

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

DECEMBER 2019

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

PARTA LUNCHEON & MEETING

Barrack's Cater Inn
December 2
11:30 AM
\$12.00

BRING A FRIEND

GREETERS

-  Susan Bartlow
-  Ann Christophel

PLEDGE / Invocation

-  Susie Pierce

LUNCHEON

"CHRISTMAS" DINNER

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

MEETING

Chair:
Abby Humbles
PARTA President



**Soundings Editor
Roger Hampton**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greeting PARTA Members,
I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. We sure enjoyed our Thanksgiving feast last month. We look forward to celebrating the holidays in December!

Our next meeting will surely not disappoint. We look forward to a magician and music. Please let your caller know if you need special accommodations for your meal. We hope to see you at Barrack's Cater Inn in December.

Respectfully,
Abby Humbles, PARTA President




If you care to bring a book for the Little Libraries or a canned good for the Little Pantries, Abby will gladly deliver those to Cheryl Sanfilip.


PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2, 2019



MAGIC
presented by
ALLAN ADCOCK

PLUS a
HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG
with **DENISE ADAMS**



FEBRUARY 3, 2020

AREA STUDENTS - SPEECH PRESENTATIONS

MARCH 2, 2020

Wendy Merdian, presenter
Wendy is a Chillicothe resident who recently returned from 25 years in the Middle East in a missionary capacity.

APRIL 6, 2020

Zelena Winters, presenter
Zelena works with girls at Juvenile Detention Center, helping them create dresses for children in need around the world.

Please refer to PARTA's webpages for updates and additional information regarding meetings in 2020.

Sally Weber, Webmaster

SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2019

President Abby Humbles welcomed all. There were eighty-eight present. Abby thanked today's greeters, Delores Turner and Rhonda Kokos. Kathy Simpson led the Pledge and gave the Invocation.



After the luncheon, Abby thanked Barrack's Cater Inn for the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. She then introduced the speakers from *Align Peoria*: Dr. Nicole Wood, Amanda Campbell, Andrea Tortora, Susan Klesath, and Cheryl Sanfilip. *Align Peoria* is a committee to help PPS students have students reading at


grade level by 3rd grade, which is a national goal. They work toward this by reading to students 20 minutes per day, students' access to and choice of books, *Reading Buddies*, *Little Free Libraries*, and *Little Free Pantries*.

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.
- Abby gave a tribute to Nancy Wing's volunteerism.
- Roger suggested to take an old Soundings to someone you know who has not attended PARTA. There's a lot of good information in it.
- IRTA info – It's sign-up time for TRAIL (part of TRIP) from November 1 – 15, if you want to change something or sign up new.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

REPORT 	November 2019 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 53,707.09 Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer			
	Investment Balance	\$ 43,825.08	Working Cash (<i>cash boxes</i>)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	\$ 7,988.18	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$ 204.75
	Checking Balance	\$ 1,560.78	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$ 28.30

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Chanukah cards. She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Chanukah stamps?" The clerk answers, "What denomination?" The woman says, "Oh my! Has it come to this? Give me 6 Orthodox, 12 Conservative, and 32 Reform."



2020 PARTA DIRECTORY

Your Assistance Is Necessary

If any of your information printed in the 2017 PARTA Directory or the 2019 Directory Updates is incorrect or incomplete, you must send that information to John Rathbun.

Insure an Accurate Directory

**H
E
L
P**

308 James Pkwy, Washington, IL 61571 or genrebun@aol.com

SOUNDINGS

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2019

Present: LeeAnn Meinhold, Sally Weber, Dixie Wheeler, Frances Farragher, Dave Barnwell, Susan Leighty, Jeff Valosio, Ann Winget, Laveine Birditt, Roger Hampton, Valda Shipp, Peggy Shane, Kathy Simpson, and Abby Humbles. Abby Humbles called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The dates for future board meetings are scheduled at Lakeview Library at 10:15 A.M. on the following dates: January 27, April 27, and August 24.
- We need the paperwork for attendance at monthly meetings.
- The committee will visit another third of the county's schools this spring with candy for the teachers' lounges. This is to encourage membership.
- Jeff Vallosio said there is an audit for this next year. Eric usually sets the meeting time.
- Roger Hampton said he would do a full new directory. He will need to put in the changes in the constitution, which the secretary will send him. In the mailed February newsletter, he will ask for changes in members' information. The directory should be ready for the March meeting and passed out in March and April, with the ones left mailed in May. Sally will check with Nick Knapp about sponsoring a page in the directory. Roger will check with Kwik Kopy and others.
- Jim Bachman's wife passed away. He is the executive director of IRTA. Roger asked that we keep him in our thoughts and prayers.
- Jeff said that PARTA's 70th anniversary is in 2021. It will be put on the agenda to discuss ways to celebrate.



- We discussed ways to honor Nancy Wing for her many years of service to PARTA. We will do so at the November meeting.
 - Valda Shipp attended ICC's Scholastic Banquet. PARTA's three recipients were there. Valda will send a picture of the event to Roger to publish.
 - Sally Weber has finished her term as IRTA Regional Director. Sharon Urban from Tazewell County will take her place.
 - Dixie Wheeler attended the IRTA convention and said it was very good.
 - Susan Leighty will be gone for the winter, so she needs someone to save a copy of each *Soundings* from February through April. She puts them in a scrapbook, and they're stored at Bradley University.
 - Jeff said the budget would be submitted after December, after we see how much we spent. He will present it at the January board meeting.
 - Ann Winget asked Roger to sing "The IRTA Way" at the December meeting. We need to announce the Friendship Table and that Barrack's will carry people's plates if they need help. Ann is continuing as Vice President in charge of programs through the end of her term.
 - Abby made a motion that if you're age 85 or older, you get a free lunch sometime during the year. Jeff seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
 - Laveine Birditt said that notices about the meeting were in the Sunday and Monday papers.
 - Frances Farragher asked that people let her know if she misses anyone's obituary. Two members passed this past month.
- The meeting was adjourned.

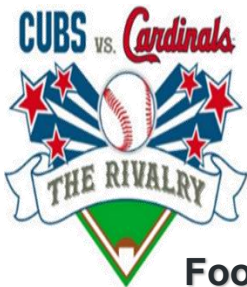


GRANDPARENTS

- Grandparents are there to help their grandchildren get into mischief that they haven't thought of yet.
- No cowboy was ever faster on the draw than a grandparent pulling a baby picture out of a wallet.

SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY							
Bouris	Jodi	7100 N Fox Point DR #9	Peoria	IL	61614-2253	264-5729	New member
		jbouris04@yahoo.com					
Kaiser	Patricia A	2020 N Hillside CT	Peoria	IL	61604-3727	673-6440	New member
		pkaiser27@yahoo.com					
Miller	Danny	120 Hillside CT	Dunlap	IL	61525-9705	635-5261	New member
		danny0816@gmail.com					
Powers	Jean	10824 Eddings	Charlotte	NC	28270-1192	256-6072	New address
Sullivan	Thomas G.	233 Winter Haven DR	Varna	IL	61375-9661	463-2034	New member
		tomsullivan61@yahoo.com					
White	Sandra	696-1412			Cell phone correction		
Wood	Linda	376 Charter Oak Place	Dahinda	IL	61428-9784	879-3466	Renewed
		lindawood@mymctc.net					
		Linda Serritella (73)	October 12, 1946 – November 1, 2019				
DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN							



IRTA DAY AT THE BALL PARK - APRIL 10, 2020

Join fellow IRTA members for an ALL-INCLUSIVE Experience at Wrigley Field on Friday, April 10, 2020, as the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Chicago Cubs!

Game starts at 1:20. Our suite opens at 11:20.

Food – Beer – Pop – Great View of the Game – All Included!

Your ticket includes access to the *Fannie May Bleacher Sweet*, where food and drinks will be located, along with private bathrooms. You're free to sit anywhere in the bleachers or at one of the many tables in the suite.

Tickets Are Limited | \$195.00 | Family and Friends Are Welcome



Picture from Illinois Retired Teachers Day @ Busch Stadium 2019

SOUNDINGS



TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS (TRS) FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

Member Contribution

\$964 million

School Districts

\$88.5 million

State Contribution

\$4,500 million

Total Contributions

\$5,552.5 million

Benefit Payout

\$6,800 million

Investment Return 5.2%

\$2,600 million

Without a positive investment return of at least 3% TRS would have had a negative cash flow for FY 2019.

Fund Balance at the end of FY 2019

\$53.3 billion (40.5% funded)

Total Liability

\$131.5 billion (\$78.2 billion unfunded)

Using the state spending plan that started in 1995 and since amended, TRS called for and expects to receive \$5.1 billion in FY 2021 from the state of Illinois with 75% of that representing the state's partial contribution of what they owe TRS for past underpayments.

TRS ACCELERATED PAYMENT PLANS UPDATE

TRS must offer all retiring Tier 1 members an accelerated pension benefit payment equal to a portion of their future pension benefits. In order to receive the AAI payment, the participating member must accept an irrevocable reduction in the automatic annual increase that will apply to the remainder of his/her TRS pension. Only retiring Tier 1 members are eligible for this voluntary program. The decision to participate in the program is irreversible and final. The AAI Program will exist until June 30, 2024. Members who choose to accept the program will:



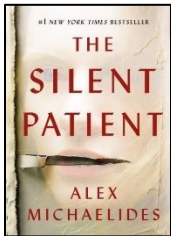
Renounce their rights to the current Tier 1 annual increase – a 3% compounded raise in their current pension.	Accept a new annual increase that begins at age 67 – an annual 1.5% raise in their pensions not-compounded.	Receive a lump-sum payment that equals 70% of the monetary difference between the estimated current lifetime value of the 3% annual raise and the estimated current lifetime value of the 1.5% annual raise.
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- **Current number of Tier 1 retirement applications in 2019: 3,687**
- **Members choosing to participate in the AAI program: 592**
- **Current total to be paid out to participating members: \$72.4 million**
- **Current average payment: \$137,000**

One evening I arrived home from work to find the lights out. My wife had prepared a lovely candlelit dinner and our two young sons, Garrett and Seldon, were dressed in their suits. “Hey,” I joked, “didn’t we pay our electric bill?” A few months later, during the Christmas Eve candlelit procession, the church was packed and silent when Garrett asked, “Hey, Dad, didn’t the church pay their electric bill either?”



SOUNDINGS



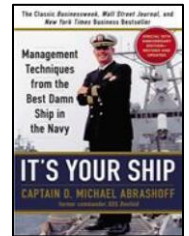
PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

The Silent Patient

A therapist unravels the mind of a shattered woman ... who may be a murderer – or not?

by Alex Michaelides

This is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband, and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive. The plot of the novel revolves around a silent patient, Alicia, and how she seeks to prove that her seemingly innocent therapist, Theo, was also involved in Gabriel's murder.



IT'S YOUR SHIP

Management Techniques from the Best Damn Ship in the Navy

by Captain D. Michael Abrashoff

US Navy Captain D. Michael Abrashoff explains how he and his crew turned their under-performing vessel into the pride of the Pacific Fleet. His colorful style of storytelling makes it enjoyable, especially for those who are curious about life on a guided missile destroyer.

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



MISHEARD LYRICS BY SIX-YEAR OLDS



“God and sinners dressed in style!”

(Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)

“Get dressed ye merry gentlemen...”

(God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

“Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names...” *(Rudolph)*

“He’s making a list of chicken and rice...”

(Santa Claus Is Coming to Town)

“Later on, we’ll perspire, as we drink by the fire...” *(Winter Wonderland)*

“With a corn cob pipe and a butt and nose...” *(Frosty the Snowman)*

New Year Coming Up – Time for Annual Membership Dues

Membership Dues

For many of our members, January represents the beginning of a new membership year. Dues for Annual Members and Associate Members are \$15.00.

Dues may be paid at a regular PARTA meeting or sent to:

John Rathbun, Membership, 308 James Pkwy, Washington, IL 61571
Checks should be made out to PARTA. If you joined this fall, your first year's membership extends thru 2020. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John at genrebun@aol.com.

Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the onetime fee is \$120. For anyone you may know who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained from

<https://pa-rta.weebly.com>

or you may contact John Rathbun at genrebun@aol.com.

SOUNDINGS

CORRUPTION COSTS ILLINOIS TAXPAYERS AT LEAST \$550M PER YEAR

Illinois is the third-most corrupt state in the nation, according to a recent report by the University of Illinois at Chicago. Corruption comes with social and economic costs. Not only does corruption lessen residents' faith in the government, it decreases economic growth and disincentivizes investments in the state.

CORRUPTION

Illinois' public corruption convictions cost the state economy an estimated \$550 million every year from 2000-2017, the Illinois Policy Institute estimated according to a 2011 study published in the peer-reviewed academic journal "Public Choice." That's a total during those 17 years of more than \$9.9 billion.

Federal corruption convictions per capita were 8% more common in Illinois than in other states during that time period. The annual loss of economic activity means the 285,000 Illinoisans actively seeking employment find it harder to land a job, and the state economy will likely continue to lag the rest of the nation.

Source: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/reports/>

THE MONTH AFTER

'Twas the month after the holidays
and all through the house,
Nothing would fit me –
not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibble,
the eggnog I'd taste;
All holiday parties
had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales
there arose such a number;
A walk to the store
was more like a lumber.

I remembered the
marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces,
the beef nicely rared;



The wine and the egg creams,
the bread and the cheese;
And the way I'd NEVER said,
"No thank you, please."
As I dressed myself
in my husband's old shirt,
I prepared once again
to do battle with fat!
I said to myself,
as only I can,
"You can't spend the winter
disguised as a man!"
So, away with the last
of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of all chocolate,
each cracker and chip.
Every last bit of food
that I like must be banished,



'Till all the additional pounds
have vanished.
I won't have a cookie—
not even a lick.
I'll chew only
on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits,
or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot
and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome,
and life is a bore---
But isn't that
what January is for?
Unable to giggle
no longer a riot;
Happy New Year to all
and to all a good diet!



2020 DIET

The second day of a diet is always easier than the first. By the second day, you're off it! ~ Jackie Gleason



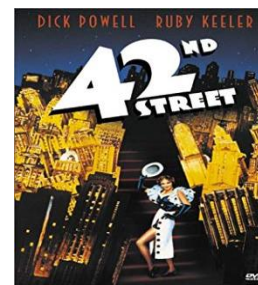
FREE EVENTS

**Peoria Public Library North Branch
Third Thursday Film Fest**

December 19, 2019 – 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bring a snack and enjoy a movie on the big screen.

42ND STREET (NR, 1933)



SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

APPLE DISCOUNTS

Apple and IRTA have included you in a special program.



You qualify for preferred pricing on some of the latest Apple products and accessories. This program includes special discounts on Apple products, quarterly promotions, free engraving on iPods, and online custom product configuration.

IRTA Member Information online at: irtaonline.org

VIEW & PRINT A YEAR-TO-DATE TRS EARNINGS/BENEFIT STATEMENT

Retired TRS members may print a report showing their current gross monthly benefit amounts.

INSTRUCTIONS: Log in to Member Account Access @ <https://www.trsil.org>

Member Information
Sign Out
My Account
Contact Information
Beneficiary Information
Beneficiary Refund
Monthly Benefits
Earnings Statements
Member Services
Forms & Reports
Document Upload

Select "Earnings Statement" from the left navigation bar.

	Benefit Type
View Checks	Age Retirement Annuity
View Checks	SB - Part B Survivor Benefits Monthly

Select "View Checks."

My 8-year-old mailed a letter to Santa regarding the gifts he wants, so Santa is now writing back with the details on how to clean his room.

On December 31st, when the clock strikes midnight, people all over the world cheer and wish each other a Happy New Year. For some, this event is more than a change of a calendar... it symbolizes the beginning of a better tomorrow. So, if you're looking forward to a better year ahead, spread some joy with some of these New Year Greetings:

- In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, never in want. ~ *An Irish Toast*
- For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning. ~ *T. S. Eliot*
- We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called "Opportunity" and its first chapter is New Year's Day. ~ *Edith Lovejoy Pierce*



- Resolve to make at least one person happy every day, and then in ten years you may have made three thousand, six hundred and fifty persons happy, or brightened a small town by your contribution to the fund of general enjoyment. ~ *Sydney Smith*
- Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man. ~ *Benjamin Franklin*