

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

DECEMBER 2018

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

PARTA LUNCHEON / MEETING
Barracks Cater Inn
December 3
11:30 AM
\$12.00

BRING A FRIEND

GREETERS

-  Lillie Foreman
-  Joyce Moore

PLEDGE / Invocation



LUNCHEON

"CHRISTMAS" DINNER

- Ham
- Au gratin Potatoes
- Vegetable
- Assorted Salads
- Dessert

MEETING

Chair:
Abby Humbles
PARTA President



Soundings Editor
Roger Hampton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy Holidays to you and yours. Wishing you a blessed season and a happy new year! We hope to see you for a festive December program.



Abby Humbles, PARTA President

PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 3, 2018

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020
Lee Ann Meinhold

Topic: *STORYTELLING*
Presenter:
Chris Mangold

Game: *CHRISTMAS TRIVIA*
Organizer:
Pat Hampton



SING-A-LONG lead by Denise Adams

NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2019

FEBRUARY 4, 2019

TOPIC

Native American Story Telling

PRESENTER

Danira Parra, Pastor
Dayspring Native American United Methodist Church



MARCH 4, 2019

TOPIC

Driverless Vehicles

PRESENTER

Presenter: Sam Kherat, Ph.D
Professor of Robotics at Bradley University



Please refer to PARTA's webpages for updates regarding meetings in 2019.
Sally Weber, Webmaster

SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2018

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone. Ninety-five people were present. She thanked today's greeters, Deloris Turner and Rhonda Kokos, as well as the callers and the cashiers. Patricia Hartman gave the Invocation and Pledge. Abby welcomed two new attendees and welcomed back Nancy Wing and Frances Farraher. After the luncheon, Abby introduced Pat Hampton, who introduced our speaker, Sarah Stevens. Sarah gave a delightful and informative presentation on beekeeping, accompanied by an interesting display. Abby opened the business meeting.




- The minutes were approved as in the *Soundings*.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the *Soundings*. The report

was filed for audit. Jeff Vallosio said to see him if you have any questions.

- Abby announced the PARTA board meeting on November 12, at 10:15 at Lakeview Library. A finance meeting will be directly after the board meeting in East Peoria.
- Roger Hampton reported that the open season for TRAIL insurance is November 15. If you opted out of TRIP you can now opt back in. You sign up online through IRTA.
- Valda Shipp reported that Rhonda Kokos and Deloris Turner attended the scholarship dinner with her at ICC. The recipients of the PARTA Scholarships were very appreciative.
- Frances Farraher reported that PARTA lost one member in October. The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

REPORT 	November 2018 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 49,506.38				Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
	Investment Balance	\$ 40534.41	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00		
	Savings Balance	\$ 6,961.28	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$ 359.92		
	Checking Balance	\$ 1,505.15	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$ 45.62		

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Redlinshafer	Toni	604 Harbor Pointe DR	East Peoria	IL	61611-5805	698-4656	New member
		tredlingshafer@att.net			309-690-5905 (cell)		
Wiest	Susan	313 Pine Ridge DR	Washington	IL	61571-2005	645-2540	New member
		swiest49@yahoo.com					



Susan O'Donnell



Deceased: October 3, 2018 (73)

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

Notes from Nancy Wing, Attendance/Reservations Chair

HELP! Callers Needed for 2019
If you have about half an hour available to call members for reservations before meetings, please call Nancy Wing at 472.2536 (cell).

Thank you to Mary Lou Boettger, Bobbie Shults, Parry Monks, and all the others who stepped up and fulfilled my responsibilities during the past 14 months. Your help is appreciated more than you ever know.

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching out and helping others.

PARTA Board of Directors' Meeting

November 12, 2018

PRESENT: Kathy Simpson, Dave Barnwell, Dixie Wheeler, Eric Johnson, Nancy Miller, Peggy Shane, Jeff Vallosio, Sally Weber, Roger Hampton, Susan Leighty, Valda Shipp, and Abby Humbles

Abby Humbles called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.



The dates of the next board meetings are February 1, April 29, and August 19, all at 10:15 A.M.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Roger said he'll continue doing the newsletter, but he cannot do the new directory. He will check on the cost of having it done. We'll put out another request for directory help, and if no one can, we'll print a page of changes to last until the next directory.

NEW BUSINESS:

- December is installation of new officers. Abby will ask Lee Ann Meinhold, Chair of the nominating committee, to see if she would install the officers.
- Dave Barnwell suggested that the board think about donating up to \$1,000 a year to various organizations. Roger suggested something like Donors Choose, where individual teachers request money for their classrooms. If we donate locally it would be good publicity for PARTA as well as help education. Abby will appoint a

research committee to report back to the board. Dave said he would help with the committee.

COMMITTEES:

- Sally Weber said the membership subcommittee would visit schools. Beth Crider will send out a letter to the superintendents to let them know that they are coming.
- Eric Johnson said the audit committee would audit the books after the December 3 meeting.
- Dixie Wheeler reported that in her role as legislation chair she has visited other meetings in McLean, Fulton, Dewitt, Logan, and Tazewell Counties. All were welcoming.
- Peggy Shane has someone for the Invocation and Pledge for the December meeting, but none for 2019 yet.
- Valda Shipp, scholarship chair, said it was nice to have other PARTA members attend the scholarship banquet.
- Ann Winget asked if members would be in favor of a bench saying "PARTA" out in the community. Abby said she would have Ann investigate costs and other details.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary



2019 PARTA DIRECTORY – VOLUNTEER NEEDED

PARTA is needing someone to be in charge of publishing the 2019 Directory. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to assume this responsibility, please contact Abby Humbles at 309.472.0456 or Roger Hampton at 309.360.6190.

A new directory will not be published in 2019 unless someone volunteers.

Peoria Public Library North "Music in the McKenzie"

Free Event: Sunday, December 16 – 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Lojo Russo, from the Quad Cities playing sweet folk & percussive roots.

"She's a one-woman show that shows you only need one woman".

Information about Lojo Russo online: <http://www.lojorusso.com/>



Police Officer Bryant found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists. One day, the officer was amazed when everyone was under the speed limit, so Bryant investigated and found the problem. Ten-year-old Dennis was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign which said "Radar Trap Ahead." A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice, another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "Tips" and a bucket at his feet, full of change.

SOUNDINGS

\$1.2 BILLION DEFICIT IN BUDGET, ILLINOIS LAWMAKERS PRAISED AS BALANCED

After Illinois lawmakers patted themselves on the back and told taxpayers the budget, they passed this year was balanced, a bond issuance tells potential buyers that the state budget is \$1.2 billion in the red.



The governor's office said the two series of bonds, one a \$656.5 million issuance that matures in 2033, and a second for \$263.7 million that matures in 2032, is not borrowing, it's swapping interest rates that are variable with fixed interest rates. That rate is not yet known.

Illinois' credit rating, which is the worst in the country at one notch above junk status, could affect that interest rate, possibly costing taxpayers more. The state would start paying \$44.4 million in 2020, then around \$100 million in 2021, and even more the following year, with varying principal amounts to be paid back until maturity, the document shows.

Source: wqad.com/2018/08/22/1-2-billion-deficit-in-budget-illinois-lawmakers-praised-as-balanced/

DEBT TRANSPARENCY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

SUMMARY: illinoiscomptroller.gov/comptroller/assets/file/DTA/current/DTAReport.pdf

<u>\$7.676 Billion</u>	<u>\$1.416 Billion</u>	<u>\$6.260 Billion</u>	<u>\$1.5 billion</u>
Estimated backlog of bills for General Funds and Health Insurance Reserve Fund (HIRF)	Agencies reported in General Funds and HIRF bills on hand	Net pending vouchers and transfers at the Office of the Comptroller	Estimated unfunded liabilities at agencies for fiscal year 2019

DELAYED PAYMENT INTEREST

\$606 Million Reported in Pending Late Payment Interest Penalties

Debt Transparency Report, Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza (9/30/2018)

The state is required to pay certain vendors interest costs when bills are not paid on time. Most interest is paid under the State Prompt Payment Act either from current year or following year appropriations provided to the agencies. Additionally, state agencies may have other interest penalties paid aside from those under the State Prompt Payment Act.

For those who enjoy language (or severe distortions thereof);

Being duly warned, prepare to groan...

<p>Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine. A backward poet writes inverse. A man's home is his castle, in manor of speaking. Dijon vu – the same mustard as before. A hangover is the wrath of grapes. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell? Reading while sunbathing makes you well red. When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I. Every calendar's days are numbered.</p>	<p>A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway.) When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion. A lot of money is tainted. It taint your and it taint mine. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat. A plateau is a high form of flattery. Acupuncture is a jab well done. Santa's helpers are known as subordinate Clauses.</p>
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\$400,000 was found in a man's washing machine. He was arrested on *Suspicion of Money Laundering!*

SOUNDINGS

2018 ILLINOIS ELECTION TRIVIA

TRIFECTA STATUS

Illinois changed from a divided government to Democratic Trifecta status. Democrats emerged from the midterm election with a state government trifecta — where one political party holds the governorship, a majority in the state senate, and a majority in the state house in a state's government.

SENATE

Democrats maintained their supermajority in the Illinois State Senate in the 2018 elections, winning 40 seats to Republicans' 19. As of 2018, a party needed to control 36 seats in the Senate to have a three-fifths supermajority.

HOUSE

Democrats won supermajority in the Illinois House of Representatives in the 2018 elections, winning 72 seats to Republicans' 46. As of 2018, a party needed to control 71 seats in the House to have a three-fifths supermajority.

LEGISLATORS

Illinois is one of thirty-seven states where legislators who are elected in November do not assume office until the following year. For Illinois legislators, that date is the second Wednesday in January. The upcoming legislative session will run from January 9 - May 31, 2019.



There are many new legislators (and still many of the multiple-term legislators) who must be educated regarding the legality of reducing or impairing our pension and health care benefits. Our IRTA state office staff is already meeting with many of them, but each voter must be a part of this process. We are the ones who vote them in or out of office. We have a “voice” and our vote counts!

DECEMBER DAILY HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS:

- 1 Eat a Red Apple Day
- 2 National Fritters Day
- 3 Advent begins
- 4 Santa's List Day
- 5 Bathtub Party Day
- 6 St. Nicholas Day
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 National Brownie Day
- 9 International Children's Day
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 11 National Noodle Ring Day



- 12 Chanukah
- 13 Ice Cream Day
- 14 Roast Chestnuts Day
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- 17 National Maple Syrup Day
- 18 National Roast Suckling Pig Day
- 19 Oatmeal Muffin Day
- 20 Go Caroling Day
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 22 National Date Nut Bread Day



- 23 Roots Day
- 24 National Chocolate Day
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day
- 27 National Fruitcake Day
- 28 Card Playing Day
- 29 Pepper Pot Day
- 30 Bacon Day
- 31 New Year's Eve



Source: www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/december.htm



My Father, who barely graduated from secondary school, always considered education a valuable tool. When my sister wrote home from college to say her roommate was quitting school because she felt college was a rat race, my father wrote back: "Tell your roommate that life is the rat race. College can teach you which rat to bet on."

SOUNDINGS



IRTA FOUNDATION (IRTAF) 2018 REPORT

Almost a quarter of a million dollars has been given in IRTAF Excellence in Education Grants for Active Teachers since the program's inception, sixteen years ago. This year there were 76 teachers from throughout the state who received money to fund noteworthy classroom projects.

For detailed information on the 2018 winners, go to:

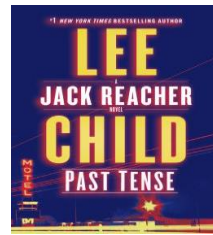
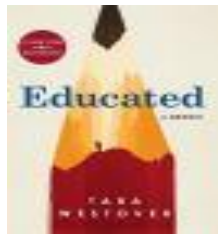
<https://irtaonline.org/index.php/foundation/Grants/grant-winners-2018>

PARTA MEMBERS READ AND RECOMMEND

Educated: *a memoir*

Daughter of survivalists, educates herself enough to leave home for university.

by Tara Westover



Past Tense

Jack Reacher explores the New England town where his father was born.

by Lee Child

PARTA MEMBERS: PLEASE email the name and author of a book that you have enjoyed. **HELP** keep this informational thread alive in future issues of *Soundings*. Send book name and author to: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

PILLSBURY DOUGHBOY OBITUARY

It is with the saddest heart that I must pass on the following news:

Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community.

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs.

Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the

Hostess Twinkies and Captain Crunch. The grave site was piled high with flours.

Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he still, as a crusty old man, was considered a roll model for millions.

Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough; two children John Dough and Jane Dough; plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.



Source: <http://funnybizblog.com/funny-stuff/pillsbury-doughboy-obituary>

Always find a reason to laugh. It may not add years to your life, but it will add life to your years.

SOUNDINGS



PARTA'S ICC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

SAVANNA KLOBNAK
and her parents

VICTORIA LODGE

Pictures were taken at the ICC Scholarship Banquet.



Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Chair, Deloris Turner (pictured in above photos), and Rhonda Kokos attended the banquet to meet and talk with our scholarship recipients.

GOVERNOR ELECT PRITZKER'S CAMPAIGN PROMISES

J. B. Pritzker promised over 11 billion dollars in new spending while on the campaign trail. Now he will need to find and promote a funding source for those ideas and plans. How this all will play out will get interesting quickly considering Illinois' multi-billion-dollar deficit this year, even though Illinois citizens were told the state passed a balanced budget. Add that to the billions of dollars that the state owes in back bills and Illinois either needs to begin printing its' own money or raise taxes. The unfortunate result could be that we will continue to see continued deficit spending.

REPORT: ILLINOIS IS 2018'S LEAST FISCALLY STABLE STATE

Illinois is the most financially unstable state in the nation, according to new ranking by U.S. News and World Report. The ranking of 2018's most fiscally unstable states was conducted by McKinsey & Company, the global management and consulting firm. The report considered credit rating and state public pension liability to rank states on long-term stability. For short term, the report measured each state's cash solvency and budget balance. Illinois was 50th overall.



The state's pension debt – commonly estimated at \$130 billion but measured as high as \$250 billion last summer by Moody's – was a factor. That debt load was cited by Moody's

and other creditors as a cause of the state's near junk rating. Rankings by short-term stability used the amount of liquid funds in a state's budget and how balanced the state's budget is. Illinois' current budget that passed last July, despite Governor Bruce Rauner's veto, is \$1.5 billion in the red, even with a \$5 billion income tax hike, according to the Civic Federation.

www.ilnews.org/news/state_politics/report-illinois-is-s-least-fiscally-stable-state/article_2ae91cdc-23e5-11e8-aa11-0b64dc049cac.html



*Tennis players can never find happiness.
Love means nothing to them.*



SOUNDINGS

Spotlight on IRTA Member Benefits

FLEXIBLE CHOICE

CANCER, HEART ATTACK & STROKE POLICY

This IRTA endorsed program will pay a lump sum benefit from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to use any way you like, upon a diagnosis of Cancer, or if you have a heart attack, heart surgery or stroke. The money comes in a lump sum payment, and is PAID DIRECTLY TO YOU, regardless of any other insurance you may have. This money can be used to help pay deductibles, rehabilitation, experimental treatments or any unexpected expenses. The program also includes a recurrence benefit which will pay upon multiple incidents. Contact AMBA at 1.800.258.7041 for additional information.

IRTA DAY AT THE BALL PARK - BUSCH STADIUM

June 2, 2019 - 1:15 pm (Game could possibly be moved to the evening)

\$130 All Inclusive: Food, Beer, Pop, great view of the game

- Food service begins when Busch Stadium gates open (2 hours before scheduled game time) and will be available until 1½ hours after scheduled game time.
- Bar service begins when Busch Stadium gates open. Alcoholic drinks are available until end of 7th inning. In the case of extra innings, non-alcoholic drinks available to end of game.
- Only 30 tickets available and must be ordered by mid-December. Order your ticket(s) online at www.irtaonline.org or call the IRTA office at 1.800.728.4782.
- Once issued, your tickets will be mailed to your address or you can pick them up at the IRTA office.



WAYS TO BE A LITTLE MORE GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

- Visit those who are lonely.
- Encourage paying it forward.
- Seek out individuals to help.
- Encourage your children & grandchildren to give.
- Turn every occasion into a giving opportunity.
- Remember the "Unsung Heroes".
- Give the gift of family time.
- Perform spontaneous acts of kindness.

Take ACTION! Don't let excuses thwart you from helping another. When in doubt, if it will help another and you feel safe doing so, JUST DO IT!

- What kind of music do elves listen to? Wrap.
- What says 'Oh Oh Oh'? Santa walking backwards!
- Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A Mince Spy!
- Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? Rude-alph!
- Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had no-body to go with.

- What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia!
- What do you get if you combine Santa and a duck? A Christmas Quacker!
- Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

