

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

DECEMBER 2021

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

PARTA LUNCHEON & MEETING

IN-PERSON OPTION

Barrack's Cater Inn
December 6 11:30 A.M.

Luncheon: \$12.00
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please call Patti Monks
309.697/3385
if you did not get called
for your reservation.

VIRTUAL OPTION

Link will be sent
via email.

GREETERS

- Ann Christophel
- Carla Stokowski

PLEDGE / Invocation

- Susan Bartlow

LUNCHEON

"CHRISTMAS" DINNER

Chef-Carved Ham
Potato / Vegetable
Assorted Salads
Assorted Fruit Pies

MEETING

Dixie Wheeler, chair
PARTA President



**Soundings Editor
Roger Hampton**



Unit #32 of the
Illinois Retired
Teachers Association



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holiday Greetings, PARTA members,
So encouraging to see 70+ members
at the November PARTA meeting! Certainly hope that
trend continues. Please continue to work on getting new
members and inviting them to join us.



Thank you to the teacher grant committee
— Deloris Turner (chair), Valda Shipp,
and Abby Humbles — for reviewing grant
applicants and determining winners.

More goodwill from PARTA to our education community.
Enjoy the holidays safely. Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year — 2022 is on its way!

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 6, 2021

COMING TOGETHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS
A MUSICAL ADVENTURE
with DENISE ADAMS



Director, Morton Civic Chorus

Members of the Morton Civic Chorus, joined by a couple of PARTA
members, will present a variety of Christmas classics, concluding
with a traditional sing-along, a favorite seasonal activity.

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

LEGACY INVESTMENTS

TRENT STRONG, Investment Advisor



PRINTED ← SOUNDINGS → ONLINE

CONSIDER: RISING PRINTING AND MAILING COSTS

Printed copies will still be available if you prefer.

However, if you would agree to only receive the

COLOR ISSUES of **SOUNDINGS** by email,

please contact Roger Hampton today.

309.360.6190 (text) roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

**H
E
L
P**

SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

11:30A.M., November 1, 2021

The November PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on November 1, 2021, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Rhonda Kokos and Deloris Turner. Ann Christophel offered the Pledge to the Flag and prayer. Dixie welcomed new members and thanked Cater Inn for their continued hospitality. Seventy-two in-person members were in attendance, and three members used the Zoom platform.

75



Lee Ann Meinhold introduced the program presenter, Gary Millen, author of *Lesson Plans for Life*. Gary is a retired educator from Peoria Public Schools and a member of PARTA.

During the business meeting, members voted on changes to the PARTA By-Laws, Article IX-Quorum. The motion was made by Abby Humbles and seconded by Peggy Shane. The membership unanimously voted for the amendment to PARTA By-Laws Article IX - Quorum: A seven-member majority of the

officers and chairpersons allowed to cast one vote under Article IV: Section B shall constitute a quorum at the Board of Directors meetings. Board members may attend virtually and be counted as present and voting members.

**PARTA By-Laws
Amendment Passed**

Carla Stokowski volunteered to conduct the "Guess Who" table activities.

Roger Hampton reported on the Virtual IRTA Convention held in October and shared information on the adopted proposals to the Constitution.

Roger also offered assistance to anyone with insurance questions. There were no committee reports.

President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike Olson seconded the motion.

**TRIP
TRAIL**

Respectfully submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

REPORT	December 2021 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 67,520.69 Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer			
	Investment Balance	\$ 56,827.28	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	9,019.11	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	285.56
	Checking Balance	1,194.91	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	93.83



2022-23 PARTA DIRECTORY

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

If any of your information printed in the 2020 PARTA Directory is incorrect or incomplete, PLEASE send your updated information to Roger Hampton.

TO VERIFY AN ACCURATE DIRECTORY

roger.hampton11138@aol.com

**H
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L
P**

There is no point in stressing over something you cannot change.

MOVE ON

Move on and grow stronger!

The PARTA Board Meeting, held at Lakeview Library, started at 10:07 A.M. with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. The members present were Dixie Wheeler, Roger Hampton, Jeff Vallosio, Sally Weber, Lee Ann Meinhold, Abby Humbles, Denise Smith, Peggy Shane, Dave Barnwell, Susan Leighty, Valda Shipp, Kathy Simpson, Deloris Turner, and invited PARTA member, Terry Knapp.



Terry Knapp was invited to the PARTA Board Meeting to provide some background information on legal support

for PARTA members and their families. After Terry's presentation, Roger Hampton suggested that the Board pursue relevant information on legal services for PARTA members and their families. Members will be updated in the Soundings. Abby Humbles made a motion to that effect, and Denise Smith seconded the motion.



A recommendation to give the investment/Finance Committee

permission to explore moving from the investments account the sum of \$3,000 to

the general fund if the Financial Adviser agrees. Roger Hampton moved for the Board to approve the \$3,000 from the Investment Account if decided by the Financial Adviser, and Sue Leighty seconded the motion.

President Wheeler emphasized the organization's need to continue efforts of increasing membership.

She stated a need for our



various school communities to know who we are and our purpose as an organization. Sally Weber mentioned that a team is in place and organized to address that very issue. Before the pandemic, Sally Weber, Abby Humbles, and Mary Nelson visited schools with information on PARTA and provided treats for teachers in their lounges.

WHO WE ARE

A motion by Dave Barnwell and seconded by Lee Ann Meinhold that PARTA members continue to receive a mailed copy of the Soundings.

Roger Hampton brought to the attention of the Board that the PARTA directory was not printed last year but will be printed this year. There were a plethora of duties and needs shared by Roger to get the publication to the printer. A committee member is considering assuming this huge task. More immediate discussion and actions are forthcoming.



Deloris Turner reported to the Board that the committee has completed the

PARTA Teacher Grant process, and five grant recipients will receive \$200 each. The committee members were Valda Shipp, Abby Humbles, and Deloris Turner, Chair.

Sally Weber suggested that all committee chairs create a job description for their committee. The Board agreed to the importance of the committees' job descriptions, and the Board will approve the job description after the completion.



President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Denise Smith and seconded by Peggy Shane. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deloris Turner, Secretary



On the way home from school one day, I sat down on a sidewalk bench next to an older guy to pull my socks up because they had slid down into my shoes. I took my shoe off and he turned to me and said, "Are they golfing socks?" I looked at him with a totally blank look on my face and he just said, "There's a hole in one!"

In primitive society, when native tribes beat the ground with clubs and yelled, it was called witchcraft; today, in civilized society, it is called golf.



SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY



Doris "Dodi" Ann Wilcoxon Larke (90)	November 8, 2021
Patricia Gay Lindberg (76)	November 1, 2021
Gail Snowden (70)	October 25, 2021

455 NEW WORDS & DEFINITIONS ADDED TO DICTIONARIES

Just a few of the new entrees you might want to look up:

ONLINE COMMUNICATION

- ◆ *deplatform*
- ◆ *digital nomad*

CORONAVIRUS

- ◆ super-spreader
- ◆ vaccine passport

TECH & SCIENCE

- ◆ CubeSat
- ◆ Oobleck

POLITICS

- ◆ astroturf
- ◆ whataboutism

FOOD

- ◆ fluffernutter
- ◆ horchata

MEDICINE

- ◆ halotherapy
- ◆ titer

POP CULTURE

- ◆ dad bod
- ◆ faux-hawk

NOTABLE TERMS

- ◆ blank check company
- ◆ small ball

ABBREVIATIONS

- ◆ TBH
- ◆ FTW

Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/new-words-in-the-dictionary>



**Ships don't sink because of the water around them,
ships sink because of the water that gets in them.**



Don't let what's happening around you get inside you and weigh you down.

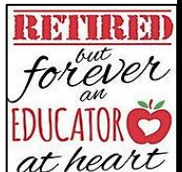
Did you know that there are 18 school districts in Peoria County?

Bartonville GSD #66	Illini Bluffs CUSD #327	Norwood SD #68
Brimfield CUSD #309	Illinois Valley Central District #321	Peoria Public Schools SD #150
Dunlap CUSD #323	Limestone Community HSD #310	Peoria Heights CUSD #325
Elmwood CUSD #322	Limestone Walters ESD #316	Pleasant Hill SD #69
Farmington Central CUSD #265	Monroe ESD #70	Pleasant Valley SD #62
Hollis Consolidated GSD #328		Princeville CUSD #326

A total of 64 school buildings.

*If you know any retired educators who currently live in Peoria County,
or had worked in Peoria County schools, who are not PARTA members,*

PLEASE INVITE THEM TO OUR NEXT MEETING



**FIRST
BORN**

Sunday
November 7
2021
1:59 A.M.

WHICH TWIN IS THE OLDEST?

If a baby is born at 1:59 A.M. **CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME**
and then its' twin is born two minutes later,
but the clocks were set back and now it's 1:01 A.M.
CENTRAL STANDARD TIME, which twin is older?

The one born second will be older on paper,
but the one born first is actually two minutes older.

**SECOND
BORN**

Sunday
November 7
2021
1:01 A.M.

SOUNDINGS

RETIRED TEACHERS IMPACTING CURRENT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

PARTA TEACHER GRANT RECIPIENTS 2021

- JENNIFER ANTON, *Bartonville Grade School*
- ELIZABETH KLEIN, *Princeville Grade School*
- JENNIFER LAWLESS, *Hickory Grove Elementary*
- DENISE MATZE, *Illini Bluff Middle School*
- ASHLEY WINTER, *Dunlap Valley Middle School*

\$200.00 per teacher

A 2020 University of Michigan study demonstrated that just one funded project at a school - despite its low cost - leads to improved academic outcomes for students.

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

Sources: <https://www.riddlevillage.com/blog/inspirational-stories-senior-citizens/>
<https://www.newretirement.com/retirement/>

Retiree stories that will inspire you to get active and accomplish your goals:

- LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES COLLINS WARREN - Got his pilot license at age 87
- LEONID HURNOBEL - Laureate Prize winner at age 90
- HARRIETTE THOMPSON - Completed a marathon at the age of 92
- MINORU SAITO - Sailed around the world alone at age 77
- DOROTHY DAVENHILL - Visited the North Pole at age 89
- AL BLASCHKE - Went skydiving for the first time on his 100th birthday
- ANNA MARY ROBERTSON (AKA Grandma Moses) - Started painting late in her 70's
- J.R.R. TOLKIEN - His popular series of all time was published when he was 62.
- PAUL SIROMONI - An esteemed humanitarian who earned a PhD at the age of 90



What dream(s) do you want to fulfill?

WINTER FUN AWAITS - Peoria Park District

Did you know that Peoria Park District is the oldest and largest park district in Illinois, encompassing nearly 60 square miles? Plan your next adventure by checking out their “Winter Fun Activities” at:

<https://peoriaparks.org/events/>



- ☺ I like having conversations with kids. Grownups never ask me what my third favorite reptile is.
- ☺ Last night in my dream I was peeing in bed. Dreams do come true I realized in the morning.
- ☺ The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.
- ☺ Improve your memory by doing unforgettable things.
- ☺ Never laugh at your girlfriend's choices... you are one of them.
- ☺ I just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap!

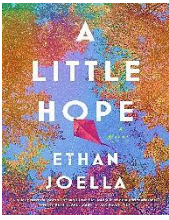


MATCHING INSPIRED VOLUNTEERS WITH INSPIRING CAUSES
Find volunteer opportunities in the Peoria area that make a difference in areas like advocacy, health and medicine, seniors, veterans, and more.

www.volunteermatch.org/

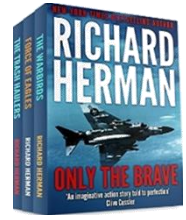
SOUNDINGS

PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



A Little Hope
by Ethan Joella

In the small city of Wharton, Connecticut, lives are beginning to unravel. A husband betrays his wife. A son struggles with addiction. A widow misses her late spouse. At the heart of these interlinking stories is Freddie and Greg Tyler. Greg has just been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a brutal form of cancer. He intends to handle this the way he has faced everything else: through grit and determination. But can Greg successfully overcome his illness? How will Freddie and their daughter cope if he doesn't? How do the other residents of Wharton learn to live with loss and find happiness again? An emotionally powerful debut that immerses the reader into a community of friends, family, and neighbors, *A Little Hope* celebrates the importance of small moments of connection and the ways that love and forgiveness can help us survive even the most difficult of life's challenges.



***Only the Brave:
An Aviation Thriller Omnibus***
by Richard Herman

Richard Herman's critically acclaimed aviation thrillers are finally brought together in this fast-paced, edge-of-your-seat collection.

THE WARBIRDS: Colonel Anthony "Muddy" Waters has a mission: to mold a company of poorly trained rogues and misfits into heroes. His assignment is one that no other officer in the United States Air Force would touch.

FORCE OF EAGLES: 281 American POWs were taken captive when the US pulled out of Iran. Now the US is assembling a Force of Eagles to bring them home.

THE TRASH HAULERS: This is the beginning of the Tet Offensive. Both sides face more than the enemy as superior officers maneuver for political advantage, and where cowardice, prejudice and treachery infiltrate the ranks – on both sides. In the air and on the land, raw courage, tenacity, and honor are the marks of humanity that deal with the wreckage of war...



I couldn't think of what to get my wife for Christmas, so I asked her what she wanted. She told me that "nothing" would make her happier than a diamond necklace. It seems like an unusual gift, but I'll buy her "nothing" just to make her happy. I'll let you know in the next issue of SOUNDINGS if that was a wise choice!



SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Provided through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR ELECTRONICS OR OTHER ITEMS?

- Apple (*Apple Employee Purchase Program Pricing*)
- Dell (*save 10% on PCs and Tablets*)
- Lenovo (*up to 45% Savings*)
- Hewlett-Packard (*save up to 52%*)
- Samsung TVs (*save up to 25%*)
- Canon (*save up to an additional 10%*)

Just a small sample of thousands of available items.  **MyAMBAdiscounts information online at:** <https://www.irtaonline.org/index.php/members-only>

Did you hear there is a coin shortage?
We're running out of common "cents"!

Common sense is like deodorant.
The people who need it most never use it!

SOUNDINGS

GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARTA OFFICERS



DELORIS TURNER, PARTA SECRETARY

Diverse opportunities, challenges, and blessings have plagued me during my 37 years in the Education Field. My teaching career started as a high school English teacher in St. Louis, Missouri. After relocating to Illinois, I worked five years for the State Department of Corrections - Juvenile Division, tutoring reading and math.

During 1981-1982 I was employed by Peoria Public Schools, where I taught Special Education-Learning Disabilities at Franklin Elementary and Glen Oak Schools. In 1986, Peoria Public Schools reorganized its schools into Primary and Middle Schools. I was transferred to Von Steuben Middle School and remained there for two years. An opportunity to work in a quasi-administrative position prompted me to apply for Dean of Students at Peoria High School. I was at Peoria High School for four years. From Peoria High School, I worked at Manual High School as Dean of Students for five days. No, that is not a typo. Before my name was printed on the school's stationery, the Superintendent called me to Blaine-Sumner Middle School as Assistant Principal. My tenure at Blaine lasted two years. Another opportunity presented itself to become Principal at White Middle School. White Middle School was my home for seven years.

The last ten years of my journey were at Rolling Acres Middle School. During those years, Peoria Public Schools was a partner with the Edison Learning Company. In essence, I had two bosses. That was the genuine excitement of it all, and it was those years that brought leadership challenges and rewards. In 2011, I bid adieu to Peoria Public Schools with much gratitude.

EDITOR'S CHALLENGE As the new year quickly approaches,

I challenge you to join me in resolving to be just a little "kinder" each day next year. This can be accomplished through simple "acts of kindness" toward a family member, a new or longtime friend, or even some random person you encounter during the day.



Our world desperately needs this type of positive interplay. Therefore, let us each endeavor to make **KINDNESS** the **NORM**, one person at a time, one day at a time.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.



~ Maya Angelou

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

~ Leo F. Buscaglia

Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough.

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
11138 N STONE CREEK DR
DUNLAP, IL 61525-9797

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Membership Status:



PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



PARTA OFFICERS 2021 - 2022

- Dixie Wheeler, *President*
- Roger Hampton, *1st Vice President*
- Jeannie Blane, *2nd Vice President*
- Deloris Turner, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 67 YEARS**

online @
PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM/
Sally Weber, *Webmaster*