

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

OCTOBER 2017

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

## LUNCHEON MEETING

October 2

11:30 A.M.

Barracks Cater Inn

Buffet: \$12.00

Reservation **MADE**

*must become a*

Reservation **PAID**

## Greeters



Gerry Brookhart



Peggy Shane

## Invocation



Dave Barnwell

## Pledge



Dave Barnwell

## Luncheon

Pork Loin

Potato

Vegetable

Assorted Salads

Assorted Desserts



If you have not been contacted by Thursday, prior to a meeting, call Nancy Wing: 243.9218

## **PARTA Website**

pa-rta.weebly.com/

**Sally Weber**

Webmaster



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PARTA Members,

We had a very good meeting in September.

It was great to see old friends and meet new retirees. Thank you to our new retirees for coming to the front and letting us introduce you. I wish you a wonderful retirement and an exciting year discovering the pleasures you have forgotten: sleeping later, grocery shopping with no crowds, traveling when you want... The list goes on and on. What a great time to begin learning new things to enjoy.

We hope to see everyone in October!

Abby Humbles, PARTA President



## PARTA PROGRAMS

### BRING & BUY



### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

*See Page 8*

Frances Farraher

### TODAY

*One person's "junk" becomes another person's "treasure".*

*All proceeds go to benefit PARTA's ICC Scholarship Fund.*

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*See Page 4*

Valda Shipp

### NOVEMBER 6

**SAIDO Learning:** *A promising, non-drug Cognitive Therapy Program for dementia that has shown to slow symptoms of Alzheimers and other dementias.*

**Presenters: Denise Durst & Allison Marlow**



### DECEMBER 4

Judy Ernst, President  
Peoria Area Accordion Club



## THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

One small positive thought in the morning can change the entire outcome of your day.

The entire water of sea can't sink a ship, unless it gets inside the ship. Similarly, negativity of world can't pull you down unless you allow it to get inside you.

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked today's greeters, Susan Bartlow and Ann Christophel. Abby had the officers stand and introduce themselves. Then she had the new retirees come to the front for introductions. Linda Horton gave the Invocation and led the Pledge.

Attendance today was 103, which included eight new retirees and two speakers.

After the luncheon, Rich Frankenfeld, the Director of Outreach of TRS, spoke about the state of pensions. He summarized by saying the TRS Trust Fund still continues to pay benefits, but we need to be vigilant of future funding reductions. Roger Hampton spoke about IRTA, giving us much information about its structure, benefits, and legislative accomplishments. Abby called the business meeting to order.

- Copies of the Treasurer's Report were on the tables and summarized in the *Soundings*. The report will be filed for audit.

Program – Ann Winget said in October, the meeting will begin at 11:30 with Frances Farragher leading a Memorial for members who passed between September 1, 2016



and September 1, 2017. We'll eat at 11:45. After the luncheon, Valda Shipp will speak about the Scholarship Fund. Then, we will browse and buy among the "treasures", books, plants, etc. brought by the members, with donations going to the Scholarship Fund.

- Membership – John Rathbun said PARTA yearly membership dues for 2018 are due now. They are \$15/year or \$120 for a lifetime membership. You can also sign up for IRTA membership.

- Reservations – Nancy Wing said her correct phone number is 309 243-9218, if you do not receive a call from a "caller."

- Altruistic – Frances Farragher reported that two members passed away in July.

- Scholarship – Valda Shipp read a thank-you letter received from one recipient of the ICC Scholarship, Hannah Dillon.

Abby thanked our speakers. It was moved and seconded to adjourn.



**THANK YOU!**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary**

<b>REPORT</b> 	<b>SEPTEMBER 2017 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 48,270.07</b>			Jeff Vallosio Treasurer
	Investment Balance	\$ 38,758.31	Working Cash ( <i>cash boxes</i> )	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	6,943.32	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	244.64
	Checking Balance	2,159.90	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	63.90

**TRS ANNUAL FALL MEMBER MEETINGS:** TRS encourages those planning to retire to attend a fall member meeting designed to explain the retirement process and to provide information about disability, death, and insurance benefits.

**Local Meeting: Richwoods High School | October 11 | 4:30 p.m.**

You can download a copy of the presentation at:  
[www.trsil.org/Fall-Meeting-Handout](http://www.trsil.org/Fall-Member-Meeting-Handout)

### Let's Play School!

"What shall we play today?"  
said Florence to her best friend Jenny.  
"Let's play school,"  
said Jenny.  
"OK" said Florence,  
"but I'm going to be absent."



### Can You Name the Great Lakes?

A teacher never gives up,  
and neither does Little Johnny.  
She asks him, "Can you name the Great Lakes?"  
You know Johnny, he is always fast with an answer.  
Johnny pipes up with,  
"I don't need to. They've already been named."

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA Board of Directors

Meeting August 28, 2017

Present: Sally Weber, Peggy Shane, Nancy Miller, Frances Farraher, Nancy Wing, Susan Leighty, Roger Hampton, John Rathbun, Lee Ann Meinhold, Ann Winget, Dave Barnwell, Eric Johnson, Valda Shipp, Kathy Simpson, and Abby Humbles  
Abby called the meeting to order.

### Announcements:

- Erin Miller, Nancy Miller's daughter-in-law, is one of the ten finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year.
- Frances Farraher received a Certificate of Perfect Attendance from the Women's Civic Federation.
- An investment committee meeting will be held on September 25, at 1:00 P.M.

### New Business:

- October 30 – 31 is the IRTA Biennial Convention. For delegates, PARTA will pay for mileage, registration, and all meals. Delegates make their own hotel reservations at either the Crown Plaza or the Holiday Inn Express. Let Abby know which meals you will need. The keynote speaker is the IRTA attorney from Chicago.
- Abby will get PARTA's basket from Tanner's.
- Roger said the committee for review of the constitution will probably meet next summer.
- There is a TRS meeting at Richwoods High School at 4:30 on Wednesday, October 11. Volunteers are needed. John and Roger will do it, promoting PARTA and IRTA.
- The Department of Aging is asking for nominations for an award to seniors who excel in an area such as education, community service, or graphic arts. The deadline is past, but think of someone for next year.

### Committee Reports:

- Ann reported the upcoming meeting programs: October: Frances with Celebration of Life, from 11:30 – 11:45, lunch, Valda with scholarship information, and the "Bring and Buy" sale; November: SAIDO Learning, which helps with Alzheimer's; December: Peoria Area Accordion Club, with a holiday program. Barrack's is always happy to

CONVENTION



serve a different entrée and also help carry someone's food for those who need it.

- Reservations – Nancy Wing said the friendlier we can be to new members, the better. It was asked if we need the "Reservation" cards. We're not sure, but we'll keep them.
- Membership – John said we had about 10 new members last year. He hopes this year will be better. 2016 was a good year for Life memberships. We should do all we can to encourage people to join.
- Altruistic – Frances distributed a list of the members who passed in 2017.
- Scholarship – Valda reported that one student, Hannah Dillon, received the scholarship that PARTA provided. Hanna wrote a thank-you letter.
- History – Susan will check with Frances about obituaries.
- IRTA – Roger said that the voting for IRTA president would be on the second day of the convention. He would like a good group from PARTA to be there. Health insurance is a big issue in the state budget. It will be a big topic at the convention, also. There will be information about it in the *Soundings*. The September *Soundings* is ready to go.
- Investment Committee – Eric said the committee used to handle the investments. About four years ago, Legacy offered to do it for free. The committee meets with Legacy, and they keep the committee informed. All four members of the committee concurred that Legacy has done a good job. The committee did address this issue and thought things were O.K. Roger thanked Eric for having the meeting. The discussion about the use of the investment interests' funds was postponed to another meeting.
- Invocation and Pledge - Peggy needs volunteers for the pledge and invocation at the meetings. Frances moved to adjourn, Ann seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned.

Being friendly



*Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary*

When my mother asked,

"Do you want a piece of advice?" it was a mere formality.

It didn't matter if I answered yes or no. I was going to get it anyway!"

~ Erma Bombeck



# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA SCHOLARSHIPS - SECOND WINNER ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to our second scholarship recipient, **Alana Bridges**, from Peoria. This single mother of five children stated in her acceptance letter, " It is my belief that if you change the life of a mother, you change an entire generation. I have vowed to myself and my children to be the reason that makes the Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association want to continue to give people of all walks of life the opportunity of a lifetime."



Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Chair

## FACTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT DEBT AROUND THE WORLD

Public debt has increased sharply in many countries in recent years, particularly during and after the Great Recession. Globally, the total amount of government debt now exceeds \$63.1 trillion, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of International Monetary Fund data.

➤ The **United States** has more government debt than any other country analyzed, with nearly \$20 trillion in gross debt in 2016. **Japan** was second with more than \$11 trillion, followed by **China** with nearly \$5 trillion.

➤ As a share of its GDP, **Japan's** gross debt far exceeds that of all other nations analyzed. Japan's gross public debt was more than twice its gross domestic product in 2016, far higher than the debt-to-GDP ratio of most other countries examined. Public debt in **Greece, Italy, Portugal, the U.S. and Belgium** also exceeded GDP.

**Norway's** GDP far outweighs its net debt. While **Norway's** gross debt was 33% of its GDP in 2016, its net debt was -284.5% of its GDP. In other words, **Norway's** public financial assets far exceeded its total debt. Other countries where financial assets exceeded net debt include **Finland (-51.4%), Saudi Arabia (-18.9%) and Sweden (-18.3).**

➤ **Brazil** spends more than any other country analyzed on debt interest payments as a share of revenue. In 2015, the Brazilian government spent 42.1% of its revenue on interest payments, up from 28.8% the year before. **Spain and Iceland** spent the second- and third-most on debt interest payments in 2015, with 15.6% and 13.5% of their total government revenue, respectively, going to interest.

Source: [www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/19/5-facts-about-government-debt-around-the-world/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/19/5-facts-about-government-debt-around-the-world/)

## OLD ENOUGH I DON'T NEED A DRIVER'S LICENSE!!!

Betty was sitting on a lawn sunning and reading, when she was startled by a car crashing through a hedge and coming to rest on her lawn. She helped the elderly driver out and sat him on a lawn chair. "My goodness," she exclaimed, "you are quite old to be driving!" "Yes", he replied, "I am old enough that I don't need a license."



"What....NO LICENSE?" "Nope! The last time I went to my doctor he examined me, and asked if I had a driving license. I told him I did have one and handed it to him. He took scissors out of a drawer, cut the license into pieces, threw them in the wastebasket and said, 'You won't need this anymore.' So, I thanked him and left."

When I offer you the last piece of pie, it's just because my mother raised me right. As a friend, read the truth in my eyes, and politely decline.



A little boy was taken to the dentist. It was discovered that he had a cavity that would have to be filled. "Now, young man," asked the dentist, "what kind of filling would you like for that tooth?" "Chocolate, please," replied the youngster.



# SOUNDINGS

## ILLINOIS' UNPAID BILL BACKLOG HITS A RECORD \$16 BILLION

The state comptroller's office reported that Illinois' pile of unpaid bills topped \$16 billion for the first time as the state deals with the fallout of an unprecedented two straight fiscal years without complete budgets. The bill backlog is growing despite the enactment of a fiscal 2018 spending plan and income tax increase in July that ended a budget impasse between Illinois' Republican governor and Democrats who control the legislature. "What is going to take this backlog down is the borrowing," said Abdon Pallasch, spokesman for Democratic State Comptroller Susana Mendoza.



A provision in the budget enacted by lawmakers over the vetoes of Governor Bruce Rauner authorized the sale of up to \$6 billion of general obligation bonds to pay bills from vendors and service providers that are accruing late payment penalties of as much as 12 percent. Rauner signaled earlier this month that his administration will move forward with the bond sale, saying, "It's better to have Wall Street carry our debt than Main Street Illinois."



But on Monday, the governor told reporters that the bonds do not solve any problem because lawmakers failed to set aside money to make principal and interest payments over the 12 years the debt would be outstanding. "We need to come up with roughly half a billion (dollars) of cuts just to be able to service a bond offering," he said, adding that he planned to meet with legislative leaders for discussion.

Pallasch said school aid and pension payments this week will lower the bill backlog into the \$15 billion range as the December 31 deadline for issuing the bonds looms. "The ball's in their court now and we are working with them to make this happen," he said.



Illinois, which has the lowest credit ratings among the 50 states, evaded downgrades to junk with the budget enactment. Yields on its debt in the U.S. municipal bond market also fell due to the action. The state's so-called credit spread over Municipal Market Data's benchmark triple-A yield scale for 10-year bonds has dropped to 175 basis points from a 335 basis-point high in June.

Source: [www.reuters.com/article/us-illinois-budget/illinois-unpaid-bill-backlog-hits-a-record-16-billion-idUSKCN1BU242](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-illinois-budget/illinois-unpaid-bill-backlog-hits-a-record-16-billion-idUSKCN1BU242)

## Peoria Public Library 2017 "Music in the McKenzie" (FREE EVENT)

Sundays 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. | Peoria Public Library North Branch | 3001 W Grand Parkway, Peoria

### OCTOBER 1: PINT & A HALF



Combining the intimacy of a singer/songwriter performance with the sound and soul of a full band, Pint & a Half's catchy hooks, close harmonies, and hard-driving rhythms create a powerful and fun live show.

### NOVEMBER 12: ROUNDSTONE BUSKERS



Being somewhat of an acoustic power trio claiming traditional and contemporary celtic as part of their sound, they bring a piece of Ireland to the heartland with jigs and reels.

*Life is like riding a bicycle – to keep your balance, you must keep moving. ~Albert Einstein*

## SOUNDINGS

### DIRECTORY CHANGES - Please add to your 2015 PARTA Directory

Brookhart	Gerry	535 W Forrest Hill AVE	Peoria	IL	61604-1559	682.8117	Member renewal
Burroughs	Molly	2530 N Woodbine TER	Peoria	IL	61604-2230		New address
Crews	Catherine Maureen	125 SW Jefferson AVE STE 258	Peoria	IL	61602-1226		New address
Guariglia	Carolyn J.	6830 N White Fir DR	Edwards	IL	61528-9425		New address
O'Donnell	Susan	381 High Point RD	Peoria	IL	61614-3011		New address
Risinger	Joyce	6723 N Grand Fir DR	Edwards	IL	61528-9205		Address change
Ward	Jody	2926 W Brookside DR	Peoria	IL	61615	472.6546	New member

**DATABASE KEPT BY JOHN RATHBUN, Membership Chair**

### A WARNING ABOUT PENDING LEGISLATION

In simple terms, a bill is an idea that has been presented to the General Assembly for possible action. The process is complicated, and it does not always lead to enactment of the bill. TRS urges caution in making retirement plans based on pending legislation because bills:



- must pass both houses and be signed by the governor to become law
- may be amended
- may not pass
- may take years to pass
- may never become law

Copies of the actual legislation and bill status information are available on the General Assembly's website at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). The Senate and House schedules are available on the General Assembly's website at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). You can find who your elected officials are by utilizing IRTA's VoterVoice program.

*Source: [www.trsil.org/legislative](http://www.trsil.org/legislative)*

### PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST "THE VIETNAM WAR" FILM SCREENING PROGRAMS



Peoria Public Library has been selected by the American Library Association (ALA) and WETA Washington, DC, to receive a programming kit for "The Vietnam War," a 10-part documentary film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that began airing on PBS stations on September 17. In "The Vietnam War," filmmakers Burns and Novick tell the epic story of the conflict as it has never before been told on film. The film features testimony from nearly 80 witnesses, including many Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as Vietnamese combatants and civilians from both the winning and losing sides.

**A  
D  
V  
I  
S  
E**

**Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow dial-up Internet service to see who they really are. ~ Will Ferrell**

**Admit when you are wrong. Shut Up when you are right! ~ John Gottman**

**Never laugh at your spouse's choices. You are one of them! ~ Anonymous**



# SOUNDINGS

## IRTA Will Sue the State if Health Insurance Benefits are Cut

James Bachman, Executive Director of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) recently stated that the organization would sue the state if legislators or the governor cut their health insurance benefits. Bachman said Governor Bruce Rauner and his predecessor, Governor Pat Quinn, both targeted the insurance program for retired teachers in their budget proposals. The state contributes around \$100 million to the program's annual budget of around \$450 million, according to Bachman.

The last few years, in their budget addresses, we've seen not only this governor but the governor receding him actually zero out the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP), Bachman told the group. "Unfortunately, this governor did that again this year in his budget address. Now, we weren't too fearful as we hadn't had a budget in a couple years, but it's still fearful in the sense of what that means to all of you."



Bachman said IRTA asked a law firm they used to sue the state in 2013 over a state pension reform law to offer an opinion on whether the retired teachers' health insurance benefits are protected under the same clause in the state constitution that protects pension funds from being "diminished or impaired." The legal counsel agreed that, yes, such benefits are protected by the state constitution.

"If [the General Assembly] tries to reduce that this year or eliminate it, we will file another lawsuit in court on your behalf," Bachman said. "We feel that we're standing on very firm legal ground with this opinion that we would win that lawsuit once again." "Even though they continue to talk about different pension reform, there's truly very little that the General Assembly can do or what the Supreme Court is going to allow them to do."



Source: [www.kendallcountynow.com/2017/09/15/local-retired-teachers-told-of-lawsuit-if-benefits-reduced/aha9qe1/](http://www.kendallcountynow.com/2017/09/15/local-retired-teachers-told-of-lawsuit-if-benefits-reduced/aha9qe1/)

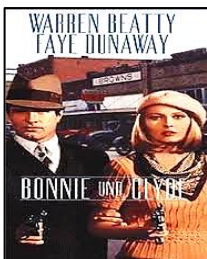
**IRTA Legal Defense Fund (September 2017): \$147,000+**



### HIGHLIGHTING ANOTHER IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT

**Exclusive discount for IRTA members: Globus, Cosmos, Monograms Vacation, or Avalon Waterways River Cruise!**

With nearly 90 years in travel, the award-winning Globus family of brands creates vacations that offer travelers culture-rich experiences featuring must-see sights, the stories behind the scenes and countless joy-filled memories in more than 65 countries on six continents across the globe. In addition to the fantastic discounts currently being offered, you will receive a bonus discount for being an IRTA member.



**Do You Remember These Films?** The year 1967 in film involved some significant events. It is widely considered as one of the most ground-breaking years in film, with "revolutionary" films highlighting the change, including: *Bonnie and Clyde*; *The Graduate*; *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*; *Cool Hand Luke*, *The Dirty Dozen*, and *In the Heat of the Night*.

# SOUNDINGS

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIALS (NECROLOGY SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 - AUGUST 31, 2017)



**Erma Meindl: 4/1/30 - 10/20/16 (86)**  
Limestone H.S. & Peoria District 150



**Frances Hammond: 6/15/19 - 10/25/16 (97)**  
Peoria District 150: Woodrow Wilson and Charter Oak



**Gene Clayton: 10/21/32 - 12/12/16 (84)**  
Peoria District 150: White, Reservoir, & Kingman  
Prophetstown & Decatur H.S.



**Mary Wissell: 4/13/34 - 12/18/16 (82)**  
Kewanee, IL & Peoria District 150



**Mabel Tolliver: 6/2/17 - 12/21/17 (99)**  
Peoria District 150: Lincoln and Columbia



**Rachel Shepherdson: 1/20/25 - 1/25/17 (92)**  
Lanark, Dunlap, & Richwoods H.S.



**Polly Albright: 7/24/26 - 2/16/17 (90)**  
IVC: Pearce & Mossville



**Mary Lou Breedlove: 4/11/49 - 2/18/17 (67)**  
Hollis School District



**June E. Combs: 6/6/23 - 3/24/17 (93)**  
Richwoods & East Peoria H.S.  
Metamora & Germantown Grade



**Herbert Ragsdale: 7/30/46 - 4/13/17 (70)**  
Peoria High, Richwoods, Rolling Acres, Lindberg & Northmoor



**Sadie Jane Huffman: 11/27/25 - 5/25/17 (91)**  
Harrison School, and in TX, LA, MO, & IL



**Gilbert (Doc) Hammond: 3/21/19 - 5/31/17 (98)**  
Rosemond HS, East Peoria, Jefferson, Roosevelt & Washington



**Clark R. Christiansen: 6/27/33 - 6/16/17 (83)**  
Richwoods H.S. & Peoria Heights



**Donald "Max" Moore: 11/25/28 - 7/14/17 (88)**  
Peoria District 150



**Betty Jean Steinbach: 3/9/25 - 7/14/17 (92)**  
Monroe School



There are some who bring  
a light so great to the world,  
That even after they have gone  
their light remains.

A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others.  
Teachers affect eternity; you can never tell where their influence stops.