

# PARTA SOUNDINGS

APRIL 2017

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

## LUNCHEON MEETING

**APRIL 3**  
Barracks Cater Inn  
**11:30 A M**  
Luncheon – \$12.00

## GREETERS

- ☂ Marcia Becker
- ☂ Linda Sedgwick

## PLEDGE

- ☂ Pat Kellogg

## INVOCATION

- ☂ Pat Kellogg

## LUNCHEON

- Baked Ham
- Au gratin Potatoes
- Broccoli Normandy
- Assorted Salads
- Dessert

## PROGRAM

Peoria Public Schools  
District #150  
Dr. Sharon  
Desmoulin Kherat  
**Speaker Cancelled**  
Check Website for Update

## MEETING

**Abby Humbles**  
PARTA President, Chair



Meetings begin  
around 12:20 P.M.

**Roger Hampton**  
Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and Happy Spring! What a lovely mild winter we experienced. Still, this is always such a welcome time of year. Precious flowers peeking through the ground is a hopeful reminder of the promise of Spring.



This month, I hope you will join me in welcoming a wonderful lady and my friend, Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat. Nearly thirty years ago, Sharon and I attended Bradley University at the same time. I could not be more proud of Dr. Kherat's rich background of experiences and success. She is a caring and talented education advocate. We look forward to hearing about the happenings in Peoria Public Schools.

*Abby Humbles, PARTA President*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### MAY 1

**Water Use and Abuse**  
**Dr. Robert Fuessle**  
Professor, Bradley University

### JUNE 5

**Senior Citizens Band**  
**Dave Mathews, Director**



Check website for updates: [pa-rta.weebly.com](http://pa-rta.weebly.com)  
Sally Weber, Webmaster

## Thoughts for April

- ✓ Say something positive, and you'll see something positive. – Jim Thompson
- ✓ Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. – Albert Einstein
- ✓ You are never a loser until you quit trying. – Mike Ditka
- ✓ Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there. – John Wooden
- ✓ I won't get upset at you about a mistake. I'll get upset at you for the next mistake that comes from still thinking about the last mistake. – Doc Rivers

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA Luncheon Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2017

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked today's greeters, Judy Cagle and Sharon Couden. Ann Christopher led the Pledge and gave the Invocation. Attendance today was 82. After the luncheon, Abby introduced Frances Farraher, who arranged for today's speaker. Frances then introduced the speaker, Pastor Bob Phillips, a retired U.S. Navy Chaplain. He gave an interesting and informative talk about his experiences.



Abby called the business meeting to order.

- The minutes were in the *Soundings*. They were approved as printed.
- Copies of the Treasurer's Report were on the tables and summarized in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit. Jeff Vallosio said he sent the memorials for deceased members to the IRTA Foundation. See him if you have any questions about the report.
- Abby announced that Lee Ann Meinhold had agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.
- Scholarship – Valda Shipp reported we had three scholarships to give last year and only gave two. One will roll over, and so there will be no extra collection this year.

- IRTA – Roger Hampton said the IRTA Foundation has a total of \$11,000 available every year to be given away in scholarships in teacher education.
- Legislative – Roger said there is no legislation now against current retirees' pensions, but we should be aware of bills concerning changes for current teachers in Tier I or Tier II since they are paying into TRS now. If you are an IRTA member, you can get updates online through IRTA. Pension reform is considered by Governor Rauner as one of three major issues that have to be addressed before a budget is considered. There is no money for health care for retirees in the budget. A major issue is the talk about changing the appropriation bill.
- Program – Ann Winget reminded those who haven't filled out their "privileged diners' cards" to be sure to do so for the drawing. The April speaker is Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent of Peoria Public Schools. In October, we will have a White Elephant Sale. More details will come later. Interstate Batteries said we can bring used batteries to PARTA and they will be taken to them for disposal.
- Altruistic – Frances Farraher reported there have been two deaths since the last meeting. It was moved to adjourn.

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary*

### April '17 Treasurer's Report Summary

Investment Balance:	\$ 40,183.28	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund:	\$ 424.75
Savings Balance:	\$ 3,939.04	Post Office Returned Mail Fund:	\$ 72.04
Checking Balance:	\$ 3,715.44	Grand Total:	\$ 48,434.55
Working Cash (cash boxes):	\$ 100.00		

**Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer**



The kindergarten teacher was showing her class pictures of several national flags. She pointed to the American flag and asked, "What flag is this?" A little girl called out, "That's the flag of our country." "Very good," the teacher said. "And what is the name of our country?" "'Tis of Thee", the girl said confidently.

# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

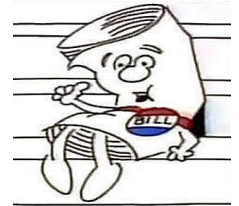
3/17/17

This week saw the House pass legislation out of the chamber concerning everything from recycling unlawful materials to commercial fishing regulations while the Senate focused on the budget. The Senate has come out and said they will hold hearings about the budget and revenues but not much else until an agreement is reached and something is passed.

Also, this week two members of the Senate Republican Caucus, Senators Michael Connelly (R-Naperville) and Jill Tracy (R-Quincy), announced they were filing a statewide pension reform plan. This is an attempt to try to move a smaller measure that the legislature "agrees" upon. The Connelly-Tracy pension package consists of two bills: One which includes the consideration model portions and one which includes the Tier III pension system.

**SB 2172** creates a defined contribution plan for all new annuitants, offers inactive members a buy-out option and shifts costs to local school districts.

**SB 2173** would require current teachers to make a choice of two diminished benefits – either receive a reduced COLA and be able to retire with your full salary or keep your compounded COLA and retire with the salary you have when this bill becomes law. No other salary increases you may receive would be counted to your pensionable benefit. This would also prohibit collective bargaining for salary and benefits. After the Senators' press conference, Governor Rauner tweeted, "I will sign this bill when it reaches my desk, making changes to our pension system is critical to a balanced budget."



**SB 1652**, the Debt Transparency Act, will require more accountability from state agencies regarding Illinois' bill backlog, which today is more than \$12.4 billion. The bill would require state agencies to report monthly to the comptroller the bills they are holding and estimate the amount of interest that will be paid on those bills. As Illinois' finances deteriorate and gridlock prevails in Springfield, dark money groups spend millions of dollars to influence elections and public policy without disclosing the sources of their funding.

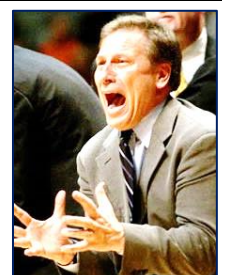
**HB 348** directs the Secretary of State to publish a proposed Constitutional Amendment, the explanation of the amendment, the arguments for and against the amendment, and the form in which the amendment will appear on the ballot on a website controlled by the Secretary of State when the amendment is published in newspapers. The bill eliminates the requirement to mail the information to people. Newspaper notices about the constitutional amendment would still be required. This proposal would save taxpayers about \$1.3 million each time the Legislature approves a Constitutional Amendment to appear on the ballot. This passed the House on a vote of 108-0 and now moves to the Illinois Senate where Senator Tom Cullerton is lead sponsor.



Congress does some strange things. They put a high tax on liquor and then raise the other taxes that drive people to drink!



In a class on abnormal psychology, the instructor was about to introduce the subject of manic depression. The instructor asked, "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth, screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next?" A young man in the rear raised his hand and suggested earnestly, "A basketball coach?"



# SOUNDINGS

## TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)

The TRS Board of Trustees allocated approximately \$620 million to various investment opportunities in order to further the System's mission of safeguarding retirement benefits for its 406,000 members.

The TRS is the 37<sup>th</sup> largest pension system in the United States. The System serves 406,855 members and had assets of \$46 billion as of December 31, 2016.



## ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAIL ALERTS FROM TRS?

If you receive the TRS newsletter by "snail" mail, you are not receiving email alerts from TRS. To receive email alerts, email TRS, [members@trs.illinois.gov](mailto:members@trs.illinois.gov), using your "home" email address (not work) and include your full name/address/last four digits of your Social Security number or TRS member ID so we may quickly contact you about important TRS news. You can also sign in to TRS Member Account Access online and enter your email address under "Contact Information."

## Illinois Universities

**Northeastern Illinois University** shut down for spring break. The school says the closing, for the week of March 20, was a necessary move to ensure there will be enough money to stay open the rest of the year. Universities across Illinois have been scraping by just to stay operational over the 20 months that their state's budget has been at an impasse.

At **Chicago State University**, 900 faculty, staff and administrators got layoff notices last year and more than one-third of the employees are currently laid off, including instructors, tenured and tenure-track faculty, and student-support professionals. Enrollment has dropped by half, as the school's status has become increasingly unstable.

**Eastern Illinois University** has laid off 177 support staff and instructors and is now moving to eliminate academic programs. **Governors State University** has cut 22 programs and hiked tuition by 15%, with additional program eliminations expected.

**Western Illinois University** has laid off more than 100 instructors, including tenure-track faculty, and an additional 100-plus non-instructional employees, and has forced pay deferrals and furloughs. The schools have all deferred maintenance, cut travel budgets and begun to spend their reserves.

Students all over the state are worried about their Monetary Award Program, or MAP, grants — need-based state aid grants that have not been funded for the current academic year. Without the grants, designed for the lowest-income and most disadvantaged students, many will be unable to enroll.

## MARRIAGE SEMINAR

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor. He stated, "It is essential that husbands and wives know each other's likes and dislikes". He then addressed the man, "Can you name your wife's favorite flower?" Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?"



# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA'S GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

IRTA utilizes proven Internet-based technology tools from VoterVOICE to launch and manage grassroots lobbying campaigns and other governmental affairs activities. In the future, IRTA may need your help in contacting elected officials on important issues. At that time IRTA will provide you with a link to the Grassroots Action Center. Once you click on that link, the system will guide you through the process of sending a message to the appropriate elected officials for that issue. This process will only take a few clicks of your mouse to complete, but it is an extremely effective method of mobilizing IRTA members across Illinois into action. It requires very little time from individual members but has an enormous impact combined with the amplified voices of many members. Using your business and/or home address(es), the system automatically matches you to your corresponding political districts.

In the future if IRTA needs you to contact elected officials on a specific issue, they will send you an 'Action Alert' email with a link at the bottom of that email. Just click on the link and it will immediately take you to a summary for that specific issue. You will then reach a registration form, which will already contain your contact information. Make any necessary modification, but otherwise you can just click 'Continue' at the bottom of the page (Information contained in your record is stored on secure servers and is inaccessible to anyone outside IRTA staff). Finally, you will be matched to the appropriate elected officials for that specific issue, as well as provided with a message to send off to those elected officials. Simply click 'Send Message' at the bottom of the page. That's it!

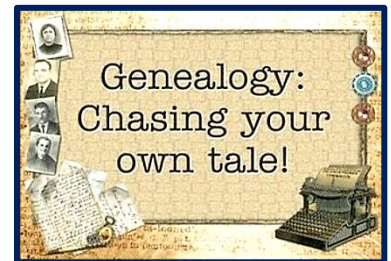
### **Please Consider Participating in IRTA's Voter Voice Campaign!**

- Login to your account at: [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)
- Highlight "Legislative Issues"
- Click on Grassroots Action Center - VoterVoice
- Then click on the "*Click here*" to go to the VoterVoice link

For assistance call the IRTA office at: 800.728.4782

### INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY?

Saturday, April 8, is Genealogy Day at the Peoria Public Main Library from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Beginners and veteran genealogists alike are invited to a day filled with information about how to research your roots, co-hosted by the Peoria County Genealogical Society. Learn about topics such as using DNA to find your ancestry, digital resources, record-keeping, and more. Volunteers will be on hand to help you with your research. Bring a poster or laptop with a display about your family tree, your greatest puzzle, or your greatest find. If you have questions or would like to register your display, contact: Programming Department at 309.497.2150 or [programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us](mailto:programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us)




Excuse us, waiter; this coffee tastes like mud!  
Yes, Sir, It's fresh ground!



# SOUNDINGS

## PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Chelin	Judith	jchelin@sbcglobal.net				Email Correction
Krag	Jacquelyn	2724 Reservoir BLVD	Peoria	IL	61615-4137	New Member
Rachel Shepherdson		Deceased: Wednesday, January 25, 2017				
Mary "Polly" Albright		Deceased: Thursday, February 16, 2017				
Mary Lou Breedlove		Deceased: Saturday, February 18, 2017				

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

?

PARTA & IRTA MEMBERSHIP

!

Are you doing your part to increase our associations' memberships? Total membership numbers are important! Increasing the number of participants to participate in our next lawsuit to preserve our retirement benefits is vital.

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. I remember one night in particular when she had made dinner after a long, hard day at work. On that evening my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all dad did was reached for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!



When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides – a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

**MORAL** Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults – and choosing to celebrate each other's differences – is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

*Source: [www.moralstories.org/making-relations-special/](http://www.moralstories.org/making-relations-special/)*



My son had just turned 13 when I finally decided to talk to him about sex. To ensure private time, I took him on a ski trip and began our talk on the chair-lift so he couldn't escape. "Do you know about girls and babies?" I asked him. He nodded, but cut me off. The next ride, I brought it up again, only to have him look away in silence. On the third trip, already knowing I had waited too long, I bluntly asked, "Son, would you like to talk about sex?" "Gee, Dad," he responded, "is that all you ever think about?"

S  
E  
X

# SOUNDINGS

## **Key Numbers in the Illinois Budget Stalemate**

As the Illinois Senate tries to broker a deal to break the state's long-running budget deadlock, here are some of the numbers at the center of the debate:

**\$11 Billion:** The amount in bills at least 60 days old that the state owed, as of Friday, to vendors and service providers, per the Illinois state comptroller. That figure is higher than the current-year expected general revenue for 30 states, and more than the estimated tax dollars coming in this year for Alaska, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming combined, according to figures from the National Association of State Budget Officers.

**\$5.3 Billion:** The estimated Illinois budget deficit on June 30 if nothing changes, per the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. That's more than 13% of the total the state is on track to spend this fiscal year, and it's the amount of revenue Arkansas estimates it will raise all year. Without action, the governor's budget office predicts a \$7 billion deficit in June 2018, or nearly 18% of the total spent.

[www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jan/8/key-numbers-in-the-illinois-budget-stalemate/](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jan/8/key-numbers-in-the-illinois-budget-stalemate/)

## **HOME SECURITY TIPS**

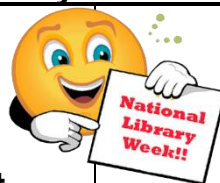
- Install deadbolt locks
- Use interior door hinges
- Use only solid wood or metal doors
- Use metal bars on sliding doors
- Give a false impression that someone is always around
- Periodically clean windows and sills, entry doors, jewelry boxes, and other items that contain valuables
- Install a security alarm system
- Install a home surveillance system
- Install a glass breakage detector
- Display yard signs



Source: [www.peoriagov.org/peoria-police-department/](http://www.peoriagov.org/peoria-police-department/)

## **Transform Your Ideas About the Library: Celebrate National Library Week April 9-15**

April 9-15 is National Library Week, a time to highlight the changing role of libraries, librarians, and library workers. Libraries aren't only a place of quiet study, but also creative and engaging community centers where people can meet to solve community problems, enjoy the arts, use computers and Wi-Fi for a wide variety of tasks as well as enjoy literature and do research.



The Peoria Public Library is celebrating National Library Week by inviting patrons to enjoy a free cup of coffee from Thirty-Thirty and a snack (while supplies last) at each branch on Monday, April 10. Refreshments are provided courtesy of The Friends of Peoria Public Library. Other programs are being offered and are listed in the Peoria Public Library calendar at: [peoriapubliclibrary.org/](http://peoriapubliclibrary.org/)

**Income Tax Humor** ☛ Children may be deductible, but they are still taxing!

☛ Tax Day is the day that ordinary Americans send their money to Washington, D.C., and wealthy Americans send their money to the Cayman Islands. -Jimmy Kimmel

**TAX DAY**  
April 18

# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA NEEDS A COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

### Information Services – Area 4 Representative

Duties include assisting the units in Area 4 with technology use (website, Facebook, etc.).



There are 2 meetings to attend each year in Springfield.  
Lunch is included and you are reimbursed for mileage.



If you are interested or have questions, PLEASE contact:

Roger Hampton, IRTA Vice President  
roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

Sally Weber, IRTA Region 9 Director  
sweber2020@gmail.com

## PARTA is part of IRTA Area 4 – Region 9

### CHEF SPOTLIGHT CHEF DON FREEMAN OF BARRACK'S



Chef Don Freeman is the Executive Chef for Barrack's Hospitality Group. Don has been with the company for over 20 years. He and his wife Melanie have three children and they live in Washington, Illinois. Don's formal chef training was in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed onboard an aircraft carrier and a destroyer tender. He was also stationed at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Don has received the Naval Achievement Award, and awards and accolades, including "Best in the Midwest" from the Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association. Don also won the Judges' Choice award at Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Desserts First 2013.



Barrack's Hospitality Group offers full-service catering for corporate and social events, including meetings, banquets, open houses, receptions, weddings, theme events, outdoor events, and picnics.

### Edible Book Contest: Monday, April 10 Peoria Public Library North Branch

Individuals, families, and community groups are encouraged to create an edible entry based on a book. The public will be invited to view and vote on the creations. Contestants may use only edible materials to create an entry that is somehow related to any book title of their choice. It may look like a book, be inspired by a book, or be a pun on a book title. Entries may be elaborate, iced confections or created from common vegetables – but they must be edible and include a list of ingredients. Entries should be dropped off at North Branch between 10:00 a.m. and 2 p.m. on April 10. The winner will be announced at 4:00 p.m. After the announcement, prizes will be awarded and entries can be eaten. Visit [peoriapubliclibrary.org](http://peoriapubliclibrary.org) for categories.



**THE SILENT TREATMENT** A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 a.m. for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 a.m." He left the note where he knew she would find it. The next morning, the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 a.m. and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife had not wakened him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It's 5:00 a.m. Wake up!"

