

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

**NOVEMBER 2022**

**Peoria Area Retired Teachers' Association**

## MEETING

**Barracks Cater Inn  
November 7  
11:30 AM**

**LUNCHEON: \$13.00**

## GREETERS

- ANN CHRISTOPHEL
- ANN WINGET

## PLEDGE & INVOCATION

- PEGGY BRAGG

## LUNCHEON

### TRADITIONAL



### THANKSGIVING MEAL

## MEETING

**DIXIE WHEELER**  
*PARTA President*



**Roger Hampton**  
**Soundings Editor**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PARTA Greetings,  
We will be voting on policy changes and the slate of officers for the upcoming two years at our next meeting. Thank you to those who volunteered to take on the task again and for volunteer, Valda Shipp, for agreeing to be VP. One of the things that I enjoy in PARTA is working with capable people! I want to offer my own congratulations to our present VP of PARTA, who is now also VP of IRTA. We all wish the best to you, Roger Hampton, as you take on that job—again. And I want to thank him for presenting IRT Foundation scholarships just last Wednesday to six Peoria area teachers.



Now let's talk turkey. Thanksgiving is coming up and we all have many things for which to be grateful. One of those things is being a RETIRED teacher! Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!  
Dixie Wheeler, PARTA president

## PARTA PROGRAMS

### NOVEMBER 7

**TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)**  
RICH FRANKENFELD, TRS DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH



### DECEMBER 5

**THE NORWOOD SCHOOL CHORUS**  
TAYLOR DORMS, DIRECTOR/TEACHER



### SPRING 2023 PROGRAMS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

- FEBRUARY 6: Beth Crider, Regional Superintendent of Schools
- MARCH 6: Whiskey City - Becky Hutton, Manager
- APRIL 3: Wheels of Time - Marcia Johnson
- MAY 1: William Funkhouser, President of IRTA
- JUNE 5: Navy Life Part II - Captain Wright and Jeanie Wright

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

# SOUNDINGS

## GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 4, 2022

The October PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on October 4, 2022, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Seventy (70) members were in attendance. There were two (2) new members, Diane Reed and Betty Counce. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Laura Shane, and Ann Christophel. She also thanked Terry Knapp for assisting with the table procedure for getting members through the lunch line in an orderly manner. Linda Sedgwick led the Pledge and Invocation. The Celebration of Life Memoriam for the following PARTA members, with lighting candles and sharing of memories, was the designated program for the meeting.

Welcome  
New Members

Thank  
You

- ◆ EMMA LOU BECKWITH
- ◆ WILLIAM "BILL" BRUNNER
- ◆ KATHRYN "KATHY" CHURCHILL
- ◆ FRANCES FARRAHER
- ◆ DORIS "DODI" ANN WILCOXEN LARKE
- ◆ PATRICIA GAY LINDBERG
- ◆ PHILIP MAYER
- ◆ JAMES RANNEY
- ◆ GAIL SNOWDEN
- ◆ BARBARA SULLIVAN
- ◆ BONNIE SWANSON
- ◆ RICHARD (DICK) VAN SCYOC



President Wheeler extended condolences to the family members. President Wheeler offered prayer at the end of the Memoriam. Following the Celebration, Denise Adams delivered a musical rendition of "It is Well with My Soul".

## BUSINESS MEETING:

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** President Wheeler requested a volunteer for the office of Vice-President. The Vice-President would preside over meetings in the absence of the President. All current officers have consented to remain in their positions.

**TREASURER:** Jeff Vallosio announced the treasurer's reports were on the tables.

**MEMBERSHIP:** John Rathbun collected money for PARTA and IRTA membership at the designated back table.



**IRTA UPDATES:** Roger Hampton reported that the new TRAIL Health Insurance Plan for retirees will be AETNA, beginning January 1, 2023. Letters are being sent to retirees regarding the change from United Health Care. Roger will send out dates for members to attend insurance seminars. Roger has consented to serve as IRTA Vice-President. He will also chair a Search Committee to fill the IRTA Executive Director's position and chair the Constitution Committee to work on revising the IRTA Constitution. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane moved to adjourn the meeting. Sherry Perez seconded the motion.

*Respectfully submitted, Deloris Turner, Secretary*



As our two sons were climbing into the back seat of the car, Eric, five years old, yelled, "I call the left side!" That didn't sit well with our four-year-old son Ron. "No, I want the left side!" "I want the left side!" "No, I want the left side!" Intervening, I said, "Since Eric is older, he can have the left side." "Thanks, Dad!" said Eric. "Which side is left?"

Of course I should probably clean my windows. But privacy is important too!

Are you unhappy? Are you alone?

Fear not, the light is always on for you in the fridge.

# SOUNDINGS

## SLATE OF PARTA OFFICERS FOR 2023-2024

PRESIDENT

**DIXIE WHEELER** (*returning*)

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

**VALDA SHIPP**

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT (*programs*)

**JEANNIE BLANE** (*returning*)

SECRETARY

**DELORIS TURNER** (*returning*)

TREASURER

**JEFF VALLOSIO** (*returning*)

*We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give.  
~ Winston Churchill*

## PROPOSED CHANGES to PARTA Bylaws and Policies (Pages 51 and 52 in the 2022 directory)

1. Remove #7 - Members are not to smoke at the luncheon tables:  
**RATIONALE:** The statement is outdated.
2. Remove #13 - Monies generated from yearbook advertising shall be divided evenly between the scholarship fund and the treasury.  
**RATIONALE:** The policy was written when the scholarship fund was not financially self-sufficient as it is now.
3. Revision #14 - Remove the word *yearbook* and replace it with the *directory*. It should read: The directory shall be printed only in the odd-numbered years, as deemed necessary, with an addendum of changes provided.

## THE APPROACH OF 2023: TIME FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

For many of our members, the fall represents the time to pay dues for the 2023 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  
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 pay for the printing and mailing of the *Soundings*. The *Soundings* connects us 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 MEMBERSHIP


Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. Life dues are invested to continue supporting your membership in a similar way to annual dues. **For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the one-time fee is \$120.**

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

For anyone who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained at a monthly meeting or from <https://pa-rta.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 2023.**

There's a strange voice in my head saying: "Vacuum the floor! Clean the house!"  
Luckily, my mom always told me to never listen to strangers.

# SOUNDINGS

<b>REPORT</b> 	OCTOBER 2022 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$57,097.40		Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer	
	Investment Balance	\$47,962.44	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$100.00
	Savings Balance	8,024.89	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	379.51
	Checking Balance	551.64	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	78.92

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL PARTA MEMBERS WHO RETURN CALLS TO THEIR MONTHLY CALLERS.**

The callers ask all members to get back to them by a certain date for a reason. Reservations must be turned in to Barricks Cater Inn ahead of our monthly Monday luncheons. Barricks prepares meals specifically for the number of reservations. When people don't attend the luncheon, it is our responsibility to see that Barricks is paid for all reservations that were turned in.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR UNDERSTANDING OUR SITUATION.**

**THANK YOU** to Susie Pierce who served as a faithful PARTA Caller for many years. Her contribution to PARTA was greatly appreciated. Thank you again Susie for your wonderful volunteer service to PARTA.

A huge **THANK YOU** goes to Pat Hampton who helped me out tremendously! I mentioned that I needed callers for this 2022-2023 year. She immediately started e-mailing people and many people responded to her request. I am so grateful for all her help as well as all the many people reaching out to me and saying they would volunteer their time to help our absolutely wonderful organization. I have to thank all of my absolutely awesome wonderful monthly callers and substitute callers. Your dedication helps me out so much.

**PATTI MONKS PARTA CALLER CHAIRMAN**

*As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands  
— one for helping yourself, the other for helping others. ~ Audrey Hepburn*

*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. ~ Helen Keller*

## FOUR WORMS AND A LESSON TO BE LEARNED

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol - Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead

Third worm in chocolate syrup - Dead

Fourth worm in good clean soil - Alive.

So, the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration"? Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!" That pretty much ended the service!

# SOUNDINGS

## 2022 IRT FOUNDATION GRANT WINNERS

This Fall, the Illinois Retired Teachers Foundation (IRTF) awarded **\$33,539.29** in grant money through the *Excellence in Education Grants for Teachers* program to several public-school educators from across the state. This grant money will allow these educators to enrich their instruction with materials not otherwise available to them. Their students are the real winners! You can find the name of each winner listed, along with his/her school, and a paragraph summary about each project in the winner's own words online at:

[www.irtaonline.org/foundation/grants/2022-irtaf-grants/](http://www.irtaonline.org/foundation/grants/2022-irtaf-grants/)

A total of **\$7,036.01** was distributed among 15 teachers in IRTA Area 4.

### SEVEN OF THOSE TEACHERS WERE TEACHING IN PEORIA COUNTY SCHOOLS:

- > **SARAH ALLEN**, Illini Bluffs Middle School, Glasford
- > **BETH BERGSCHNEIDER**, Hickory Grove Elementary School, Dunlap
- > **KARA CHAMBERS**, Ridgeview Elementary, Peoria
- > **JILL HEINZ**, Wilder-Waite Grade School, Peoria
- > **MEGAN JOHNSON**, Ridgeview Elementary School, Peoria
- > **DESIREE MASTERS**, Dunlap High School, Dunlap
- > **SAMANTHA TABOR**, Hollis Grade School, Peoria



In addition to the *Excellence in Education Teacher Grants*, the IRT Foundation has distributed so far this year:

**\$36,559.23** in financial assistance to retired teachers experiencing financial difficulties.



**\$10,604.60** in scholarships to college students majoring in education.

### IRTA MEMBERSHIP IS VITAL

Do you enjoy getting your 3% annual increase in your pension check each year?

IRTA's successful lawsuit resulted in each TRS annuitant receiving an average of \$1,625.00 annually from their 3% COLA, and it gets compounded.

Former educators fought for our current pension benefits. Now it is time for all of us to stand with them.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN IRTA



*Do all fairy tales begin with "Once Upon A Time"?*

*No, many of them begin with, "If I'm elected, I promise!"*


*It is so cold outside I saw a politician with his hands in his own pockets.*

They say St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland. I wonder if he could do that for Congress?

# SOUNDINGS

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY							
Brookhart	Gerry	4327 N University ST	Peoria	IL	61614-5862	309.645.2656	New phone
Counce	Betty	6733 N Post Oak RD	Peoria	IL	61615-2346	309.657.9574	New Member
		bettycounce@hotmail.com					
Johnson	Camille	108 Regal LN	East Peoria	IL	61611-1538	309.253.3149	New Member
		werbmac@yahoo.com					
Larson	Rita					309.678.1232	New Phone
Omara-Thieman	Jean	822 W Deerbrook DR	Peoria	IL	61615-1013	309.689.6521	Renewed Member
		TThieman@sbcglobal.net					
Reed	Diane	6804 N Bobolink RD	Peoria	IL	61614-2801	309.370.1298	New Member
		vic.reed309@comcast.net					
DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN							

## VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION FOR EACH MEETING



If you are unable to attend a luncheon meeting, please consider joining us virtually via Zoom. Zoom access will be available by 11:20 AM. However, programs and meetings begin after the luncheon, usually around 12:15 PM.

<https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 812 522 6549 | Passcode: 1eZRzQ  
*A link will be sent to those PARTA members for whom I have an email address.*




## SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA BENEFIT THROUGH AMBA PASSPORT PROGRAM

Save up to 30% off major appliances plus their best price guarantee and 0% APR financing.

  
**INSIDEPASS**


  
**PASSPORT CORPORATE**

  
**AMBA**  
ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS

Thousands of Products

Tickets | Shopping | Travel | Insurance | Dining | Household & Family | ...

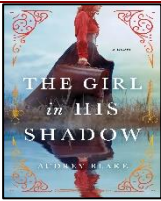
Information regarding all IRTA member discounts, Passport Program, and discount codes are available for IRTA members online at: [irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org)



After my kids bragged about what levels they'd attained in a video game, I decided to give it a try. Soon, it was my turn to boast that, in spite of being a newbie, I'd already managed to get to level 11. That's when my youngest son pointed out that the "11" I was seeing on the screen was actually the game's pause button.

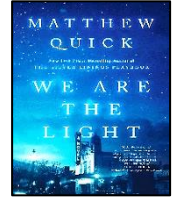
# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



***The Girl in His Shadow***  
by Audrey Blake

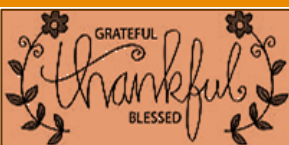
**THE STORY OF ONE WOMAN WHO BELIEVED IN SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE BEFORE THE WORLD BELIEVED IN HER.**  
*Raised by the eccentric surgeon Dr. Horace Croft after losing her parents to a deadly pandemic, the orphan Nora Beady knows little about conventional life. While other young ladies were raised to busy themselves with needlework and watercolors, Nora was trained to perfect her suturing and anatomical illustrations of dissections. Women face dire consequences if caught practicing medicine, but in Croft's private clinic Nora is his most trusted--and secret--assistant. That is until the new surgical resident Dr. Daniel Gibson arrives. Dr. Gibson has no idea that Horace's bright and quiet young ward is a surgeon more qualified and ingenuitive than even himself. In order to protect Dr. Croft and his practice from scandal and collapse Nora must learn to play a new and uncomfortable role--that of a proper young lady. But pretense has its limits. Nora cannot turn away and ignore the suffering of patients even if it means giving Gibson the power to ruin everything she has worked for.*



***We Are the Light***  
by Mathew Quick

**AN UNFORGETTABLE NOVEL ABOUT THE QUICKSAND OF GRIEF AND THE DAILY MIRACLE OF LOVE.**  
*The humorous, soul-bearing story of Lucas Goodgame offers an antidote to toxic masculinity and celebrates the healing power of art. In this tale that will stay with you long after the final page is turned, Quick reminds us that guardian angels are all around us—sometimes in the forms we least expect. Lucas Goodgame lives in Majestic, Pennsylvania, a quaint suburb that has been torn apart by a recent tragedy. Everyone in Majestic sees Lucas as a hero -everyone, that is, except Lucas himself. Insisting that his deceased wife, Darcy, visits him every night in the form of an angel, Lucas spends his time writing letters to his former Jungian analyst, Karl. It is only when Eli, an eighteen-year-old young man whom the community has ostracized, begins camping out in Lucas's backyard that an unlikely alliance takes shape and the two embark on a journey to heal their neighbors and, most importantly, themselves.*

## **IT'S THE SEASON FOR BEING THANKFUL AND GIVING BACK**



As we enter the holiday season, you may be thinking about your shopping list, but why not also explore charitable giving opportunities.

### **BEYOND DOLLARS: GIFTS OF YOUR TIME**

While your financial contributions to charitable groups are certainly meaningful and will be greatly appreciated, you have much to offer beyond your money. Specifically, by sharing some of your skills and giving your time, you can make a difference to any number of charitable groups.

**IDEAS:** Tutor a Student | Assist At an Animal Shelter | Volunteer at Your House of Worship  
Coach a Youth Sports Team | Mentor A Person or Couple | Help At A Homeless Service Agency

*Teachers never really retire  
since the work they do  
continues to multiply long after they are done.*



*Teachers and their influence  
are a big part of who you are right now  
and how far you've come.*

# SOUNDINGS



**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.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022

- 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

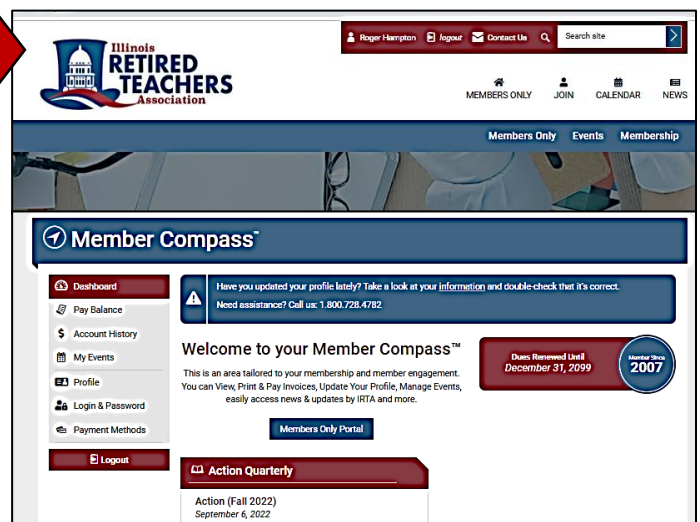


## IRTA'S NEW WEBSITE

IRTA has a brand-new look and updated technology in an effort to better serve all of its members. In order to get the most out of your member experience, *you will need to create a new login.* Your previous username and password will not work on the new website.

To create your new login:

- Log on to:  
<https://members.irtaonline.org/login>
- Enter your email and follow the prompts.
  - If the email entered is connected to your profile, you'll be prompted to set your new password.
  - If we do not have the email on file in our new system, you'll be prompted to create a new account.



Once you've logged in, you'll be taken to your *Member Compass* - our new portal for you to update your profile and have access to all things IRTA.

## WITH YOUR NEW LOGIN, YOU CAN:

- Access Member Compass Dashboard
- Update Your Profile Information
- Register for Events
- Track Event Attendance
- View/Pay Invoices
- Online IRTA Action Newsletters
- Legislative Updates
- Convention Information
- Access IRTF and IRTPAC
- ... and so much more!



## GYM MEMBERSHIP



I just signed up for a 12-month membership at a gym.  
My bank called wondering if my credit card got stolen.

When I canceled my gym membership,  
I had to hand in my "too weak" notice.