

PARTA SOUNDINGS

APRIL 2020

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL'S MEETING CANCELLED

in compliance with Governor Pritzker's Stay-At-Home Order for the entire state starting 5 p.m. Saturday, March 21 through at least April 7.

This aggressive action was enacted in an effort to try to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The program originally scheduled for April 6 is being rescheduled.

*Keep Informed
Check
PARTA's website
for updates:*

pa-rta.weebly.com

*Sally Weber
Webmaster*

*Roger Hampton
Editor*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PARTA Members,

I sincerely hope that this newsletter finds everyone well. Although it may be a difficult time, we know the American Spirit is alive and well. We encourage you to stay in touch with family members and check on your friends to be sure they are all right. When we are ready to continue our luncheons, we will notify you. I wish you a blessed Easter and continued good health.



Most fondly,
Abby Humbles

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

MAY 4

Be aware that this meeting may also get cancelled.

"MANUAL LABOR"

DICK VAN SCYOC AND DAUGHTERS

DR. JAN BOGLE & GWEN WESTENDORF

*Legendary Manual Basketball Coach, Dick VanScyoc
will sign copies of his book on Manual Hoops History.*



Meeting programs are being re-scheduled, due to the cancellation of the April 6th meeting and the possible cancellation of the May 4th meeting.

Changes and updates to information will be published on the PARTA website and will be sent via email to members for whom we have an email address.

POSSIBLE EXTENTION OF STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Governor J.B. Pritzker stated that he is considering extending the stay-at-home order for Illinois. "It is something that we need to consider, whether to extend, and if we did, how long," Pritzker's press secretary stated that the governor "can only do disaster proclamations 30 days at a time."

SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2020

President Abby Humbles welcomed all. There were seventy members present. Abby thanked the callers and today's greeter, Ann Christophel. Jackie Gilles led the Pledge and gave the Invocation. Abby thanked Roger Hampton for his work on the new directories. After the luncheon, Ann Winget introduced the speaker, Wendy Merdian. Wendy lived in Jordan for 25 years and gave an informative, eye-opening talk on her experiences.

Abby opened the business meeting.

- The minutes are in the Soundings.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the Soundings. The report will be filed for audit.



- We need a nominating committee. They will report their slate in October, we'll vote in November, and the new officers will be installed in December. Let Abby know if you are interested in this committee.
 - Frances Farragher said she no longer takes the Journal Star, so she asks that you let her know of any deaths of members.
 - Valda Shipp said there are forms for the ICC Scholarships on the tables. We are trying to give three scholarships again this year. The students who receive are very grateful. There is a list of past recipients in the new directory on page 11.
 - Ann Christophel is in charge of getting greeters each month. Please let her know if you are able to greet in April, May, or June.
 - Ann Winget said Zelena Williams is speaking next month about her Blessed Dress program. She would appreciate donations of sewing materials.
 - Roger Hampton, IRTA past president, said if you're not getting Voter Voice to go online or call TRS. Check your Soundings for more information. He thanked John Rathbun for keeping the PARTA membership database and reported that IRTA has hired a new grass-roots coordinator.
- It was moved and seconded to adjourn.
The meeting was adjourned.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

KATHY SIMPSON, RECORDING SECRETARY

APRIL '20 TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY

Investment Balance:	\$36,172.34	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund:	\$ 152.50
Savings Balance:	8,005.95	Post Office Returned Mail Fund:	25.11
Checking Balance:	446.07		
Working Cash (cash boxes):	100.00	Grand Total:	\$ 44,901.97

Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Yvonne Frey	309.839.8629	Phone Number Change
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Jane Hatton, 77	Deceased: March 13, 2020
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DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN



**FEDERAL & STATE (ILLINOIS)
TAX FILING DATES
BOTH EXTENDED TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020**

Worried about an IRS audit? Avoid what's called a red flag. That's something the IRS always looks for. For example, say you have some money left in your bank account after paying taxes, that's a red flag. (Jay Leno)

SOUNDINGS



TRS PRESS RELEASE - COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Source: <https://www.trsil.org/news-and-events/coronavirus>

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) staff is working from home during this second week of Illinois' coronavirus response to make sure that all retirement benefits are paid on time at the beginning of April.

TRS has been designated an "essential" state service in Governor Pritzker's COVID-19 Executive Order and will continue to provide a measured level of services to members. Ensuring that all benefits are paid to retired members and beneficiaries is our number one priority.

The System's emergency procedures, now in place, allow staff to process benefit payments from remote locations as we practice social distancing.

**EMERGENCY
PROCEDURES**

TRS sincerely thanks all of our members for their patience during this unprecedented global challenge. In particular, TRS appreciates their understanding that the Member Call Center is off-line. TRS staff are responding to emergency situations from members via email. Members can reach the Member Services Department at members@trsil.org. However, they may experience a slower response than they are used to from TRS during the duration of the work-from-home order.

To all: Please stay safe and healthy during this time by following all appropriate personal hygiene practices, social distancing and stay-at-home recommendations.

STAY ALERT FOR CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Scam artists may try to take advantage of concerns about the coronavirus and the economy. A reminder: TRS will never call members on the telephone seeking financial or personal information.

When life gives you "rainy days", wear cute boots and jump in the puddles.

April Fools' Day has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures. While its exact history is shrouded in mystery, the embrace of April Fools' Day jokes by the media and major brands has ensured the unofficial holiday's long life.



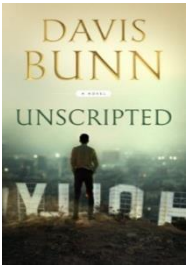
April Fools' Day is a day when people try to fool their friends and relatives. Don't confuse that with April 15, when people try to fool the IRS. ~ Jay Leno

The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year. ~ Mark Twain

A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool. ~ William Shakespeare

A fine is a tax for doing something wrong. A tax is a fine for doing something right.

SOUNDINGS

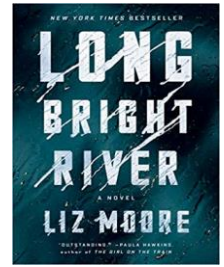


PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

Unscripted
by Davis Bunn

Young line producer Danny Byrd is well-known in Hollywood for being someone who gets things done on time and under budget. But when his reputation takes a beating after his partner--and former best friend--makes off with their investors' money, Danny has but one chance to redeem himself and restore his ruined career. LA lawyer Megan Pierce has sacrificed years of her life proving herself to her impossible bosses only to find herself disgusted at their snobbery and their specious business practices. When an opportunity to actually make a difference comes her way, she knows she has to grab it--even though she's not entirely clear what "it" is. Danny and Megan are each other's best hope for redemption. What they never could have imagined was that they might also be each other's best hope for love.

Long Bright River
by Liz Moore



In a Philadelphia neighborhood rocked by the opioid crisis, two once-inseparable sisters find themselves at odds. One, Kacey, lives on the streets in the vise of addiction. The other, Mickey, walks those same blocks on her police beat. They don't speak anymore, but Mickey never stops worrying about her sibling. Then Kacey disappears, suddenly, at the same time that a mysterious string of murders begins in Mickey's district, and Mickey becomes dangerously obsessed with finding the culprit—and her sister—before it's too late. Alternating its present-day mystery with the story of the sisters' childhood and adolescence, Long Bright River is at once heart-pounding and heart-wrenching: a gripping suspense novel that is also a moving story of sisters, addiction, and the formidable ties that persist between place, family, and fate.

PARTA MEMBERS: *Please email the name and author of a book that you have enjoyed to:* roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

"April Showers Bring May Flowers"



is part of the proverb, "March Winds and April Showers Bring Forth May flowers" First recorded in 1886, and the shorter, trochaic version

"April Showers Bring May Flowers" (originally "Sweet April showers/Do spring May flowers", part of a poem recorded in 1610) are common expressions in English speaking countries. The phrase is referenced in the General Prologue of The Canterbury Tales.

"Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall"

is a 1944 song performed as a duet by The Ink Spots, featuring Bill Kenny, and Ella Fitzgerald. Their recording was made on August 30, 1944 for Decca Records. The song



was written by Allan Roberts (lyrics) and Doris Fisher (melody). The successful single went to number one on both The Harlem Hit Parade and the pop chart. The name of the song originates from a quotation of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from the poem "Rainy Day".

And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down.

Without the rain, there would be no rainbow. ~ Gilbert K. Chesterton

SOUNDINGS

2020 SPRING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Illinois State Legislature suspended its session, effective March 16, 2020, and continuing through April 21, 2020. Therefore, not much transpired legislatively in March.

- **Illinois House Republicans called on the Democratic majority to hold fair hearings on measures to reduce property taxes in Illinois, which has the second-highest property taxes in the nation.**
- **Supporters of HB 3493, a bill allowing the state to set maximum prices for certain prescription drugs, packed a legislative committee room Wednesday at the Capitol in Springfield, only to see the measure fail to pass. It was the second straight year HB 3493 failed to pass out of the Prescription Drug Affordability and Accessibility Committee. Representative Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, who chairs the committee and is the bill's chief sponsor, called it frustrating.**
- **Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) joined the United Way in releasing their report on Illinois ALICE households – asset-limited, income-constrained and employed. The report focuses on families living above the federal poverty level, but below the threshold of a basic survival budget of \$57,144 for a family of four and \$19,212 for a single adult. Lawmakers will use the data to help better understand the needs of Illinoisans as they make public policy decisions to help struggling families.**

TRS COMMITS \$3 BILLION TO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Source: <https://www.trsil.org/news-and-events/3-Billion-Commitment-to-Investment-Opportunities>

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) in recent weeks has committed \$3 billion to various investment opportunities in order to continue building the fund's assets for its members' retirements. Reports to the TRS Board of Trustees indicated that the System ended calendar year 2019 with a positive 13.4% investment return, net of fees.

Also, assets at the end of calendar 2019 totaled more than \$54.2 billion, a 10.4% increase over calendar year 2018, when assets totaled \$49.1 billion. Total annual benefits paid during calendar 2019 were \$6.89 billion. Benefit payments are expected to exceed \$7 billion per year in 2020. The amount of benefits paid during calendar 2019 rose 4.2% over the previous year's \$6.6 billion.

The Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois is the 37th largest pension system in the United States, and provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to teachers, administrators and other public-school personnel employed outside of Chicago. The System serves 434,313 members and had assets of \$54.2 billion as of December 31, 2019.



PARTA 2020 DIRECTORIES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MEMBERS

The remaining directories that were not picked up at the March PARTA luncheon meeting were mailed on Friday, March 27, 2020.

Thank you to Sally Weber for processing this bulk mailing.

SOUNDINGS

IRS INFORMATION ON THE CORONAVIRUS STIMULUS CHECKS



Source: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

As the coronavirus crisis ravages the U.S. economy, millions of Americans are about to receive help from Congress in the form of direct cash payments. President Donald Trump signed into law a massive \$2 trillion emergency economic package that includes direct cash payments, among other provisions, for people across the country.

HOW MUCH YOU GET - DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH YOU MAKE

If you made less than \$75,000 in 2019, you will be eligible for the full payment of \$1,200, with an additional \$500 per child under 17. Couples who filed jointly and made less than \$150,000 will get \$2,400. An individual who filed as "head of household" and earned \$112,500 or less receives \$1,200.

If you made more than \$75,000, your payment will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income that exceeds the limits. So, if you made \$80,000 in 2019, you will receive \$950. The payment decreases to zero for an individual making \$99,000 or more or a couple making \$198,000 or more.

HOW THE MONEY WILL BE SENT

If you've gotten a tax refund in the last two years by direct deposit, that's where the money will be sent. If not, the IRS can mail a check to your "last known address." They'll send a phone number and appropriate point of contact so you can tell them if you didn't receive it.

Even if you didn't file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 or pay taxes in those years, you will be eligible if you received a Form SSA-1099 for the year 2019. That's a form that the Social Security Administration sends each year to people who receive Social Security benefits, including retirement and disability.

The IRS suggests that if you haven't yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019, do it as soon as you can, so that the government has your up-to-date information on file.

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association (PARTA) Teacher Grants

This year, PARTA is awarding five grants to classroom teachers for \$200 each.

- Grant applications may be downloaded from the PARTA website at: pa-rta.weebly.com
- Email grant application to Deloris Turner, PARTA Teacher Grant Chair at: deloris.turner37@yahoo.com
- A check will be sent to the principal at your school by September 2020.



I just asked a 6-year-old if he understands why there was no school. He said, "Yes, because they are out of toilet paper!"



Smoking pot and skipping school had me in trouble constantly. Now weed is legal and schools are closed. Darn kids are living the dream!

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

DISCOUNTS FOR IRTA MEMBERS

YOU ARE INVITED

MEDICAL AIR SERVICES ASSOCIATION (MASA)
VIRTUAL INFORMATION SEMINARS

APRIL 28 & APRIL 29

Due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic,
AMBA is planning to convert Peoria area
scheduled MASA seminars to Zoom video
conferencing information meetings.

For information, or to sign-up for the seminar,
contact Larry Newman

708.878/2814 / larry.newman@amba.info

THIS PLAN COULD
SAVE YOUR LIFE AND
YOUR LIFE SAVINGS



LEARN MORE ABOUT MASA
ANY GROUND. ANY AIR. ANYWHERE.



For over 30 years, MASA has been providing life-saving emergency assistance to its members while they are AT HOME or WHEN TRAVELING. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise.

Benefits include:

- ✓ Emergency Air Transportation
- ✓ Helicopter Transportation
- ✓ Ground Ambulance Transportation
- ✓ Organ Retrieval
- ✓ Organ Recipient Transportation
- ✓ Return Transportation
- ✓ Escort Transportation
- ✓ Non-Injury Transportation
- ✓ Vehicle Return
- ✓ Minor Children/Grandchildren Return
- ✓ Recuperation / Repatriation
- ✓ Mortal Remains
- ✓ Worldwide Coverage

Anyone signing up for a 5-year or lifetime MASA membership will receive a Free MY ID Bracelet that stores your valuable information in the event of an emergency.

For information contact Larry Newman

708.878/2814 / larry.newman@amba.info



SilverSneakers members get access to an exclusive video library of workouts, wellness videos and exercise programs designed by our top instructors.

Now you can exercise in the comfort of your own home with the instructors you trust. Access hundreds of online workouts and nutrition videos.

<https://www.silversneakers.com/learn/ondemand/>

SilverSneakers Live Events on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2537792109767386/>



I've noticed a lot of you are not posting selfies anymore since the beauty salons have closed!

SOUNDINGS

NEW OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING

Some retailers are setting aside specific times for their most vulnerable customers to shop.

Other retailers have been adding additional shopping and delivery options for customers.

Acknowledging that older adults and persons with underlying health conditions are more susceptible to COVID-19, a growing number of stores are dedicating time or opening earlier for senior shoppers and other at-risk groups. Because of panic shopping, which has left store shelves empty, at-risk groups including seniors have had difficulty getting supplies. Local online shopping, “Curbside Delivery” to your car, and/or Home Delivery are becoming expanded options for consumers at a myriad of stores.



Partial List of Participating Peoria Area Stores (*Call local store for exact times and options*)
If you would like to suggest your favorite establishment, please send that information to Roger Hampton.

- ➔ Grocery Stores: Aldi | Haddad’s | HyVee | Kroger | Sam’s | Schnucks | Walmart
- ➔ Restaurants: (*carry out, delivery, and/or curbside pickup*) Avanti’s | Biaggi’s | Bob Evans | One World Café | Panda Express | Pizza Restaurants (most)
(*Grubhub and DoorDash delivers from over 100 restaurants in the Peoria Area*)
- ➔ Retail Stores: Big Lots | Farm & Fleet | Dollar General | Menards | Target |
- ➔ Pharmacy: Alwan | CVS | Essential Wellness | Preckshot

COPING A sense of humor can be an amazing line of defense when it comes to coping with stress. Here are some humorous takes on our current circumstances:

Every few days it would be smart to put your jeans on to make sure they still fit. Pajamas and sweats would have you believe that all is well!

Thoughts and prayers going out to all the married men who have spent months telling their wives, “I’ll do that when I have more time!”

It was a quiet Monday morning in September 2043, when John awoke with a need to go to the bathroom. To John, this wasn’t just any ordinary day! This was the day he would open the last package of toilet paper his parents bought in the year 2020.

Day 4 of Social Distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He’s a Web Designer.

I used to spin that toilet paper roll like I was on the Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I’m cracking a safe

Florida supermarkets announced special morning hours just for people 55 and older. The other 100 people in the state are thrilled to have the stores to themselves the rest of the day.

I need to practice social distancing from my refrigerator!!!

Day 6 of No Sports: Watching birds fight over worms. Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1