

PARTA SOUNDINGS

NOVEMBER 2019

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association

MEETING

Barracks Cater Inn
November 4
11:30 AM
Luncheon: \$12.00

Greeters

-  Rhonda Kokos
-  Valda Shipp

Pledge

-  Kathy Simpson

Invocation

-  Kathy Simpson

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 Members,

Happy Fall Season to you. Such a beautiful time of year to come out and join us for our luncheon

Thank you again to our callers and Patty Monks for her help! We still are looking for someone to co-chair the caller position. Please contact me if you are available. Thank you!

As always, let your caller know if you have any dietary restrictions. We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,
Abby Humbles, PARTA President



PARTA PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 4

ALIGN PEORIA - READING

- Reading Buddies
- 10,000 Book Drive – Little Free Libraries
- Food to fill the Free Little Pantries

**Dr. Nicole Wood, Amanda Campbell,
Andrea Tortora, Susan Klesath, Cheryl Sanfilip**

PLEASE HELP INCREASE PARTA'S MEMBERSHIP

*Please take time to invite a former colleague.
First Time Attending Retirees Are Our Guest.*



DECEMBER 2



MAGIC
presented by
ALLAN ADCOCK

PLUS a
HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG
with **DENISE ADAMS**



Updates online at: pa-rta.weebly.com
Sally Weber, Webmaster



Need a ride to a PARTA meeting?
For information,
call Frances Farrarher at 309.688.1424.

SOUNDINGS

GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone, especially the new retirees. There were 94 present for the meeting. Abby thanked today's greeters, LeeAnn Meinhold and Sally Weber. Dixie Wheeler led the Pledge and gave the Invocation.

After the luncheon, Ann Winget introduced the speaker, Dr. Ray Bertino, a retired interventional radiologist and member of the Society for Addiction Medicine Board. He spoke about the adverse effects of marijuana on the human body, giving very informative data. Abby opened the business meeting.

• Roger Hampton, president of IRTA, welcomed the new retirees. He said IRTA advocates for retirees. He has made a video about IRTA, and it is available online.



He asks that you share it with friends. He also asks you to volunteer.

• The minutes were approved as they appeared in the *Sounding*.



• Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit. Jeff Vallosio said the Life Membership Fund helps us financially.

• If a PARTA member is 85 years or older, he/she will receive a free luncheon the month of his/her birthday. Let your caller know.

• Abby reported that we need some positions filled: a greeter coordinator, a caller coordinator (Patty Monks will co-chair with someone), and a program coordinator after this year.

• John Rathbun, membership chair, is collecting membership dues.

• Valda reported that there was enough money collected for three scholarships this year.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.



GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2019

President Abby Humbles welcomed all. There were seventy-eight present. Abby thanked today's greeters, Joyce Moore and Ann Christophel. Frances Farraher led the Pledge and gave the Invocation. Frances then led the Celebration of Life in memory of the PARTA members who passed away between September 1, 2018, and August 31, 2019. A candle was lighted for each, and those attending shared memories of the deceased.

After the luncheon, LeeAnn Meinhold introduced Mike Graham from the VFW of Bartonville, which is in partnership with the Limestone ROTC.

Five members of this group, led by Sergeant Danielle Madero, performed a meaningful flag folding ceremony. Abby opened the business meeting.



• The minutes from September will be in next month's *Soundings*.

• Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. A summary is in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit. Jeff Vallosio reported he moved \$3,000 into the checking/savings account from investment funds.

• Ann Christophel will be our greeter coordinator.

• Delores Turner will be the teacher grant coordinator.

• Call Patti Monks or Abby if you are not called for a reservation.

• IRTA goes to Richwoods High School to share information and pamphlets with retiring teachers. Two PARTA volunteers are needed. Sally Weber will go.

• John Rathbun, membership chair, is collecting membership dues for 2020.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary



TEXTING

⇒ When you're texting someone and auto-correct decides to join the conversation.

FRUSTRATIONS

⇒ When you spell a word so wrong, even auto-correct is like "I've got nothing man."

SOUNDINGS



IRTA 2019 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Convention Report by Dixie Wheeler, PARTA Vice President

Participating in the IRTA Convention October 14-15, 2019, was an exciting two days. IRTA President Roger Hampton opened the meeting with remarks about the Lighthouse symbol: the LIGHT being our guide for 64 years serving the needs and interests of members; the HOUSE the foundation and security for retirees; and the SHIELD providing protection to member benefits. Keynote speaker was Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice, Lloyd Karmeier, who wrote the opinion after the court unanimously overturned the State's attempt to diminish our pension benefits in 2015.



Three hundred nineteen delegates attended Area Caucuses and unanimously selected the new slate of officers, including new president John Flaherty. Each caucus also discussed ideas proposed by the IRTA board members regarding changes in our constitution. Interestingly, 4 of the 5 proposals were voted down.



One such proposal would have changed the number of regional legislative representatives from 18 to 12. This move would have had legislative representatives having to cover more territory (I was glad to see this proposal defeated.)

Seven IRTA committees reported on their status: finance, legislative, membership, information services, member benefits, IRTA/PAC, and foundation. Some of the facts brought to our attention were: about 1,800 new members were added in the last 2 years but offset by the death of about 800 members; and to date, there are 38,670 members statewide.

The convention wasn't all business. Visiting vendor booths and making changes on the silent auction items was really fun. PARTA was one such unit that sent \$100 as did other units making donations. Silent auction items were indeed special baskets of all kinds. And at the end of the convention, we all popped our confetti into the air!



Thank you to PARTA for paying our expenses to attend the convention. PARTA members attending were John Rathbun, Sally Weber, Kathy Simpson, Peggy Shane, Dixie Wheeler, and Pat and Roger Hampton. At the president's reception, Roger entertained the delegates and guests with his rendition of "I Did It My Way" to "The IRTA Way." It was a hit!

The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experiences. ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

SOUNDINGS

SOME ADDED INFORMATION FOR CLARIFICATION

FREE BIRTHDAY LUNCH FOR ANYONE 85 OR OLDER

- The free lunch is on the month of your birthday.
- You **MUST** let your caller know so he/she can inform the cashier.
- This is **ONE LUNCH PER YEAR**. Since we do not have luncheon meetings in January, July, and August, your free lunch will be on the following month.
- If you are unable to attend on your birthday month, *please* let the caller know so you can receive your free lunch the following month.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUESTS FOR LUNCH

- Barracks Cater Inn **ACCOMMODATES SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS** and is very cooperative in providing alternatives.
- You **MUST** tell your caller so that Barracks can plan and prepare for your special dietary needs before the day of our meeting.



ASSISTANCE WITH GETTING YOUR LUNCH

- Barracks Cater Inn is **ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST YOU** while going through the buffet line and will also carry your plate to your table. They will bring you a plate of food if you are unable to go through the buffet line.
- You will need to **LET THE CATER INN STAFF KNOW** that you need assistance.

L I F E

Life is short!
Smile while you still have teeth!



If stress burned calories,
I'd be a supermodel!

If you tell the truth,
you don't have to remember anything!



ILLINOIS DEBTS

GENERAL FUNDS PAYABLE BACKLOG

\$ 6,433,473,623.36 (estimated)

VOUCHERS BACKLOGGED

76,661 (estimated)

LATE PAYMENT INTEREST PENALTIES FY 2019

How much money has Illinois spent because it did not pay its bills on time?

<u>Current Year Interest</u>	<u>Future Year Interest</u>	<u>Other Costs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
\$87,685,763.01	\$3,685,418.92	\$105,808,165.65	\$197,179,347.58

Source: <https://illinoiscomptroller.gov/financial-data/fiscal-information/bill-backlog/>

One caller to Butterball's Thanksgiving Turkey Talk-Line had always cut the legs off the turkey before putting it in the oven, thinking that was how you had to cook a turkey. She later learned that the only reason her mom had been doing that was because their oven had been so small that that was the only way to get the bird into the oven!



SOUNDINGS

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST PARTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Marah Miller, Eureka
 Chole Stahl, Princeville
 Deloris Turner, PARTA
 Valda Shipp, PARTA
 Elise Hobbs, Washington
(Pictured left to right)



ICC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Kathryn Timmes, 88	January 10, 1931 – October 8, 2019	
Nancy Wing, 75	September 1, 1944 – October 11, 2019	

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

Blessings

*It's not what we say about our blessings,
but how we use them is the true measure of our Thanksgiving.*



VETERANS DAY – HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
 Veterans Day is an important day for showing appreciation to members of our military, past and present. If you're looking for an appropriate way to honor a veteran in your life or would like to contribute in a way that's meaningful for veterans everywhere, here's a list of suggestions to start you off.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019

- ATTEND A VETERANS' DAY EVENT
- VISIT A VA HOSPITAL
- GET OUTDOORS WITH A VETERAN

- DONATE TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS VETERANS
- ASK A VETERAN ABOUT HIS/HER SERVICE
- WRITE A SIMPLE POST CARD OR E-CARD
- FLY THE USA FLAG



No matter how full you feel,
there is **ALWAYS** room in your stomach for dessert.
That's a fact my grandchildren tell me is absolutely true!



TRAIL Open Enrollment Period Ends November 15, 2019

The Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) offers eligible members a healthcare program called Total Retiree Advantage Illinois (TRAIL) - a comprehensive medical and prescription drug coverage commonly referred to as a "MAPD" plan.

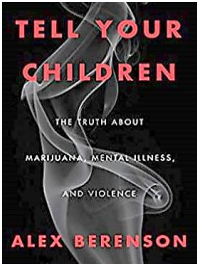


The cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it is between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.



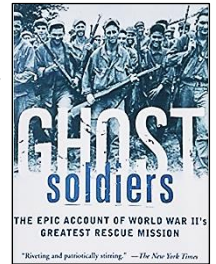
SOUNDINGS

PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



***Tell Your Children:
The Truth About Marijuana,
Mental Illness, and Violence***
by Alex Berenson

An eye-opening report from an award-winning author and former New York Times reporter reveals the link between teenage marijuana use and mental illness, and a hidden epidemic of violence caused by the drug — facts the media have ignored as the United States rushes to legalize cannabis.



***Ghost Soldiers:
Epic Account of WWII's
Greatest Rescue Mission***
by Hampton Sides

A mesmerizing story of a remarkable mission and testament to the human spirit, an account of enormous bravery and self-sacrifice. 121 U.S. troops slipped behind enemy lines in the Philippines to rescue 513 POWs languishing in a hellish camp, among them the last survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March.

PARTA MEMBERS: PLEASE email the name and author of a book that you have enjoyed to: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com



Vegetables are a must on a diet, so I suggest:

Carrot Cake | Zucchini



Bread | Pumpkin Pie



SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA ENDORSED BENEFIT CHILDREN'S WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE

Why buy life insurance for grandchildren? There are several reasons.

- Helps protect your grandchild's future insurability.
- Covers costs associated with an unexpected loss.
- Coverage that is easy to apply for with:
 - *Affordable rates*
 - *Available face amounts of \$5,000 to \$50,000*
 - *Rates that never increase with age*



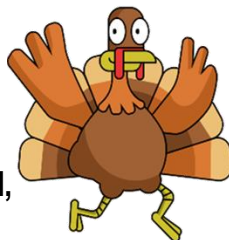
**UNITED OF OMAHA LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY**
A MUTUAL OF OMAHA COMPANY

To find out more about this and other benefits available through IRTA, contact our favorite AMBA District Manager, Larry Newman at:

708.878.2814 or larry.newman@amba.info

Information regarding all IRTA member discounts are also available online at: irtaonline.org

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy answered, "No ma'am, they're dead."



If you stand in the meat section at the grocery store long enough, you start to get mad at turkeys. There's Turkey Ham, Turkey Bologna, Turkey Pastrami, Turkey Sausage, and that's just a start! Someone needs to tell the turkey, "Man, just be yourself!"

SOUNDINGS

2019 IRTA Convention Unit Honorees



Slides from a PowerPoint presentation at the IRTA convention.

Peoria Area RTA: Nancy Wing



Nancy Wing was honored at the IRTA 2019 Biennial Convention on October 14, 2019 as

Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association (PARTA) unit honoree. She had been nominated for this award by the PARTA Board earlier this year. Unfortunately, she died 3 days before this event. However, she was aware that she would be receiving the award. Roger and Pat Hampton took her "Honoree Certificate" and a gift from IRTA to her son and daughter. The family spoke very highly of PARTA and knew of Nancy's many volunteer service hours with our retiree unit.

HEARING INSTRUMENT AND RELATED SERVICES BENEFIT

Beginning January 1, 2020, TRAIL MAPD enrollees will be able to receive a \$2,500 per hearing instrument and related services benefit every 24 months for ALL individuals (not just those who are 65 and older), when a hearing care professional prescribes a hearing instrument. Be sure to contact your health plan for additional details.



Look for additional information regarding active employee and non-MAPD retiree hearing benefit coverage which will be provided closer to the FY21 Benefit Choice enrollment period next May.



A man goes to a doctor and tells him that he believes his wife is having a hearing problem. The doctor asks him to perform a test. First you call her from outside of your home when she is sitting in the kitchen and check if she responds, and step by step come closer to her by calling her name and check if she replies.

The man goes to his home and finds his wife is in the kitchen and calls her from outside and hears no response. He comes closer to the main door and again calls her with no response. Next, he enters the great room and calls her again and still there is no response.

Then he approaches the kitchen and calls her name again, but gets no response. Now he's concerned. This time he approaches his wife really close from behind and calls her. This time she replies "John, this is the fifth time I am answering you." John is now the one who is quiet with no response.

