

PARTA SOUNDINGS

APRIL 2022

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LUNCHEON MEETING

APRIL 4

Barracks Cater Inn

11:30 A M

Luncheon – \$12.00

GREETERS

 Catriana Rltenhouse
 Peggy Shane

PLEDGE

 Jeff Vallosio

INVOCATION

 Jeff Vallosio

LUNCHEON

Hand Carved Pit Ham
Au gratin Potatoes
Malibu Blend Vegetables
Assorted Salads
Roll & Butter
Dessert

PROGRAM

OSHER LIFELONG
LEARNING INSTITUTE

 **OLLI** BRADLEY
UNIVERSITY

Tim & Laurie Bailey

MEETING

Dixie Wheeler
PARTA President, Chair



Meetings begin
around 12:15 P.M.

Roger Hampton
Soundings Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings PARTA members,



Here are a few interesting numbers.

Did you know that as of March 4, 2022, IRTA has 39,531 members?

I hope that all PARTA members are among that membership number! If not, you can always sign up at a PARTA meeting.

Speaking of PARTA, we have officially as

of March 25, 2022, a membership of 322! As it is

retirement time of the year, if you know of someone who is retiring, invite them to come. We are a great bunch of fun-filled retirees! And, just to add another number, there are eighty-nine units in the state, and PARTA is one of the eighteen that received \$250.

Happy Spring everyone,

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President



UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

MAY 2

PEORIA COUNTY SHERIFF

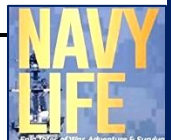
Sheriff Brian Asbell



JUNE 6

FOR THE LOVE OF NAVY LIFE

Doug Wright, Submarine Mission Commander



NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 12 (2nd Monday)

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL

NECROLOGY SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 - AUGUST 31, 2022

OCTOBER 3 | NOVEMBER 7 | DECEMBER 5

Check PARTA's website for updates:

pa-rta.weebly.com

Sally Weber, Webmaster

SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

11:30 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022

The March PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on March 07, 2022, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. There were sixty (60) members in attendance and five (5) members on Zoom. There were two (2) new members present. President Wheeler thanked the meeting Greeters, Ann Christophel and Sherry Perez. Scott Montgomery led the Pledge to the Flag and offered the prayer.



The program guest was Kenny Blum from Ameren. He informed the membership on disaster awareness and energy efficiency.

The Audit Committee met after the meeting. Jeff Vallosio reminded the members that the treasurer's report was on the tables. Roger Hampton asked members to view the articles posted in the Soundings on pages 5 and 7. He explained that the article on page 5 was a commitment in Governor Pritzker's FY2023 Budget to appropriate more money than the minimum requirement to Illinois public pensions. However, on page 7 of the Soundings, the Governor is embarking on an effort to diminish

promised benefits under health insurance, thus prompting the lawsuit by IRTA.



The proposal to diminish the health insurance and the commitment to appropriate more money to Illinois pensions are from different funds.

John Rathbun notified members that the deadline is fast approaching for information placed in the PARTA Teacher Directory. Members should check with him to verify whether they are current. If members have not paid dues, their names will not be printed in the directory.

Denise Smith asked members to check if they had changed addresses or phone numbers.

Please see her for corrections. **Trivia Cards**

Carla Stokowski asked the members to submit trivia cards placed on the tables. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Winget moved to adjourn the meeting. Denise Smith seconded the motion.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

APRIL '22 TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY

Investment Balance:	\$ 54,433.66	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund:	\$ 178.78
Savings Balance:	9,021.78	Post Office Returned Mail Fund:	92.39
Checking Balance:	857.68	Grand Total:	\$ 64,684.29
Working Cash (cash boxes):	100.00		



Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer

ARE YOUR PARTA & IRTA MEMBERSHIP DUES UP TO DATE?

PARTA DUES

ONLY \$15.00 annual membership or \$125.00 for life membership.

IRTA DUES

ONLY \$2.50 per month to help protect your pension benefits.

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW RETIREES
IN THE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN OUR BENEFITS!**

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow. ~ Mark Twain

SOUNDINGS

PARTA MEETING OPTIONS

IN-PERSON

OR

VIRTUAL

**BARRACK'S CATER INN
11:30 LUNCHEON**

NO CHARGE TO JUST ATTEND MEETINGS

**RESERVATION
REQUIRED**

**ZOOM ACCESS WILL BEGIN
AT 11:30**

LOG ON AT ANY TIME

MEETING BEGINS ~12:15

LOG ON to see who is attending the in-person meeting. THEN, chat with other members who are ZOOMING while waiting for the meeting to begin.

PARTA ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

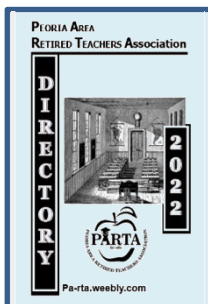
<https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 847 1912 7474 | Passcode: 150901
ZOOM MEETING ACCESS LINK will be sent via email to PARTA members and posted on the PARTA Website prior to the meeting. If you have any questions or problems accessing this meeting, please contact Roger Hampton:
309.360.6190 (Text or Call) roger.hampton11138@gmail.com (Email)

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Durand	Sonya	sonyadurand@aol.com	309.253.3328	New Phone, Email
Guariglia	Carolyn J	2724 W Reservoir BLVD #304 Peoria IL 61615-4137		Renewal
Rauhaus	Cheryl	4940 N Woodview AVE Peoria IL 61614-4551 c_rauhaus@yahoo.com	309.453.8148	New Member
Schifeling	Scott	3900 N Stable CT Unit 111 Peoria IL 61614-6948 sschif@hotmail.com	309.370.5526	New Member
Vaughan	Pat		309.253.1294	New Phone

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

Please send any corrections or changes to your information listed in the PARTA Directory to John Rathbun at: Genrebun@aol.com



NEW PARTA 2022 DIRECTORY

The PARTA Directory for 2022-23 will be available for pickup at the next two (2) PARTA luncheon meetings.

Thanks to Denise Smith, Editor

**PLEASE HELP
keep the
PARTA Directory
Information
CURRENT**



*Show respect even to people who don't deserve it,
not as a reflection of their character
but as a reflection of yours. ~ Dave Wills*

SOUNDINGS

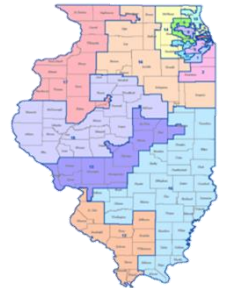
IRTA PAC COMMITTEE REPORT

JEFF VALLOSIO, IRTA REGION 10 COMMITTEE MEMBER



The IRTA PAC committee met March 24 via Zoom. It consists of members from around the state and reports to the IRTA PAC Board. This was the initial meeting of the two-year term committee membership and included orientation of the several new members (including PARTA treasurer Jeff Vallosio). Slight changes in the previously used candidate survey were approved. Candidate questionnaires will be sent out after the primary election of June 28, 2022. Committee members will be tasked with encouraging their return if not promptly received. The committee will then make recommendations for endorsements to the PAC Board. This will occur at the next meeting in mid-August.

It was noted that many State Representative and State Senate districts have changed in addition to the Congressional Districts. Those maps are available at a number of sites online and a suggestion was made to the IRTA office to provide printed versions which could be duplicated and made available to members.



A \$1.00 deduction from our monthly retirement pay is encouraged to fund PAC activities such as support for candidates who support our retirement and healthcare benefits. For those not already doing so the deduction can be accomplished by filling out the form included in the IRTA brochure available at the membership table or from the treasurer or by going to the homepage of the IRTA website at irtaonline.org then clicking on the PAC link and then on the donate button. You can fill out the form there or the paper one available at the meetings.



YOU CAN NOW APPLY TO VOTE BY MAIL

AARP Illinois has collected all the most up-to-date election information to make sure that the voices of voters 50-plus are heard during the June 28th primary election. You can apply to vote by mail in one of these two ways:



ONLINE: Use the Illinois Board of Election's online tool to apply for a mail-in ballot. Applications for mail-in ballots open on March 30 for the primary.

BY MAIL AND IN PERSON: Download an application from the state board of elections' website, fill it out, and mail or deliver it in person to the election authority in your jurisdiction. The deadline to apply for a vote by mail ballot is June 23 for the primary election. Completed mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by local officials within two weeks of an election – between June 14 and June 28.

For more information about when, where, and how to vote in Illinois go to:
<https://states.aarp.org/illinois/election-voting-guide>

SOUNDINGS

THANK YOU PARTA VOLUNTEERS

A BIG THANK YOU to the dedicated calling committee. Each month these callers take their time to reach out to our members and get an accurate count and reservations for our luncheons. The calling committee members are:

Denise Adams	Sonya Durand	Jackie Gilles	Kathy Simpson
Mary Lou Boettger	Sharon Couden	Susie Pierce	Glenda Trollope
Marcia Becker	Lillie Forman	Laveine Birdett	Valda Shipp

Thank you to Marty Sprecher for your years of service to PARTA.

Marty has served many years as a caller. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

<u>LUNCHEON</u>	<u>COLLECTING MONEY</u>	<u>MEMBER CHECK-IN</u>
CHECK-IN	Patti Monks & Mike Olson	Mary Lou Boettger & Kathy Simpson

SUBSTITUTE CALLERS

Denise Adams <i>(Denise also serves as a regular caller.)</i>	Molly Bright Pat Hampton	Marty Howard Carla Stokowski
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Each month the members are contacted by one of the dedicated callers. It has been difficult to contact certain members when they have not updated their contact information. Please update your current phone numbers. We cannot contact you when your number has been disconnected, mailbox is full, or you require an access code.



When you are contacted by a PARTA caller and asked for a reservation to any monthly luncheon we count on you to show up. When you do not show up, PARTA is responsible for your no-show reservation. The reservation count is turned in prior to the monthly meeting. Barracks counts on the accurate number of people to show up. When you do not show up both PARTA and Barracks lose.

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.

Thank you to the many members who show up monthly and are faithful to our organization. Our dedicated members are what make our organization so successful. Any questions about reservations, please contact Patti Monks.

COMPTROLLER MATCHES TERMINOLOGY WITH BILL PAYMENT REALITY

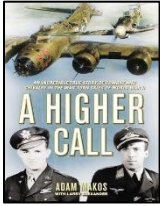
Illinois Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza has paid back the final \$297 million in short-term borrowing from 15 state funds needed to recover from the 2015-2017 budget impasse. In August 2017, when the Illinois Office of Comptroller first used the interfund borrowing tool authorized by the General Assembly, Illinois' bill backlog was more than \$14 billion. Between then and January 2020, \$2.3 billion was borrowed from various state funds and through the State Treasurer's Office so that essential payments could be made for medical bills and social and human services. With stronger-than-anticipated Fiscal Year 2022 revenues through March, this final payment is months earlier than the plan enacted by the legislature and Governor to repay the funds in full by June 30. "Not only did we pay off our short-term debts, but we paid them off early," Comptroller Mendoza said. "This highlights the progress Illinois is making in achieving fiscal responsibility."

Source: <https://capitolfax.com/>

Continued on Page 8: "COMPTROLLER"

SOUNDINGS

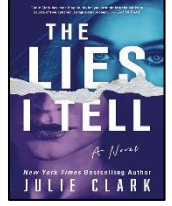
PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



A Higher Call
by
Adam Makos

***Please send the title
of books you have
read and recommend to
ROGER HAMPTON***

The Lies I Tell
by
Julie Clark



Billed as “an incredible true story of combat and chivalry in the war-torn skies of World War II” this book easily meets that standard.

On December 20, 1943, a German fighter pilot ace came upon a shot up and barely flying American B-17 bomber. Rather than easily shooting it down he escorted it to the sea by flying in close formation with it thus also preventing German anti-aircraft gunners from shooting it down. It was so badly shot up that he did not expect it to survive the water crossing to the UK and kept trying to point the way to neutral Sweden which was much closer. The American pilot did not understand the hand gestures and proceeded to attempt the crossing. The faltering plane barely made the coast falling to about 200 feet altitude after having continuously lost height with one engine out and only one of the other three functioning properly.

Neither pilot expected the other to survive the war, but both did. Forty years later they searched and actually found each other and were able to meet. It was only then that the American pilot found out what the hand gestures meant. Beyond the tale of the actual event the fascinating stories of both pilot’s combat records prior to and following the encounter are a wealth of history as well as insight into the men’s thinking during the conflict amidst the deaths of friends and family.

The author’s account of the German pilot’s late war (and post war) experiences and thoughts are insightful. He ended the war flying German jets and ended up in Canada where they met a number of times. Both pilots died in 2008.

- ☛ **Meg Williams**
- ☛ **Maggie Littleton**
- ☛ **Melody Wilde**

Different names for the same person, depending on the town, depending on the job. She's a con artist who erases herself to become whoever you need her to be — a college student; a life coach; a real estate agent. Nothing about her is real. She slides alongside you and tells you exactly what you need to hear, and by the time she's done, you've likely lost everything. Kat Roberts has been waiting ten years for the woman who upended her life to return. And now that she has, Kat is determined to be the one to expose her. But as the two women grow closer, Kat's long-held assumptions begin to crumble, leaving Kat to wonder who Meg's true target is.

The Lies I Tell is a twisted domestic thriller that dives deep into the psyches and motivations of two women and their unwavering quest to seek justice for the past and rewrite the future.

Funny One-Liners:

- ☛ My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.
- ☛ I failed math so many times at school, I can't even count.
- ☛ I put my grandma on speed dial the other day. I call it insta-gram.

- ☛ I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke.
- ☛ Never trust atoms; they make up everything.
- ☛ Whiteboards are remarkable.
- ☛ Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician.



SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? DISCOUNTS FOR IRTA MEMBERS



PASSPORT[®]
CORPORATE

Proud partner
of the world's
most-loved venues.



Over 12,000,000 tickets sold worldwide.

Save up to 40% and access last minute and mobile-friendly tickets.
With more than 3,000 partners worldwide, Tiqets has a ticket for everyone.
Not a fan of museums? They have rollercoasters too.

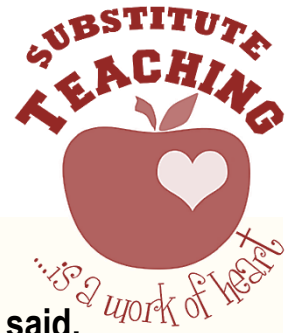
INFORMATION AND CODES AVAILABLE ONLINE AT IRTAONLINE.ORG

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS IN ILLINOIS

After the Illinois State Board of Education reported an increase in cases of college students substitute teaching on a temporary license, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel advanced a plan through the Senate that would expand the pool of substitute teachers.

"Substitute teachers are in high demand and short supply, and that has left school districts scrambling to find different ways to ensure students are being educated and supervised throughout the day," Cappel said. Under Loughran Cappel's measure, currently enrolled Illinois students in the field of education who have at least 90 credit hours would be able to obtain a substitute teaching license. By giving them creditable hours for this on-the-job training, more students will be able to substitute teach, and schools will have additional resources for finding temporary, short-term teachers. "Real work experience can help transition student teachers into professionals," Loughran Cappel said. "This legislation will ensure that student teachers are given every opportunity to succeed."

House Bill 4798 now goes to the governor for his approval.



"HELPING OTHERS" QUOTES TO INSPIRE COMPASSION

- You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you. ~ *John Bunyan*
- Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day. ~ *Sally Koch*
- People appreciate and never forget that helping hand, especially when times are tough. ~ *Catherine Pulsifer*
- You can accomplish by kindness what you cannot by force." ~ *Pubilius Syrus*

- At the end, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back. ~ *Denzel Washington*
- It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*
- If you light a lamp for somebody, it will also brighten your path. ~ *Buddha*



SOUNDINGS



“COMPTROLLER” - CONTINUE FROM PAGE 5: The payoff is in addition to the \$3.9 billion borrowed from the federal government, and already repaid, for state obligations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$2 billion paid in full in January to the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facility was repaid nearly two years early, which is expected to save taxpayers \$82 million. The bill backlog is now “accounts payable”. Now that Illinois has been paying its bills in about 15 business days since July 1, 2021, a more accurate description of the State’s pending liabilities should be used. “With the state’s excellent progress in paying down our bills from the record \$16.7 billion backlog caused by a reckless and irresponsible budget impasse, the Illinois Office of Comptroller is retiring the ‘backlog’ term and instituting ‘accounts payable,’ since we are well within 30 days of paying our state vendors and providers,” said Comptroller Mendoza. The snapshot of pending bills as of Tuesday morning represents liabilities that are not “backlogged,” but rather reflects the ongoing processing of bills which averages around \$2.5 billion each month. This is especially true of statutory fund deposits, known as transfers, that make up \$2 billion of the State’s current \$3 billion of pending liabilities. Those transfers will be made by the IOC as the need arises for each respective state fund. Thus, it is more accurate to refer to these standing transfers as “accounts payable.”



A B R E A T H O F F R E S H A I R !

The elderly gentleman was seated in the booth across from my family as we ate dinner Saturday night. We really didn’t see him come in, but we did notice when our server dropped to one knee to look him eye-to-eye as he got ready to take his order. The man apologized for not hearing too well. He had forgotten to put in his hearing aids. He talked about how he lost his hearing during his time in the war. He was 91 years old with many stories to tell. Dylan, his waiter, patiently listened, giving him his full attention. Eventually the man apologized for talking so much. “I’m alone now,” he said, “and I don’t have someone to talk to.” Dylan smiled and said he enjoyed listening. He then helped him figure out what to order and left to take it to the kitchen. It was a touching sight.



I wanted to offer to pay for the man’s dinner, but before I could flag down the waiter, a man seated at a nearby booth asked Dylan to bring him the elderly man’s check. “Someone’s already taken care of it,” Dylan smiled. I guess we weren’t the only ones eavesdropping on the conversation. After the man received his food Dylan came back to say he was on a break. He asked if he could sit with the gentleman as he ate. As we left the restaurant the two of them were conversing and many people seated nearby were smiling. It was a touching sight. With all the negative stories about our youth today, this was a breath of fresh air.