

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2017

Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

LUNCHEON MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
June 5 @ 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon – \$12.00

GREETERS

- 🌸 Scott Montgomery
- 🌸 Eldon Petzing

INVOCATION

- 🌸 Laura Shane

PLEDGE

- 🌸 Laura Shane

LUNCHEON

Roasted Chicken Breast
w/ honey Dijon & plum sauce
Potato
Vegetable
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts

PROGRAM

**Peoria Area Senior
Citizens Band**

Mike
Mathews,
Director



MEETING

Abby Humbles, Chair
PARTA President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PARTA Members,
As children will soon be out of school and vacation plans begin for many, we hope you enjoy your summer. After June, we will take a break from PARTA luncheon meetings. We look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall. Thank you to all the PARTA worker bees for all you do! Happy Summer to all!
Abby Humbles, PARTA President



JUNE - BRING A FRIEND Month

The PARTA Luncheon Meeting on June 5, 2017 is designated as Bring a Friend month. Be sure and let your Caller know your friend's name and phone number. If anyone needs a ride for any meeting, please call Francis Farraher at 309.688.1424. We hope to see you and your friend on June 5.

First time attendees will receive a free meal.

NEXT PARTA MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11

TRS & IRTA INFORMATION & UPDATES



Rich Frankenfeld
Director of Outreach
Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)
of the State of Illinois



Roger Hampton
Vice President
Illinois Retired
Teachers Association

Start Planning Now:
October 2, 2017
PARTA Luncheon Meeting



Be thinking about a treasure that is looking for a new home.
All proceeds to benefit our scholarship fund.

Check PARTA's webpage for updates

PA-R-TA.WEEBLY.COM

Sally Weber, Webmaster

SOUNDINGS

General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2017

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked today's greeters, Sally Weber and Jean Thieman. Pat Kellogg led the pledge and gave the invocation. After the luncheon, Ann Winget introduced our speaker, Dr. Robert Fuessle from Bradley University, who spoke on Water and Sustainability: Local, National, and Global. Abby called the business meeting to order.


- The minutes were in the Soundings. They were approved as printed.
- Copies of the Treasurer's Report were on the tables and summarized in the Soundings. The report was approved and will be filed for audit.

- Sally Weber had distributed flyers regarding the Children's Museum on each table. Members were asked to consider volunteering. There will be an Open House for the museum in Glen Oak Park on May 23.
- Altruistic – Frances Farraher reported that Herb Ragsdale passed away on April 13.
- Dave Barnwell announced that the annual concert by the Morton Civic Chorus to benefit the Central Illinois Memorial Kidney Fund would be held at Bradley's Hartmann Theater on May 23 - 27 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary

PARTA  Summary	Total Investment Balance		\$ 37,208.74
	Savings Balance		6,940.03
	Checking Balance		3,515.44
	Working Cash (cash boxes)		100.00
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund (No Change this month)		309.62
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund (No change this month)		69.72
Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer		Grand Total	\$ 48,143.55

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Drew	Sara	1913 English Oak	Washington	IL	61571-3435	Address change
Huffman	Sadie Jane	1129 E Parkside LN	Peoria	IL	61615-9423	Address change
Steinbach	Betty Jean	102 N Sanderson AVE	Bartonville	IL	61607-1840	Address change

Herb Ragsdale, 70

Deceased: April 13, 2017

District 150: 1968-2002

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

PARTA Altruistic Committee Chair – Frances Farraher

Please contact Frances with any information regarding PARTA members who have passed.

TEACHERS AND LIGHT BULBS

Q: How many teachers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Well, teachers generally don't change light bulbs, but a good teacher can make a dim one brighter!



A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 9, 2017

Present: Sally Weber, Peggy Shane, Nancy Miller, Frances Farraher, Nancy Wing, Eric Johnson, Valda Shipp, Roger Hampton, Lee Ann Meinhold, Laveine Birditt, Ann Winget, Kathy Simpson, and Abby Humbles
Abby called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS

New Business:

- Abby thanked those who helped Roger with the Directory: Sally and Nancy Miller. Nancy Wing said Terry Knapp said next year to ask Nick about the donation to PARTA, instead of the company.
- May 23 is the IRTA Area 4 Conference at the Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield. Registration is at 8:30 A.M. There will be information on IRTA Foundation, Convention, Structure, Legislation, Insurance, TRS, and help with membership.
- October 30 – 31 is the IRTA Biennial Convention. Roger has been nominated for President of IRTA, and he would like support from our area. PARTA will nominate a Unit Honoree, who will be recognized at the banquet.
- PARTA will donate a basket for the silent auction at the convention, with proceeds going to support a Political Action Committee for IRTA. Abby will purchase a basket from Tanner's with a limit of \$100.
- Roger suggested appointing a committee for reviewing the Constitution. Some names were suggested to ask to serve on this committee.
- Nancy Wing said our attendance is down, and of the few new retirees who come in the fall, few return. Several ideas were discussed.
- Kathy thanked Frances for taking the minutes at the May meeting. Frances has also agreed to take the minutes in June.

Committee Reports:

REPORT

- Program: Ann reported the upcoming meeting programs: September – Roger Hampton and Rich Frankenfeld; October – “Bring and Buy”, Valda and Scholarship Fund, Frances and Memorial Moment; November – possible speaker from a veteran organization; and December – Peoria Accordion Club.
 - Publicity: Laveine reported that WCBU radio is included in the media that announces our meetings, along with the Journal Star and the TV stations' web sites.
 - Altruistic: Frances thanked Nancy Wing for helping her with knowledge of deceased members. Frances also suggested having Roger put in the Soundings to contact her if they know of anyone she needs to include in her reports.
 - Scholarships: Valda reported that the scholarship applications go out in the spring. If anyone knows of any young people who attend ICC and are interested in education, let them know about the scholarship. We have two \$1,000 scholarships available, which will be awarded in the fall.
 - Roger reported: TRS is changing all their contact information - On the issue of state finances, the state pays \$11 million per day in interest - IRTA predicts that teachers' insurance will be the next lawsuit.
 - IRTA Region 10 Director: Sally said she would check with the other area units that have memorial services for their deceased members to see what they do.
- The meeting was adjourned.

ICC SCHOLARSHIPS

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary

WORST COMMENTS TO GET ON YOUR FINAL EXAMS

Fascinatingly convoluted. | My, what nice, big margins! | The book ends differently than the movie.
When you copy your friend's answers, you should put them with the right questions.

SOUNDINGS

IRTA WORKING FOR YOU!

Through VoterVoice, IRTA is trying to keep you informed regarding pension legislation.

Your active participation in VoterVoice is key to proactively help keep bad legislation from happening.

BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE PROCESS

BENEFIT CUT

Current legislative proposals strip TRIP of its continuing appropriation funding! Without the state's contribution, insurance premiums would increase by a minimum of 23% the first year.

Former retired educators paved the way for the benefits we currently have. It is now our time to step up and do our part to maintain current retiree benefits.

IRTA lobbies on your behalf in Springfield, but your involvement is essential to make a more personal impact.

IRTA Lobbyists

Jim Bachman, IRTA Executive Director
Mary Shaw, IRTA Government Affairs Director
Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist

One of Many IRTA Member Benefits:



Save 15% at 1-800-FLOWERS.COM, where the wide assortment of beautiful flowers – Fresh from their Growers or Florist Designed – plus plants, delicious gourmet snacks and treats, extraordinary gift baskets, cuddly plush pals and unique giftware they'll treasure, can help you celebrate any occasion!"

Discount Code available for IRTA members online at: irtaonline.org

IT'S SUMMER READING TIME! (For All Ages)

Summer Reading is for everyone! From infants to seniors, everyone can sign up and earn weekly prizes and a Party Pass for our big Summer Reading Party. Read as a family, read with your friends, read with your team or your club.

- Sign Up at Your Favorite Branch
- Read Just Three Hours a Week
- Earn Prizes and a Party Pass
- Summer Reading Party!



Peoria Public Library

Details online at:

www.peoriapubliclibrary.org/

Expanding Inventory: I spotted several pairs of men's Levi's at a garage sale.

They were sizes 30, 31, and 32, but I was looking for size 33. So, I asked the owner if he had a pair. He shook his head. "I'm still wearing the 33s. Come back next year."

SENATE PROPOSALS BOTH 'UNFAIR' AND 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'

Members of the Illinois Senate voted on two separate bills that directly affect all annuitants of the Teachers Retirement System. SB 42, sponsored by Senator



Andy Manar, would have ended the continuing appropriation for the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) in state statute.

The other piece of legislation, SB 16, is the pension reform proposal sponsored by President Cullerton and touted by Governor Rauner.

Once again, this legislation does several things, but

most importantly, it will lower the amount the state pays into the pensions systems. IRTA states, "this essentially creates another pension ramp and pushing off the pension payment is the same mentality that got the state into this mess in the first place".



In addition, it will require active teachers and other current state employees to make a choice. They can choose to keep their compounded COLA in retirement, but can no longer have pay raises count toward their future pensionable salary. Or they can give up the compounded COLA, but continue having raises count toward their retirement benefits and be placed into the Tier II pension plan. Not only are these measures unfair, IRTA suggests the changes proposed are unconstitutional. The lawyers who represented the IRTA Members against SB 1, Gino DiVito and John Fitzgerald, recently wrote an opinion concerning proposed "consideration" language presented in this bill. SB 42 failed, but only by three votes and there has been a motion to reconsider the vote. SB 16 passed the chamber and now goes to the House of Representatives for their consideration.

Having a Best Friend

Source: www.moralstories.org/having-a-best-friend/

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand "Today my best friend slapped me in the face".

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone, "Today my best friend saved my life".

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in the sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."



**Moral: Do not value the things you have in your life;
but value who you have in your life.**

**I'm getting older, so my mom wants grandchildren.
So, I said, "Mom, go for it."**

SOUNDINGS

2017 IRTA FOUNDATION (IRTAF) SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The IRTA Foundation awards six scholarships to incoming juniors or seniors in college that are pursuing a degree in education. Thanks to a very generous private donation from one of our members, Areas 4 and 6 each award a second scholarship. The eight winners were chosen through competition with other applicants from their own area of the state.



KAYLA DOSSETT

Kayla attends the University of Illinois Champaign where she is majoring in Early Childhood Education.

ELEANORE TRUNK

Eleanore is currently a junior at Illinois State University where she is a Special Education Major with a Specialist in Deaf and Hard of Hearing focus.



Additional information about the IRTAF scholarship winners, and other programs of the foundation, are online at: irtaonline.org

Excerpts from "Baseball and Football", by George Carlin

Baseball is different from any other sport, very different. For instance, in most sports you score points or goals; in baseball, you score runs. In most sports the ball, or object, is put in play by the offensive team; in baseball, the defensive team puts the ball in play, and only the defense is allowed to touch the ball. In fact, in baseball if an offensive player touches the ball intentionally, he's out; sometimes unintentionally, he's out.



In football, you score with the ball and in baseball the ball prevents you from scoring. In most sports the team is run by a coach; in baseball, the team is run by a manager. And only in baseball does the manager or coach wear the same clothing the players do. Football is concerned with downs - what down is it? Baseball is concerned with ups - who's up? In football, you receive a penalty. In baseball, you make an error. In football the specialist comes in to kick. In baseball, the specialist comes in to relieve somebody. Baseball has the seventh inning stretch.

Football has the two-minute warning. Baseball has no time limit: we don't know when it's going to end - might have extra innings. Football is rigidly timed, and it will end even if we've got to go to sudden death. In baseball, during the game, in the stands, there's kind of a picnic feeling; emotions may run high or low, but there's not too much unpleasantness. In football, during the game in the stands, you can be sure that at least twenty-seven times you're capable of taking the life of a fellow human being.



And finally, the objectives of the two games are completely different. In football the object is for the quarterback, also known as the field general, to be on target with his aerial assault, riddling the defense by hitting his receivers with deadly accuracy in spite of the blitz, even if he has to use shotgun. With short bullet passes and long bombs, he marches his troops into enemy territory, balancing this aerial assault with a sustained ground attack that punches holes in the forward wall of the enemy's defensive line. In baseball, the object is to go home! And to be safe! I hope I'll be safe at home!

The light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off due to budget cuts.



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF RETIRED EDUCATORS

For Immediate Release: 5/24/17

Nathan Mihelich, IRTA

SB 42 Passes Senate; Reinstates Appropriation Retiree Healthcare

Members IRTA are praising lawmakers for not passing another unconstitutional



measure aimed at diminishing benefits for

retired teachers. The Illinois Senate voted Tuesday, May 23, on a bill that provides contributing funding for the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP). "It is unimaginable to think what retired teachers and families would endure if the continuing appropriation was eviscerated," IRTA President Dave Davison said. "We continue to sound the alarm that it would be catastrophic to retired educators."

SB 42, sponsored by Senator Andy Manar, was amended and passed to reinstate the continuing appropriation for T.R.I.P. in state statute. The bill when originally proposed last week, did not include the provision to sustain the TRIP continuing appropriation. "IRTA members and their families spoke loudly and firmly that promised healthcare benefits cannot be diminished," Mary Shaw, IRTA Governmental Affairs Director said. Thousands of our members contacted their senators when this bill was originally proposed, and today we know that legislators heard the message." The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

The IRTA has been advised by Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC that, "Retired Illinois educators' health insurance benefits are protected by the Pension Protection Clause for the reasons set forth in Kanerva v. Weems." "The IRTA believes that not funding TRIP is not only unfair, it is unconstitutional," IRTA Executive Director Jim Bachman said. "IRTA will protect and defend the benefits promised to retired educators."



In 2015, the IRTA successfully defended an unconstitutional assault on pension benefits that were put in place by then Governor Quinn when he signed SB 1 into law. On May 8, 2015, the Illinois Supreme Court unanimously struck down the state's 2013 pension reform law, SB1, upholding a lower court ruling that it violated the state constitution under the pension protection clause.

IRTA is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization of retired educators.

The Association serves the needs and interests of its members through advocacy, education, cooperation, and socialization in a flexible organizational structure.

REMINDER: TRS TELEPHONE NUMBERS & EMAIL ADDRESSES TO CHANGE

In June, all TRS email addresses will change to @trsil.org from the current @trs.illinois.gov. All direct-dial and toll-free TRS telephone numbers will be replaced with new numbers.

TRS

In July, the TRS website address will change to www.trsil.org from the current trs.illinois.gov. At the same time, TRS will launch a new website design.

Revised State Mottos

Arizona: But It's A Dry Heat
Florida: Ask Us About Our Grandkids

North Carolina: Tobacco Is A Vegetable
Illinois: If You Can Dream It, We Will Need to Tax It
California: Our Women Have More Plastic Than Your Honda



SOUNDINGS

Summer Bucket List

- Go to a baseball game
- Take a dip in the pool
- Go to a county fair
- Hike with the family
- Watch the fireworks
- Have a picnic in the park
- Finish a DIY project
- Go to the beach
- Make popsicles
- Go stargazing
- Host a barbeque
- Go on a road trip
- Play mini golf
- Make homemade lemonade
- Cook a Pinterest recipe
- Go to a farmer's market
- Go to an outdoor concert

Think about all the things you really wanted to do when you retired. Well, now is the time to start checking some off those items off your list.

**Make your own
"Summer Bucket List"
TODAY!**

Sit down and make a realistic list of the things you still would like to do – those "bucket list" items. Then, start making plans to realize those dreams and desires.

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Finally, come back to the PARTA Luncheon Meeting on September 11 and share with your table-mates how many items you were able to check off this summer.

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

OTHER AREA SUMMER SUGGESTIONS

FREE Peoria Municipal Band Concerts

Glen Oak Amphitheatre
Sundays @ 7:00 p.m.
June 4 – August 13

Peoria Warehouse District
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.
June 7 – August 9

More information online at:
peoriamunicipalband.com/



Sculpture Walk 2017

Anytime – Downtown Peoria
FREE Guided Tours
Saturdays @ 10:00 a.m.

More Information online at:
www.sculpturewalkpeoria.org/



Peoria Chiefs

Seniors (55 & over) can get
\$5 tickets for all Sunday regular season
home games when buying in person at the
Dozer Park Box Office.



FREE Brown Bag-It

Mondays & Wednesdays
June - August 11:30 - 1:00

Peoria County Courthouse Plaza
www.peoriaevents.com/events/brown-bag-it.html



Find other area summer events online:

- explorepeoria.com/pages/EventsCalendar
- www.peoriaevents.com/
- www.enjoyillinois.com/



No matter how slow you go, you are still lapping everyone on the couch!