

PARTA SOUNDINGS

OCTOBER 2021

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

LUNCHEON MEETING
October 4 at 11:30 AM
Barracks Cater Inn
Buffet: \$12.00

RESERVATION REQUIRED

If you have not been contacted by Thursday, prior to a meeting, please call Patti Monks 309.697.3385 to make or change your PARTA lunch reservation.

GREETERS

 **Chris Stevens**
 **Jo Trompeter**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

 **Denise Smith**

LUNCHEON

Pork Loin with Plum Sauce
Vegetable Assorted Salads
Dessert

PROGRAM

IN MEMORIAM:
CELEBRATION OF LIFE

(Refer to Pages 2 & 3)
Relatives are welcome to attend the brief ceremony beginning around 12:20 PM. *If you want to join us for the luncheon at 11:30, the cost is \$12.00 per person and reservations are required.*



MEETING

DIXIE WHEELER,
PARTA President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, PARTA members, Our October meeting is a very special one as we honor those educators who have passed. Because our list is long, we will be starting at 12:15, or as close to it as possible. Please do comment if you have something to say, but be brief. There were no comments last month other than a book suggestion which I passed on to Roger. Please register by October 1st for the virtual convention on Tuesday, October 19th. If you do, you are considered a delegate. There are several items that need your vote, so delegates are very important. AND please wear your mask while going through the buffet line! Thanks!
Dixie Wheeler, PARTA president



FUTURE PARTA PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 1

POW/SABER TABLE
AIR FORCE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (AFJROTC)
LIMESTONE HIGH SCHOOL
Danielle Madero, *INSTRUCTOR*



DECEMBER 6

ENJOY A MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA
with **DENISE ADAMS**



Additional information and updates available online at pa-rta.weebly.com Sally Weber, *Webmaster*

Fall has always been my favorite season. It is the time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale. ~Lauren Destefano



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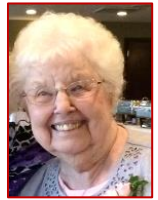
CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIALS (NECROLOGY OCTOBER 1, 2019 - AUGUST 31, 2021)



Mary Lou Baird (84) 3/31/1936 - 6/18/2020
Yates City, Elmwood



Maxine Blane (89) 11/9/1931 - 12/4/2020
Woodruff



C. Wayne Brodkorb (85) 11/9/1931 - 12/29/2020
Peoria Public Schools District 150



Marie Byrkit (104) 2/12/1916 - 5/29/2020
Decatur, Peoria



Mary Frances Cunningham (98) 11/1/1928 - 3/6/2021
Kellar



Jessie Daniels (91) 11/17/1928 - 3/6/2021
Calvin Coolidge, Whittier



Anna Dufec (92) 3/11/1928 - 6/21/2020
Beverly Manor



Susan Fink (78) 6/11/1942 - 7/28/2021
Richwoods



Hildegard Foster (91) 6/1/1929 - 6/29/2020
Peoria Public Schools District 150



Johanne Grewell (82) 6/30/1938 - 1/2/2021
Peoria High



Jane Hatton (77) 1/6/1943 - 3/13/2020
Peoria Public Schools District 150, ICC, Dunlap



John Jorgensen (82) 4/4/1938 - 8/1/2020
Peoria Public Schools District 150



Margaret Kohlase (95) 6/17/1925 - 3/24/2020
Woodruff High, ICC



Marieva Maxwell (95) 3/31/1924 - 1/22/2021
Limestone



David Moore (83) 3/8/1937 - 9/6/2020
Dunlap



Demetra Polites (93) 9/13/1927 - 12/8/2020
Manual, Woodruff, Roosevelt Magnet



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Jean Powers (86) 5/25/1935 - 8/4/2021
Peoria Public Schools District 150



Barbara Quickstad (93) 5/19/1927 - 12/23/2020
Washington Gifted



Barbara Reilly (89) 7/16/1930 - 7/12/2020
Irving, Kingman, Kellar East



Ronald Roberts (74) 5/6/1946 - 11/16/2020
Hines, Manual



Linda Serritella (73) 10/12/1946 - 11/1/2019
Lindbergh



Elizabeth Stanfel (80) 11/6/1939 - 12/14/2019
Harrison, Longfellow



Vivian Todden (94) 4/1/1926 - 1/13/2021
Woodruff



Pete Vallosio (97) 1/18/1923 - 12/13/2020
Farmington, White



Venita Webb (85) 7/7/1935 - 1/30/2021
Glen Oak



Peter Wessler (63) 7/15/1957 - 11/24/2020
Woodruff



Linda Wood (67) 9/18/1952 - 6/5/2020
Dunlap



The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called "truth".
~ Dan Rather

TEACHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE LES BROWN: A MOMENT OF CLARITY

Les Brown is one of the world's foremost motivational speakers and thought leaders on self-improvement and goal setting. However, it wasn't always that way for him. Born in Liberty City, Miami on the floor of an abandoned building, he has known struggle and hardship his entire life. Academically, Les was a struggling student from the get-go. The story goes that during his school days he was labelled "educable mentally handicapped" by the academic intelligentsia of his day and placed back from 6th grade to 5th grade. To make matters worse, he had a twin brother who was exceptionally bright and gifted, and as such Les became commonly referred to by his peers as the "DT"—the "dumb twin."
(Continued on Page 7 - TEACHERS)

A teacher's job is to take a bunch of live wires and see that they are well-grounded.
~ D. Martin



Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself.
~ John Dewey

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PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 AT 11:30 AM

The September PARTA meeting was held at Cater Inn on September 13, 2021, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Jan Diessler led the Pledge to the Flag, and Dixie Wheeler offered prayer. Sixty-two in-person members were in attendance and six additional members joined using the Zoom platform.

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The program chair, Jeannie Blane, introduced Rich Frankenfeld, TRS Director of Outreach. Mr. Frankenfeld covered the following topics and many more:

- ▶ Pensions
- ▶ Major Benefit Changes in TRS
- ▶ TRS Investments and Revenue Sources
- ▶ TRS Investment Results
- ▶ Impact of COVID 19
- ▶ TRS Supplemental Savings Plan

President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Carla Stokowski and Sherry Perez, and Jan Diessler for leading the Pledge to the Flag. Jeff Vallosio reported that the IRTAPAC acknowledged with special thanks for a \$100 donation for PARTA's memorials.

The IRTA planned in-person Convention is scheduled for October 19, 2021, and is now virtual. Registration for the virtual Convention is \$20. Each member

VIRTUAL

should cancel their hotel registration. Delegates received a refund for the in-person registration. The amending of PARTA's Constitution with the quorum change has been completed and reflected in the By-Laws.

Roger Hampton, *The Soundings* editor, requests that members submit the title and author of books they have read to share with the membership. He is also requesting that members submit articles regarding community events that would benefit the membership.

PARTA's goal for this year is membership recruitment, participation, and sustainability.



As a result of the membership effort, two new members, Barb Schacht and Shelia Miller, have joined PARTA. We welcome these new members.



Patti Monks is still in need of volunteers to assist with check-in at the luncheon. Don't hesitate to get in touch with her at 697-3385 to volunteer.

President Wheeler reminded the membership that we will remember and honor our deceased PARTA members at the October meeting. The participants should keep their comments at 1½ minutes. Invited family members can eat with a reservation and the cost of the meal.

There were no committee reports.

President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane made the motion, and James Christiansen seconded the motion to adjourn.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

A little three-year-old boy is sitting on the toilet. His mother thinks he has been in there too long, so she goes in to see what's up. The little boy is sitting on the toilet reading a book.

About every 10 seconds he puts the book down, grips onto the toilet seat with his left hand and hits himself on top of his head with his right hand. His mother asks: "Billy, are you all right?" Billy says: "I'm fine, Mommy, I just haven't gone 'doody' yet." His mother says: "OK, you can stay here a few more minutes, but please tell me why you are hitting yourself on your head?" Billy answers: "Works for ketchup!"



Retirement only means it's time for a new adventure. It is not the end of the road, it's the beginning of the highway. Don't act your age during retirement. Act like the inner young person you have always been.



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

Hammond	Frances	728 E Division AVE	Peoria Heights	IL	61616-7519	New Address	
Jackson	Annette	1215 W Willow LN	Peoria	IL	61614-6916	New Address	
Richardson	Sam	6901 N Galena RD SPC 1201	Peoria	IL	61614-3104	New Address	
Schiffeling	Joan	3900 N Stable CT APT 111	Peoria	IL	61614-6948	New Address	
Stubbs	Edith	905 S Cove CIR	Whitehall	MI	49461-8603	309.360.6190 New Address	
Walther	Daniel	1226 E Maywood AVE APT 207	Peoria	IL	61603-2163	New Address	
Miller	Sheila	120 Hillside CT	Dunlap	IL	61525-9705	309.243.9007	New Life Member
		shemiller0401@gmail.com			Cell: 309.657-0401		
Suffield	Dave	1988 Chestnut LN	Washington	IL	61571-9683	309.657.4036	New Life Member
Laverly	Larry	7030 N Patton LN	Peoria	IL	61614-1919	309.693.2381	New Member
Peters	Judith	9621 State Route 91	Peoria	IL	61615-9507	309.357.8021	New Member
Schacht	Barb	1817 W Glen AVE	Peoria	IL	61614-4638	309.657.4253	New Member
		BarbSchacht@comcast.net					

PARTA members, PLEASE HELP

 keep the database current.

FALL: 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, 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. Life Members are not impacted by this announcement. For anyone wishing to be a Life Member, the onetime fee is \$120. 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. When joining as an annual member in the fall, your membership includes all of 2022.



JOHN RATHBUN, PARTA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

REPORT	October 2021	TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 67,263.13		Jeff Vallosio Treasurer
	Investment Balance	\$ 55,336.93	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	9,018.36	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	285.56
	Checking Balance	2,428.45	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	93.83



A complete treasurer's report will be available at meetings.

My wife invites some people to dinner. At the table the mother turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Dear, would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," replied the little girl. "Just say what you hear Mommy say, sweetie," the woman said. Her daughter took a deep breath, bowed her head, and solemnly said, "Dear Lord, why did I invite all these people to dinner!?"



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IMPORTANT NOTE FROM PATTI MONKS, PARTA CALLERS' CHAIR

DISCONNECTED	ACCESS CODES	CANCELATIONS	NOT CALLED?
<p>When callers were going through their lists last month, we found that there are many disconnected phone numbers. Please realize that callers cannot get in touch with the membership when they cannot get through to leave a message or talk to a member. PLEASE update your PARTA contact information with a current phone number.</p> 	<p>Some numbers that were called required an ACCESS CODE. Please help us by keeping us apprised of all your current information so that callers can make contact with you regarding your reservation.</p>	<p>Please cancel your reservation by Friday before the meeting - not the day of the meeting. Reservations are confirmed with Barrack's Cater Inn early Friday morning before the Monday meeting. If you cancel the day of the meeting, you will be responsible for the cost of the \$12.00 luncheon.</p> 	<p>If you aren't called regarding a reservation, please remember to call Patti Monks to make or cancel your reservation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CALL 309.697.3385</p>

TOTAL RETIREE ADVANTAGE ILLINOIS MEDICARE PLAN (TRAIL)

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD: OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 15

- ◆ This enrollment period is open for Medicare-eligible retirees, survivors, and their dependents to change their elections.
- ◆ Retirees and survivors eligible for the TRAIL MAPD Program will receive a *Decision Guide* in the mail, notifying them of their eligibility and the requirement to enroll, or waive coverage, during the TRAIL MAPD Open Enrollment Period.
- ◆ Members who are currently enrolled in TRAIL MAPD, and wish to keep your coverage as is, you do not need to do anything during the Open Enrollment Period. However, if you want to make a change to your current TRAIL MAPD coverage for the 2022 plan year, you may complete your changes online at MyBenefits.illinois.gov or contact MyBenefits at 844.251.1777 during the Open Enrollment Period.

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



INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS - VIRTUAL OR PHONE

October 15, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29 from 9:00 - 12:00 Noon

Link to join virtual meeting or telephone access information online at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/cms/benefits/trail/Pages/default.aspx>

I asked the kids in my kindergarten class what they needed in order to grow up nice and strong. One little girl answered, "Birthdays!"



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TRS VIRTUAL FALL MEMBER MEETINGS

TRS is hosting statewide webinars for members through November 10th that are designed to provide members with information about their pension benefits. All webinars start at 4:30 p.m. and will last approximately an hour.

This year, our meetings will be held virtually via WebEx. **YOU MUST REGISTER FOR A MEETING** in order to receive the email link that will allow you to join. The “Benefit Information Meeting Handout” is available online:

https://www.trsil.org/Fall_Member_Meetings

TRS ONLINE REPORTS

TRS members may sign in online to access account information such as:

- ▶ TRS ID Card
- ▶ Contact information
- ▶ Beneficiary information
- ▶ Monthly benefits
- ▶ Earning statements
- ▶ IRS W-4P form
- ▶ Insurance Premium Statement
- ▶ Beneficiary Designation Form
- ▶ ERO Sunset Refund
- ▶ Other Forms and Reports

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CAREFULLY REVIEW ALL INFORMATION.

If you find any discrepancies, please contact TRS Member Services Division at 877.927.5877 so that your record may be corrected.

NEED TO DISCUSS YOUR TRS BENEFITS?

To schedule a teleconference or virtual appointment with a TRS Benefits Counselor:
Call 877.927.5877 | Monday through Friday | 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

TEACHERS (Continued from Page 3)

One day a teacher asked him to come up and solve a problem on the chalkboard, but Les refused and said that he couldn't. "Of course you can," the teacher responded encouragingly. "Young man, come up here and solve this problem for me." "But I can't," insisted Les. "I'm educable mentally handicapped." The rest of the class erupted in laughter. At that point, the teacher stepped out from behind his desk and looked Les straight in the eye. "Don't ever say that again," he told him firmly. "Someone else's opinion of you does not have to become your reality."

Les never forgot those words and spent the rest of his life overcoming incredible odds and pursuing his goals with passion and fervor.



Time and time again, thanks to that one teacher's powerful revelation, Les has lived the phrase he's famous for all over the world:

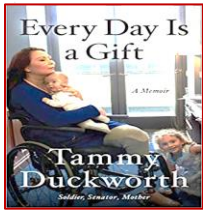
YOU HAVE GREATNESS WITHIN YOU.



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

EVERY DAY IS A GIFT

by Tammy Duckworth

In *Every Day Is a Gift*, Tammy Duckworth takes readers through the amazing—and amazingly true—stories from her incomparable life. In November of 2004, an Iraqi RPG blew through the cockpit of Tammy Duckworth's U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter. The explosion, which destroyed her legs and mangled her right arm, was a turning point in her life. But as Duckworth shows in *Every Day Is a Gift*, that moment was just one in a lifetime of extraordinary turns.



CROSSROADS

by Jonathan Franzen

Jonathan Franzen writes novels in the old-fashioned spirit of carefully crafted plotlines, vividly drawn characters, and Big Ideas. This book dials back the clock 50 years to the winter of 1971, when the complicated Hildebrandt family of Chicago finds itself at, yes, a crossroads. It's a story about one family, but it's a book about America, too. Take a leisurely stroll through Franzen's archives and you'll find plenty of instances where small-scale depictions contain big-picture insights.

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

MEDICAL AIR SERVICES ASSOCIATION (MASA)

SEVERAL PARTA MEMBERS HAVE THIS POLICY

For over 30 years, MASA has been providing life-saving emergency assistance to its members while they are **AT HOME OR WHEN TRAVELING**. Benefits include:



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Emergency Air Transportation | • Return Transportation |
| • Helicopter Transportation | • Escort Transportation |
| • Ground Ambulance Transportation | • Non-Injury Transportation |
| • Organ Retrieval | • Minor Children/Grandchildren Return |
| • Organ Recipient Transportation | • Mortal Remains |
| • Recuperation / Repatriation | • Vehicle Return |



Anyone signing up for a 5 year or lifetime MASA membership will receive a Free MY ID Bracelet; it stores your valuable information in the event of an emergency. To learn more about this and other member benefits, contact: Gary DiVito, AMBA District Manager | 847.668.0531 | gary.divito@amba.info

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

Log on to: www.irtaonline.org Click on: "Member Benefits"



If my body were a car,
I would be thinking of trading it in!
Every time I sneeze or cough either
my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.



The most disturbing thing about
accidentally waking up at 4 AM
is realizing some people do
this on purpose to exercise!