

# PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2016

## LUNCHEON MEETING

February 1, 2016  
11:30 A.M.  
Barracks Cater Inn  
Luncheon: \$12.00

## Greeters

-  Kathy Churchill
-  Susan Bartlow

## Invocation

-  Ramona Herrmann

## Pledge

-  Ramona Herrmann

## Luncheon

Oven Roasted  
Chicken Breast  
Rice  
Roll  
Assorted Salads  
Dessert

## Program

The Inside Story  
of the Outhouse

(Stories & Pictures)

**Frank Hubbel**



## Meeting

Chairperson:  
**Dave Barnwell,**  
*PARTA President*

*PARTA meetings begin  
after lunch, around 12:20.*

*Meetings are free.*



ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Hope 2016 is off to a good start for you. New Year's resolutions are often made, but hard to keep. Here's an easy one. Let's all invite a non-member or inactive member of PARTA to one of our meetings. As you know, the food is good, the company is great, and the programs are informative and enjoyable.

Don't forget, today is payday. Don't forget, without the considerable efforts of the IRTA, you would not be receiving a 3% raise today. This is another reason to be an active part of PARTA and IRTA and a good reason to follow through on the resolution above. In numbers there is strength.

Anyway, who would want to miss the February program, "The Inside Story of the Outhouse"? It should be a "moving" experience!

Happy New Year, Dave Barnwell, PARTA President



## UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

**March 7, 2016**

**An Irish Pub Party**

*with song, dance, jokes and a sing-a-long*

**Chris Mangold, PARTA member**

**Celebration of the Arts: Mary Rous**



**April 4, 2016**

**Peoria Playhouse**

**Rebecca Herz**

**District 150 Foundation**

**Cindy Morris**



**May 2, 2016**

**Robotics Program in Area Schools**

**Brian Lough**

**June 6, 2016**

**GMOs - Problems with RoundUP - Organic Farming**

**Patrick Kirchhofer, Peoria County Farm Bureau**

*Details and updated information about each of our meetings  
is online at: [pa-rta.weebly.com/](http://pa-rta.weebly.com/) (Web Address Change)*

Though no one can go back and make a brand new start,  
anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending. *Carl Bard*

# SOUNDINGS

**PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES** **December 7, 2015**

Dave Barnwell welcomed everyone at 11:10 A.M. We were then entertained by the "Sounds of Memories" with Al Hedeman. Dave thanked the greeters, Eldon Petzing and Lisle Applegate. Linda Horton gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance was 100. After the luncheon, Dave opened the business meeting.



- The minutes were in the *Soundings*. They were approved as printed.
- The Treasurer's Report was on the tables and a summary is in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit. An investment meeting will be January 11.
- Membership – John Rathbun said the \$10 dues for 2016 are due.
- Altruistic – Francis Farraher reported that several

- members had passed.
- Investment – Eric Johnson investments are in good shape. All are five star companies.
  - Program – Ann Winget said the February program is "The Inside Story of the Outhouse". In March someone will speak briefly about Celebration of the Arts and Chris Mangold will speak about an old fashion pub party. Peoria Playhouse and District 150 Foundation will be April's program.
  - Dave spoke about the Proof of Birth process. You can call TRS office to get your TRS ID number and then go to an on-line site.
  - Legislative – Roger Hampton said the IRTA information is in the *Soundings*.
  - It was moved and seconded to adjourn.
- We enjoyed a Holiday Sing-along. Roger and Dave led the sing-a-long and Yvonne Frey accompanied on the piano.

**Respectfully Submitted** **Kathy Simpson, Secretary**

Investment Balance		\$37,864.37
Savings Balance		933.73
Checking Balance		4,010.38
Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00
Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	428.61
Post Office Returned Mail Fund	<i>unchanged</i>	94.16
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$43,431.25</b>
<b>Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer</b>		

**You A Vegetarian?  
Do You Have Special Dietary Needs?**

Barrack's Cater Inn is most cooperative about preparing special entrees for our members who cannot eat the entree prepared for P.A.R.T.A meetings. Simply let your caller know each month when making your reservation that you don't eat meat or that for health or religious reasons you cannot eat the entree (i.e. pork/ham) and a vegetarian meal or special entree (usually chicken) will be ordered for you when reservations are made on the Friday preceding the meeting. At the meeting you simply notify the wait staff as you go through the buffet line that you have a special entree and they will obtain it for you.

**ANNUAL DUES NOTICE** For annual members, a new membership year begins with January. Dues for 2016 are due. Either send to John Rathbun, 308 James Pkwy, Washington, IL 61571 or pay at the next meeting you attend. Checks should be made out to PARTA for \$10.00. If you paid dues in the fall, that would have been for 2016. If you wish to switch to life membership, that would be \$75. Questions can be sent to John at [genrebun@aol.com](mailto:genrebun@aol.com).

I am NOT going outside

until the temperature is ABOVE MY AGE!!!

It's so cold outside I just saw a teenager with his pants pulled all the way up!  
I'm so tired of winter, I want to fast-forward to complaining about how hot it is!

# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA Won Its Lawsuit!!! Now What?

### Illinois Retired Teachers' Association Political Action Committee (IRTAPAC)

IRTAPAC is a statewide, nonpartisan Political Action Committee organized by members of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association to benefit the entire retired educator community through political contributions to state candidates.

You can now donate to IRTAPAC and protect the status of retired teachers by donating just **\$1.50 a month through pension payroll deduction**. The form can be found online at: [www.irtaonline.org/](http://www.irtaonline.org/)

Or make a one-time contribution:

1. Send a check to:

IRTAPAC, 828 S Second ST, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Springfield, IL 62704

2. Use a credit card online at: [www.irtaonline.org/](http://www.irtaonline.org/)



**DO YOUR FAIR SHARE**



## Mainly In Part to IRTA's Efforts On Your Behalf



**You will receive an increase in your pension, reflected on February 1 check!**

TRS pays your monthly annuity in arrears. The check issued January 1, 2016 is your payment for the month of December. Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases and certain insurance premium changes will be reflected on the check issued February 1, 2016, which is your monthly annuity for January 2016.

The checks you receive in January and February may be for different amounts if the January 2016 benefit payment received in February reflects your annual 3% post-retirement increase. The COLA increase is first effective on January 1 following either your first retirement anniversary or your 61<sup>st</sup> birthday, whichever is later. TRS only sends a notification letter before your first COLA occurs.

If you are not a new retiree, you may log in to the secure Member Account Access area to view your annual benefit amount changes. You may also view your monthly statements online in Member Account Access.

## THANK YOU IRTA!

### IRTA – YOUR SOURCE FOR INFORMATION

#### WEB ADDRESS

[www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org)

#### FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/IllinoisRetiredTeachers/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/IllinoisRetiredTeachers/?fref=ts)

### GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER - VOTER VOICE

IRTA utilizes proven internet-based technology tools from voterVOICE to launch and manage grassroots lobbying campaigns and other governmental affair activities.

This online tool allows members to communicate breaking legislative developments to state and federal lawmakers, along with "Calls to Action" on legislation that is vitally important to Illinois retired educators.

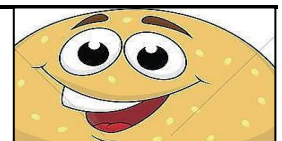
*Me:* Now I get it!

*Friend:* You get what?

*Me:* You know, when things heat, they expand.

*Friend:* Yeah, and so?

*Me:* I'm not FAT, I'm HOT!!!



# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA Scholarships

PARTA Scholarships were established to provide financial assistance to students from the tri-county area who are enrolled in education or education-related classes that are part of an overall program to obtain teaching certification. Recipients may be students intending to become school teachers or those in education who need courses to advance. Scholarship recipients will be determined by the ICC Scholarship Selection Committee according to need. The award may be used to defray tuition costs, fees, books, and academic supplies.



### 2015 - 2016 Recipients

- Sara Garrison
- Hope Hill
- Jessica Hamilton

*Due to your generosity, PARTA was able to award 3 scholarships this school year of \$1,000 each.*

As a member of PARTA please consider making an individual donation to the PARTA Scholarship Fund. Your contribution may be made in memory of, or in honor of, a friend or loved one. All gifts to the foundation are tax deductible and may be made in the form of cash, securities, or real property.

## Illinois Retired Teachers' Association Foundation (IRTAF)

**SCHOLARSHIPS** Six scholarships of \$1,500 each will be offered again this year. Applications are due on or before March 7, 2016.

Additional information and application are online at:

[irtaonline.org/documents/2016ScholarshipInformation.pdf](http://irtaonline.org/documents/2016ScholarshipInformation.pdf)

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** The Foundation provides financial assistance to retired educators who are living in times of acute financial stress. If you or anyone you know is having difficulty meeting financial obligations, *please* call for information at (800) 728-4782 or submit a financial assistance form for consideration to: **IRTAF 828 S Second ST, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Springfield, IL 62704**

You can download the financial assistance form online at:

[irtaonline.org/docs/APPLICATIONFORASSISTANCE24-14-11%20\(1\).doc](http://irtaonline.org/docs/APPLICATIONFORASSISTANCE24-14-11%20(1).doc)

A little boy and his mother were crossing a river...

Mother: Please hold my hand.

Boy: Mom, you hold MY hand.

Mother: What's the difference?

Boy: If I hold your hand and something happens to me, chances are that I may let your hand go. But if you hold my hand, I know for sure you will never let my hand go.



*I was told to follow my dreams,  
so I went back to bed!*





# SOUNDINGS



## Social Security Fairness

This spring it will be seven years that the Committee for Social Security Fairness has been working to rid our public servants of the penalties of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. Their website, [www.ssfairness.com/](http://www.ssfairness.com/), is the best source anywhere of accurate and comprehensive information on the Offsets.

This year they will continue to refine and direct this message. No one is expecting any big changes in Social Security in this election year, but they will work to attach their message to the cries for Social Security expansion and to build support for our cause among groups that should be our natural allies: groups that support seniors and women, worker associations and unions. The conventional wisdom is to simply tell people how the offsets have affected your life. You need to speak up wherever you can! Our voices are strong! Our cause is just!



Listen earnestly to anything your children and grandchildren want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

*Catherine M. Wallace*



The Vietnam War still has the power to divide Americans between those for it and those against. Today it also divides us, just as surely, between those who remember its era firsthand and those not yet born when the troops came



home. There may be no better bridge across these twin divides than Tim O'Brien's novel *The Things They Carried*. The details of warfare may have changed since Vietnam, but O'Brien's semi-autobiographical account of a young platoon on a battlefield without a front, dodging sniper fire and their own misgivings, continues to win legions of dedicated readers, both in uniform and out.

## Birth day Wish: To Be Six Again

George was a thoughtful husband. He wanted to give his wife something special for her birthday which was coming up soon. As he sat on the edge of the bed, he watched his wife turning back and forth and looking at herself in the mirror.



"Reta," he said, "What would you like for your birthday?"

His wife continued to look at herself and said, "I'd like to be six again." George knew just what to do. On the big day, he got up early and made his wife a bowl of Fruit Loops. Then he took her to an amusement park where they rode all the

rides. Five hours later, Reta's stomach felt upside down and her head was reeling. Never the less, George took her to McDonald's and bought her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake. Next, it was a movie with popcorn, soda and her favorite candy.

As Reta wobbled into the house that evening and flopped on the bed, George asked her, "Well, Dear, what was it like to be six again?" Reta looked up at him. Her expression changed. She said, "I meant my dress size!"




**You really have to give this guy an A+ for effort.**

*Source: [www.jokesclean.com/JokeManVsWoman/](http://www.jokesclean.com/JokeManVsWoman/)*

# SOUNDINGS

## Current TRS Pension Benefits

Benefit Range	Members	Percent	<b>Annuitant Benefits as of December 1, 2015</b> Average annuitant pension: \$52,752  Add survivors and disabled to the annuitants and the average drops to \$48,171. Combined percent over \$100,000: 6.9%
Under \$50,000	49,881	47.80%	
\$50,000 - \$99,999	47,221	45.20%	
\$100,000 - \$149,999	6,721	6.40%	
\$150,000 - \$199,999	435	0.42%	
\$200,000 - \$249,999	77	0.07%	
\$250,000	16	0.01%	

## No "Proof of Birth" Requirement for Retired Members

**NEW INFORMATION:** If you are receiving a TRS pension, you DO NOT have to send TRS a copy of your birth certificate or another "proof of birth." Your pension will continue even if TRS does not have your proof of birth on file. A new TRS policy requires only active and inactive members to submit a "proof of birth" in order to assist in the future administration of benefits. Members receiving a pension are classified as "retired." Members currently employed in a TRS-covered position are classified as "active."



## Tax Withholding Tables Changed

Revised federal income tax withholding tables went into effect on January 1, 2016. As a result, the federal taxes withheld from your January 1, 2016 annuity payment may have increased or decreased based on your filing status.



## TRS Benefits Report Now Available

Your TRS Benefits Report is now available through the secure Member Account Access area of the TRS website. The report summarizes your TRS account information, including beneficiaries and creditable service time. Annuitants do not receive TRS Benefits Reports. To view your report, sign in to your TRS account in the secureMember Account Access area.



## TRIP Health Insurance Payments Unaffected by State Budget Problems

The State of Illinois will continue to pay its share of health insurance bills for retired TRS members in both the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program and the Total Retiree Advantage – Illinois (Medicare) program.



Because of on-going financial problems, state government decided in September to stop paying health insurance bills for 146,000 current and retired state government employees who are members of three self-insured health plans. TRIP and TRAIL insurance plans were not part of this decision.

*Source: trs.illinois.gov/*



*I don't care how old I get,  
bubble wrap will always provide me instant happiness.*

In general, I don't believe in child labor.  
However, sometimes they're the only ones  
who can figure out what's wrong with my computer!



# SOUNDINGS

## PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Palma L. Pittman	Deceased: Friday, November 6, 2015
Georgia Anton	Deceased: Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Ruth Lied	Deceased: Tuesday, December 15, 2015
Robert (Bob) Itschner	Deceased: Monday, January 4, 2016

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

## Protect Yourself from Con Artists' Latest Tricks

The AARP Fraud Watch Network gives you access to information about how to protect yourself and your family.

Every year, thousands of Americans are impacted by fraud and scams – but you can beat con artists at their own game by joining the AARP Fraud Watch Network.

When you sign up, you'll get:

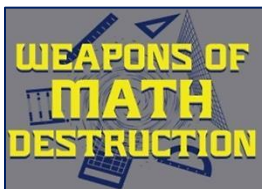
- The latest, breaking scam alerts, delivered right to your inbox
- Prevention tips based on thousands of hours of interviews with con artists and law enforcement
- Access to resources from our network of experts
- Access to a special network of people like you who are sharing their experiences with scams, so you know what to watch out for



The Fraud Watch Network is free of charge for everyone – members, non-members, and people of all ages. Register to download our free e-book, *Protecting Yourself Online for Dummies*. You'll learn how to shop and bank safely, create strong passwords, protect yourself from identity theft and scams, and use social media risk-free.

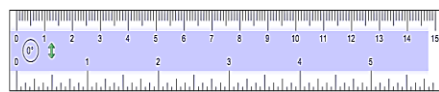
Protect yourself and your family. Join the AARP Fraud Watch Network today!

Online at: [action.aarp.org/site/SPageNavigator/FWN\\_Registration\\_Page.html](http://action.aarp.org/site/SPageNavigator/FWN_Registration_Page.html)



## Teacher Arrested At Sydney International

A high school teacher was arrested today at Sydney's Kingsford-Smith International airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, a slide-rule and a calculator. At the press conference, the Attorney General said he believes the man is a member of the notorious extremist Al-Gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the AFP with carrying weapons of math instruction.



'Al-Gebra is a problem for us', the Attorney General said. 'They derive solutions by

means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values.' They use secret code names like "X" and "Y" and refer to themselves as "unknowns"; but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are three sides to every triangle." When asked to comment on the arrest, Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes."



Source: [www.jokesclean.com/Misc/MathDestruction.php](http://www.jokesclean.com/Misc/MathDestruction.php)

So you mean to tell me a stress ball isn't for throwing at people who stress you out?!?!?



Peoria Area  
Retired Teachers' Association  
308 James Parkway  
Washington, IL 61571-1041

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# PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## **PARTA OFFICERS 2015 - 2016**

- Dave Barnwell, *President*
- Nancy Miller, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*
- Ann Winget, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*
- Kathy Simpson, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS  
FOR OVER 60 YEARS**

**online @  
PA-RTA.WEBBLY.COM/  
NEW WEB ADDRESS**

**Sally Weber, *Webmaster***