

PARTA



SOUNDINGS

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PARTA members,

Happy Holidays to you and yours. I hope this newsletter finds you well. We look forward to our December meeting where new officers will be installed. I hope you are able to attend virtually. Please see Roger Hampton's instructions on how to follow the link to the virtual meeting if you would like to attend.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to be part of the PARTA Board. Thank you to all our outgoing officers for your years of dedication. Congratulations and best wishes to our new officers.

Stay safe and wishing you blessings!

Abby Humbles, PARTA President



VIRTUAL MEETING

10:15 A.M.
Wednesday
December 2, 2020

Meeting Chair:

Abby Humbles, PARTA President

Special Entertainment

BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Pre-Meeting 10:05 A.M.
and After Installation of Officers



A DO-NOT-MISS EVENT

IMPORTANT ZOOM MEETING DETAILS ON PAGE 6

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS for 2021 - 2022

President: Dixie Wheeler
1st Vice President: Roger Hampton
2nd Vice President: Jeannie Blane
Secretary: Deloris Turner
Treasurer: Jeff Vallosio
*LeeAnn Meinhold, Parliamentarian,
will be presiding over the installation.*

Check Online for PARTA
Information and Updates
PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM

Sally Weber
PARTA Webmaster



To keep you informed, PARTA needs your email address. Emails are sent to update PARTA members with information relevant to retired educators such as: pensions, legislation, meetings, assistance, etc.

KEEP CONNECTED

Roger Hampton, Soundings Editor

SOUNDINGS

PARTA VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2020



Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were twenty people present. Abby called the meeting to order.

The following slate of officers for 2021-2022 was presented by the Nominating Committee:

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

Abby made a motion to elect the slate. Toni Redlinshafer seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Abby thanked the Nominating Committee which consisted of LeeAnn Meinhold, Pat Hampton, and Peggy Shane. The minutes from the March 2nd meeting were in the *Soundings*. Susie Pierce moved to approve the minutes, John Rathbun 2nd the motion, and the motion carried.

Jeff Vallosio provided copies of the treasurer's report. In summary, the checking account balance is \$3,360.78; savings balance is \$6,010.52, and the investments are doing well. Deloris Turner reported on the PARTA Teacher Grants. The grant information was sent to the Regional Office, and Beth Crider sent it on to Peoria County schools. Twenty-two applications were received. Abby and Valda Shipp helped score the applications using a rubric, and six were chosen to receive the five grants. The information was sent to Jeff, who sent the checks for the \$200 grants to the schools of the recipients. Those recipients were Stacey Delinski of Dunlap Middle, Dawn Giovanetto of Peoria Regional Learning Center, Taylor Doremus of Norwood, Shawn Crandell of

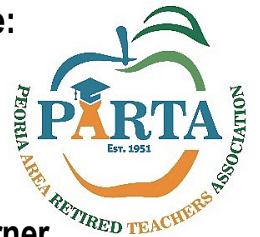
Bartonville, and Jennifer Anton and Trisha Robinson of Illini Bluffs. Abby thanked Deloris for organizing this very professional process. It was suggested that the names of the grant winners be sent to the newspaper.

Valda Shipp reported that there was no celebration of the ICC Scholarship recipients as there usually is. Therefore, she has little information on PARTA's two recipients. She will reach out to them and get more information about them.

John Rathbun said he received a number of dues payments after the *Soundings* came out. Abby said the committee did not pass out candy to the teachers in schools this spring, as they weren't in session.

Dixie Wheeler reported on committee leaders for the next term. They include:

- Advisor – Abby Humbles
- Altruistic – Denise Smith
- Callers – Patti Monks
- Scholarship – Valda Shipp
- Rhonda Kokos, Deloris Turner
- Finance – Dave Barnwell, Abby Humbles, John Rathbun, Jeff Vallosio, & Dixie Wheeler
- Greeters and Invocation – Ann Christopher & Peggy Shane
- History – Susan Leighty
- Legislation – Dixie Wheeler
- Membership – John Rathbun
- Programs – Jeannie Blane, Pat Hampton, & LeeAnn Meinhold
- Publicity – Kathy Simpson
- Webmaster – Sally Weber
- Newsletter – Roger Hampton



Pat Hampton moved to adjourn, Susan Leighty seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Simpson, Secretary

SOUNDINGS

NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR COMING UP TIME FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

For many of our members, the fall represents the time to pay dues for the 2021 membership year. Dues for Annual Members and Associate Members are \$15.00.

Dues may be sent to:

John Rathbun, Membership
4 Elm Creek DR, Apt 304
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Checks should be made out to PARTA. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John at: genrebun@aol.com

Life Members are not impacted by this announcement.

For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the one-time fee is \$120.



Due to the disruption of the pandemic, the usual recruitment program for new retirees did not take place in the fall. If you know a recently retired teacher, please let them know about PARTA and IRTA. For anyone who wishes to join PARTA, information about our organization and a membership form are available at <https://pa-rta.weebly.com>. Or you may contact John Rathbun at: genrebun@aol.com

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Barthel	Dick	dick_barthel@yahoo.com				Email
Brandow	Connie	11239 Dorado Vista TRL	Haslet	TX	76052-1328	Address
Day	Christine	916 W Loire CT APT 102	Peoria	IL	61614-1874	Address
		christineday516@comcast.net				
Forber	Marchia	marchiaforber@gmail.com				Email
Humbles	Abby	9614 N Radnor RD	Peoria	IL	61615-9539	Address
Meischner	Ken	67 Diamond PT	Morton	IL	61550-1186	Address
Meischner	Mary	67 Diamond PT	Morton	IL	61550-1186	Address
Polites	Demetra	3 Streamwood CT	Washington	IL	61571-9287	Address
Poppen-Bott	Virginia	5227 Juniper Terrace LN	Katy	TX	77964-3073	Address
Ragsdale	Ann	2511 W Kaylie CT	Peoria	IL	61615-8801	Address & Phone
		aragsdale47@gmail.com				
Strickler	Dottie	5329 W Flagstone DR	Peoria	IL	61615-8621	Address & Phone
Ward	Jody	jaws@yahoo.com				Email


DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN



A nutritionist told me that I shouldn't eat ice cream for dessert anymore, so now I have it as an appetizer!



SOUNDINGS

REPORT 	November 2020 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 57,910.25 Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer			
	Investment Balance	\$ 48,129.77	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$ 208.42
	Savings Balance	6,011.05	Soundings: \$ 53.61	
	Checking Balance	3,360.78	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$ 100.23
	Working Cash (<i>cash boxes</i>)	100.00	Unchanged	

PARTA TEACHER GRANTS

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association (PARTA) awarded five (5) grants for the amount of \$200 each to teachers in Peoria County.

Congratulations to the following educators:



- ★ Stacey Delinski
Dunlap Middle School
- ★ Dawn Giovanetto
Peoria Regional Learning Center
- ★ Taylor Doremus
Norwood Elementary School

- ★ Jennifer Anton & Trisha Robinson
Illini Bluffs Elementary School
- ★ Shawn Crandell
Bartonville Grade School

Deloris Turner, Teacher Grants Chairperson

A young man in London aspired to be a writer, but everything seemed to be against him. Only four years of school, his father in jail because he could not pay his debts, he often went to bed hungry. He got a job pasting labels on bottles in a rat-infested warehouse and slept in a dismal attic room with two other boys who were guttersnipes from the slums. He had so little confidence in his ability to write that he snuck out and mailed his first manuscript in the dead of night so nobody would laugh at him. Story after story was rejected.

Finally, the great day came when one was accepted. He was not paid a thing for it, but the editor praised him. One editor had given him recognition - appreciation. He was so thrilled that he wandered aimlessly around the streets with tears rolling down his cheeks. That one bit of expressed appreciation changed his whole life and career. HIS NAME WAS CHARLES DICKENS. Amazing! A few words of appreciation and a whole life was salvaged. A few words of recognition and a whole new cycle of behavior began. A few words of affirmation and many generations are benefited. **THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, LOOK FOR SOMEONE TO ENCOURAGE.**



The principle advantage of the non-parental lifestyle is that on Christmas Eve you need not be struck dumb by the three most terrifying words that the government allows to be printed on any product: "SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED." ~ John Leo

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

I need to practice social distancing from my refrigerator!!!

SOUNDINGS

TRS ANNUITANT TRUSTEE ELECTION - YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED!

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Board of Directors unanimously approved Larry Pfeiffer for endorsement as candidate for TRS Annuitant Trustee for a second term. Larry's first term started on July 2017 and will expire in July 2021.



Your help is needed to secure Larry a spot on the election ballot in 2021. Please go to the IRTA website (irtaonline.org) and click on the link to electronically sign the Petition for Nomination of Annuitant Trustee Candidate Larry Pfeiffer.

The deadline to sign the petition is 4:30 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021. A minimum of 500 eligible signatures is needed to place our candidate on the ballot. **ONLY TRS ANNUITANTS CAN SIGN THE PETITION.**

Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance and support!!!

PLEASE GO ONLINE TODAY TO ELECTRONICALLY SIGN PETITION
[HTTPS://IRTAONLINE.ORG/](https://irtaonline.org/)

SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA ENDORSED BENEFIT A PLACE TO DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

APPLE PRODUCTS



Members qualify for preferred pricing on the latest Apple products and accessories. Program Benefits:

- Special employee pricing on Apple products
- Exclusive promotions
- Free shipping on all orders
- Mac customization

Dell now offers members special pricing under their Employee Purchase Information regarding all IRTA member discounts are online at: irtaonline.org

DELL COMPUTER PRODUCTS



Members now receive special pricing under the Employee Purchase Program. IRTA members may access the Dell Discount Program for great Member-Only Discounts.

UNIQUE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

GIFT WRAP

I bought my brother some gift wrap as a gift. I took it to the gift wrap department and told them to wrap it, but in a different print so he would know when to stop unwrapping.

BATHROOM GUEST BOOK

A bathroom guest book will give a laugh to the person who opens the gift, and the guests who visit their home in the future will get a kick out of it as well.

Welcome To Our Restroom
 Please Seat Yourself

Name: _____	Your Favorite Name(s) For This Type Of Room: <input type="checkbox"/> Powder Room <input type="checkbox"/> Thruway Room <input type="checkbox"/> Little Girls' Room <input type="checkbox"/> Little Boys' Room <input type="checkbox"/> Crapper <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> John <input type="checkbox"/> Can <input type="checkbox"/> The Office <input type="checkbox"/> Potty <input type="checkbox"/> Tinklerium <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	All-Time Favorite Restroom Graffiti: _____ _____
Visiting From: _____	Reason For Visit: _____	
Date: _____ Time: _____		

How Do You Hang Yours?
 Over Under Lazy

Doodles and/or Brilliant Thoughts Inspired By The Porcelain Throne

Please ✓ All That Apply:
 I take restroom selfies
 I urinate in medicine cabinets
 I text/post while on the toilet
 I pick my nose in the restroom

Rate Your Experience:
 Seat Comfort ☆☆☆☆
 User-Friendliness ☆☆☆☆
 Call/WiFi Reception ☆☆☆☆
 Paper Quality ☆☆☆☆
 Acoustics ☆☆☆☆
 Bodily Evacuation(s) ☆☆☆☆

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me. ~ Jim Valvano

SOUNDINGS

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETINGS: IMPORTANT DETAILS

- PARTA will need your email address in order for you to receive an easy access link to this meeting.
- If we do not have your current email address, please submit it to Roger Hampton by December 1, 2020 at: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com
- A zoom meeting link will be sent to everyone's email address (those for whom we have a current email address) that will give you direct access to the virtual meeting. Each virtual meeting PARTA hosts has a different meeting ID.
- Alternate method for accessing this meeting:
 - > Go to: <https://zoom.us>
 - > Select: "Join A Meeting"
 - > Enter Meeting ID: 823 1552 1102
- First-time users will be directed to download Zoom on their device. If this is your first time using Zoom, you will need to log on early in order to be ready for this meeting.
- Access to the meeting will be opened at 10:00 A.M.



OPTIONAL ATTIRE

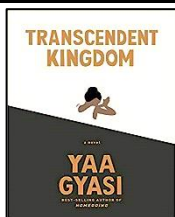
Wear your "tackiest ugly holiday sweater."



We hope to see you at our virtual meeting.

Don't forget to log-on early to listen to our special entertainment.

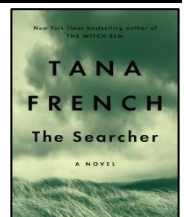
PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



Transcendent Kingdom
by Aby Yaa Gyasi

Gyasi's powerful, raw, intimate, deeply layered novel about a Ghanaian family in Alabama. Gifty is a fifth-year candidate in neuroscience at Stanford School of Medicine studying reward-seeking behavior in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother, Nana, was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after a knee injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed. Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her.

The Searcher
by Tana French



Retired detective Cal Hooper moves to a remote village in rural Ireland. His plans are to fix up the dilapidated cottage he bought, to walk the mountains, to put his old police instincts to bed forever. Then a local boy appeals to him for help. His brother is missing, and no one in the village, least of all the police, seems to care. And once again, Cal feels that restless itch. Something is wrong in this community, and he must find out what, even if it brings trouble to his door.

Email the name and author of a book that you have enjoyed to roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!

SOUNDINGS

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) of Illinois

BE ON GUARD FOR FRAUD: Scammers are using TRS member information to illegally sign up for fraudulent state unemployment benefits. If you become aware that your information has been stolen for this fraud, contact the State Comptroller's office at 217-782-7525.



The Teachers' Retirement System Board of Trustees has given preliminary approval to a \$5.69 billion state contribution to the System for fiscal year 2022, a 10.7% increase over the current fiscal year's government contribution of \$5.14 billion.



The Board also announced that due to the economic upheaval created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the final TRS investment return for FY 2020 was +0.55%, net of fees, on June 30. By comparison, on December 31, 2019, the half-way mark in FY 2020, the TRS rate of return was +13.41%.

TRS BENEFITS REPORTS ONLINE: Active and inactive members may sign in online at <https://www.trsil.org/> to view their information. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information in your report. While believed correct, unintended errors may occur. It is your responsibility to carefully review all information. If you find any discrepancies, please contact our Member Services Division at 877.927.5877 so that your record may be corrected.

On October 27th, TRS held its first stakeholder meeting in several years. The virtual meeting had several presentations by the TRS staff and Chairman Devon Bruce opened the meeting. The following is a summary of the TRS staffs' presentations:



- TRS staff shifted to remote work in March.
- TRS staff transitioned back to the office in July.
- A maximum of 50% of the staff is physically at the office daily.
- May 3, 2021, there will be an election for two teacher trustees and one annuitant.
- Candidate nominations require 500 valid handwritten or electronic signatures.
- Electronic signatures are a new option available due to COVID-19.
- The pandemic magnified already volatile stock markets globally.
- TRS took a defensive posture designed to protect assets within difficult market environments.
- TRS's goal is to maximize expected return with a prudent level of risk.
- Fiscal Year 2020 membership – 163,115 active members.
- There are 125,927 annuitants/beneficiaries.
- The oldest retiree is 109 years old.
- The oldest active teacher is 81 years old.
- The average monthly benefit for recipients is \$5,027 (\$60,324 annual).
- Assets as of June 30, 2020 (FY2020) are \$54.9 billion.
- Funded ratio 40.5%.

James Bachman, IRTA Executive Director, Stakeholder Report

PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
4 ELM CREEK DR APT 304
ELMHURST, IL 60126-5286

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PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



PARTA OFFICERS 2019 - 2020

- Abby Humbles, *President*
- Dixie Wheeler, *1st Vice President*
- Ann Winget, *2nd Vice President*
- Kathy Simpson, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 65 YEARS**

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