

PARTA

PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM

SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2024

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

PARTA LUNCHEON
11:30 A.M.
FEBRUARY 5TH

Barrack's Cater Inn

LUNCHEON
\$15.00
Note Price Increase
RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED

*Please call Patti Monks
at 309.697.3385
if you did not get called
for your reservation.
by Wednesday
prior to any meeting.*

GREETERS

- ◆ *Mystery*
- ◆ *Greeters*



PLEDGE / INVOCATION

- ◆ *Sandy Hartman*

LUNCHEON

Chicken Breast
Potato / Vegetable
Salad
Dessert
Coffee/Iced Tea/Water

PROGRAM



*Dr. Bernice
Gordan- Young
Peoria City Council
At-Large Member*

MEETING

*Dixie Wheeler, chair
PARTA President*



**Unit #32 of the
Illinois Retired
Teachers Association**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I always love looking forward to what another year will bring and with that, I am predicting that PARTA will have even more volunteer community hours for our unit survey than we did in 2023. I was very impressed as I typed up all those hours that were turned in to me – grand total: 4,081.5 hours of service! And that was only with 19 PARTA members participating! Make yourself a New Year's Resolution to keep track of any hours you serve in the Peoria Area community. We will easily surpass 2023's hours in 2024! Sally Weber will be posting all manner and number of hours (no names) on our website at PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM for ideas.



As part of my duties to IRTA these next two years, I will be heading the IRTA State Legislative Committee. At the present time, the committee has not been set and will be operating with IRTA members that "want to be on this committee" as opposed to mandating a representative to every district. This idea was passed at the convention last fall so we will see how it goes. If there is anyone or more than one in PARTA who would also like to serve on the legislative committee, let me know!



Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

BATTERY COLLECTION

EVERY

**M
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G**



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

BOOK EXCHANGE TABLE

Bring books, calendars, and magazines to any meeting to share with our members.



SOUNDINGS EDITOR
Roger Hampton

PARTA Webmaster
Sally Weber

SOUNDINGS

The PARTA meeting for December took place at the Cater Inn on December 4, 2023. Dixie Wheeler, the President, presided over the meeting, which 85 members attended. One guest and no new members attended. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Catriona Rittenhouse and Chris Mangold. Jeff Vallosio led the Pledge and Invocation. President Wheeler thanked the volunteers at the “back table” for their continual service to the members. A monetary gift was given to the servers at the Cater Inn from PARTA. During the meeting, President Wheeler reminded members of the battery table and that Jeff Vallosio had placed the treasurer’s report on the tables. Patti Monks announced that there will be a meal increase to \$15.00 at our February meeting. She also asked if members intended to cancel, please do so before the day of the meeting. President Wheeler reminded members we have no meeting in January. She announced IRTA’s Alaskan Cruise. Members will have to decide on whether they plan to go by December 10. She thanked members who had turned in volunteer hours to be inserted on the Unit of Distinction Designation Form.



Roger Hampton reminded members that the deadline for retired members to submit an address change to TRS for the 2023 1099-R mailing is December 13. Address changes cannot be made over the phone. Roger also alerted members to be aware of possible legislation concerning free dental and vision for IRTA members with Medicare and federal bills regarding Social Security (*WEP & GPO*). Peoria Public Schools is seeking tutors to meet the demands of a grant it has acquired. Tutoring information was placed on the tables. Dixie asked the members for feedback on whether they preferred receiving the PARTA Directory printed every other year, as a printed copy, online access, or both. The majority voted to continue to receive printed copies. Mike Olson reminded the members of the *Annual Christmas Sing* in the lobby of the Peoria Riverfront Museum. The meeting was adjourned for the Christmas Sing. Denise Adams conducted a few tunes from the musical, “Chicago,” and Lee Wenger led the members in Christmas songs.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

REPORT 	2024 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 62,627.79		Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
	Investment Balance	\$ 56,002.78	Working Cash (<i>cash boxes</i>)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	4,065.60	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	99.21
	Checking Balance	2,304.34	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	55.86

*Oh my gosh, oh my goodness! I was SO EXCITED!!!
My family wanted to give me a SPECIAL Christmas present!
They gave me 1 dart and a world map and said, “Throw it and wherever it lands, we will go there after the holidays!!!
Well, I spent 2 weeks behind the refrigerator!!!*

THINGS I FIND MYSELF DOING AS I AGE

- ◆ Spending money on lotions and pain creams.
- ◆ Being shocked at how risqué TV has become.
- ◆ Letting out slight groans when bending over.
- ◆ Booking or looking into taking a cruise.



- ◆ Seemingly incapable of losing weight.
- ◆ Buying clothes for comfort - not style.
- ◆ Watching the Weather Channel.
- ◆ Taking and enjoying naps - DAILY.
- ◆ Singing along with elevator music.

SOUNDINGS

PARTA ZOOM BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 27, 2023 9:30 A.M.

The PARTA Board met via Zoom on November 27, 2023, at 9:30 AM. Members present were Jeannie Blane, Roger Hampton, Abby Humbles, Jeff Vallosio, Dixie Wheeler, Patti Monks, Valda Shipp, Peggy Shane, Dave Barnwell, Sally Weber, and Deloris Turner.

The meeting was called to order by President Wheeler, who led the Pledge to the Flag.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER REPORT: Jeff Vallosio stated that the Investment Committee decided to withdraw \$2,000 from the general fund. The committee had budgeted \$3,000 but found it necessary only to withdraw \$2,000. The February report will reflect that transaction. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

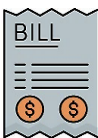
The Board used the October Celebration of Life list for IRTA for memorials. The amount sent for each deceased member is \$10.00.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dave Barnwell reported that despite the uncertainty of the current stock market, we have done an excellent job of holding our own.



PARTA is in pretty good shape.

ATTENDANCE/RESERVATIONS: Patti Monks reported sending out bills, and members have been responsive. Patti suggested that recognition should be given to the volunteers at the "back table." Some of the volunteers do double duty. Jeff complimented Patti on turning in bills for five (5) people. Patti reminded the Board that Cater Inn will raise the lunch price to \$15 in February.



GREETERS/INVOCATION: Peggy Shane reported that the schedule for Greeters and the Invocation is complete. Dixie reminded Peggy to make sure the names for Invocation and Greeters are submitted to Roger to include in the *Soundings*.

LEGISLATION: Dixie Wheeler stated that there is nothing regarding retired teachers going on right now legislative-wise.

MEMBERSHIP: Two new members have been added to PARTA's roster.

PROGRAMS: Jeannie Blane commented that Lori Fairfield from AMBA offered her assistance with programming if we needed her. At this time, we will put AMBA on hold for programming. It was suggested that Roger Hampton put a blurb in the *Soundings* to inform members Lori is at our meeting and is available for questions and answers.



Patti Monks suggested Caterpillar send a speaker to our meeting to provide information on company happenings. Jeannie can contact Caterpillar's HR Department to secure a speaker. Dave Barnwell suggested that someone from TRS be invited to be part of the program – September will be a good time for TRS. Jeff Vallosio suggested Trent Strong from Legacy Investment Services, INC. be invited to speak.

PARTA ICC SCHOLARSHIP: Valda Shipp mentioned that the initial recipient of our scholarship, Katrina Johnson, could not fulfill her courses and withdrew. She was replaced with Trenton Spangler from Washington, Illinois, who is excited to have received our scholarship and is looking forward to making an impact as a teacher.

PARTA TEACHER GRANTS: Deloris Turner informed the board that the PARTA Teacher Grant information will be sent out to schools via the Regional Office of Education in the second semester.



PARTA DIRECTORY: Denise Smith is currently keeping the directory updated. The directory is printed every other year. There was much discussion on the best way to distribute copies of the directory to members. There were many opinions on maintaining the directory in print form or online. Valda Shipp suggested we poll the membership at the December meeting to determine whether they wanted printed, online, or both.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON PRICE

PAYMENT INFORMATION

ATTENTION ALL PARTA MEMBERS: The luncheon price will be **\$15.00** starting in February. Please have the correct amount of money. Please no coins!!! If you are paying by check, make it out to Barrack's Cater Inn. You must pay by check or cash. Our group is not equipped to take credit cards!!!



PARTA CALLERS

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

All members should be contacted by their respective caller. Please respond with a **YES** or **NO** as to whether you **ARE** or **ARE NOT** attending the luncheon. It would be extremely helpful for all of us callers if you would respond back to them. Every effort is made to reach all members. Your responsible response is extremely helpful to us all. Please respond back to the callers if you are not home at the time of their call to you. **If you are not called by the Wednesday before the Monday luncheon, please contact Patti Monks @ 309.697.3385.**



LUNCHEON GUEST INFORMATION

If you are bringing a guest, your caller must know if it is the first time for the person. All first time new retired teachers receive a free meal. Please, Please, Please...It would be greatly appreciated if a guest is a first time attendee to let the caller or Patti Monks know. Just showing up without alerting the callers presents an approximate monetary count and attendance count.



Thank you to everyone for helping to make our organization the absolute best retired teacher's group.

PATTI MONKS, PARTA CALLER CHAIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3: PARTA ZOOM BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Please Refer to PARTA Directory for the following Policy Changes/Corrections:

POLICY #13 - Abby Humbles moved, and Peggy Shane seconded: The Celebration of Life Memorial list will be submitted to the IRTA Foundation in memory of the Unit members who have passed in the prior year (November-October).



POLICY #10- Jeff Vallosio moved, and Dave Barnwell seconded to delete policy #10.

POLICY #14- Jeannie Blane moved, and Sally Weber seconded: The directory shall be printed every other year with an addendum of changes as deemed necessary.



OTHER BUSINESS

→ It was moved by Sally Weber and seconded by Denise Smith to purchase a Zoom license.

→ Valda Shipp suggested that we give the staff at Cater Inn an appreciation gift for Christmas. It was moved by Denise Smith and seconded by Dave Barnwell that we would continue with past practice and give them \$200.

→ President Wheeler shared the Executive Board meeting times for 2024. All meetings will be conducted via Zoom and start at 9:30 AM.

→ Jeff Vallosio will report to the Board regarding the budget on the following dates. January 29 (tentative budget), April 29 (Approve Budget). Other dates for the budget reporting are August 26 and November 25.

President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved by Abby Humbles and seconded by Peggy Shane to adjourn the meeting.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

Grandma, we like your new purse.



Did it come with candy in it like the old one?

SOUNDINGS

DIRECTORY CHANGES - Please make changes in your PARTA Directory

Gilles	Jackie	Listed Phone (# 309.369.6924) IS NOT IN SERVICE
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NOTE: Please check each month's online issue of Soundings for a list of Directory updates.

RECENTLY DECEASED PARTA MEMBERS

James Bixby (82)	July 19, 1941 – December 27, 2023
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Eldon Keith Petzing (86)	May 7, 1937 – January 2, 2024
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PARTA members, PLEASE HELP keep the database current. Send information to Roger Hampton roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

GREAT ADVICE FOR HUSBANDS :

Hold your wife's hand in the mall because if you let go, she'll start shopping! It looks ROMANTIC, but it's actually ECONOMIC.



SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS



AMBA BENEFITS REVIEW



How Might You Benefit from A Benefits Review?

Are you taking advantage of all the IRTA benefits and discounts available to you? Our partner, Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA), can provide you with a thorough review of ALL your current policies (through AMBA and/or other company policies) and explain any additional coverage or savings that might be to your advantage.

There is no obligation or pressure, so why not explore all your options?

LORI FAIRFIELD, PARTA member and AMBA Representative, will be available at PARTA Luncheon Meetings to schedule an appointment for an AMBA Benefits Review at your home.



Many of our PARTA members have used this service over the past few years and have reported that they were very satisfied with the process and review.

Lori will also be available at the back table to discuss and/or answer any questions you may have regarding IRTA/AMBA Member Benefits.

Dear Winter, I'm breaking up with you!

I think it's time I start seeing another season. Summer is way hotter than you!

Dance like no one is watching, but email and text like it will be read in court one day!

School children in Vermont got to name the state snowplows in their district. Examples:

- ◆ Snow Wars
- ◆ Blizzard Tackler
- ◆ Catch My Drift
- ◆ Lightning McClean
- ◆ Brr-rito
- ◆ Frosty the Snow Slayer
- ◆ Captain Snowpants
- ◆ Snow Day Crusher
- ◆ Storm
- ◆ Beauty and the Blade
- ◆ Best in Snow
- ◆ Just Scraping By
- ◆ Darth Blader
- ◆ Abominable

SOUNDINGS



**JESSICA
HOSELTON**

MEET IRTA'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MORNING COFFEE WITH JESS:

April 23 | November 14

AFTERNOON TEA WITH JESS (2:00 P.M.)

February 20 | May 23 |

IRTA UPDATES WITH JESS (11:00 A.M.)

March 28 (Jess and Andrew) | September 26 | December 10



↑ *These are online events that provide IRTA members the opportunity to receive association updates directly from IRTA's Executive Director.* ↓


IRTA VIRTUAL CONFERENCES | 9:30 A.M. | ATTEND ONE OR ALL
Thursdays: June 13, 20, 27 and Wednesdays: July 10, 17, 24

IRTA / AMBA INFORMATIONAL WEBINAIRS

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

January 24 | February 21 | March 20 | May 15 | August 21
 September 18 | October 16 | November 20 | December 4

Webinars are FREE, but registration is required. Topics and details of each webinar can be found online at: www.irtaonline.org/

UPCOMING PARTA MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS	MARCH 4	Elizabeth Crider Regional Superintendent of Schools	
	APRIL 1	Mike Rucker <i>HISTORY OF BICYCLES / Children's Books</i>	
	MAY 6	Roberta English CEO of Wildlife Prairie Park	
	JUNE 3	Kay Price Storyteller for the Young at Heart	
SEPTEMBER 9 OCTOBER 7 NOVEMBER 4 DECEMBER 2 UPDATES AND INFORMATION ONLINE: PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM			

PARTA VIRTUAL (ZOOM) BOARD MEETING DATES IN 2024

9:30 A.M. | MONDAYS | JANUARY 29 - APRIL 29 - AUGUST 26 - NOVEMBER 25

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES FOR 2024 (for those who are not life members)

PARTA DUES: \$15.00 Annual - PAYABLE AT LUNCHEON MEETINGS
 Or send a check to Jeff Vallosio at: 406 Woodcrest, Washington, IL 61571

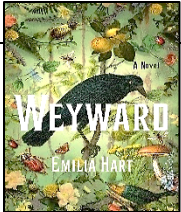
IRTA DUES DEDUCT: Only \$3.50 per month (deducted from your pension check)



SOUNDINGS

READING CAN HELP STAVE OFF DEMENTIA

Brain-stimulating activities, like reading, have been shown to ward off mental decline, as well as conditions such as dementia and even Alzheimer's. Research found that older people who read have a 32% lower rate of declining mental abilities. This is because reading has been shown to put our brains into a state similar to meditation. In doing so reading brings the same health benefits of deep relaxation and inner calm. Regular readers have been shown to have lower stress levels and decreased rates of depression compared to non-readers. Additionally, readers tend to sleep better and have higher self-esteem. Source: www.sacap.edu.za/



PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

WEYWARD

by Emilia Hart

Weaving together the stories of three extraordinary women across five centuries, Emilia Hart's *Weyward* is an enthralling novel of female resilience and the transformative power of the natural world.

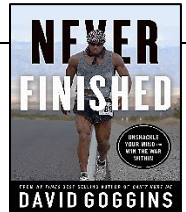
2019 Under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, inherited from a great aunt she barely remembers. With its tumbling ivy and overgrown garden, the cottage is worlds away from the abusive partner who tormented Kate.

1619 Altha is awaiting trial for the murder of a local farmer who was stampeded to death by his herd. As a girl, Altha's mother taught her their magic, a kind not rooted in spell casting but in a deep knowledge of the natural world.

1942 As World War II rages, Violet is trapped in her family's grand, crumbling estate. Straitjacketed by societal convention, she longs for the robust education her brother receives—and for her mother, long deceased, who was rumored to have gone mad before her death.

NEVER FINISHED

by David Goggins



Can't Hurt Me, David Goggins' smash hit memoir, demonstrated how much untapped ability we all have but was merely an introduction to the power of the mind. In *Never Finished*, Goggins takes you inside his Mental Lab, where he developed the philosophy, psychology, and strategies that enabled him to learn that what he thought was his limit was only his beginning and that the quest for greatness is unending. The stories and lessons in this raw, revealing, unflinching memoir offer the reader a blueprint they can use to climb from the bottom of the barrel into a whole new stratosphere that once seemed unattainable. Whether you feel off-course in life, are looking to maximize your potential or drain your soul to break through your so-called glass ceiling, this is the only book you will ever need.

We were doing home renovations and incredibly when we knocked down a wall, we found a secret, fully furnished room!!! Then we remembered, we live in a duplex!



IRTA MEMBERS PAID IT FORWARD FOR YOU!

When you receive your February 2024 pension check from TRS you will notice your annual 3% increase (*for those 62+*). **REMEMBER**, a state law took away this increase, but former teachers "Paid It Forward" by spending their own hard-earned money in payment of \$500,000+ to IRTA's attorney to take this piece of legislation all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court – which passed unanimously! We are benefiting from their actions!



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO PAY IT FORWARD - JOIN PARTA & IRTA TODAY!

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

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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*