

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS


NOVEMBER 2018

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

## MEETING

**Barracks Cater Inn**  
November 5  
11:30 AM  
Luncheon: \$12.00

## Greeters

-  Deloris Turner
-  Rhonda Kokos

## Pledge

-  Patricia Hartmann

## Invocation

-  Patricia Hartmann

## Luncheon

### THANKSGIVING

### FEAST

- Turkey / Dressing
- Potatoes & Gravy
- Corn Casserole
- Assorted Salads
- Cranberry Sauce / Roll
- Pumpkin Pie

## Meeting

Chair:  
**Abby Humbles**  
*PARTA President*



**Soundings Editor**  
Roger Hampton

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings PARTA Members,

The weather is getting cooler. The days are certainly getting shorter. Fall leaves will soon be in beautiful display of their vibrant colors. November is here already!



We look forward to Sarah Stevens' presentation, "The Beekeeper" at our meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. I am sure you will enjoy Sarah and the always fabulous luncheon. We hope you can make it.

Please feel free to let callers know if you have special dietary restrictions. Barracks is very helpful with accommodating those needs. Happy Thanksgiving in advance!

Most thankfully, Abby Humbles, PARTA President

## PARTA PROGRAMS

### NOVEMBER 5

Topic: "THE BEEKEEPER"

Presenter: Sarah Stevens



### DECEMBER 3 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020

Topic: **STORYTELLING**

Presenter:

Chris Mangold

Game: **CHRISTMAS TRIVIA**

Organizer:

Pat Hampton

**SING-A-LONG** lead by Denise Adams

**BRING A SPOUSE OR FRIEND**



Updates online at: [pa-rta.weebly.com](http://pa-rta.weebly.com)  
Sally Weber, Webmaster

**CORRECTION:** The number listed for Nancy Wing in last month's Soundings was incorrect.

If you have not been contacted by Thursday prior to a meeting, call Nancy Wing at **309.472.2536** (corrected cell #) or call Abby Humbles at **309.472.9455** (cell.)

# SOUNDINGS

## General Luncheon Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2018

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone. Seventy-eight people were present. She thanked today's greeters, Susan Leighty and Denise Madigan, as well as the callers and the cashiers.

Linda Sedgwick gave the invocation and led the pledge.

We then had a "Celebration of Life Memorial" for those members who died from September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018. Relatives were invited, and attendees gave brief remarks of remembrance.

After the luncheon, Abby introduced Roger Hampton, who was chair of the Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association (PARTA) legislative committee but is now the President of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA). Roger introduced Dixie Wheeler, who is the new legislative chair of PARTA. Dixie is also on the IRTA Legislative Committee representing IRTA Region 10. Sally Weber is on the IRTA Board of Directors as Region 10 Director.

Dixie spoke about the committee and their responsibilities to retirees. Roger then gave a report on IRTA and ways of communicating with them. Joe Underwood is the IRTA Region 10 representative on IRTAPAC committee.



Abby opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were approved as printed in the *Soundings*.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables and a summary was in the *Soundings*. The report was filed for audit. Jeff Vallosio reported he added some money to the Post Office account to pay for the mailing of the *Soundings*.

- Roger Hampton made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the Policies and Bylaws that were presented last month and listed in the *Soundings*. Peggy Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- John Rathbun said fall is the time for collecting annual dues for 2019. It is important to let PARTA know your new address and phone number.



- Peggy Shane reported for the nominating committee the following slate of officers: President – Abby Humbles, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Dixie Wheeler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Ann Winget, Recording Secretary – Kathy Simpson, and Treasurer – Jeff Vallosio. There were no nominations from the floor. Laveine Birditt moved to accept the slate of officers as presented. Susie Pierce seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

<b>REPORT</b>	OCTOBER 2018 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 50,695.59		Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
	Investment Balance	\$ 41,692.38	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	\$ 6,960.32	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$ 359.92
	Checking Balance	\$ 1,537.35	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$ 45.62

## OPPORTUNITIES EVERY MONTH

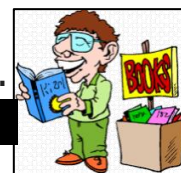
### BATTERY COLLECTION

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



### BOOK EXCHANGE TABLE

Bring books and magazines to share with our members.



Need a ride to a PARTA meeting?

For information, call Frances Farrarher at 309.688.1424.

*We all know those people who love to stir the pot.*

**BE the ONE to CLOSE the LID!**

## SOUNDINGS



### CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Which constitutional right is the most important? You might answer "freedom of speech" or "free exercise" of religion. Some think it's "the right to keep and bear arms." Criminal lawyers think of the guarantee against "unreasonable searches and seizures."

Which right appears most often in the Constitution's text?  
It is "the right to vote". It is mentioned five times in the Constitution.

### **VETERANS DAY – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

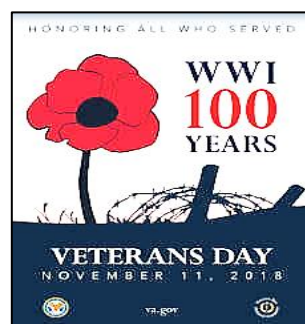
*Designated as a Federal Holiday on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>*

2018 marks the Centennial Commemoration of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918.

The theme for the 2018 Veterans Day Poster is:

**"The War to End All Wars"**

and features a poppy and barbed wire.



*To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future:  
America must never forget your sacrifices!  
God bless you and thank you.*

### **THANKSGIVING DAY – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018**

#### THANKSGIVING DAY FACTS:

The first Thanksgiving Day feast was held in 1621 between the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Indians.

In 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the fourth Thursday in November as the official Thanksgiving Day in 1941.

#### WHAT THANKSGIVING REALLY MEANS TO KIDS... IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

- ❖ Shyla, 8 – I'm thankful for firemen and policemen for catching the bad guys — 'cause bad guys can do a lot of stuff to us.
- ❖ Malcolm, 6 – I'm thankful for my family so that I don't have to be alone all the time. 'Cause they can do good things, and if I were alone, I couldn't cook myself dinner and breakfast.
- ❖ Jasmine, 8 – I'm thankful for all my teachers and my friends.
- ❖ Eli, 7 – I'm thankful for my friend, Lily. She gave me two Pokemon cards today. I'm thankful for my dad and my mom — they read me a story every day and it's really special to me.



*Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them is the true measure of our thanksgiving.*

# SOUNDINGS

## TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM WEBPAGE



ACCESSING YOUR TRS ACCOUNT ONLINE

[HTTPS://WWW.TRSIL.ORG/ACCESSING\\_TRS\\_ACCOUNT\\_ONLINE](https://www.trsil.org/accessing_trs_account_online)

*Listed below are some of the resources available online:*

### GENERAL

- EMPLOYMENT LIMITATIONS FOR ANNUITANTS
- TRIP & TRAIL INSURANCE INFORMATION
- QUALIFIED ILLINOIS DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDERS (QILDROS)
- TRS NEWS AND EVENTS
- PRESS RELEASES
- PENSION ISSUES

### FORMS

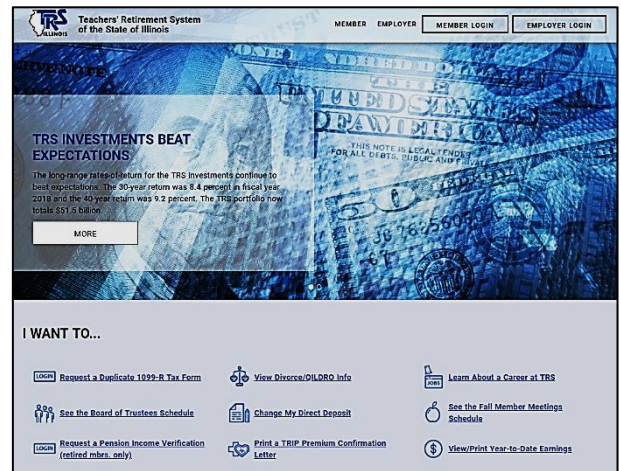
- MEMBER BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION
- CHANGE OF DIRECT DEPOSIT
- NAME CHANGE
- FEDERAL TAX WITHHOLDING (W4-P)
- STATE TAX WITHHOLDING
- CHANGE OF ADDRESS

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBER ACCOUNT

*You will need to log-in to the secure*

*Member Account Access area for the following information:*

- COMPTROLLER'S MAILING SCHEDULE OF TRS ANNUITY CHECKS
- CURRENT GROSS MONTHLY BENEFIT AMOUNT
- YEAR-TO-DATE EARNINGS/BENEFIT STATEMENT
- TRIP PREMIUMS REPORT
- SURVIVOR BENEFITS
- BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION



## **A PIECE OF PUMPKIN PIE!**

Jolene was only 8 years old and lived with family in the country with her parents and brother. Consequently, they did not often have visitors from the city. One day Jolene's mother said that father was bringing two guests home for Thanksgiving dinner. After they had enjoyed the turkey, Jolene went to the kitchen to help her mother, and proudly brought in the first piece of pumpkin pie and gave it to her father. He then passed the plate to a guest. When Jolene came in with the second piece and gave it to his father, he again gave it to a guest. This was too much for Little Jolene, who blurted out, "It's no use, Daddy. The pieces are all the same size."



# SOUNDINGS

## HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS ARE PROTECTED

Kanerva v. Weems:

- This was a constitutional challenge to an amendment to the State Employees Group Insurance Act which reduced State contributions toward health insurance costs for retired public pension system members and their survivors.
- The Court held that this amendment was unconstitutional.
- The Pension Protection Clause protects more than the pension annuity. It protects all “benefits” of membership in a pension system, including health insurance benefits.
- If there is any doubt about the scope of a constitutional protection for pension rights, those doubts are resolved in favor of the pensioner.



➤ TRS 2018 FALL MEMBER MEETING HANDOUT

[HTTPS://WWW.TRSIL.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/DOCUMENTS/2018FALLMBRMTGBOOKLET\\_0.PDF](https://www.trsil.org/sites/default/files/documents/2018fallmbrmtgbooklet_0.pdf)

## CHECK OUT A FREE PASS TO THE PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM



Thanks to sponsorship from the Peoria Riverfront Museum’s Visionary Society, Peoria Public Library cardholders can now borrow a pass to the Peoria Riverfront Museum! Each branch of Peoria Public Library has one pass which is available to be checked out on a first-come, first-served basis to patrons with a valid, and in good standing, Peoria Public Library library card. The pass can be used on the day of checkout or the following day. The pass includes general admission to all exhibits, galleries, and daytime planetarium shows for two adults and their children or grandchildren.



Please note that passes are non-transferable. Borrowing patrons will be asked for photo identification and their library card to gain admission to the museum. Covers admission to the galleries and planetarium. Additional charges for special exhibits or giant screen theater shows may apply. Children and grandchildren must be under age 18.

## ODE TO THANKSGIVING

May your stuffing be tasty, and may your turkey be plump;  
May your potatoes and gravy, have nary a lump.  
May your yams be delicious, and your pies take the prize;  
And may your Thanksgiving dinner, stay off your thighs!



The body achieves what the mind believes.  
If you're going to doubt something, doubt your limits.

# SOUNDINGS

## TEACHERS' RETIREMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM (TRIP) REMINDER

For Medicare-eligible members, the 2019 TRAIL Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) Open Enrollment period ENDS November 15, 2018.



**Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP)**

SB 3046 was signed into law amending legislation to allow former TRIP members and dependents who previously opted-out of their health benefits plan, to be allowed to opt-back-in



during an open enrollment period or other qualifying enrollment periods.

You do not have to do anything if you do not want to make changes to your current TRAIL plan, or if you do not want to opt back into TRIP.

### PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

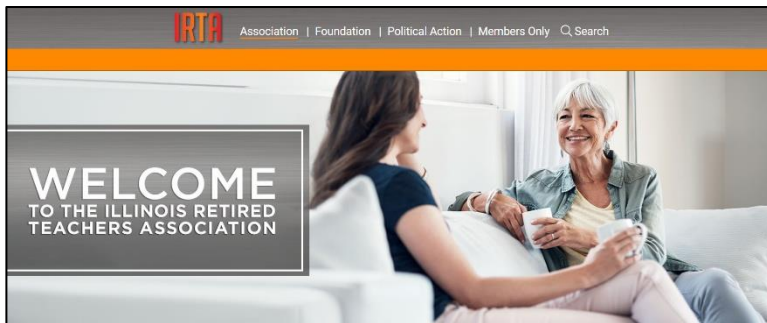
Ackelson	Mary	10000 NW 71 <sup>st</sup> ST	Parkville	MO	64152-2412	Address change
Anderson	Lindsay	12104 N Tall Trees DR	Dunlap	IL	61525-9533	Address change
Athey	Dale K.	2724 W Reservoir BLVD	Peoria	IL	61615-4137	Address change
Bethel	Rob	312 W Vistoso Highlands DR	Oro Valley	AZ	85755-5702	Address change
Blane	Jeannie	4707 N Weaverridge BLVD	Peoria	IL	61615-8949	New member
		JKBLANE@GMAIL.COM				
Bauwens	Joseph E.	6901 N Galena Rd SPC 1302	Peoria	IL	61614-3108	691-6494 Address & phone change
Crothers	Doris	911 Busse HWY APT 201	Park Ridge	IL	60068-2374	Address change
Dunbar	Cherie	14620 W Glasford Canton RD	Glasford	IL	61533-9590	657-1912 New member
		CCDUNBAR@YAHOO.COM				
Grewell	Johanne	6128 Coldbrook AVE	Lakewood	CA	90713-1028	Address change
Hedeman	Allan W.	1104 E Bailey CT	Peoria	IL	61614-2218	Address change
Parks	Bessie					No phone
Sallee	Vivian	Tanglewilde ST #425	Houston	TX	77068-1204	Address change
Sherman	Patsy	3900 N Stable CT, Unit 101	Peoria	IL	61614-6948	Address change
Smith	Denise	600 Simon DR	East Peoria	IL	61611-1556	694-3026 New member
		FONMOMNOW2@ITV-3.COM				
Sprecher	Martha	P O BOX 273	Dunlap	IL	61525-0273	Address change
Trinder	Marilynn	2724 W Reservoir BLVD	Peoria	IL	61615-4137	Address change
Westendorf	Chuck	4126 W Tangleoaks CT	Peoria	IL	61615-8904	Address change
Westendorf	Gwen	4126 W Tangleoaks CT	Peoria	IL	61615-8904	Address change

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.” — Maya Angelou

# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA HAS A NEW WEBPAGE



**WWW.IRTAONLINE.ORG**

*A site to find  
ALL your information needed  
regarding retirement issues!*

## SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA ENDORSED BENEFIT

Having the freedom to choose where, when, and how you recover from an unexpected accident or illness may be all you need for comfort and peace of mind.

**aetna**  
**Home Care Plus**  
Insurance Plans  
Underwritten by  
Continental Life Insurance Company  
of Brentwood, Tennessee  
An Aetna Company

### HOME CARE PLUS (NEW)

Aetna's plan gives you the freedom to choose when and where you recover. It's important to consider and plan for the impact of rising healthcare costs for hospital and at home recovery. A Home Care Plus insurance plan can help you manage your expenses and recuperate at home by covering medically necessary treatments. Benefits are paid directly to you!

Information regarding this and other IRTA member discounts are available online at: [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)

### ADVICE

- Be well-rounded.
- Get plenty of sunshine.
- Have a thick skin.



• Think big!

### FROM A PUMPKIN

- Keep growing.
- Give thanks for life's bounty.
- Be outstanding in your field.

**ASK GRANDPA:** A little boy was in church next his father and at his father's request said a small prayer, "Dear God, please bless Mommy and Daddy and all the family to be healthy and happy." Suddenly he looked up and said out loud, "And please don't forget to ask grandpa to give me a bicycle for my birthday!!" "There is no need to shout like that," said his father. "God isn't hard of hearing." "No," said the little boy, "but Grandpa is."



According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two? Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy.

# SOUNDINGS

INVESTIGATING

CORRUPTION

The top lawyers in Illinois and most other states rarely investigate corruption. That's by design, not political cowardice. It's popular come election time for Republicans and Democrats, when political circumstances suit them, to clamor for the state's top lawyer to investigate corruption, almost always to no avail.

What one party may hail as a righteous quest for justice, the other likely will condemn as a politically tainted abuse of power. Yet candidates often cannot resist taking up the cudgel of anti-corruption, sometimes identifying their targets by name. In Illinois and elsewhere, however, there's often a chasm between political rhetoric and legal reality, with candidates for high office eager to fashion themselves as the reincarnation of Eliot Ness.

Source: [www.bettergov.org/news/a-corruption-fighting-attorney-general-easy-to-say-harder-to-do](http://www.bettergov.org/news/a-corruption-fighting-attorney-general-easy-to-say-harder-to-do)



## AN AMAZING TWO-LETTER WORD

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word. It is listed in the dictionary as an adverb, preposition, adjective, noun, or verb.

It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**? At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP**, and why are the officers **UP** for election (if there is a tie, it is a toss **UP**) and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report? We call **UP** our friends, brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and fix **UP** the old car.



At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special. This **UP** word is confusing! A drain must be opened **UP** because it is blocked **UP**. We open **UP** a store in the morning, but we close it **UP** at night. We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look **UP** the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost 1/4 of the page and can add **UP** to about thirty definitions. If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with ( **UP** to) a hundred or more.



When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing **UP**. When it rains, it soaks **UP** the earth. When it does not rain for a while, things dry **UP**. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP**, for now, my time is **UP**!



Oh... One more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning? **UP**!!! Now I'll shut **UP**!

*My kids are at an age now where they are beginning to understand embarrassment. This is my time to shine.*