

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

MAY 2023

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL UNIT 32 OF THE ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LUNCHEON MEETING

MAY 1

Barracks Cater Inn

11:30 A M

Luncheon – \$14.00

RESERVATION REQUIRED

*Please call Patti Monks at
309.697.3385
before Thursday
if you were not called
regarding your reservation.*

GREETERS

🌸 Peggy Shane

🌸 Jackie Gilles

PLEDGE & INVOCATION

🌸 Mary Ann Kaufman

LUNCHEON

Entrée

Chicken Parmesan

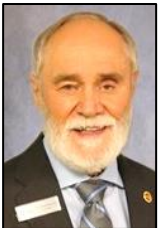
Potato / Vegetable

Salad / Roll / Drink

Dessert

PROGRAM

IRTA UPDATES



**William
Funkhouser**

**IRTA
President**

*Program begins
around 12:15 P.M.*

MEETING

Dixie Wheeler

PARTA President, Chair



Roger Hampton

SOUNDINGS Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Everyone! Happy May Day!

Remember how we used to put flowers at the door of a friend or neighbor? Ah, the good ole days! And

I can just picture some of our members dancing around a maypole!

For non-retired teachers, May is the countdown to a well-deserved summer vacation and planning for the next school year. We know some people think teachers only work 9 months

(the public has little clue how long and hard these days can be), and that teachers play away in the summer. These summer months are ones we retired teachers can encourage those

teachers currently engaged in the trenches to hang in there for another year or more—and for them to know that we, the retired

teachers, have their financial backs because we belong to PARTA and to IRTA. Tell them IRTA

members have fought to keep their benefits and are the watchdogs to maintain those benefits.

I'm glad those watchdogs were looking out for me when I was in the trenches because I was too busy getting through each day. Thanks to those IRTA members who have kept my pension and benefits safe.

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JUNE 5

NAVY LIFE PART II

CAPTAIN WRIGHT AND JEANIE WRIGHT

JULY & AUGUST - NO MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 11 (2ND MONDAY)

IRTA/AMBA BENEFITS

LORI FAIRFIELD, AMBA BENEFITS SPECIALIST

OCTOBER 2

IN MEMORIAM: CELEBRATION OF LIFE

NOVEMBER 6

TBA

DECEMBER 4

MUSIC OF THE SEASON - DENISE ADAMS



Check PARTA website for updates:

pa-rta.weebly.com

Sally Weber, Webmaster



SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 3, 2023

The April PARTA meeting was held at Barrack's Cater Inn on April 3, 2023, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Sixty-seven members were in attendance. There were no new members. President Wheeler thanked the meeting Greeters, Chris Stevens and Joyce Trompeter. Jackie Gilles led the Pledge and Invocation.



Jeannie Blane introduced the guest speaker, Marcia Johnson, Site Manager of Wheels of Time Museum. The museum is a Not-for-Profit Corporation with many supporting donors. Volunteers are a mainstay at the historical museum. The museum has six buildings, including a Legos Collection. The museum is open Wednesdays to Sundays.

BUSINESS MEETING

Jeff Vallosio announced the Treasurer's report is on each table. Also, IRTA membership information and brochures are available at the back table.

Jeff received a thank-you letter from the IRTA Foundation for the yearly contribution PARTA makes in the name of our deceased members.

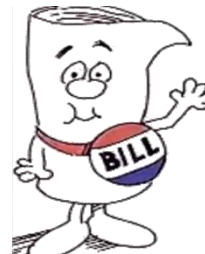


The IRTPAC announced a breakfast with Ryan Spain, House District 73 at the Creve Coeur Club of Peoria. IRTPAC will pay for an IRTA member's breakfast at this event. Members who attend the breakfast are requested to thank Ryan for his continued support of IRTA.



Legislative News: President Wheeler reported that Lori Murphy, a member of the General Assembly, is sponsoring a Bill to place a \$35 cap on Diabetes medication. If this becomes law, it will only apply to individuals with health insurance. The Illinois Department of Public Health has allotted money for public schools to purchase air purifiers.

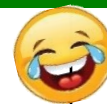
President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane moved to adjourn, and Roger Hampton seconded the motion.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DELORIS TURNER, RECORDING SECRETARY

Back in the day, a distinguished gentleman was smoking in the waiting room of a railroad station when a porter said to him: "Don't you see that "NO SMOKING ALLOWED" sign on the wall?" "Sure," said the man, "but how can I keep all your rules? The other sign says, 'Wear Acme Corsets'."



MAY '23 TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY

Investment Balance:	\$ 52,878.53	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund:	\$ 269.99
Savings Balance:	6,042.96	Post Office Returned Mail Fund:	67.52
Checking Balance:	1,203.54	Grand Total:	\$ 60,562.54
Working Cash (cash boxes):	100.00	Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	



Worried about an IRS audit? Avoid what's called a red flag. That's something the IRS always looks for. For example, say you have some money left in your bank account after paying taxes, that's a red flag.

~ Jay Leno

SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Fairfield	Lori	1392 Turtle DR	Pontiac	IL	61764-9676	815.674.8716	New Member
		lori.fairfield@amba.info					

PARTA MEMBERS	Please keep PARTA informed of your current contact information. Send updated information to Roger Hampton: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com
----------------------	--

IRTF 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS – OUR AREA 4 RECIPIENTS

Reese Markley of Mason City, IL

Brandon Yazell of Normal, IL

The Illinois Retired Teachers Foundation (IRTF) is awarding a total of \$26,500

for the 2023-2024 school year to college students majoring in education.

Information regarding these students is available on the IRTA website.



Income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has.

~ Will Rogers

INCOME TAX HUMOR

I figured out why Uncle Sam wears such a tall hat. It comes in handy when he passes it around.

~ Soupy Sales

If our forefathers revolted against taxation “without representation” think what they would do today “with representation!”

~ unknown



REMAINING INFORMATIONAL VIRTUAL 2023 CONFERENCES

9:30 A.M. JUNE 7 | JULY 12 (HOSTED BY AREA 4) | AUGUST 9 | SEPTEMBER 6

Association staff will be present up to one hour before the meeting to troubleshoot any technical problems. You are encouraged to log-in earlier than the start time to test your connection.

PRE-MEETING	Breakout rooms will be open prior to the conference start time. <i>Share your Ideas Forum</i> open to all registrants.			
PRESENTATIONS	IRTA Report	IRT Foundation Report	Legislative Updates	IRT PAC Report
	TRS Update	IRTA Nominations Committee Report	IRTA Member Benefits Information	IRTA Constitution Committee Report
POST-MEETING BREAKOUT ROOMS	AMBA Q & A		IRTA Constitution Committee Q & A	Social Interaction Room

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

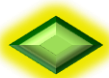
All IRTA members will receive an invitation in their email prior to each conference.

VIDEOS of Previous Conferences Available Online

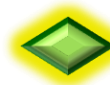
Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

~ Fred Rogers

SOMETHING TO PONDER



When all is said and done, what will I have said more than I have done?



SOUNDINGS

**I
N
V
I
T
A
T
I
O
N**

KIWANIS CLUB OF PEORIA

PARTA members are invited to attend to honor teachers being presented with the *Teacher of the Year* award.

RUSSELL AND GORDON PETERS OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

APRIL 26 **OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR**
Honoring a teacher from each of 6 high schools.

MAY 10 **OUTSTANDING GRADE & MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR**
Honoring a teacher from each of 8 schools.

2022-23 AWARD CEREMONIES

BARRACKS 11:00 – ARRIVE
CATER 11:30 – LUNCH BUFFET / SOUPS & SANDWICHES
INN 12:00 – CEREMONY

RESERVATIONS

CALL
Peoria Kiwanis
309.370.3589

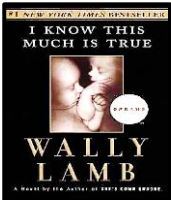
OR EMAIL
CindyYoungren
@gmail.com

Cost: \$15.00
(pay as you arrive)



Being physically active comes with a whole host of health benefits: improve your flexibility, boost your immune system, keep your heart and lungs healthy. Playing sports is also an easy way to meet new people and have fun. Bocce, pickleball, bowling, golf, tennis, and water aerobics are just some of the sports that are popular among retirees. You could join a team for older adults or use your athletic expertise to coach younger people. www.greatseniorliving.com/

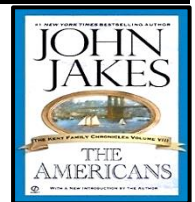
PARTA MEMBERS READ AND RECOMMEND



*I Know
This Much Is True*
by Wally Lamb

On the afternoon of October 12, 1990, my twin brother, Thomas, entered the Three Rivers, Connecticut, public library, retreated to one of the rear study carrels, and prayed to God the sacrifice he was about to commit would be deemed acceptable. . . .

One of the most acclaimed novels of our time, Wally Lamb's *I Know This Much Is True* is a story of alienation and connection, devastation and renewal, at once joyous, heartbreaking, poignant, mystical, and powerfully, profoundly human.



The Americans
Kent Family Chronicles #8
by John Jakes

A NATION ADRIFT – AND THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO GAVE IT HOPE
It was the whip-end of an era – when innocence died, and money lust was enthroned. The new generation of Kents was locked in a feverish race for wealth – even as Europe's millions poured across the seas, to change the face of our nation and reap its forgotten promise among the pushcarts of Mulberry Street, the hardnosed docks of Boston, the steaming Barbary Coast.



RETIRED PERSON ON THE PREMISES

Knows everything and has plenty of time to tell you about it!

Don't let them corner you; they'll "talk your ear off".



SOUNDINGS

NEXT IRTA/AMBA WEBINAR

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

10:00 A.M.

MAY 20, 2023 (SATURDAY)

Planning to retire – now or in the next 3 years? It's better to know what to expect before you take the retirement leap. Learn all about your retirement plan, what benefits you keep and what ones you lose, and find out how IRTA is working to ensure you have a rewarding retirement and keep your pension strong.

➔ **Please share this information with your retiring colleagues & friends.**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

https://ambabenefits.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9PoxfOFXROKBbQcEOER3Fw

PREVIOUS 2023 WEBINARS – AVAILABLE ANYTIME ONLINE

- Health and Financial Wellness in the New Year
- About Long Term Care
- Perks of Membership (Passport)– Spring Break Edition
- Getting to Know Your Dental and Vision Benefits



Teachers always tell us to follow our dreams....BUT yet they don't let us sleep in class.



TRUE FRIENDSHIPS ENRICH OUR LIVES

True friendships are one of the greatest blessings and deepest needs in our world today. It's almost as if we were built for friendship. Friends enrich our lives not only socially and emotionally, but also physically.

The *Wall Street Journal* recently reported on “eight decades of research from Harvard University” showing “that close relationships are the most critical component of health, happiness and longevity, more so than exercise and a good diet.”

True friends are kind, they don't envy one another, they seek each other's welfare, they are not easily provoked, they don't think evil of one another, and they never fail to extend loyalty and love. That may seem like an unreachable standard, but that's part of the miracle of true friends—they help each other to be better and to do better.

We each have the capacity to be that kind of friend. Being sincere and interested in others opens the door to friendship. Listening and caring, finding common ground, and being trustworthy keep the door of friendship open. Then, no matter what challenges we face, true friends walk the distance with us.

Sources: news.harvard.edu/ musicandthespokenword.org/ www.wsj.com/

Retire from work, but not from life.” ~ M.K. Soni

SOUNDINGS

DOES TRS HAVE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION?

Did you receive your Illinois Teachers Retirement System (TRS) Spring 2023 issue of their newsletter, *Topics & Reports*? Three issues are published and sent to all annuitants each year. If you did not receive this issue of their newsletter, TRS may not have your current contact information – along with other important items.



member.trsil.org/

☞ NAME ☞ ADDRESS
☞ PHONE ☞ EMAIL ☞ BENEFICIARY

You are advised to access your TRS online account to confirm and edit any information that needs to be updated.

You can also print a TRS Member ID Card from this website.

TRS PENSION CHECK FEDERAL INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING

TRS cannot give tax advice. You may wish to contact a qualified tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service at 800.829.1040 to ensure that you have adequate federal withholding for the 2023 tax year. If you are under-withholding, there could be a negative consequence at tax time.

If you would like to change your withholding election, you must complete a new Form W4-P. You can call your local Internal Revenue Service office for a blank form or download the blank form from the IRS website:
www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4p.pdf
A new Form W4-P replaces any former withholding on file with TRS.

GIVING BACK AS A COMMUNITY – EMPOWERING OTHERS THROUGH ACTS OF GENEROSITY

It's about being a part of something bigger than yourself.

For three days, Fred Barley had been sleeping in a tent on the campus of Gordon University in Georgia. Hungry and homeless, he had been unsuccessful in finding work, which he needed to survive. As two police officers approached Fred, they questioned him why he was sleeping on campus. What they then learned affected them profoundly. Fred had traveled six hours on a bicycle in 100-degree weather so that he could attend his second year in college. With no support, his plan was to camp until school began a few weeks later, and during that time, Fred had hoped to find work. Touched by this 19-year old's desire to succeed, the two officers spent their own money for a motel room for Fred. Word then traveled throughout the community about Fred's situation and their acts of generosity. The owner of the motel allowed Fred to stay there until school reopened. A local pizzeria gave Fred a job as a dishwasher. And most importantly, the community started a GoFundMe donation page for Fred that raised over \$180,000. What began as acts of generosity by two officers blossomed into an entire community giving back. Today, the community of Conyers continues in these efforts by launching several charity events to help low-income families.



SOUNDINGS



Both the House and Senate have set to adjourn spring session on May 19th, which is much earlier than the May 31st adjournment date in the past. With a deadline coming up in both chambers to get bills out of committee, the General Assembly will have their work cut out for them.

SENATE BILLS

1345 Allows noncitizens of the United States to register to vote in school board elections.

2348 Requires school districts to provide 20 minutes of relaxation activities per week, such as yoga, meditation, or stretching, in addition to and not replacing recess.

HOUSE BILL

2789 Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, who is also the state librarian, is spearheading legislation that would make state grants to libraries contingent on their establishing “a written policy prohibiting the practice of banning books.” At stake is about \$61 million annually to 1,600 public and school libraries. The legislation, HB2789, sponsored by Representative Anne Stava-Murray, won House approval 69-39 last month and awaits action by the Senate. Illinois would be the nation’s first state to adopt such a policy, according to Giannoulias. However, it is far from the only state dealing with contention among the stacks. The American Library Association compiled 1,200 challenges to books nationally in 2022, nearly double the record number a year earlier.

IBHE AWARDS OVER \$3 MILLION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKER GRANTS

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has awarded \$3.37 million to two public and two private Illinois universities to support individuals aspiring to work in early childhood care and education. The grants will support scholarships and other supports for 78 students pursuing master's degrees at Illinois State University (\$800,753), Lewis University



(\$358,390), National Louis University (\$1,191,511), and the University of Chicago Illinois (\$1,027,989). The students in these programs are expected to graduate in summer 2024.

“The grants will help increase the diversity of faculty in early childhood education in Illinois at a time of great need by expanding the educational pipelines for aspiring early childhood faculty,” IBHE Executive Director Ginger Ostro said in a statement. “We are excited to partner with the four selected universities to continue to make progress toward a high-quality early childhood education system in our state.” Early Childhood Faculty Preparation Grants are a part of the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) initiative. ECACE is a collaboration between IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board, in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development, and Illinois Department of Human Services. *Source: www.illinois.gov/*

THINGS WE’VE HEARD OUR MOMS SAY:

- ☞ Don’t forget to wear clean underwear in case you get into a car accident.
- ☞ I’m going to count to three.



- ☞ I’ll give you something to cry about.
- ☞ Put a jacket on, you’re making me cold.
- ☞ Your face is going to freeze like that.
- ☞ But the best one: **I LOVE YOU!**

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

VACATIONS BY RAIL



Vacations By Rail is the trusted authority on rail and North America's most comprehensive provider of rail travel and tours. Travelers can choose from the largest selection of independent rail vacations, escorted rail tours, and luxury rail journeys to destinations in North America, Europe, and beyond. *Vacations By Rail* provides superior customer service giving travelers peace of mind about their vacation with access to 24/7 Customer Service before and during travel.

IRTA SAVINGS: Specialist phone number and IRTA Reference Group Number are available in the Members Only section of the IRTA Website: irtaonline.org

At Every PARTA Meeting



Book Exchange Table
Books | Calendars | Magazines

Sally Weber, Supervisor



**Used Battery
Recycling Collection**

Jo Trompeter, Supervisor

A FORGOTTEN TRADITION: MAY BASKET DAY

Maybe there really was a time when America was more innocent – back when *May Basket Day* was a thing, perhaps.

The curious custom — still practiced in discrete pockets of the country — went something like this: As the month of April rolled to an end, people would begin gathering flowers and candies and other goodies to put in May baskets to sneakily hang on the doors of friends, neighbors and loved ones on May 1. *Source: www.npr.org/*



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION EXPENDITURES IN ILLINOIS

Benefits paid by state and local pension plans support a significant amount of economic activity in the state of Illinois. Pension benefits received by retirees are spent in the local community. This spending ripples through the economy, as one person's spending becomes another person's income, creating a multiplier effect. In 2020, expenditures stemming from Illinois state and local pensions supported:

- 166,489 jobs that paid \$10.4 billion in wages and salaries
- \$30.3 billion in total economic output
- \$4.0 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

➔ Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.40 in total economic activity in Illinois.

➔ Each dollar "invested" by Illinois taxpayers in these pension plans supported \$3.88 in total economic activity in the state.

Source: www.nirsonline.org/



NEW EXCUSES FOR NOT DOING HOMEWORK

- ✓ Our home internet connection was down last night.
- ✓ The computer didn't break. It was the printer this time!
- ✓ I tried, but Google didn't understand the instructions.

