

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

MAY 2019

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LUNCHEON MEETING

MAY 6

Barracks Cater Inn

11:30 A M

Luncheon – \$12.00

*First Time Attendees
Receive a Free Meal*

GREETERS

-  Sonya Durand
-  Lillie Foreman

PLEDGE

-  Susan Bartlow

INVOCATION

-  Susan Bartlow

LUNCHEON

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Kernel Corn
Assorted Salads / Roll
Assorted Desserts

PROGRAM

Check PARTA
website for updates:
pa-rta.weebly.com
Sally Weber,
Webmaster

MEETING

Abby Humbles
PARTA President, Chair



Program begins
around 12:20 P.M.

Roger Hampton
Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings PARTA Members,

Our May meeting is just around the corner. We had a big number of members attend in April. We hope to see many of you in May.

Please join me in thanking our callers for all their hard work. They really do such a nice job securing reservations. Thank you, callers. Your efforts are appreciated!



Respectfully,

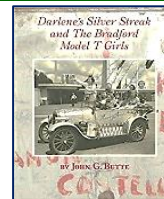
Abby Humbles, PARTA President

AWESOME LUNCHEON MEETINGS

BRING A FRIEND

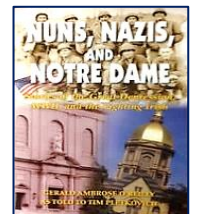
MAY 6

"THE BRADFORD GIRLS"
JOHN BUTTE, AUTHOR
(signing and sale of books available)



JUNE 3

JEOPARDY GAME ON
"NUNS, NAZIS, AND NOTRE DAME"
ORGANIZED BY TIM PLETKOVICH



- **SEPTEMBER 9 (2ND MONDAY)**
- **OCTOBER 7**
- **NOVEMBER 4**
- **DECEMBER 2**



When you wake up each morning, you can choose to be happy or choose to be sad. Unless some terrible catastrophe has occurred the night before, it is pretty much up to you. Tomorrow morning, when the sun shines through your window, choose to make it a happy day. ~ Lynda Resnick



SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 1, 2019

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone. Ninety-one people were present. Abby thanked today's greeters, Jo Trompeter and Chris Stevens. Abby also thanked the callers and the money takers. Chris Stevens led the Pledge and gave the Invocation.

After the luncheon, Ann Winget introduced the speaker, Sara Sefried, Director of Human Trafficking Services at Center for Prevention of Abuse. Sara spoke about "Human Trafficking in Central Illinois".

Larry Newman from AMBA spoke briefly about IRTA member benefits. Abby opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were approved as they appeared in the Soundings.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the Soundings. The report was filed for audit. Jeff Vallosio will answer any questions and take membership dues.



- Abby Humbles, Sally Weber, Jeannie Blane, and Mary Nelson delivered Candy Bags and PARTA Information Sheets to a third of Peoria County schools. They will do a third each year until all have been reached.

- PARTA received a thank-you letter from the IRTA Foundation for the memorial money for deceased members.

- Valda Shipp reported that we have almost enough donated to be able to provide three scholarships for ICC. You may still contribute.

- Roger Hampton displayed the new PARTA logo. He said IRTA endorsed Doug Strand in the upcoming TRS Trustee election. He is also selling IRTA raffle tickets.

- The Area 4 Conference, "A Leadership Training Session", will include breakout sessions, breakfast, lunch, and many informative topics.

The meeting was adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

KATHY SIMPSON, RECORDING SECRETARY



THREE 1,000 PARTA SCHOLARSHIPS

Yay, we did it! (Of course, I had no doubt that we would!) We will have two PARTA annual scholarships, each at \$1,000, and an additional PARTA scholarship at \$1,000 this year. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated by the ICC students, their parents, and yours truly.

VALDA SHIPP, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Think deeply ~ Speak gently ~ Love much
Laugh a lot ~ Work hard ~ Give freely ~ and **Be Kind**

MAY '19 TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY

Investment Balance:	\$ 44,612.92	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund:	\$ 299.04
Savings Balance:	6,974.77	Post Office Returned Mail Fund:	37.67
Checking Balance:	1,018.30	Grand Total:	\$ 53,042.70
Working Cash (cash boxes):	100.00		

Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer

WE CAN'T HELP EVERYONE, BUT EVERYONE CAN HELP SOMEONE. ~ Ronald Reagan

SOUNDINGS

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTA MEMBERS

What: IRTA Area 4 Leadership Training
When: Tuesday, June 4, 2019
Where: Springfield Northfield Inn & Conference Center
Cost: \$10.00 per attendee (*Paid by PARTA*)



A G E N D A

8:30 Registration & Breakfast Buffet
9:30 *Opening Video*
Remarks & Introductions
Donna Sargent
IRTA Area 4 Representative
9:40 *IRTA – Past, Present, & Future*
Roger Hampton
IRTA President
9:50 *IRTA Foundation*
Roger Hampton
IRTAF Chair
10:00 *Legislative Update*
Jim Bachman
IRTA Executive Director
10:20 *IRTAPAC*
John Flaherty
IRTA Vice President
10:30 ----- BREAK -----

10:45 *TRS Update*
TBD
11:05 *IRTA Member Benefits*
Larry Newman
AMBA District Manager



11:20 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- *Volunteerism / Recruiting New Leadership*
Roger Hampton – IRTA President
- *How to Educate / Lobby Your Legislator*
Jim Bachman – IRTA Executive Director
- *IRTA Website / Convention Website / Member Manager*
Nathan Mihelich – Director of Membership & Marketing

12:00 *Closing Remarks*
Donna Sargent
IRTA Area 4 Representative
12:10 Conference Concludes

Great Information for Local Officers and Members

Breakfast Buffet: Fresh Seasonal Fruit, Scrambled Eggs with Cheese, Eggs Benedict, Bacon & Sausage, Country Biscuits & Gravy, Seasoned Hash Browns, Assorted Muffins & Danish – Assorted Juices & Coffee

PLEASE CONSIDER & CONTACT ABBY BY MAY 6 IF YOU CAN ATTEND

AN AMAZING PERSPECTIVE

I met a person who was in a wheelchair. He related a story about how a person once asked if it was difficult to be confined to a wheelchair. He responded, "I'm not confined to my wheelchair - I am liberated by it. If it wasn't for my wheelchair, I would be bed-bound and never able to leave my room or house."

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.” ~ Theodore Roosevelt



SOUNDINGS

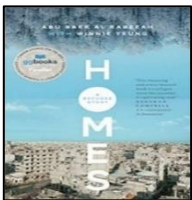
AN IRTA INITIATIVE – HB2700

HB2700, sponsored by Representative Katie Stuart and co-sponsored by Representative

Norine Hammond, provides that if in any case an error is made in billing a TRS benefit recipient, the Department of Central Management Services shall identify the error and refund the overpaid amount as soon as practical. Provides that a TRS benefit recipient who has overpaid shall be entitled to a refund of overpayments for up to 7 years of past payments. The bill passed the House 113-0-0 and now moves to the Senate for consideration. Senator Neil Anderson is the sponsor of the bill in the Senate.



Illinois Department of
Central Management Services



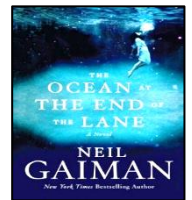
PARTA MEMBERS READ AND RECOMMEND

HOMES:
A Refugee Story
by Abu Bakr al Rabeeah

In 2010, the al Rabeeah family left their home in Iraq in hope of a safer life. They moved to Homs, in Syria — just before the Syrian civil war broke out. Abu Bakr, one of eight children, was ten years old when the violence began on the streets around him: car bombings, attacks on his mosque and school, firebombs late at night. *Homes* tells of the strange juxtapositions of growing up in a war zone: horrific, unimaginable events punctuated by normalcy — soccer, cousins, video games, friends.

**The Ocean at the
End of the Lane**
by Neil Gaiman

A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she'd claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy.



PARTA MEMBERS: Send book name and author to:
roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

A grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?" The operator said, "I can. What's the name and room number?" Grandma answered, "Norma Findlay, Room 302". The operator replied, "Let me place you on hold while I check with her nurse." After a few minutes the operator returned to the phone and said, "Oh, I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing very well. Her blood pressure is fine, her blood work just came back as normal, and her physician has scheduled her to be discharged on Tuesday." Grandma said, "Thank you. That's wonderful! I was so worried! God bless you!" The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?" The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in 302. No one tells me anything!"



SOUNDINGS

PEORIA SOUTH SIDE MISSION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



In addition, volunteers are needed to tutor students in the after-school programs. That commitment doesn't have to be every day and it is flexible to one's personal availability. There is a waiting list for kids wanting to be in the after-school program. However, without adequate tutors, the program won't expand unless we can assure lots of individual attention for the kids.

Peoria's South Side Mission's youth program is actively seeking to fill two teaching positions for their after-school program.

For information please contact:

Gigi Gibson, Supervisor of Children and Youth Ministry – 309.676.4604

INTERESTING FACTS FROM TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS

STATE

- Active Members – 154,804
- Net Earnings (Estimated) – \$ 6,966,798,973
- Benefit Recipients – 91,694
- Net Payments - \$ 5,428,274,140



PEORIA COUNTY

- Active Members – 2,315
- Net Earnings (Estimated) – \$ 80,481,641
- Benefit Recipients – 1,816
- Net Payments – \$ 79,356,288

**CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES
KEEP THEM ACCOUNTABLE**

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate District

37 – Chuck Weaver
46 – David Koehler



House District

73 – Ryan Spain
91 – Michael Unes
92 – Jehan Gordon-Booth



IRTA MEMBERSHIP IS A NECESSITY

IRTA is the **ONLY** organization working every day, solely on the behalf of retirees.

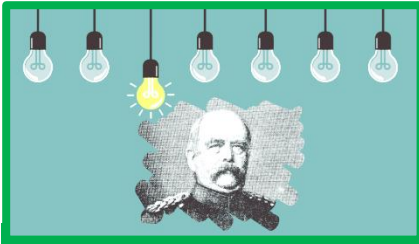
IRTA membership is required to keep our association sustainable and solvent. Without your membership, the association will not remain as healthy as it needs to be.

HELP INCREASE MEMBERSHIP – SHARE THIS INFORMATION

• Being president is like running a cemetery: you've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening.
~ Bill Clinton

• If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?
~ Abraham Lincoln
• Give me a one-handed economist! All my economists say, "On the one hand...on the other."
~ Harry Truman

SOUNDINGS



WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS RETIREMENT?



OTTO VON BISMARCK

Source: <https://blog.amba.info/whose-bright-idea-was-retirement/>

In 1889, the German Chancellor looked to reduce the unemployment rate of young people. He paid citizens 70 and older to leave the workforce, and much of the world followed suit.

One place that didn't – the island of Okinawa. You can't retire there, because retirement doesn't exist. They don't even have a word for it.

They have a better word: *Ikigai* (pronounced *icky guy*). *Ikigai* is your reason for getting out of bed in the morning. Say your *ikigai* is teaching. If you're no longer "working" as a teacher, how can your *ikigai* get you out of bed? Who can you teach now? Anyone you want. The whole world is your classroom. In line at the grocery store, you can teach patience. Bowling with a grandchild, you can teach focus. Hugging a friend in need, you can teach love.

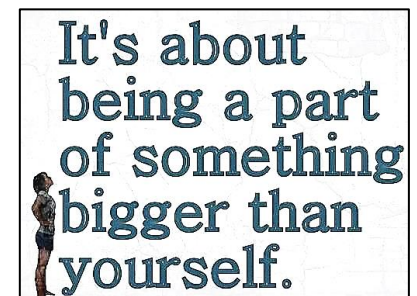
What gets *you* out of bed in the morning? Once your *ikigai* is clear,

IKIGAI

Over 43,000 adults participated in a seven-year study on longevity. They were asked: "Do you have an *ikigai* in your life?" At the end of the study, 95% of the folks with an *ikigai* were still alive, while only 83% of those without an *ikigai* made it that long.

ARTICLE TAKEAWAY: We don't actually want to retire and do nothing. We just want to do something we love. We would all be better served by taking the concept of *ikigai* and distilling it into our lives:

- **SOCIAL:** Seek friends, peers, and coworkers who brighten your days and fulfill your social needs.
- **STRUCTURE:** Set an alarm clock and give yourself a reason to get up in the morning.
- **STIMULATION:** Keep your minds challenged by learning something new each day.
- **STORY:** Be a part of something bigger than yourself. Join a group whose high-level purpose is something you couldn't accomplish on your own.



A lot of money is tainted – It taint yours and it taint mine!

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat!

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red!

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I!

Those who get too big for their breeches will be exposed in the end!

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS VSP VISION PLAN VISION SERVICE PLAN (VSP)

What the Plan Pays	VSP Choice Network Provider	Out-of-Network Provider	
Annual Exam	Covered in Full	Up to \$45	
Single Vision Lenses	Covered in Full	Up to \$30	
Bifocal Lenses	Covered in Full	Up to \$50	
Trifocal Lenses	Covered in Full	Up to \$65	
Standard Progressive Lenses	Covered in Full	Up to \$50	
Frames	\$150 (\$170 on featured)	Up to \$70	
Contacts (elective)	Up to \$150	Up to \$105	
Contacts (medically necessary)	Covered in Full	Up to \$210	
In addition, at VSP providers:	20% off remaining frame balance	20-25% off on covered lens options such as UV coating & polycarbonate	15% off LASIK and PRK laser surgery retail price or 5% off promotion price

Some of the 20 VSP providers in our area are:

Illinois Eye Center	Gailey Eye Clinic Ltd	The Bixby Eye Center PC	Illinois Vision Clinic	Bond Eye Associates SC
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IRTA Member Only
\$11.94 per month

IRTA Member + One
\$20.94 per month

IRTA Member + Family
\$26.04 per month

Rates good through February 28, 2023

For a full list of IRTA member-only benefits and discount codes:

Login on to: www.irtaonline.org Click on: "Member Benefits"

At Every PARTA Meeting

Book Exchange Table:

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

Sally Weber, Supervisor

Used Battery Recycling Collection

Jo Trompeter, Supervisor

HEARTWARMING TRUE STORY: THE TRICKY HAIRCUT

Two pint-sized preschoolers wanted to trick their teacher, but not in a rude way. They simply wanted their teacher to not be able to tell them apart. There was just one minor technicality that neither of them realized: Reddy is black, but Jax is white. These two best friends see way past each other's exterior color. Jax just wanted the same haircut as his pal so they would look the same. It's encouraging to hear such an adorable demonstration of how colorblind children can be, especially when we are usually faced with devastating stories of racism.



Source: www.rd.com/true-stories/inspiring/heartwarming-true-stories/