

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2023

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

PARTA LUNCHEON
11:30 A.M.
FEBRUARY 6TH

Barrack's Cater Inn

LUNCHEON
\$14.00
Note Price Increase
RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED

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

GREETERS

- ◆ Ann Christophel
- ◆ Dan Walther

PLEDGE / INVOCATION

- ◆ Dave Barnwell

LUNCHEON

- Roasted Chicken Breast
- Potato / Vegetable
- Assorted Salads
- Dessert
- Coffee/Iced Tea/Water

MEETING

Dixie Wheeler, *chair*
PARTA President



Soundings Editor
Roger Hampton



Unit #32 of the
Illinois Retired
Teachers Association



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new year is underway, and PARTA is ready to rock and roll! I sent in our survey to IRTA and believe we will be among those units in the state that are meeting IRTA criteria. I am very proud to belong to a unit that is purposeful and helpful to retired teachers in the Peoria area.



I'm glad to be up to date with issues that affect me and my retirement. Plus, the benefits IRTA offers through AMBA will make me feel secure as my husband and I go on our Panama Cruise with fellow IRTA members in October!

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

GREAT PROGRAMS IN 2023

FEBRUARY 6: BETH CRIDER

REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 6: DOUG STRAND, TRS Trustee

APRIL 3: Marcia Johnson, Wheels of Time Museum

MAY 1: WILLIAM FUNKHOUSER, President of IRTA

JUNE 5: CAPTAIN WRIGHT & JEANIE WRIGHT, Navy Life Part II

JULY & AUGUST: NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11: LORI FAIRFIELD, AMBA Benefits Specialist

OCTOBER 2: IN MEMORIAM CELEBRATION OF LIFE

NOVEMBER 6 & DECEMBER 4: TBA

REMEMBER 50 YEARS AGO? (Source: thepeoplehistory.com)

- 1** ◆ TOP SONG: "You're So Vain" BY Carly Simon
- 9** ◆ POPULAR HAIRSTYLE: Shag Haircuts
- ◆ BEST FILM ACADEMY AWARD: *The Godfather*
- 7** ◆ AVERAGE GAS PRICE: \$0.39
- ◆ MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME: \$12,050
- 3** ◆ TRIPLE CROWN WINNER: *Secretariat*
- ◆ TALLEST BUILDING COMPLETED: *Sears Tower*



SOUNDINGS

The December PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on December 5, 2022, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Seventy members were in attendance. Susan Barltow led the Pledge and Invocation. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Rhonda Kokos and Deloris Turner, and acknowledged the members who unselfishly volunteered to be meeting callers. Norwood School Elementary Chorus, directed by Taylor Doremus, a winner of the PARTA Teacher Grant, did an exceptional job with songs for the Christmas season.



The membership donated \$307 for lunch for the students.

Roger Hampton administered the Oath to the following officers for the next Biennium:

- ◆ President: Dixie Wheeler
- ◆ Vice-President: Valda Shipp
- ◆ Second Vice-President: Jeannie Blane
- ◆ Secretary: Deloris Turner
- ◆ Treasurer: Jeff Vallosio

Special Presentation: John Rathbun was recognized by PARTA for serving PARTA for 22 years with an award from the membership.



Aetna News: Roger Hampton shared with the membership a recording of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Meeting. For detailed information, refer to page 4 of the Soundings. Roger encouraged the membership to contact their Legislators if there are concerns regarding coverage by Aetna. There were no committee reports. Announcement: The next PARTA meeting is February 6, 2023. Lunch at Cater Inn will be \$14, starting at the February meeting. 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. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger Hampton moved to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane seconded the motion.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Wheeler requested members to submit volunteer hours for this year. The IRTA Survey will use these hours to satisfy the section asking how many volunteer hours members have committed.

The PARTA members retiring from positions were Denise Smith, Roger Hampton, Kathy Simpson, and John Rathbun. It was noted that we need a Public Relations person to replace the position Kathy Simpson holds. Kathy explained that one of the duties is to post PARTA news on the CIProud.com Community Calendar.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

REPORT	January 2023 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 60,354.28 Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer			
	Investment Balance	\$ 51,590.61	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	7,034.62	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	325.31
	Checking Balance	1,232.52	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	71.22
	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND: \$34,911.61 <i>This is not an additional amount. It is included within the Investment Balance.</i>			

REMEDY FOR WINTER BLUES – BRING ON THE LAUGHTER!
Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face. ~ Victor Hugo
He who laughs.....LASTS. ~ Erma Bombeck

SOUNDINGS

PARTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES **NOVEMBER 28, 2022** **9:30 A.M.**

The PARTA Board Meeting started at 9:30 AM via Zoom with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. The members present were Dixie Wheeler, Roger Hampton, Jeff Vallosio, Lee Ann Meinhold, Abby Humbles, Denise Smith, Peggy Shane, Dave Barnwell, Susan Leighty, Valda Shipp, John Rathbun and Deloris Turner.

PARTA IRTA SURVEY President Wheeler provided an update on the IRTA Survey that each Unit is requested to complete. There are designated responses to assess the coordination between IRTA and local Units. If Units answer favorably to less than 6 (six) responses, \$250 will be awarded. President Wheeler asked members to submit volunteer hours to insert in the survey.

TEACHER GRANT We had no applicants to submit for the Teacher Grant during the Fall. It was suggested we send out another request during the Spring semester. The grant application will be sent in February via the Regional Office of Education.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PARTA is currently in need of a Public Relations person.

TENTATIVE 2023 BOARD MEETING DATES
January 30 (ZOOM), April 24 (Lakeview Library), August 28 (Lakeview Library), November 27 (ZOOM). All Zoom meetings will start at 9:30 AM. The meetings at Lakeview will start at 10:15 AM.

PARTA GOALS ASSESSMENT Some projects were not fulfilled as planned. Specifically, the Suggestion Box idea. The membership goal was twenty-five new members.

John Rathbun reported PARTA has gained ten (10) new members. It was suggested we keep the membership goal.

ALTRUISTIC Denise Smith reported it is challenging keeping up with membership deaths. Many families do not post in the Journal Star due to the expense. She is requesting that she is notified of a member's death.

FOUNDATION SERVICES Valda Shipp is requesting to be notified if anyone knows of individuals needing a scholarship. She has found it is difficult finding candidates in Education.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Jeff Vallosio and Dave Barnwell reported, due to the volatility of the market, investments are not as profitable. However, the Savings and Checking Accounts are stable. No withdrawal from investment is needed. Budgets for this year will look the same. The Budgets need to be approved at the April meeting. The Investment Committee meets four (4) times a year.

PROGRAMS Jeannie Blane reported the Whiskey City Program would have to be replaced. They are looking for another program. Kudos to Patti Monks for streamlining the lunch procedure from two tickets to only one.

NEEDED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED **DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY**

PARTA BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2023	
January 30 . . . via Zoom . . . 9:30 AM	August 28 . . . Lakeview Library (TBA) . . . 10:15 AM
April 24 . . . Lakeview Library . . . 10:15 AM	November 27 . . . via Zoom . . . 9:30 AM



In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories, and steps, be a rebel and COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS instead! ~ Lisa Heckman

◆ I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.
◆ My kids now understand embarrassment. This is my time to shine! ~ Phyllis Diller

SOUNDINGS

IRTA MEMBERS PAID IT FORWARD FOR YOU!

When you receive your February 2023 pension check from Teachers Retirement System of Illinois (TRS) you will notice your annual 3% increase (*for those 62+*). This fact is significant because it negated a state law that had been passed to take this increase away from your pension benefits!

Former teachers “Paid It Forward” by spending their own hard-earned money in payment of over \$500,000 to the Illinois Retired Teachers Association’s attorney to take this piece of legislation all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court. This resulted in a unanimous decision that stated: **“MEMBERSHIP IN ANY PENSION ... SYSTEM OF THE STATE, ... SHALL BE AN ENFORCEABLE CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP, THE BENEFITS OF WHICH SHALL NOT BE DIMINISHED OR IMPAIRED.”**

Now it’s your turn to “Pay It Forward” by joining IRTA - the only association in the state of Illinois whose sole purpose is to protect the benefits of retired educators.

IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY AN IRTA MEMBER – PLEASE JOIN TODAY!



I got on the scales here this morning
and there was a Bible verse taped to it:
*Faith is the substance of things hoped for
and the evidence of things not seen.*



IRTA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2023

The 2023 application and current guidelines for the IRTA Foundation Scholarship are now available.

Applications and current guidelines are posted on the

IRTA website at: <https://www.irtaonline.org/foundation/scholarships/>

These scholarships are only available to incoming juniors or seniors in college enrolled in a certified teacher training program. Applications must be postmarked or emailed and sent to the IRTA office on or before March 7, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Goetz at susan@irtaonline.org or call 1.800.728.4782.



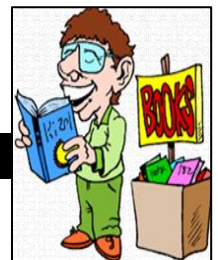
BATTERY COLLECTION CONTINUES

Please bring your used batteries to be recycled to any of our upcoming fall meetings.

BOOK EXCHANGE TABLE CONTINUES

Bring books, calendars, magazines, and other paper goods to share with our members.

*Better to take a book and not have time to read,
than have time to read and have no book to read!*



SOUNDINGS

DIRECTORY CHANGES - Please make changes in your PARTA Directory

Hillman	Sherry	4135 N Devon LN	Peoria	IL	61614-7110	309.453.0463	New Member
shillman21@aol.com							
LaCroix	Susan	6804 N Fox Point DR	Peoria	IL	61614-3005	309.757.4590	New member
lacroix13@comcast.net							
Leonard	Jan	6828 N Grand Fir	Edwards	IL	61528-9209	309.264.5850	New Member
janleonard2000@gmail.com							
Bowers	Mildred	10845 146th LN	Indianola	IA	50125-8433		New Address
Geeseman	Jo	504 E Cypress ST	Elmwood	IL	61529-9558		New Address
Gonerka	Fyrne	PO Box 555	Pine Planes	NY	12567-0555		New Address
Hamer	Ruthie	7026 S 57th AVE	Laveen	AZ	85339-2258		New Address
Kellogg	Patricia	4105 Horseshoe DR	Cedar Falls	IA	50613-4806		New Address
Lavery	Larry	5301 W Everett M Dirksen PKWY #20	Peoria	IL	61607-1125		New Address
McCann	Gerald & Louise	7501 N Villa Lake DR Unit 8B	Peoria	IL	61614-8279		New Address
Metzger	Kathryn J	8428 N Knoxville AVE	Peoria	IL	61615-2032		New Address
Smith	Denise	224 Indian CIR	East Peoria	IL	61611-1758		New Address
Streitmatter	Barbara C	1908 W Courtside DR	Peoria	IL	61614-1264		New Address
Vipond	Ann C	6724 N Hosta CIR	Peoria	IL	61614-3153		New Address

DECEASED: MARCHIA FORBER (85) MARCH 8, 1937 - JANUARY 17, 2023



PARTA members, PLEASE HELP keep the database current.

Send information to Roger Hampton roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

2023 IRTA EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

Around 100 IRTA members participated in the first of twelve educational webinars for 2023. The topic for the webinar on Wednesday, January 12 was *HEALTH AND FINANCIAL WELLNESS IN THE NEW YEAR*. A recording of each webinar will be available for viewing on the IRTA website.



Webinars are FREE, but registration is required. Topics, dates, and details of each monthly webinar in this series can be found online at:
www.irtaonline.org/upcoming-2023-irta-events/

UNKEPT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

If you already have not kept your New Year's resolution, here are some alternate plans for the remainder of 2023:



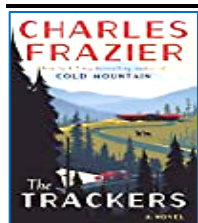
- Create a list of things to look forward to each month.
- Participate in 30-day challenges that consist of setting a small goal that can be achieved.
- Decide on one word for the year to help guide you with clarity and focus.
- Create a Bucket List of things you want to be, do, or experience before 2024.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES FOR 2023 (for those who are not life members)

SOUNDINGS

ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE RENAMED

A new law in 2023 will remove a long-standing stigma for people that earn an Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate. Starting January 1, 2023, that certificate will become the State of Illinois High School Diploma to more accurately reflect the equal value of that diploma and traditional diplomas earned at high schools across Illinois. The change will help Illinois graduates establish reciprocity with educational requirements in other states.



PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

The Trackers

by Charles Frazier

A stunning new novel that paints a vivid portrait of life in the Great Depression
In *The Trackers*, singular American writer Charles Frazier conjures up the lives of everyday people during an extraordinary period of history that bears uncanny resemblance to our own. With the keen perceptions of humanity and transcendent storytelling that have made him beloved for decades, Frazier has created a powerful and timeless new classic.

Fallen Out

(Jesse McDermitt Caribbean Adventure #1)

by Wayne Stinnett



When Jesse McDermitt retires from the Marine Corps, he has no idea what he will do for the rest of his life. At 37, his greatest skill is killing people from up to a mile away. He knows there aren't many job opportunities in the civilian world for that. However, he knows the south Florida waters, is an experienced diver, loves to fish, and knows his way around a boat. A waitress in a waterfront restaurant in north Key Largo gives him an idea and he runs with it.

Y'all, with the price of eggs, we're gonna have to paint potatoes this Easter!



SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Provided through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)

IRTA GROUP FINAL EXPENSE WHOLE LIFE PROGRAM

With this whole life policy, your premiums are guaranteed never to increase, and your coverage is guaranteed never to decrease.

Death benefits paid to your beneficiary are tax free.



Addition Information Online at:
members.irtaonline.org/member-benefits
or contact AMBA at 1.800.258.7041



- ◆ *Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere.*
- ◆ *I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian.*
- ◆ *Grandparenthood is one of life's rewards for surviving your own children.*
- ◆ *I'm at the age where I have to make a noise when I bend over. It's the law.*

~ Erma Bombeck

SOUNDINGS



LET GO TO RECEIVE SOMETHING BETTER

“Do you know how hunters of old used to trap monkeys?” A man asked his child. “Rather than chasing them up a tree or shooting arrows from below, they’d put a heavy glass jar with a narrow neck on the floor, which had the monkeys’ favorite food inside. They’d then step back and hide, waiting for the unsuspecting animal to approach. When it did, the monkey would reach inside, clench a fist around the food, and try to pull it out. However, the narrow neck of the jar would stop the poor monkey from getting its hand out! It would pull and pull, but to no avail. There was simply no way to get its hand out of the jar without releasing the food. Rather than letting go, though, the monkey would persevere, refusing to drop its dinner. The hunters would then approach and catch it to enjoy a meal of their own. Don’t be like that monkey,” warned the man, “In life, to fight another day and grow as a person, you must know when to quit, when to move on, and when to let go of whatever’s holding you back.”

MORAL OF THE STORY: Sometimes you have to let go and give up what you have now in order to receive something better in the future.

Source: www.whatsdannyydoing.com/blog/short-inspirational-stories-with-a-moral



ONLY 12 TICKETS LEFT

Join fellow Illinois Retired Teachers Association members on May 8, 2023, at Wrigley Field as the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Chicago Cubs! The game starts at 6:40. Our area opens at 5:40. Your ticket includes access to the Left Field Porch where all-inclusive food and drinks will be located, along with private bathrooms.

Family and friends are welcome.

Register online at: IRTAONLINE.ORG

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Presents **CLASSIC PANAMA CANAL PASSAGE CRUISE**

October 20-30, 2023

Panama to Fort Lauderdale on the Viking Cruise Ship *Mars*
11 DAYS | 5 TOURS | 6 COUNTRIES

For information call Premiere VIKING Travel Associate Nora Puglia at: 217.793.3733



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*All that is gold does not glitter,
not all those who wander are lost;
the old that is strong does not wither,
deep roots are not reached by the frost.*
~ J.R.R. Tolkien

*There are two ways of spreading light: to be the
candle or the mirror that reflects it.* ~ Edith Wharton

*Nothing is impossible. The word itself says:
“I’m Possible!”* ~ Audrey Hepburn

*No one is useless in this world who lightens
the burdens of others.* ~ Charles Dickens

Every moment is a fresh beginning. ~ T.S. Eliot *It always seems impossible until it’s done.* ~ Nelson Mandela
You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them. ~ Michael Jordan

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

Address Service Requested



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U.S. Postage
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Permit 378
Peoria, IL



PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



PARTA OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

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

**SERVING PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 72 YEARS**

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