

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

DECEMBER 2022

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

PARTA LUNCHEON & MEETING

Barrack's Cater Inn
December 5 11:30 A.M.

Luncheon: \$13.00
RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED

Please call Patti Monks
309.697.3385
if you did not get called
for your reservation.

GREETERS

-  Delores Turner
-  Rhonda Kokos

PLEDGE / Invocation

-  Susan Bartlow

LUNCHEON

"CHRISTMAS" DINNER

Apricot Glazed Ham
Potato / Vegetable
Assorted Salads
Dessert

MEETING

Dixie Wheeler, chair
PARTA President



Soundings Editor
Roger Hampton

MEETINGS IN 2023

Luncheons: \$14.00
(Note 2023 Price Increase)



Unit #32 of the
Illinois Retired
Teachers Association



PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS GREETING

My favorite time of year! There are so many things I love about the holiday season (*but not snow*). My very favorite is the seasonal music. We will be having the Norwood School Chorus with us, and they will certainly be a holiday treat. Thanks for singing for us!



Time to Recognize a Faithful PARTA/IRTA Member

JOHN RATHBUN

Regretfully, John is resigning his PARTA membership chair position—a position he has held for many years (he will have to tell us how many). Thank you, John, for your dedication and for being an inspiration to others to help preserve teacher benefits and our status. We can't do it without members, especially ones like you!



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!
Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President



PROGRAM: December 5, 2022

COMING TOGETHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS
NORWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHORUS

Taylor Doremus, Director
Taylor was a winner of a PARTA Teacher Grant



No Meetings: JANUARY, JULY, and AUGUST

FEBRUARY 6: Beth Crider, Regional Superintendent of Schools

MARCH 6: TBA

APRIL 3: Marchia Johnson, Wheels Of Time Museum

MAY 1: William Funkhouser, President of IRTA

JUNE 5: Captain Wright and Jeanie Wright, Navy Life Part II

SEPTEMBER 11: Lori Fairfield, AMBA Benefits Specialist

OCTOBER 2: In Memoriam Celebration of Life - Pam Winteroth, Harpist

NOVEMBER 6 & DECEMBER 4: TBA

MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR
TODAY

The November PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on November 7, 2022, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Ninety-four members were in attendance. We had one new member, Susie Lacroix. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Ann Winget and Ann Christophel. Peggy Bragg led the Pledge and Invocation.

Rich Frankenfeld, TRS Director of Outreach, was the program presenter. Mr. Frankenfeld spoke on "What's Happening to Our TRS Pension?" Members were given handouts and provided an opportunity to ask questions dealing with a plethora of concerns.



BUSINESS MEETING:

The membership approved the following **Slate of Officers for PARTA year 2023-2024:**

- **President: Dixie Wheeler**
- **Vice-President - Valda Shipp**
- **Second Vice-President (Programs) - Jeannie Blane**
- **Secretary - Deloris Turner**
- **Treasurer - Jeff Vallosio**



The motion to approve the slate of officers was made by Roger Hampton and seconded by Carla Stokowski.

The membership also approved the *Proposed Changes to PARTA's By-laws and Policies*

referenced on Pages 51 and 52 in the 2022 directory.



1. Remove #7, an outdated policy and remove #13 due to the current financial standing of the scholarship fund.
2. Revision #14: It should read: The directory shall be printed only in the odd-numbered years, as deemed necessary, with an addendum of changes provided.

Jeff Vallosio announced the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. John Rathbun collected money for PARTA and IRTA membership at the designated back table. IRTA Updates (Roger Hampton): Attorneys have regarding to the IRTA lawsuit.

A meeting is scheduled. Roger will keep us informed.



We were also encouraged to nominate Doug Strand for Trustee for TRS. Patti Monks thanked the callers and reminded the membership that reservations need to be made by the Wednesday before the meeting. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Mangold moved to adjourn the meeting. Debbie Wargo seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted

Deloris Turner, Secretary

REPORT	December 2022 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 59,359.74			Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
	Investment Balance	\$ 50,223.79	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	7,026.40	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	379.51
	Checking Balance	1,551.12	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	78.92

Remember to Check the PARTA Website for Updates
PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM
Sally Weber, Webmaster



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Some people are so poor, all they have is money.

SOUNDINGS

Patti Monks

Attendance / Reservations Committee

To all PARTA members it is important to keep your dues paid and kept up to date. We want to make sure everyone gets their monthly call and invitation to attend the monthly luncheons. Also, it would be very helpful when coming to the monthly luncheons to have the correct amount for the luncheon. You can pay by cash or make the check out to Barracks Cater Inn. The amount for a wonderful meal is currently \$13.00.



I have to acknowledge these terrific people who make our organization absolutely awesome!

A big thank you to these women who are the monthly callers. They are as follows:

Denise Adams	Lynn Campbell	Rhonda Kokos	Kathy Simpson
Marcia Becker	Sharon Couden	Ann McClain	Carla Stokowski
Laveine Birditt	Sonya Durand	Linda Sedgewick	Glenda Trollope
Mary Lou Boettger	Lillie Foreman	Valda Shipp	

Also thank you to these substitute callers who are always ready to pinch in and help when needed.

Peggy Bragg	Molly Bright	Pat Hampton	Catriona Rittenhouse
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At the back table on a monthly basis are:

- ➔ Kathy Simpson and Mary Lou Boettger who check the members in.
- ➔ Mike Olson and Patti Monks are in charge of taking in the fee for the luncheon.
- ➔ Mike Olson also is the ticket-collector. *This is important so that we have an accurate count and turn in the correct amount of money to Barracks.*

Thank You Volunteers

Members, please call Patti Monks if you are not called by Wednesday before the meeting.

Reservation If you have to cancel your reservation, please call on the Thursday before the Monday meeting. Her phone number is 309.697.3385.

Thank you everyone for being a valuable member or our fantastic organization.



DIET COKE:

Making people feel better about ordering two Big Macs and a large fry since 1982.

Denise L. Smith

Altruistic Committee

Please contact me, by phone 309.256.4614 or e-mail fonmomnow2@itv-3.com, if you know of the passing of one of our PARTA members. I like to send our condolence cards from PARTA in a timely manner to their families. The rising cost of obituaries in the Journal Star has made publishing them cost-prohibitive for many families. In the past, the Journal Star has been the major source for this information. Your assistance in reaching out to our deceased members' families will be greatly appreciated.



People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.

Your Personal TRAIL Information/Benefits: [MyBenefits.Illinois.gov](https://mybenefits.illinois.gov)

As a kid, I used to watch the *Wizard of OZ* and wonder how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Then I got on social media!

SOUNDINGS

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 | 9:00 – 11:35 A.M. | AGENDA

- I. Call to Order by CGFA Co-Chairs -- Senator David Koehler/ Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer
- II. Update on FY 2023 Revenues and Economic Update
 - A. Revenue Unit Manager Eric Noggle/Chief Economist Ben Varner
- III. CMS - Acting Director Pascente/Kari Wolfe/Colm Brewer
- IV. Retiree Health Insurance Vendor (New)
 - A. Aetna - Joyce Macek/Brittany Salinas
- V. Retiree Health Insurance Vendor (Ending)
 - A. UnitedHealthCare - DeDe Raybuck
- VI. Retiree Representative Organizations
 - A. Retired State Employees Association - Randall F. Witter
 - B. Illinois Retired Teachers Association - Roger Hampton
 - C. State Universities Annuitants Association - Linda Brookhart
 - D. AFSCME - Joanna Webb-Gauvin
 - E. University of Illinois Annuitants Association - John C. Marlin
 - F. Eastern Illinois University Annuitants Association - Dr. Richard Wandling
 - G. Champaign County Health Care Association - Claudia Lennhoff
- VII. General Public Comment
 - A. Members of the Public
- VIII. Adjournment

TRAIL Hearing
Medicare Advantage

AUDIO FILE OF HEARING

cgfa.ilga.gov/upload/11152022meetingAudio.mp3

Item III Starts at 43 minutes

COMMISSION MEMBERS

cgfa.ilga.gov/upload/11152022meetingAttendance.pdf

LINK TO HEARING DOCUMENT

cgfa.ilga.gov/upload/11152022hearingDocuments.pdf

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly. ~ Andy Rooney

Valda Shipp

PARTA Scholarship Committee

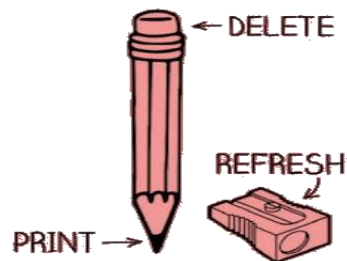
Congratulations to Na'Tionn Jordon our 2022 ICC Scholarship recipient. She is planning to become a preschool teacher. Ms. Jordon is a single mother who works at the Tri-County Urban League Daycare Center. In her letter she states, "With this scholarship, I can get my education without experiencing financial hardships. I thank you wholeheartedly for granting this scholarship. Now instead of working so many hours, I can put my focus towards my schoolwork."

Someday we "old folks"
will use cursive writing as a "Secret Code"!



911 ...
I'd like to report a crime ...
Identity Theft! ...
I've Become My Mother!!!

WHEN I WAS A KID, THIS
WAS MY COMPUTER:



It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. ~ Mother Theresa

SOUNDINGS

Adult Basic Literacy & ELL Volunteer Tutor Training

HELP WANTED! You can help! Become a volunteer tutor! Contact the Regional Office at jmeisinger@peoriaroe.org or text/call 309.472.2468. The Regional Office of Education Adult Literacy Program will be conducting an Adult Basic Literacy & ELL Volunteer Tutor Training at the Peoria North Branch Library, Grand Parkway, Peoria, IL 61615 on November 28, December 1, and December 7, 2022, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Advanced registration is required by emailing jmeisinger@peoriaroe.org or text/call 309.472.2468. If you have questions regarding the workshop and becoming a volunteer tutor, or interested in finding out more about our program, contact us by email at jmeisinger@peoriaroe.org or call/text 309.472.2468. Materials and training are provided for free. Bring a friend!!

*This program was made possible by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library (ISL), a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds designated for literacy.

If you are not interested in this training, please pass this information on to others who might be.



I'm so old I can laugh, cough, sneeze, and pee – all at the same time!



FRED KLONSKY ON ILLINOIS RETIREMENT HEALTH INSURANCE

“It was not until the Illinois Retired Teachers Association announced it was going to court did most of us who are retired Illinois Teachers become aware that the state was reducing its funding to the teacher retirement health insurance system (TRIP/TRAIL). Central Management Services (CMS), an agency of the executive branch, requested a \$45 million reduction in funding and the Teacher Retirement System board approved the reduction, with only the two elected retired members voting NO.

The IRTA said it had its actuarial experts look at the funding and said it spelled trouble for sustaining the retiree benefit for more than four years.

To me this smells like a diminishment of our pension benefit and the Illinois Supreme Court said the state can't do that.”

To view Fred Klonsky's whole article, go to:

fredklonsky.substack.com/p/iea-about-retiree-health-care-funding

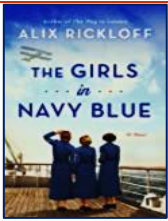
“Fred Klonsky in Retirement” is a reader-supported publication.

After successfully completing his first term representing retired educators, the Association recommends that IRTA member Doug Strand be the endorsed candidate. For Doug to appear on the ballot, he needs 500 electronic signatures of eligible TRS members. As an annuitant, you will need to use your TRS login to vote in the secure area of the website. Use this link to add your signature: <https://vote.escvote.com/trsilannuitant/default.asp?NomName=Douglas%20Strand>



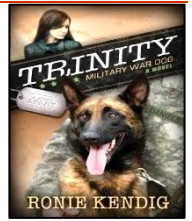
SOUNDINGS

PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



***The Girls
in Navy Blue***
by Alix Rickloff

A gripping and compelling dual timeline novel about three women who joined the Navy during WWI to become yeomanettes and the impact their choices have on one of their descendants. 1918 - America is at war with Germany, and, for the first time in history, the US Navy has allowed women to join up alongside the men. 1968 - Newly divorced and reeling from a personal tragedy, Peggy Whitby unexpectedly inherits her estranged great-aunt Blanche's beach cottage outside Norfolk Virginia. But her fragile peace is rattled when she begins to receive mysterious postcards dated from 1918 when Blanche served as a Navy yeomanette.



***Trinity:
Military War Dog***
by Ronie Kendig

A year ago in Afghanistan, Green Beret Heath Daniel's career was destroyed. Along with his faith. Now he and his military war dog, Trinity, train other dogs and their handlers. Though his passion is to be back in action, the medical discharge has forced Heath—and Trinity—to the sidelines. Military intelligence officer Darci Kintz is captured while secretly tracking the Taliban. Only one dog can handle the extreme conditions to save her. Trinity. Only one man can handle Trinity. Time is running out on the greatest—and most dangerous—mission of their lives.



A lot of people are afraid of heights. Not me, I'm afraid of widths.



SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Provided through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)



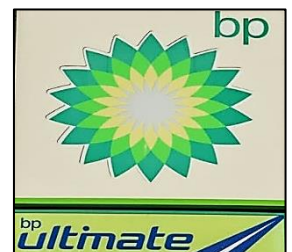
**Exclusive Low Rates
and
Bonus Offers for Passport Members**

**Lowest Prices for Passport Members
and "Secret Tips"
to Maximize your Disney Cruise**

**Thousands of Passport Savings Items for IRTA Members
Online At: members.irtaonline.org/member-benefits**



Bob ran out of gas and a bee flew into his car window. "Are you out of gas?" asked the bee. "Yes," answered Bob. "Gimme a minute," said the bee and flew away. Minutes later the bee returned with the entire hive of bees who all flew into his gas tank. Moments later they emerged. "Try it now," said a passing bee. Bob tried it and the car started. Bob said, "WOW! What did you put in the tank?" The bee answered. "BP!"



SOUNDINGS



1099-R ADDRESS CHANGE REMINDER

The deadline for retired members to submit an address change to TRS for the 2022 1099-R mailing is December 14, 2022. Address changes cannot be made over the phone. A Change of Address form must be completed by retired members. Download the form at: www.trsil.org/members/tier-i/retired/1099-R-address-change or call Member Services at (877) 927-5877 to request it.

Completed forms can be returned to TRS by:

- document upload (*follow instructions on bottom of form*)
- fax at: 217.753.0964
- email to: members@trsil.org
- mail to: P.O. Box 19253 Springfield, IL 62794-9253

POTATOES, EGGS, AND COFFEE BEANS

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied. "Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face. "Father, what does this mean?" she asked. He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs, and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity – the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently.



The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean? "

MORAL: In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us. Which one are you?

PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
406 Woodcrest
Washington, IL 61571

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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 68 YEARS**

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