

# PARTA SOUNDINGS

**APRIL 2015**

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

## LUNCHEON MEETING

**APRIL 6**

**Barracks Cater Inn**

**11:30 A M**

**Luncheon – \$12.00**

You **MUST HAVE** and **PAY FOR**  
your reservation **PLEASE!**

## GREETERS

 Frances Farraher

 Eldon Petzing

## PLEDGE

 Frances Farraher

## INVOCATION

 Frances Farraher

## LUNCHEON

Honey Glazed Ham  
Potato/Vegetable  
Assorted Salads  
Dessert

## PROGRAM

Gang Alternative /  
Prevention Programs

Carl Cannon  
*ELITE Founder*

James Chiola  
*Peoria Police Department*

## MEETING

Dave Barnwell  
*PARTA President, Chair*



Meetings begin  
around 12:20 P.M.

## Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

### P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Greetings! We certainly live in interesting times. From Washington, D.C., to Springfield, to the classrooms of the Peoria area, there is a lot going on to attract our attention.

Along those lines, here's the lineup for our April meeting. Carl Cannon and James Chiola will present a new initiative focusing on student achievement and keeping students out of gangs. Rich Frankenfeld, TRS Director of Outreach, will give us the latest "scoop" coming out of Springfield.



As a follow up to last month's excellent program on our scholarship at I.C.C., don't forget our organization is trying to increase scholarship opportunities. Your donations will help us increase assistance to future teachers enrolled at I.C.C.

*Dave Barnwell, PARTA President*

## SPRING PARTA MEETINGS

### May 4: Sports Stories

*Kirk Wessler*

*Peoria Journal Star Sports Editor/Columnist*



### June 8: "Best Practices" in Nursing Home Care

*Dave Weiman*

*Pioneer Coordinator - LTCOP Region 4*



Donations to the PARTA Scholarship  
at ICC will be collected today.  
Forms are available from  
Terry Knapp.  
Your donation is tax deductible.



## NEEDED IMMEDIATELY – PARTA HISTORIAN

*We must keep an ongoing record of PARTA's history.*

**We NEED a volunteer TODAY! Please!**

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA Luncheon Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2015

Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone. He thanked Roger Hampton and John Rathbun for working hard on the new directory, which could be picked up today or at the April Luncheon meeting. Dave then gave the Invocation and led the Pledge. Given the poor weekend weather, there was still a good attendance with 83 members present.

After the luncheon, Roger said that if you see errors in the directory, there is a form to fill out for changes or additions. Dave thanked Terry Knapp and Sharon Crews for their work with the Scholarship committee. Terry then introduced the speaker, Stephanie Holmes, the interim executive director of the ICC Educational Foundation. Stephanie gave an interesting and informative talk about ICC, our scholarship for future teachers, and opportunities for us to help the students. She thanked PARTA for providing scholarships and helping seventeen future teachers so far. This year for the first time we gave a \$1,000 scholarship, and our goal is to offer a second one each year. Individually, we can give monetarily, mentor, or serve on the alumni association or the scholarship selection committee.

Dave recognized the new PARTA members and also school board candidates that were in attendance. Two members from the Peoria Area Retired Administrators Association gave a presentation concerning District 150's declining test scores.

The business meeting was opened.

• Roger stated that if you have a problem with prescriptions, call United Health Care. He encouraged everyone to keep an eye on what the governor is

doing and to sign up for IRTA voterVoice.

• The PARTA minutes published in the Soundings were approved as written.

• The Treasurer's Report was on the tables and will be filed for audit.

• Maxine Blane reported on a change in the by-laws. We used to introduce the slate of new officers in September, but it is recommended by the board to change that to October. The election will still be in November, and the installation in December. It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation. The motion carried.

• Maxine next said the board recommended eliminating the third sentence of #18 in the Policies section of the by-laws. It was moved and seconded to approve the recommendation. The motion passed.

• Maxine will finish the term as IRTA Region 10 director.

• Jon Rathbun said he is still collecting 2015 dues.

• Frances Farragher sent cards to 2 members who were ill.

• Eric Johnson said our investment balance is up about \$1,150.

• Helen Dunn has resigned as PARTA Historian and we need a volunteer for this position. She will help the new person get acquainted with the job.

• In April, our program will include Carl Cannon and a Peoria officer speaking on gang alternative/prevention programs.

• Rick Frankenfeld, TRS Director of Outreach will also give us an update on the pensions.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.



*Respectfully Submitted*

*Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary*

### April Treasurer Report Summary

Investment Balance:	\$40,959.62	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund:	\$405.41
Savings Balance:	\$932.69	Post Office Returned Mail Fund:	\$100.00
Checking Balance:	\$3,890.48	Grand Total:	\$46,388.20
Working Cash (cash boxes):	\$100.00		

**Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer**

**DUES  
REMINDER**

If you pay annually, please remember to pay your 2015 dues today. Another option is to become a life member for \$75.00.

# SOUNDINGS

## Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on SB 1

The Illinois Supreme Court heard oral arguments today concerning the constitutionality of Senate Bill 1. Both sides had 20 minutes to argue their case in front of the court. Gino DiVito, a partner at Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC, was the lead lawyer arguing the merits of the case on behalf of IRTA members. "Our lawsuit alleges the constitution prohibits reducing any benefits that were promised to our retirees when they started in the Teachers' Retirement System," said Bob Pinkerton, President of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. "The attorney general is arguing that Illinois can institute emergency police powers, allowing the general assembly and governor to decide when they can undercut the protections listed in the pension clause of the constitution." Senate Bill 1 would cut a retiree's cost-of-living adjustments, increase the retirement age of current employees and make cuts to the pensions of working and retired members of TRS.



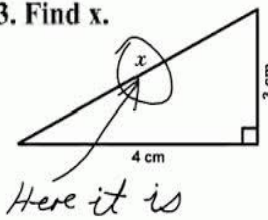
Lawmakers and Governor Pat Quinn approved a law in December 2013 overhauling the operation of Illinois' pension systems. Decades of underfunding equates to a nearly \$100 billion shortfall to cover the benefits that were promised to retirees. The Court could take several months to issue a ruling on the case they heard today. It took the court nearly 10 months to overturn a similar case concerning the state's attempt to force retirees to pay a portion of their pensions toward their health insurance costs. Unfortunately, there is no way to tell if the court will make a decision in the pension case any faster because of its earlier ruling on the health insurance case. The Illinois Retired Teachers Association works on behalf of its 36,000 members to maintain and improve benefits for annuitants of the Teachers' Retirement System; promote education and the professional, social and economic status of all members; and work in cooperation with other organizations to obtain these goals.

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A LOL point was made during the oral arguments by State University Annuity Association attorney Aaron Maduff, who charged the state with using the Lizzie Borden defense: "I killed my parents. Have mercy on me. I'm an orphan." *Source: ctbaonline.org*

## STUDENTS Give Their ANSWERS

3. Find  $x$ .



Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper which was very dangerous for all of his men.

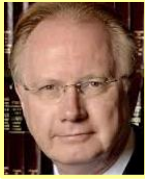
Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." As a queen she was a success. When she exposed herself before the troops, they all shouted "hurrah!" and that was the end of the fighting for a long while."

Criticism wouldn't be so hard to take if it weren't so often right!

# SOUNDINGS

## Illinois Justices Press State's Lawyer on [Breaking a Constitutional Contract]

Illinois Supreme Court justices asked the state's lawyer to explain Wednesday how the government can seek extraordinary power to reduce public pension benefits in the face of a fiscal crisis when the government itself is culpable for the financial mess.



Justice Thomas peppered solicitor general Carolyn Shapiro during oral arguments over the constitutionality of a 2013 law that cuts retirement benefits in a 30-year plan to slay a \$111 billion deficit. State employees and retirees challenged it, arguing that the state constitution prohibits action to 'impair or diminish' the benefits of the contractual pension agreement.

The state counters that it can resort to 'police powers' to trump the constitution in moments of economic peril. The peril, they say, can largely be traced to the recession of 2008, which battered the value of the pensions' portfolios and caused other problems.

But until questioned about it, Shapiro didn't mention that for decades, governors and legislators have given short-shrift to annual contribution obligations — including as recently as 10 years ago, well after the crisis was widely recognized, by skipping \$2.3 billion in payments.

'If the court holds that the state can invoke its police powers to violate core constitutional guarantees to respond to an emergency that at least arguably the state itself created, then aren't we giving the state the power to modify its contractual obligations whenever it wants?' Thomas asked Shapiro. 'For instance, the state could simply fail to fund the pension systems and then claim an emergency.'

Shapiro repeatedly emphasized the narrow conditions under which the government may assume such control — when it needs to 'address an important public purpose,' she said. As to the specifics of what that purpose may be, she said that should be argued in Sangamon County Circuit Court, where a judge invalidated the law last fall without hearing arguments about the merits. If the high court upholds the law, it returns to the county judge...

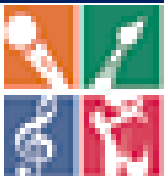


Those challenging the law — teachers, state employees, retirees, and workers' unions — are adamant that the constitution's take on pensions is clear. The groups' attorney, Gino DiVito, told the court that when voters went to the polls in 1970 to approve the charter, the voter's guide said of the clause, 'This section is new and self-explanatory.'

'This is a case about a constitutional provision, one that is explicit, clear and unambiguous and it is subject to no stated exception,' DiVito said. 'The state has not cited a single case where the reserve sovereign powers, the police powers, have been held to override a constitutional provision, and that's because there is no such case...'

Source: [teacherpoetmusicianbrown.blogspot.com/2015/03/illinois-justices-press-states-lawyer.html](http://teacherpoetmusicianbrown.blogspot.com/2015/03/illinois-justices-press-states-lawyer.html)

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Gerald M. Brookhart Arts in Education Spring Celebration



Peoria County Courthouse Plaza 10,000 Students - 100 Schools - 7 Counties  
Weekdays, April 2 - May 22, 2015 11:00 A. M. - 1:30 P. M.

For complete schedules and information, go to: [www.springcelebration.org](http://www.springcelebration.org)

Consider being a "SPONSOR-FOR-A-DAY" for \$135. Call: 672.6906

# SOUNDINGS

## 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly **BILLS THAT IRTA OPPOSES**

<b>HB 0429</b>	Beginning July 1, 2015 state university and downstate teacher pension system must change the way it calculates how much goes into the pension system, currently 6% would change to differences based on salary and the consumer price index.
<b>HB 1334</b>	A retiree who becomes employed in a similar position within the same agency in a position in which he or she is eligible to accrue service credit or creditable service shall in the month immediately after commencing that employment, have the amount of his or her monthly retirement offset by the amount of compensation these and provisions do not apply to the first \$2,000 per month of retirement annuity payments.
<b>SB 1221</b>	Changes the employee contribution threshold increases from 6% to an amount based on the consumer price index for those in the downstate teachers' pension exempts those under current bargaining agreement.

## 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly **BILLS THAT IRTA SUPPORTS**

<b>HB 0254</b>	If the supreme court finds PA 98-599 (pension theft bill) unconstitutional then the funding formula changes for the 5 systems and the judges go from 90% to 100% - so they are 100% funded by 2045.
<b>HB 0489</b>	Under TRS, extending the end date under the provision concerning teaching in subject shortage areas from June 30, 2013 to no later than June 30, 2019 and any benefit increase resulting from this act is excluded under the definition of new benefit increases.
<b>HR 0044</b>	House Personnel and Pensions Committee urges the members of Illinois House of Representatives to give further consideration to allowing Medicare eligible members who participate in a State health insurance plan to remain in a Quality Care Health Plan rather than automatically being enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and urges the Department of Central Management Services to continue to work with members to aid in the best possible transition to a new health insurance plan as long as such a change is required.
<b>SB 1583</b>	Senate State Government and Veterans Affairs allow members of Teachers Retirement System to opt back in to TRIP.

Other 2015 legislative bills to watch are: HB 2808 - HB 3177 - HB 3206 - HB 3424 - HB 3828 - HB 4139  
Information about each of these bills can be found online at: [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org)



Peoria Public Library is participating in the eRead Illinois Program, designed to increase access to eBooks across Illinois. Axis 360 is a digital media platform, providing libraries and their patrons with a state-of-the-art system for circulating digital eBooks from the eRead Illinois shared collection for Illinois libraries. Patrons at libraries participating in eRead Illinois will be able to access cloud-based delivery across a number of devices including iPad, iPhone, Android, Windows, NOOK<sup>®</sup> and Sony Reader<sup>™</sup> devices, and many more. At this time selection is limited to e-books, watch for audiobooks in the future.

**eReader Training – Main Library** Have a smartphone, tablet, or eReader but need some help learning how to download eBooks from the library? Free one-on-one help is available. Call Cindy Wright at 309.497.2000 to schedule a time.

*Instead of cleaning house,  
I just watch an episode of "Hoarders" and think,  
WOW, my house looks great!*



# SOUNDINGS

## PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Johnson-Daniels	Jessie P.	4717 N Montello DR	Peoria	IL	61614	691.8236	Directory Correction
Gordon	Gail	gandsgordon69@comcast.net					New email
Larke	Doris	dorislarke31@gmail.com					New email
Walther	Daniel	dnny9743@yahoo.com					Email added
Carlton	Gwendolyn	Deceased: February 11, 2015					
Pierce	Marion	Deceased: March 14, 2015					

**DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN**

**PARTA Luncheon Meeting – Monday, April 6, 2015**

**LAST DAY to Pick Up Your New Directory!**

Directories that are not picked up will be mailed later in April.



**If your information in the new PARTA Directory is incorrect,  
PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RATHBUN  
so that the PARTA database can be kept current.**

**PHONE: 309.745.8375 - EMAIL: genrebun@aol.com**

**DRIVING**

### Wear Polarized Sunglasses When Driving in Rain during the Day



Wearing polarized sunglasses when driving in the rain during the day will help a driver see better. Polarized sunglasses work to block horizontal components of scattered or reflected light, which means they help counteract the scattering of light that atmospheric effects like fog or rain have on daylight. Notice however that this ability is limited to polarized sunglasses.

*Source: www.snopes.com*

**TIPS**

### One day in heaven, the Lord decided He would visit the earth and take a stroll.

Walking down the road, He encountered a man who was crying. The Lord asked the man, "Why are you crying, my son?" The man said that he was blind and had never seen a sunset. The Lord touched the man who could then see and was happy.

As the Lord walked further, He met another man crying and asked, "Why are you crying, my son?" The man was born a cripple and was never able to walk. The Lord touched him and he could walk and he was happy.

Farther down the road, the Lord met another man who was crying and asked, "Why are you crying, my son?" The man said, "Lord, I work for the public school system." And the Lord sat down and cried with him.



*When I was young, I was scared of the dark.  
Now when I see my electricity bill, I am scared of the lights!*



# SOUNDINGS

## CURRENT PARTA MEMBERS SERVING IRTA

### Sally Weber

Sally's nomination to serve on the Information Service Committee was confirmed by the IRTA board on March 26, 2015. Sally will be representing IRTA Area 4 on this committee.

### Maxine Blane

Maxine agreed to assume the position of IRTA Region 10 Director for the remainder of 2015. The previous director had to resign due to health issues. Maxine previously served in this capacity.

### Roger Hampton

Roger is finishing his 4-year term as the IRTA Area 4 Representative. Elections for the 2016-2020 term will be held at the IRTA convention in Springfield on October 26-27, 2015.

**THANK YOU to ALL PARTA MEMBERS who volunteer and assist both PARTA and IRTA in making each a vital and better organization.**

## IRTA AREA 4 CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015

8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Northfield Inn Conference Center – Springfield, IL

Let Dave Barnwell know if you can attend ASAP. It is a great day to learn all about IRTA.

Lunch will be provided and PARTA will pay the cost of registration.

Call Roger Hampton, 309.360.6190 if you have any questions.

## You Know You're Over-the-Hill When...

- Instead of walking over and changing the TV channel, you spend 15 minutes looking for the remote.
- You light the candles on your birthday cake and a group of campers form a circle and sing Kumbaya.
- You find yourself beginning to like accordion music.
- You tune into the easy listening station...on purpose.
- Your new easy chair has more options than your car.
- At parties you attend, "regularity" is considered the topic of choice.
- One of the throw pillows on your bed is a hot water bottle.
- Conversations with people your own age often turn into "dueling ailments."
- You come to the conclusion that your worst enemy is gravity.
- You find your mouth making promises your body can't keep.



## Classified Ads Found in Newspapers

### FREE PUPPIES

- | 1/2 Cocker Spaniel
- | 1/2 sneaky neighbor's dog

### COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED

- | Also, 1 gay bull for sale.

### JOINING NUDIST COLONY!

- | Must sell washer and dryer.

### WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE

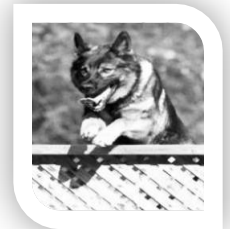
- | Worn once by mistake!

### FREE PUPPIES

- | Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.
- | Father is a Super Dog!
- | Able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

### FOR SALE BY OWNER

- | Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica.
- | 45 volumes, excellent condition, best offer.
- | No longer needed! Got married, wife knows everything.



# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations are **REQUIRED** to be called in to Barracks Cater Inn on the Friday noon preceding the Monday meeting.

Therefore, **YOU MUST CANCEL** your reservation by calling Nancy Wing at (309) 243-9218 **BEFORE THE FRIDAY NOON DEADLINE.**

**REASON:** Barracks Cater Inn prepares for that many meals.

Consequently, if you make a reservation, you are **OBLIGATED** to pay for your reservation. Please bring \$12.00 cash or a check (payable to Cater Inn) to the next PARTA meeting, or mail it to Jeff Vallosio, PARTA treasurer. *(His address is in the new PARTA Directory.)* Special consideration is made for circumstances **BEYOND YOUR CONTROL.** However, you must contact Nancy Wing with that information.

**Your respect and attention to this requirement is greatly appreciated.**



Our Wi-Fi went down for five minutes. So, I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.

The older generation reads a book on how to use the internet. The younger generation googles "how to read a book".

## Children with Their Quick Responses!

TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

STUDENT: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: How do you spell "crocodile"?

STUDENT: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: I'm sorry Joe, that's incorrect.

STUDENT: Maybe it's incorrect, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

STUDENT: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

STUDENT: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

STUDENT: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.



TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Do you know why his father didn't punish him?

STUDENT: Because George still had the axe in his hand!!!

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

STUDENT: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

STUDENT: No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

STUDENT: A teacher!

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

STUDENT: Me

