

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association**

## MEETING

### VIRTUAL OPTION

### ZOOM


A Direct Link  
will be sent via email.  
(Details on page 4)

### IN-PERSON OPTION

Barracks Cater Inn  
Monday  
November 1  
11:30 AM  
Luncheon: \$12.00

**RESERVATIONS MADE  
MUST BE PAID**

### GREETERS

 Contact Ann Christophel  
if you will volunteer.

### PLEDGE/INVOCATION

 Ann Christophel

### LUNCHEON

Chef-Carved Turkey  
Potato / Vegetable  
Assorted Salads  
Dessert

### MEETING

(Begins after program)  
Dixie Wheeler  
PARTA President



Roger Hampton  
Soundings Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings PARTA members,  
I had the honor of distributing IRTA grant funds to Peoria area winners in October. Four teachers were awarded a total of **\$2,800** for classroom projects. These funds are totally generated by donations from IRTA members. Area teachers will be purchasing biographies and poetry books for a third-grade class in Princeville (Mrs. Klein); a video camera for kindergartners at Wilder Waite (Ms. Gilles); band and chorus music for Hollis Grade School (Miss Tabor); and PE equipment for Chillicothe Junior High (Ms. Coutre). It's fun to give away \$\$\$!



Dixie Wheeler  
PARTA president



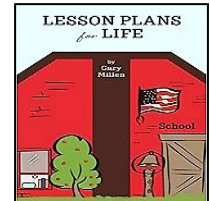
Amanda Coutre | Joe Gallo  
PE teacher | principal



## PARTA PROGRAMS

### NOVEMBER 1 (PROGRAM CHANGE)

**LESSON PLANS FOR LIFE**  
GARY MILLEN, Retired Educator  
Peoria Public Schools



### DECEMBER 6

**COMING TOGETHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS**  
A MUSIC ADVENTURE  
with DENISE ADAMS



### FEBRUARY 7

**LEGACY INVESTMENTS**  
TRENT STRONG, Investment Advisor



Additional information and updates available online at  
[pa-rta.weebly.com](http://pa-rta.weebly.com) Sally Weber, Webmaster

# SOUNDINGS

## PROPOSED PARTA BYLAWS CHANGE

Members will be asked to consider a change in the PARTA BYLAWS as follows:

Article IX – Quorum

- B. A **(Add seven-member)** majority of the officers and chairpersons allowed to cast one vote in accordance with Article IV: Section B, shall constitute a quorum at the Board of Directors meetings. **(Add the following)** Board members may attend virtually and be counted as present and voting members.



**A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN OF MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.**

## NO-SHOW PARTA MEMBERS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

If you make a reservation and you are a NO-SHOW for a PARTA luncheon, you owe PARTA \$12.00.

**\$12.00  
DUE**

Patti Monks will contact you and you will be expected to pay for your missing meal.

**PATTI MONKS, PARTA CALLERS CHAIR**

## GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

**OCTOBER 4 , 2021**

The October PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on October 4, 2021, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. President Wheeler thanked the meeting Greeters, Chris Stevens, and Jo Trompeter. Dixie welcomed new members and guests of the honorees. Denise Smith led the Pledge to the Flag and offered prayer. Forty in-person members were in attendance, and six additional members used the Zoom platform.

Twenty-seven deceased members were remembered in the Celebration of Life Program. Family, friends, and colleagues shared fond memories of the members. Denise Smith and Lee Ann Meinhold lit the candles for the deceased members.



The program for November has changed from the Air Force Junior ROTC to Gary Millen, author of Lesson Plans for Life.

The IRTA Convention delegates are Dixie Wheeler, Kathy Simpson, Deloris Turner, Valda Shipp, Sally Weber, John Rathbun, Pat Hampton, Roger Hampton, and Jeff Vallosio. The Convention is scheduled for October 19, 2021, and is virtual.

Roger Hampton briefed the membership on Medicare and Medicare Advantage (TRAIL and TRIP). He asked members to contact him for a more detailed explanation of these retirement benefits.

Dixie Wheeler is soliciting help for the “Guess Who” table. Cards are used with information about a member, and other members try to guess who that person could be. Members at the winner's table eat first.



In the November Soundings, there will be a proposed amendment to PARTA's bylaws. The membership will be asked to approve the amendment at the November meeting. The amendment addresses the number of members for a quorum at a board meeting and virtual attendance.

There were no committee reports. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carla Stokowski moved to adjourn the meeting, and Sherry Perez seconded the motion.

**Respectfully submitted, Deloris Turner, Secretary**

*You'll always be my best friend.  
You know too much about me!!!*



# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA 2021 VIRTUAL BIENNIAL CONVENTION

### MAKING CHANGES TO MOVE INTO THE FUTURE

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE | [irtaonline.org/index.php/members-only/videos](http://irtaonline.org/index.php/members-only/videos)

#### VIDEO INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO REVIEW:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ IRTA President's Report - John Flaherty</li><li>▶ TRS Report - Larry Pfeiffer, TRS Trustee</li><li>▶ Member Benefits Committee Report<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Pat Hampton, Chair</li><li>◆ Larry Newman, Regional VP AMBA</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Legislative Report &amp; Health Insurance Updates:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Jim Bachman, IRTA Executive Director</li><li>◆ Andrew Bodewes, IRTA Contract Lobbyist</li><li>◆ Courtney Hayes, IRTA Government Affairs Coordinator</li></ul></li></ul> |
|--|---|

#### OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2022-23 TERM

**BILL FUNKHOUSER, PRESIDENT**  
**LARRY PFEIFER, VICE PRESIDENT**

**TREASURER, DONNIE OSTROM**  
**SECRETARY, DORIS HEATON**

#### IRTA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS PASSED - ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES

##### SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES

- Remove Information Services as a Standing Committee
- Add Nominations as a Standing Committee

##### SECTION 3. COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

A. The Membership Committee shall consist of 6 members and a chair: 2 members from Areas 1 & 2; 2 members from Areas 3 & 4; and 2 members from Areas 5 & 6. The Legislative Committee shall consist of the chair and one (1) voting member from each region.

#### IRTA / IRTF / IRTPAC DATA

##### IRTA

~39,200 MEMBERS  
~960 DECEASED (2020)  
7% GROWTH (2020)  
96.7% RENEWAL RATE



##### IRTF (FOUNDATION)

2020 MEMBER DONATIONS: \$360,000+

##### IRTPAC (POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE)

2020 MEMBER DONATIONS: ~\$150,000



#### TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS) ONLINE VIDEOS

<https://www.trsil.org/videos>

List of some of the videos created to explain TRS member benefits:

##### THIS IS TRS

*A video providing a general overview of the TRS mission.*

##### DO YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR RETIREMENT?

*A brief explanation of how TRS works for you.*

##### DEATH AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS EXPLAINED

*Death and Survivor Benefits Explained*

##### VIRTUAL FALL 2021 MEMBER MEETING

*TRS retirement, disability, death and insurance benefits explained.*

##### TIER I NEW MEMBER

*Tier I New Member Video*

##### RETIREMENT MATTERS FOR TIER I MEMBERS

*Considerations for TRS Tier I Members*

Both of us can't look good  
at the same time!  
It's either ME or the HOUSE!



My housekeeping style  
is best described as:  
there appears to have been A STRUGGLE!

# SOUNDINGS



November 2021 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 67,022.60		Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
Investment Balance	\$ 55,336.93	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
Savings Balance	9,018.73	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	285.56
Checking Balance	2,187.55	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	93.83

## DIRECTORY CHANGES - Please make changes in your PARTA Directory

Harness	Patty	6508 N Camelot RD	Peoria	IL	61615-2714	309.693.8170	<i>Renewed membership</i>
harnegs@comcast.net							

## THE APPROACH OF 2022: TIME FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

For many of our members, the fall represents the time to pay dues for the 2022 membership year that will begin in January. Dues for Annual Members and Associate Members are \$15.00. Dues may be paid at a regular PARTA meeting or sent to John Rathbun, Membership, 4 Elm Creek DR, APT 304, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Checks should be made out to PARTA. If you have a question about your membership, please contact John at [genrebun@aol.com](mailto:genrebun@aol.com).

The low PARTA dues pays for the printing and mailing of the Soundings. The Soundings connects to our members around the country. The dues maintain our monthly meetings and the calling committee. The social component of PARTA allows it to support retired teachers and the IRTA and our pensions into the future. PARTA has been a reliable part of the Peoria community for 70 years; your dues will keep it there during your lifetime and beyond.

**\$** Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. Life dues are invested to continue supporting your membership in a similar way to annual dues.

**\$**

**\$**

**D** For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the onetime fee is \$120.

**U** For anyone who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained at a monthly meeting or from <https://parta.weebly.com>. Or you may contact John Rathbun at [genrebun@aol.com](mailto:genrebun@aol.com). When joining as an annual member in the fall, your membership includes all of 2022.

**E**

**S**

**\$**

**\$**

**\$**

## I AM WORKING TO IMPROVE THE "SOUND QUALITY" DURING THE VIRTUAL MEETINGS!



### VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION (ZOOM) FOR EACH MEETING

*If you are not currently comfortable with attending in-person meetings, or if you are not able to attend for any reason, please consider joining us virtually via Zoom.*

<https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 812 522 6549 | Passcode: 1eZRzQ

*Zoom access will be available by 11:25 AM each meeting.*

*However, programs and meetings begin after the luncheon, usually around 12:20 PM.*

**A LINK WILL BE SEND VIA EMAIL TO ALL PARTA MEMBERS ON SUNDAY, PRIOR TO MEETINGS.**

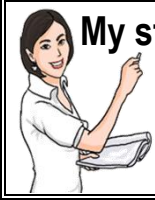


*I learn a lot in meetings. For instance, did you know that by bending a paper clip once, you can make a pretty cool 'S'?*





# SOUNDINGS

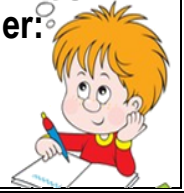


My students were assigned to write the following words in alphabetical order:

TAKE | VALUE | USE | ROYAL | HONEY

Here are their answers:

AEKT | AELUV | ESU | ALORY | EHNOY



## ATTENTION RETIRED TEACHERS!



Are you looking for an opportunity "outside the classroom" to earn a few extra dollars? Royal Publishing, located just off Pioneer Parkway, is looking for some proofreaders for their sports programs, especially for each fall and spring season. They publish official sports programs for schools throughout the nation that include advertisements, pictures, and rosters of thousands of schools' sports activities. Applicants need to be able to proofread and correct text on a computer screen, 3-4 hours per day, 2-3 days a week for a short period of time each fall and spring. The pay is \$13 per hour. Hours and days are flexible in that if you have conflicts some days, you may say "no" and be able to work another day. Please call Tanya Hollingsworth at 309-693-3171, ext. 7096 if interested or if you have any questions.



## A POUND OF BUTTER

There was a farmer who sold a pound of butter to a baker. One day the baker decided to weigh the butter to see if he was getting the right amount, which he wasn't. Angry about this, he took the farmer to court. The judge asked the farmer if he was using any measure to weigh the butter. The farmer replied, "Honor, I am primitive. I don't have a proper measure, but I do have a scale." The judge asked, "Then how do you weigh the butter?" The farmer replied: "Your Honor, long before the baker started buying butter from me, I have been buying a pound loaf of bread from him. Every day when the baker brings the bread, I put it on the scale and give him the same weight in butter. If anyone is to be blamed, it is the baker."

*Moral of the story: In life, you get what you give. Don't try and cheat others.*



Teacher: Write a short essay about a football game.

All the students except one began quickly writing.

Teacher: Why are you not writing anything?

Student: Mrs. Kelly, the game was cancelled due to rain.



# SOUNDINGS



**VETERANS DAY – HONORING ALL WHO SERVED**  
When first celebrated as Armistice Day, the day marked the end of World War I, formally recognized on the “11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day, of the 11<sup>th</sup> month” in 1918. Today we continue to celebrate the day as Veterans Day, still recognizing the original tie with November 11.

## SPELLING OF VETERANS DAY

While the holiday is commonly printed as *Veteran's Day* or *Veterans' Day* in calendars and advertisements, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website states that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling "because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans.

## APPRECIATION OF OUR VETERANS

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.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

- 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



According to the box of *Mac & Cheese* I'm a family of four!  
Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes and come out wrinkle-free and two sizes smaller!!!



## TRAIL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD ENDS NOVEMBER 15, 2021

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.

**REMINDER** A law sponsored by IRTA in August of 2018 allows TRS members and their dependents who previously opted out of the TRAIL program to re-enroll if they wish.



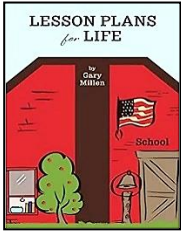
A side benefit of wearing a face mask is when you doze off in your airplane seat, no one can see when



your mouth drops wide open! 😊

- *Age 80 might be the new 60, but 9pm is the new midnight.*
- *Aging has slowed me down but it hasn't shut me up.*
- *Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional!*

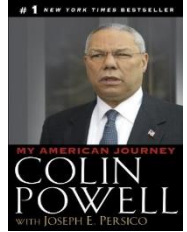
# SOUNDINGS



## PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND

**LESSON PLANS**  
for **LIFE**  
by Gary Millen

**MY AMERICAN JOURNEY:**  
**AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY**  
by Colin Powell



*In his writings, lifelong educator Gary Millen reveals how helping others became a richly rewarding aspect of his life. His teaching, mentoring and civic involvement exposed him to all ages and backgrounds throughout his education career. Starting at an early age and continuing throughout his life, his stories provide inspiring and relevant lessons for parents, students, fellow educators, and just about anyone else who cares about their own or others' success. Writing this book is but one example of how he still finds time to follow his passion for helping others.*

*Colin Powell is the embodiment of the American dream. He was born in Harlem to immigrant parents from Jamaica. He knew the rough life of the streets. He overcame a barely average start at school. Then he joined the Army. The rest is history—Vietnam, the Pentagon, Panama, Desert Storm—but a history that until now has been known only on the surface. Here, for the first time, Colin Powell himself tells us how it happened in a memoir distinguished by a heartfelt love of country and family, warm good humor, and a soldier's directness.*

**PARTA MEMBERS:** PLEASE email the name and author of a book that you have enjoyed to: [roger.hampton11138@gmail.com](mailto:roger.hampton11138@gmail.com)

## 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* ▶ *Rates that never increase with age*
  - ▶ *Available face amounts of \$5,000 to \$50,000*



To learn more about this and other IRTA member benefits, contact:  
Gary DiVito, AMBA District Manager | 847.668.0531 | [gary.divito@amba.info](mailto:gary.divito@amba.info)

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

Log on to: [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) Click on: "Member Benefits"

## I'VE HAD MY PATIENCE TESTED...I'M NEGATIVE!!!

There is always a lot to be thankful for,  
if you take the time to look.  
For example, I'm sitting here thinking  
how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Did you ever look in a mirror and wonder  
how your pantyhose got so wrinkled...  
and then remember you weren't  
wearing any?  
~Phyllis Diller



# SOUNDINGS

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARTA OFFICERS



**JEANNIE BLANE, PARTA 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

I have taught in education for 41 years. I spent 17 years at Pleasant Valley Grade. I then worked 17 years at Brimfield Grade as a teacher and 7 years as a Principal. I retired in 2018. The 2020-2021 year was spent at Illini Bluffs as a Principal Interim and I am now Principal Interim at Norwood. I love working in education and the feeling of making a difference in the lives and education of kids.

My son, Ben, and his wife, Janice, are West Point Graduates who are Majors in the Army. Ben and Janice have three children, Braxton, Remy, and Bradley. I also have a daughter, Elizabeth, who works at OSF on the Mommy/Baby floor. She has two sons, Knox and Rex. Both my children are Brimfield graduates. My husband, Jim, retired from teaching business and computers at Brimfield High School. He also worked as the Athletic Director and coached the Girls High School Basketball Team.



Fall in Illinois is like the smell of a fresh-baked pumpkin donut. Or the cool touch of an autumn breeze on a twilight hike. Or the sight of the leaves changing colors from the Garden of the Gods to Lincoln Park.

### HAVE FUN FALL ACTIVITIES

*Explore pumpkin patches, hiking trails, and other fall favorites.*



### SAVOR THE SEASON FALL FOODS

*Peruse a full menu chock full of delicious season flavors.*

### BE OUT IN NATURE FALL COLORS

*View the infinite shades of the changing autumn foliage.*

**TAKE A ROAD TRIP & EXPLORE 30+ ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**  
<https://illinoisroute66.org/communities/>

### THERE IS A FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!

*It is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age. ~ Sophia Loren*



**REMINDER** to bring your used batteries to be recycled and books, calendars, magazines, and other paper goods to share with our members.