

# PARTA

PA-RTA.WEBBLY.COM

# SOUNDINGS

**DECEMBER 2017**

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

## PARTA LUNCHEON / MEETING

**Barracks Cater Inn**  
December 4  
11:30 AM  
\$12.00

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

### GREETERS

-  Frances Farraher
-  Ann Christophel

### PLEDGE

-  Jean Thieman

### INVOCATION

-  Jean Thieman

### LUNCHEON

#### "CHRISTMAS" DINNER

- Ham
- Potato
- Vegetable
- Assorted Salads
- Dessert

### MEETING

Chair:  
Abby Humbles  
*PARTA President*



**Soundings Editor**  
**Roger Hampton**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greeting PARTA Members!

Wishing you a blessed Holiday Season. We hope you can join us for a festive musical luncheon sure to help put us in the spirit of the season! Bring a friend, being a teacher is not a requirement. Anyone can attend. For those unable to attend, may you enjoy a magical holiday celebrated with those you hold dear. Please remember we can provide rides with advanced notice if you are unable to find a ride. We want to help our fellow teachers!



Abby Humbles, PARTA President

## PARTA MEETING / PROGRAMS



**DECEMBER 4, 2017**

**"A Fun Holiday Program"**

### PRESENTERS:

Peoria Area Accordion Club  
Judy Ernst, President

**BRING YOUR SPOUSE OR A FRIEND**

**NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2017**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

**"Personal Safety"**

### PRESENTER:

Aimee L. Shinall, Victim Service Coordinator  
Peoria County Sheriff's Office



## NEEDED: CALLERS FOR PARTA MEETINGS

Please call Patti Monks if you are interested in being a PARTA caller for 2018. If she doesn't answer, please leave a message with your name and phone number, and state that you are from PARTA.

She also needs to find individuals who would consider being a substitute caller. This is also a very important task.

**PLEASE Call Patti Monks**  
**(309) 697-3385**

*Thank You Patti for accepting this responsibility while Nancy Wing recuperates.*

# SOUNDINGS

## General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

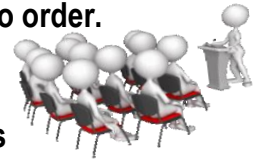
November 6, 2017

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked greeters, Deloris Turner and Rhonda Kokos. Susan Leighty gave the invocation and pledge. Attendance was 102. After the luncheon, Ann introduced our speakers, Denise Durst, Allison Marlow, and Danielle from Lutheran Hillside Village. They gave an informative program on SAIDO Learning, which is a non-drug program proven to improve symptoms of cognitive impairment, including communication and independent living skills. Supporters help learners with scientifically developed lessons, which are used to stimulate the prefrontal cortex of the brain. Praise and encouragement are important in the program. This is not a cure, but gives hope of improving quality of life to those with dementia.



Abby called the business meeting to order.

- The minutes were approved as printed in the Soundings.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. The report will be filed for audit.
- Roger Hampton was elected president of IRTA at the convention. He was also awarded "Peoria County RTA Unit Honoree". He thanked the board for this recognition. The keynote speaker at the convention was Attorney John Fitzgerald, who won the lawsuit for us in the Illinois Supreme Court trial. There is more information about the state, TRIP, and TRS in the November Soundings on pages 4-7.
- Frances Farragher reported that PARTA lost four members last month.
- Ann reminded members to bring a friend to the December meeting for a fun holiday program. The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

<b>REPORT</b> 	<b>NOVEMBER 2017 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$48,794.93</b>			Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
	Investment Balance	\$39,028.79	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$100.00
	Savings Balance	\$6,945.06	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$244.64
	Checking Balance	\$2,414.92	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$61.52

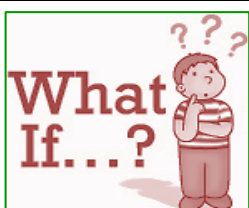
### WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM BEING MISUSED

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review your credit report</li> <li>• Consider a security freeze</li> <li>• Set up a fraud alert</li> <li>• Change your passwords</li> <li>• File your taxes as soon as you can</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read your credit card and bank statements carefully</li> <li>• Don't ignore bills from people you don't know</li> <li>• Shred any documents with personal or sensitive information</li> </ul> |
|--|--|
- [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov)

If you're afraid you might be a victim of the Equifax data breach, visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website for information and resources.



[www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/identity-theft-protection-following-equifax-data-breach/](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/identity-theft-protection-following-equifax-data-breach/)



“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!  
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.  
What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

— Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Present: John Rathbun, Peggy Shane, Sally Weber, Nancy Miller, Susan Leighty, Dave Barnwell, Ann Winget, Lee Ann Meinhold, Valda Shipp, Laveine Birditt, Kathy Simpson, and Abby Humbles

Abby welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

### New Business

- The Investment Committee is meeting January 22, 2018, at noon.
- Book & Magazine Table: Abby will ask for volunteers to maintain it.
- Recognition of Board: Have board members stand at meetings every few months.
- December Gifts: Dave made a motion to buy 110 bags of 3 flavors of popcorn for PARTA attendees and \$40 popcorn for Barrack's employees. Laveine 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and the motion passed.
- Increasing membership: If you bring a prospective member, you both get \$2 off your meal. Identify this when making reservations. The board approved this idea by vote. Roger will be asked to put this in the February *Soundings*.
- "Single's Table": Greeters will ask incomers if they have a place to sit. If they don't, they could be shown the "Friendship Table". This will be announced in December and put in *Soundings* in February.
- PARTA Posters: Put in Teacher's Lounges around Peoria County. Sally moved to reinstate the Membership Committee, Laveine 2<sup>nd</sup> it, and the motion passed. We'll ask for volunteers at the meeting and put in *Soundings*.



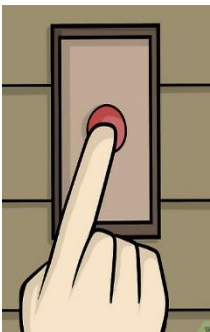
- Cookbook or Poetry Book: Members put together a poetry book or a cookbook and put it in area schools' libraries. It could also be sent to the membership.

### Committee Reports

- Programs: Ann reported that she now has a committee, consisting of Chris Mangold, Pat Hampton, and Lee Ann Meinhold, to assist her with programs. Ann is thinking of a shredding event in June. She'll ask at the December meeting to see if the group is interested. She's also thinking of a "Getting to Know You" time in June. Dave suggested a program could be Pro and Con speakers on the Water Buy Out.
- Membership: John said in September, he received 5 or 6 memberships in the mail after the meeting. Sally will hand out IRTA forms.
- Publicity: Laveine contacted WCBU and they announced our meeting. She is still giving information to the three TV channels' web sites. Let her know if you know of another medium.
- Scholarships: Valda attended the Scholarship Banquet last month and met one of the recipients. The money collected in September needs to go to PARTA's ICC Scholarship Fund.
- History: Susan will be gone during the winter and gets the newspaper online. If anyone sees a PARTA obituary, let her know.
- Contract: Dave said in December, Barrack's will submit a contract. It has been \$12 for three years. The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary



Pastor Tony is walking down the street on Christmas eve when he notices Larry, a small boy, trying to press the doorbell of a house across the street. However, Larry is very small, and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, Pastor Tony moves closer to Larry's position. He steps quickly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder, leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to Larry's level, Pastor Tony smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which Larry replies with a beaming grin, "Now we RUN!!!"



## SOUNDINGS

### STATE LAWMAKERS REQUIRE CURSIVE WRITING FOR STUDENTS

**HB 2977:** Children in Illinois who start their school careers at keyboards will be required to learn cursive writing. The Senate voted 42-12 to override Governor Rauner's veto of legislation that students learn cursive writing despite far less long-hand writing these days. The House OK'd an override last month. Each school district will determine by local policy at what grade levels this would be implemented, as long as students receive the instruction by grade 5. Advocates said printing is not efficient and sloppy and writing will never go out of style. They say lacking an understanding of cursive writing will hinder the ability to read historical documents or family histories. Critics complained that school teachers have too many requirements from the state.



*Source: [www.sj-r.com/news/20171108/state-lawmakers-require-cursive-writing-for-students](http://www.sj-r.com/news/20171108/state-lawmakers-require-cursive-writing-for-students)*

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LICENSES

**HB 3298:** Individuals who get a Substitute Teaching License for the first time, or at the point of renewal for individuals who currently hold a Substitute Teaching License, can now apply for a refund of the application or registration fee if that person taught a minimum of 10 full school days within one year of issuance or renewal, whichever is applicable. The governor's veto was overridden by the General Assembly on November 8. The law goes into effect immediately.



*Source: [ieanea.org/2017/11/09/iea-government-relations-legislative-update-nov-9-2017/](http://ieanea.org/2017/11/09/iea-government-relations-legislative-update-nov-9-2017/)*

**SB 1351:** Both chambers also voted to override a measure that would crack down on predatory lenders who target college students and their families. The Student Loan Bill of Rights implements safeguards against lenders for student loan borrowers. The measure also creates a student loan ombudsman within the office of the attorney general to assist students with any questions or problems about student loans. The bill also requires that all student loan vendors be licensed by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.



*Source: [ilhousedems.com/2017/11/09/beiser-helps-enact-new-protections-student-loan-borrowers/](http://ilhousedems.com/2017/11/09/beiser-helps-enact-new-protections-student-loan-borrowers/)*



Last year, just before Hanukkah, Miriam, a grandmother was giving directions to her grown-up grandson who was coming to visit with his wife. "You come to the front door of the condominium complex. I am in apartment 2B." Miriam continued, "There is a big panel at the door. With your elbow push button 2B. I will buzz you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow hit 2. When you get out I am on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell." "Grandma, that sounds easy," replied Jonathan, the grandson, "but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow." To which she answered, "You're coming to visit empty handed?"

## SOUNDINGS

The IRTA was proud to have John Fitzgerald with Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC attend the 2017 convention as key note speaker to discuss: "2017 Pension Rights Update: Past Victories and Future Challenges" Visit the IRTA's website at <https://www.irtaonline.org/Default.aspx> to watch his presentation in full.



### **SOME FEDERAL NEWS: A GLIMMER OF HOPE – SS FAIRNESS ACTION ALERT**

Legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) was introduced in the Senate by Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and in the House of Representatives by Rodney Davis (R-IL).



**PUNISHED FOR BEING PRUDENT:** "They paid into a private retirement system and paid into Social Security only to find out later they can get their money from the private retirement system but they can't get their money from Social Security. They are being punished for being prudent."  
~ John Kennedy, Louisiana Senator

**GPO** is a Social Security provision that penalizes individuals who apply for Social Security spousal or survivor benefits, if they themselves worked for a state or local government in non-SS-covered employment and are entitled to a government pension from that employment.

**WEP** is a penalty imposed on one's own Social Security retirement benefit when one begins to collect a pension from a public agency that did not collect FICA taxes during your employment.

→ **Contact your senators and representatives in Washington to sign on to repeal the GPO and WEP Provision!**  
Senate: S. 915 – House: H.R. 1205 ←

Check out progress on co-sponsors for both the House and Senate at: [ssfairness.com](http://ssfairness.com)



### **PARTA MONTHLY BOOK EXCHANGE**

Beginning in February, there will be book exchange table at each PARTA meeting. Anyone can bring books, magazines, calendars, that they no longer need for members to take home. Members will be encouraged to take anything that appeals, no "exchange" needed!

**SEASON TICKETS** Fred and Ed were fortunate enough to have season tickets to the Chicago Bulls' games. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat next to them (B14) and they had a friend who would love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together. One half-time Ed went to the ticket office and asked if he could buy the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty. Then, much to Fred and Ed's amazement, on the first game after Christmas, the seat was taken for the first time that season. Ed could not resist asking the newcomer, "Where have you been all season?" "Don't ask", he said, "my wife bought the season ticket back last summer, and kept it for a surprise Christmas present."



# SOUNDINGS

## RETIRED TEACHERS EMERGE MOTIVATED AND ENERGIZED AFTER BIENNIAL CONVENTION



*IRTA News Release: Springfield, Ill. - November 2017*

"I thank you for your support and the great honor you placed in me as the steward who held this office with the only intention to leave it better than when I first began," said IRTA President Dave Davison during his opening

remarks of the 2017 IRTA convention. "As long as we continue to stay on common purpose and journey forward together, our future looks more promising than ever. Our retirement can be the greatest part of our lives."

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) held its biennial Convention on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located in Springfield, Illinois. More than 500 retirees represented 38,000 IRTA members and their families. The IRTA is tasked to maintain and improve benefits for annuitants of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS); promote education and the professional, social and economic status of all members; and work in cooperation with other organizations to obtain these goals.

Attorney John Fitzgerald gave the keynote address focused on the legal precedents and case law that protect retiree pensions and health insurance, as well as the possibility of future legal action. During the Convention, the IRTA's Delegate Assembly conducted business for the Association and elected new officers and area representatives.

The new officers and area representatives will begin their positions beginning January 1, 2018.

### **New IRTA Officers:**

- President: Roger Hampton, Dunlap
- Vice President: John Flaherty, Coal Valley
- Treasurer: Shirley Dodds, Godfrey
- Secretary: Doris Heaton, Benton

### **New IRTA Area Representatives:**

- Area 1: Jo Anne Nelson, N. Henderson
- Area 3: Jan Bryant, Bourbonnais
- Area 5: James Barr, Blue Mound

At the Monday night banquet, IRTA unit honorees and past IRTA presidents were recognized for their service to IRTA, local chapters, and their communities. Guest folksinger, storyteller and songwriter Harry O'Donoghue also entertained the crowd with his trademark acoustic guitar, bodhran and his gentle voice.

IRTA President-Elect Roger Hampton thanked the delegates for what he referred to as a vote of confidence and trust shortly before the Convention's conclusion. "I will strive to work with you in maintaining IRTA's momentum of effectiveness." (View President-Elect Hampton's full remarks online at [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org))



PARTA members who attended the IRTA convention in Springfield were: Dave Barnwell, Abby Humbles, Pat Hampton, Roger Hampton, Nancy Miller, John Rathbun, Peggy Shane, Valda Shipp, Kathy Simpson, Sally Weber

**A kind word can warm the winter months.**



# SOUNDINGS

## PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY



Deceased:

Harry Whitaker, 90 - Sunday, November 5, 2017

Rose Marie Sunderland, 89 - Wednesday, November 15, 2017



### Midstate College Seeking Adjunct Instructors

Midstate College is always looking for qualified applicants to teach as adjunct instructors on-campus and online.

General Education courses (English, Mathematics, etc.)

A Master's degree, or higher, is required in the field of study you teach.

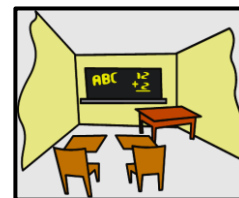
If interested, please contact Jessica Reyling, Director of Human Resources:

Midstate College	411 W Northmoor RD	Peoria, IL 61614-3558
jreyling@midstate.edu	309.692.4092 ext: 1170	Cell: 309.258.4580

### SUPPORT A CLASSROOM – BUILD A FUTURE

<https://www.donorschoose.org/> - Supporting Teachers & Students Since 2000

Teachers all over the U.S. need your help to bring their classroom dreams to life. Founded in 2000 by a high school teacher in the Bronx, DonorsChoose.org empowers public school teachers from across the country to request much-needed materials and experiences for their students. Choose a project that inspires you and give any amount. 94% of teachers said their funded projects increased their effectiveness in the classroom.



#### 2 examples out of 53 projects currently listed by teachers in Peoria County:

**"I Like Big Books and I Cannot Lie!"**

*My students need an assortment of books for the classroom because they all read at different levels. They need books to engage them in reading.* Ms. Phillips

Pleasant Hill Elementary School • Peoria, IL

**"Pencils, Paper & Supplies; Oh My!"**

*My students need basic supplies such as tissues and wipes in the classroom, so they have a clean classroom environment and materials to use for learning.* Mrs. Hensley

Sterling Middle School • Peoria, IL

#### WATER: Which products use less water to produce?



- For morning cup: Coffee or Tea?
- Your shirt: Cotton or Polyester?
- Lunch: Small Pizza or Cheeseburger?
- Drink: 8 oz. Glass of Milk or 17 oz. Bottle of Cola?



Answers on page 8: "WATER"



#### DEBT: WHAT WOULD WILL ROGERS SAY?

MONEY is mother's milk of politics and sometimes politicians seem unable to handle it very well. Years ago, Will Rogers said:

*"We will never get anywhere with our finances till we pass a law*

*saying that every time we appropriate something we got to pass another bill*

*along with it stating where the money is coming from."* Source: [newsok.com/article/2407467](http://newsok.com/article/2407467)

# SOUNDINGS

## Spotlight on IRTA Member Benefits

### IRTA GROUP VISION PLAN\*

Vision Service Plan (VSP) provides you access to their vast nationwide network of ophthalmologists and optometrists. When visiting a VSP network doctor, you'll receive an annual eye exam every 12 months\*, lenses every 12 months\*, and frames provided up to your allowance every 24 months.



To learn more, contact the IRTA office at (800) 728-4782. \*CO-PAYS APPLY

### IRTA GROUP DENTAL PLAN\*

The dental insurance plan, underwritten by Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation, offers group rates for association members. This plan offers rich benefits and the luxury of using your own dentist. You also have the option to select a network dentist and save 20-30%.



### TAKE ACTION, GET GOING ...

If you do something, something happens. Most likely, something connected to your actions.

If you do nothing, something probably happens anyway, but you have no influence on what it is.

Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there. ~Will Rogers

I couldn't wait for success, so I went ahead without it. ~Jonathan Winters

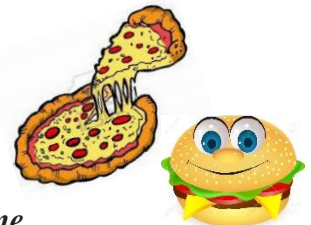
You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great. ~Zig Ziglar

The elevator to success is out of order, you'll have to use the stairs... one step at a time. ~J. Girard

### WATER: Answers to questions on page 7

- Tea 7.9 gallons, Coffee 37 gallons (for irrigation)
- Polyester 92 gallons, Cotton, 713 gallons
- Pizza, 333 gallons, Cheeseburger, 660 gallons
- Cola, 46 gallons, Milk, 54.9 gallons

Submitted by Ann Winget – taken from Nature Conservancy magazine



### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

#### START PLANNING NOW

Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank

where they have no account. ~ Oscar Wilde

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions! ~ Joey Adams

Impossible Resolution:

This year I will no longer eat chocolates. (I totally swear!)



### A Dog's New Year's Resolution:

I will NOT chase that stick unless I actually see it leave his hand!

