

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEBBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

DECEMBER 2016

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

PARTA LUNCHEON / MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
December 5
11:30 AM
\$12.00

Reservation **MADE**
requires
Reservation be **PAID**

GREETERS

-  Sherry Perez
-  Chris Mangold

PLEDGE

-  Linda Sedgwick

INVOCATION

-  Linda Sedgwick

LUNCHEON

"CHRISTMAS" DINNER

- Ham
- Potato
- Vegetable
- Assorted Salads
- Dessert

MEETING

Chair:

Dave Barnwell
PARTA President



Soundings Editor
Roger Hampton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! It doesn't seem possible that the December holidays are fast approaching. Here's a wish to all of you that this is "the most wonderful time of the year."

To get us in the spirit of the season, Denise Adams and her "musical elves" will present the December program. Anyone wishing to be a part of the program should arrive at the Cater Inn at 10:00 a.m. for practice.

As a part of our brief business meeting, your PARTA officers for 2017 - 2018 will be installed. Abby Humbles will be the new President, while all the other officers will remain the same.

OFFICERS

Barrack's Cater Inn will again be our meeting place for 2017. For the third consecutive year, the price of our luncheons will remain at \$12.00. They do a great job of not only feeding us, but meeting the technology needs of our various programs. A huge "thank you" to James Barrack and his staff. (*Read "Barrack's Cater Inn: History & Trivia" on page 6*)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dave Barnwell, PARTA President

PARTA MEETING / PROGRAMS



DECEMBER 5, 2016

Holiday Sing-A-Long

| Denise Adams, Director

NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2017

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Mike Miller

Supervisor of Environmental and Interpretive Services at Peoria Park District



Throughout 2017,
may you handle yourself with your brains,
but comfort others with your heart.



SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2016

Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized the veterans. He thanked Pat Vaughan and Marti Sprecher for being today's greeters. We sang "Be Present at Our Table" as our Invocation, accompanied by Ann Winget. Ruth Livingston led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance today was 113.

After the luncheon, Ann Winget introduced the speaker, Jaime Casinova, from eCS Therapy Center. His talk was on the medical uses of marijuana, including the history of its use, science of cannabis information, and the Illinois system.

Dave then opened the business meeting.



- The minutes were in the Soundings. They were approved as printed.
- Jeff Vallosio said copies of the Treasurer's Report were on the tables and summarized in the Soundings. See him if you have any questions. The report will be filed for audit.
- Membership – John Rathbun said we had many new members in September. He is now collecting annual dues for 2017, which are \$15. Life

membership cost is increasing to \$120 in January, but you can become a lifetime member for \$75 before the end of December.

- Altruistic – Frances Farrarher said two members passed in October, but their names are not yet in the Soundings.
- Publicity – Laveine Birditt reported that PARTA meetings are on the web sites of the TV channels.
- Legislative – Sally Weber said there is no push from the state against us yet, but IRTA is always alert to the chance of it. If you are not a member of IRTA, join. The legislators look at the membership numbers.
- Programs – Ann Winget reported that Denise Adams will lead a musical program in December. A choir will sing first. The practice is at 10:00 A.M. before the December meeting. Then we'll have a sing-a-long. Invite others to come.
- The Peoria Women's Civic Federation meets on the 3rd Wednesday.
- Dan Walther said to be sure to vote. There is a tax hike on the ballot for schools in Peoria County.
- Nancy Wing is recovering at home.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

T R E A S U R E R	Investment Balance		\$ 37,798.08	R E P O R T
	Savings Balance		3,936.25	
	Checking Balance		4,642.28	
	Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00	
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	485.20	
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	77.86	
	Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer		Grand Total	

Random Thoughts about Christmas

When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things, not the great occasions, give off the greatest glow of happiness." ~ *Bob Hope*

Christmas is a time when you get homesick - even when you're home. ~ *Carol Nelson*

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they're all 30 feet tall. ~ *Larry Wilde*

You know you've grown up when none of the things you want for Christmas can be bought at a store. Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles. ~ *Anon*



SOUNDINGS

VOTING IS OVER!!! IRTA Endorsed 44 Candidates - 34 of Those Won

Illinois Senate The Democrats lost the 59th Senate District seat held by Gary Forby (D) to Dale Fowler (R). Senator John Sullivan (D) is retiring from the 47th Senate District and did not run for re-election. Jill Tracy (R) ran un-opposed in that election. The Democrats still have a super majority of 37 members.



Illinois House of Representatives Democrats still control the House, but they are down to 67 seats. Those incumbents who lost were Dwight Kay (R-112), Kate Cloonen (D-79), Mike Smiddy (D-71), John Bradley (D-117) and Andy Skoog (D-76). Jack Franks (D-63) did not run again and Steven Reick (R) picked up that seat.

Protect Against Scams This Holiday Season

Source: Kristin Keckeisen, Fraud Watch Network

BEWARE OF FAKE SMARTPHONE SHOPPING APPS Scam artists have found a new way to make you part with your hard-earned money. They are creating fake shopping apps for iOS Android phones that capture your payment information and then leave you holding the bag. Both Apple and Google are weeding out fake apps as they are reported, but be on the alert.



BUYING GIFT CARDS? CONSIDER THIS Thieves hit store gift card racks, secretly write down or scan the numbers off the cards, then check online or call the toll-free number to see if someone has bought the cards and activated them. As soon as a card is active, the scammers drain the funds. By the time your gift recipient tries to use the card, the money is long gone.

KEEP THE DEBIT CARD IN YOUR WALLET Consumer protection experts recommend the use of credit cards rather than debit cards for most purchases, to protect from fraud and theft. With credit cards, you are liable for only up to \$50 of fraudulent use. In the case of a lost or stolen debit card, your financial loss could be much more significant.



SIGN FOR PACKAGE DELIVERIES Package delivery companies are not responsible for stolen packages that are left at your front door without requiring a delivery signature.

IS THAT REALLY A HOLIDAY E-CARD? Fake e-cards can carry malicious software or contain unwanted advertising. Clues of a fake card include not knowing the sender, not being familiar with the e-card company, and misspellings.

IF A DEAL SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE... You know the rest. Watch out for deals offered by companies with unfamiliar websites. Check for reviews on Yelp, Google or through the Better Business Bureau. Even search the retailer's name and "scam" to see if it checks out before typing in your payment information.



Do you have a Linked-In account?
Let others know you are retired and a member of the IRTA!
Please follow the IRTA Page on Linked-In.

2nd Grader Talks to Santa: "Santa, I was good all year... well, most of the year... sometimes... at least a few times... OK, I guess I'll have to ask Grandma.

SOUNDINGS

Illinois Veto Session Legislative Thus Far – 11/17/2016 – Mary Shaw

Both the House and the Senate returned to Springfield the third week of November for the first week of Veto Session after a very contentious election cycle. It looks like there is still no willingness to cooperate from either side. The attitude so far from the Governor and Republican legislators has been that because of the election results, the Democrats must compromise. This is not going over well. Some House republicans have come out and said they would not support a tax hike at all, stating that raising taxes is not the answer.

There are rumblings that if the republicans won't put votes on a tax hike, there is no way the democrats will support one either.



The first "Leaders Meeting" since June occurred on November 16, 2016. From all accounts, that meeting did not go very well either. House Speaker Michael Madigan didn't directly complain about the millions of dollars in TV ads that tied him to every problem imaginable and sank some of his members' reelections; however, he did make reference to them during an often tense sit-down with Governor Rauner and the other legislative tops. On his way out the door, Madigan also reportedly decried a lack of "respect" shown him by what he considered to be insufficient notice of Monday afternoon's leaders

meeting. The Speaker emerged from the confab to tell reporters what he had told the other leaders. He was appointing Representative Greg Harris (D-Chicago) to be his chief negotiator in a new working group tasked to negotiate the budget. The trouble is, the other leaders didn't agree to set up a new working group, believing they could close the deal at the top level with staff assistance. Madigan reportedly indicated during the meeting that he was only interested in doing some sort of supplemental budget, adding fuel to the GOP's ire.

The Republicans continue to say they don't want another stopgap and instead want a "grand bargain." On that topic, Governor Rauner reportedly laid out some broad parameters. The governor told the leaders he still wants a property tax freeze, for instance, but he didn't specifically demand that the freeze be coupled with his harsh anti-union provisions. In other words, he no longer at least outwardly cares how they get there as long as they can somehow save the local governments enough money so that taxes don't immediately skyrocket after the freeze is lifted. So far, Madigan isn't budging. It looks to be more than just the Republicans that Madigan isn't much interested in cutting a deal within the next two years.



One More Round of Political Humor – Quotes about Politicians

- A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.

~ Winston Churchill

- Since a politician never believes what he says, he is quite surprised to be taken at his word.

~ Charles De Gaulle

- Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress But I repeat myself.

~ Mark Twain



Source: letterpile.com/quotes/Quotations-Politics

- A politician thinks of the next election – a statesman of the next generation.

~ James Freeman Clarke

- Mothers all want their sons to grow up to be president but they don't want them to become politicians in the process.

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

- Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.

~ Plato

- An honest man in politics shines more there than he would elsewhere.

~ Mark Twain

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face. ~ Victor Hugo

SOUNDINGS

IRTA Endorses Larry Pfeiffer for TRS Annuitant Trustee

Larry Pfeiffer and his wife Jan moved to Macoupin County in the summer of 1983 after completing their undergraduate degrees at the University of Illinois. Larry began his career as a teacher of agricultural education and welding teacher at Carlinville High School. He was also the FFA adviser during the ten years that he taught. Larry was recognized as the Illinois Outstanding Beginning Agricultural Education Teacher, the Illinois Agri-science Teacher of the Year, and the Carlinville Teacher of the Year during his time in the classroom. Larry completed two additional advanced degrees from the University of Illinois which allowed him the opportunity to serve in education administration positions. From 2002- 2015, Larry served as the Regional Superintendent of Schools for the Regional Office of Education #40, which comprises the counties of Macoupin, Greene, Jersey and Calhoun. During his tenure as the Regional Superintendent, he was active in local, state and federal educational initiatives. Larry served as the President of the Illinois Association of County Officials in 2014 and is the current President of Macoupin County Retired Teachers Association. The Pfeiffers have two adult children, Lane of Carlinville and Eric, daughter-in-law Heather, also of Carlinville.



PETITION will be available for signatures at the PARTA Luncheon Meeting.

Petition Signers Must Be:

✓ A member of TRS who is a "teacher"

✓ A TRS "annuitant"

Get to know Larry Pfeiffer via a YouTube video. Online at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPS98s1W5kY&feature=youtu.be



Famous Holiday Movie Quotes – Who said it? What movie? What year?

- 1) "Look, Daddy. Teacher says, every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings."
- 2) "Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see."
- 3) a. "Would you please tell her that you're not really Santa Claus, that actually is no such person?"
b. "Well, I hate to disagree with you, but not only is there such a person, but here I am to prove it."
- 4) "Merry Christmas, movie house! Merry Christmas, Emporium! Merry Christmas, you wonderful old Building and Loan!"
- 5) "Blast this Christmas music. It's joyful and triumphant." — The Grinch (Jim Carrey)
- 6) "And may all your Christmases be white. Merry Christmas!"



Answers on page 8 – "Movie Quotes"

*If a dentist makes their money from unhealthy teeth,
why would I trust a product 4/5 of them recommend?*



SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Michel	Becky	226 N Ellis	Princeville	IL	61559	323-3064	New member
		beckymichel8@gmail.com					
Moore	Joyce	5513 W Rachael DR	Peoria	IL	61615-3059	693-8017	New member
		pulse94@comcast.net					



Deceased:

William Charles Leverett, April 16, 2016
*Information was incorrectly published in the
 November issue of Soundings*

NEW PARTA DIRECTORY to be Published in 2017

If any of your information has changed, PLEASE submit those changes to John Rathbun.



History & Trivia: Barrack's Cater Inn

Spanning over three generations, the Barrack family food establishments have evolved from a small confectionery in Chillicothe to the present day Barrack's Cater Inn Banquet Center & Catering facility. Barrack's averages 5 to 6 events per day and employs approximately 50 full and part-time employees and has over 1,200 company/organization patrons and countless individual patrons. Barrack's contributes unserved food weekly to Heart of Illinois Harvest, an organization that feeds the hungry, and they also contribute to many other local charitable organizations. In February 1996, Richard Barrack, the company's founder and past President, retired after 40 years in foodservice. His son, James Barrack, is now the President and C.E.O. of Barrack's Cater Inn.

Timeline of the Barrack Family Food Establishments

Chillicothe Confectionary: 1933	Peoria Diner: 1940 - 1951	Cater Inn: 1974 - 1987
Perry Snack Shop: 1935 - 1940	Campus Grill: 1951-52	Barrack's Cater Inn: 1987 -
	Mary & Jim's Restaurant: 1952 - 1974	

<u>Contracted Event Locations</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>Contracted Event Locations</u>	<u>Seats</u>
Barrack's Cater Inn.....	350	Five Points Washington.....	500
East Port Banquet Center	240	Peoria Riverfront Museum.....	500+
Gateway Building.....	300	Ashland House & Conference Center.....	350
Ravina on the Lakes	250 & 550 & 5,000	Packard Plaza Banquet & Meeting Center	300+
Stoney Creek Inn	300	Trailside Event Center (Trefzger's)	275

There are also over 30 additional Unique Event Locations with seating ranging from 35 – 5,000. Check out their website for additional information at: <https://www.caterinn.com/>

SNOWBALL – Shel Silverstein

I made myself a snowball,
 as perfect as could be;
 I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
 and let it sleep with me.

I made it some pajamas,
 and a pillow for its head;
 Then last night it ran away,
 but first – IT WET THE BED!

Source: www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/funny-christmas-poems.html

**A good thing to remember:
 It's NEVER too cold for ice cream!**



SOUNDINGS

HOUSE PASSES MEASURE TO CURB TEACHER SHORTAGE

SB 2912 is intended to help curb the current substitute teacher shortage and streamline license reciprocity for educators trained outside of Illinois. This aligns to the Vision 20/20 pillar of committing to Highly Effective Educators. The bill was approved by the Illinois Senate in the spring, but stalled in the House of Representatives before adjournment. The legislation will:

- Reduce substitute teaching license fees from \$100 to \$50.
- Create a one-year grace period for retired teachers with lapsed licenses to bring their license into good standing without fines or coursework, allowing them to substitute teach.
- Prevent educators who retire mid-cycle from lapsing their licenses, allowing them to substitute teach.
- Allow educators licensed in other states to obtain an Illinois license through a more streamlined process. ISBE will be able to grant licenses based on comparable out-of-state licenses, instead of comparing prep programs from other states.
- Apply content area tests from other states for out-of-state licensees seeking an Illinois license.
- Create a provisional in-state endorsement on a provisional educator license with stipulations to allow candidates that have met all other requirements except passage of edTPA. This will allow candidates one additional year to pass the assessment while teaching.



Help Seniors Enjoy the Holidays

The holidays are a wonderful time to share the joys of family life and friendship. But for many older adults the holidays can be highly stressful, confusing, or even depressing. If you have older



friends and family members, you can help them enjoy the holiday season

more by following some simple tips.

Stroll down memory lane. Holidays provoke memories, which can be especially powerful in the later years of life. “Leading authorities have observed that memory and ‘life review’ are important parts of the aging process,” says Barry Lebowitz, Ph.D., deputy director of UCSD’s Stein Institute for Research on Aging. “Older people whose memories are impaired may have difficulty remembering recent events, but they are often able to share stories and observations from the past. These shared memories are important for the young as well—children enjoy hearing about how it was ‘when your parents were your age...’” He suggests using picture albums, family videos and music, even theme songs from old radio or TV programs, to help stimulate memories and encourage older seniors to share their stories and experiences.



Additional tips can be found online @ seniorliving.about.com/od/grandparents/a/happy_holidays.htm

When considering after-the-holidays dieting, do you ever think...

☛ Just once I wish I could flip over the package of food and the serving size would read: “However much you feel like eating!”

☛ I wish I was as fat as the first time I thought I was fat!
☛ How do I restore my body back to “factory settings”?



SOUNDINGS

Spotlight on IRTA Member Benefits

IRTA members qualify for preferred pricing on the latest Apple products and accessories.



Dell now offers members special pricing under their Employee Purchase Program.

Details of each program can be found at: irtaonline.org

PARTA ByLaws: ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIONS:



B. At the October meeting the election of the officers for the ensuing biennium shall be conducted. Elected officers then can begin the task of filling positions on the Board and for various committees.

C. At the December meeting the incoming officers shall be installed and shall assume office on the following January 1.

PARTA Officers for 2017 – 2018

President - Abby Humble
1st Vice President - Nancy Miller
2nd Vice President - Ann Winget
Secretary - Kathy Simpson
Treasurer - Jeff Vallosio

PARTA Committees

NEEDED: Committee Chairs and Members

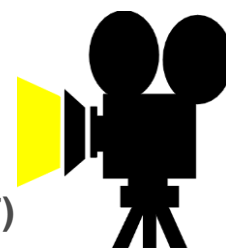
Our officers will need YOUR assistance & Cooperation. PLEASE let Abby Humbles know how YOU will be participating.



PLEASE CONSIDER: Nancy Wing, PARTA Attendance and Reservation Committee Chair, is needing a few PARTA members to volunteer as "Callers" for the new year. This is a very important task of our organization. Callers contact members to give them information about the upcoming meeting and to obtain their reservations.

"Movie Quotes" Answers (from page 5)

- 1) Zuzu Bailey (Karolyn Grimes): "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)
- 2) The Conductor (Tom Hanks): "The Polar Express" (2004)
- 3) a. Mother (Maureen O'Hara): "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947)
b. Santa Claus (Edmund Gwenn): "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947)
- 4) George Bailey (James Stewart): "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)
- 5) The Grinch (Jim Carrey): "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000)
- 6) Bob (Danny Kaye), Phil (Bing Crosby), Betty (Rosemary Clooney) and Judy (Vera-Ellen): "White Christmas" (1954)



WISHING YOU...

12 MONTHS OF SUCCESS
52 WEEKS OF LAUGHTER
365 DAYS OF FUN
8,760 HOURS OF JOY
525,699 MINUTES OF GOOD LUCK
31,536,000 SECONDS OF HAPPINESS



January 1, 2017 will be the first blank page of a 365-page book.

Write a GREAT one!

