and improve the struggling state's economy."

The "austere budget" is being talked up by Rauner insiders as a way of forcing Democrats to cave on things like local "right to work" zones. They firmly believe that if they refuse to back any additional revenues for next fiscal year, Democrats will eventually have to recognize reality and give the governor what he wants.



The issue questions are clearly loaded. For instance, check out part of the "right to work" question: "Under current Illinois law, workers are often required to join a labor union and pay union dues as a condition of their employment. In other words, the worker cannot take a job unless he or she joins the union."

Not mentioned is that Rauner wants to allow employees who receive all the benefits of union membership to not have to pay for those valuable union services. It's like passing a law that lets newspaper advertisers off the hook for paying for their ads.



But when you essentially have unlimited resources and the other side doesn't, as is the case with Rauner versus the Democrats, you can frame an advocacy campaign pretty much any way you want. We've entered an entirely new world, campers.

Source: www.inc.com/kevin-daum/18-inspirational-quotes-for-spring.html

The mother is the one supreme asset of national life; she is more important by far than the successful statesman, or business man, or artist, or scientist. ~ Theodore Roosevelt

SOUNDINGS

NEW STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TONY SMITH

The State Board of Education appointed a new State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tony Smith.

As a result, he also becomes the new president of the TRS Board of Trustees.

For more information, go to the ISBE web site: www.isbe.net/news/2015/apr15.htm



The state is adjusting to new state standardized tests, with some students opting out of taking them. The Illinois State Board of Education named a new superintendent, Tony Smith, who most recently led the Oakland School District in California. Smith replaces Chris Koch, who served as superintendent for nine years. Rauner told the Chicago Tribune recently that Koch was not “transformational” enough. Rauner said he wants vocational training to return to high schools, which lost many of their programs in the 1980s.

A key member of the Illinois State Board of Education has formally resigned over concerns about the way new state Superintendent Tony Smith was hired. The Chicago Tribune reported that resigning board member James Baumann said there was no national search and only one candidate for the state's top schools position. Smith is the former head of Oakland, California, schools and has ties to Governor Bruce Rauner. He also was Rauner's recommendation to the board. The Republican governor recently appointed five new board members to the nine-person board. At least two previous state superintendents were hired after a national search, including current state Superintendent Christopher Koch.

Source: www.sj-r.com/article/20150419/NEWS/150419472/10511/NEWS

FREE THINGS TO DO in the PEORIA AREA in MAY



Brown Bag-It: Peoria Court House Plaza
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Every Monday and Wednesday



51st Annual Rennick Juried Art Show
Monday – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Main Peoria Public Library – LL Gallery



Relax Under the Stars
May 6: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Peoria Riverfront Museum Planetarium



National Public Garden Day
May 8: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Luthy Botanical Garden



Civil War Days: Bishop Hill, IL
Living history / various programs
May 9: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.



Senior Mornings
May 13: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Peoria Riverfront Museum

TRS Retreat and Board Meeting Observation Report: March 30-31, 2015

Submitted by Dr. Don Davis, IRTA Committee for TRS Observation

Online at: irtaonline.org/documents/TRSRetreatReport-March2015.pdf

EXCELLENCE in EDUCATION GRANTS for TEACHERS in AREA 4



The IRTA Foundation continues to work toward the future by offering \$15,000 in grant money to educators. Applications are available online at: irtaonline.org/documents/FormforGrantProposal2015.doc Proposals must be postmarked by September 4, 2015. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money in October 2015. Recipients will be notified shortly after this time.

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.

