

# PARTA SOUNDINGS

**OCTOBER 2022**

**PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

**LUNCHEON MEETING**  
October 3 at 11:30 AM  
**Barracks Cater Inn**  
**Buffet: \$13.00**

**RESERVATION REQUIRED**

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

**GREETERS**

 **Ann Christophel**  
 **Laura Shane**

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

 **Linda Sedgwick**

**LUNCHEON**

Pork Loin  
Vegetable  
Assorted Salads  
Dessert

**PROGRAM**

**IN MEMORIAM:  
CELEBRATION OF LIFE**



*(Refer to Page 8)*

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 \$13.00 per person and reservations are required.*

**MEETING**

**DIXIE WHEELER,**  
*PARTA President*



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello, PARTA/IRTA members, In this issue of Soundings, you will see within the board report that the PARTA board has made some needed changes to PARTA policies. Changing wording and removing some statements brings us up to date. Next month you will be asked to vote on these changes so I hope you will read them carefully. Speaking of voting, I have volunteered to be a poll watcher for several days before and after the election. I'm looking forward to some community duty. (Just hope I don't mess anything up!) I would encourage all of you to do community duty. On our survey from IRTA we are asked about community duties. At the present time, I must answer that question negatively. I'm sure some of you already do things in the community and we need to know about them.



**Please send me a text or email if you do any volunteering in our community.**



Volunteering helps those who do the volunteering and those who receive the volunteering!  
Dixie Wheeler, PARTA president

**FUTURE PARTA PROGRAMS**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

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

**DECEMBER 5, 2022**

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

**PROGRAMS in 2023 you won't want to miss! Mark Your Calendar!**

- February 6: Beth Crider, 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

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

# SOUNDINGS


## PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 11:30 AM

The September PARTA meeting was held at Barrack's Cater Inn on September 12, 2022, with President Dixie Wheeler presiding. Sixty-four (64) members were in attendance, with one member and two guests on Zoom. One new retiree, Bev Hopkins, joined PARTA. NEW MEMBER President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Carla Stokowski and Sherry Perez. She also recognized the volunteers collecting the tickets and money. Ann Christophel led the Pledge and Invocation.

Jeannie Blane introduced the meeting speaker, Lori Fairfield, Benefits Specialist, Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA).

### BUSINESS MEETING:

- ❖ **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** President Wheeler requested need for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. All current officers except Vice-President  have consented to remain in their positions.
- ❖ Patti Monks requested early reservations be made in a timely fashion. She did caution members that if they didn't receive a call from a PARTA caller, it is highly likely they did not pay their PARTA dues.
- ❖ Jeff Vallosio announced the Treasurer reports were on the table, and he was collecting PARTA and IRTA dues at the designated back table. President Wheeler said there are over 40,000 IRTA members. She encouraged PARTA members to join IRTA.

❖ **Membership Updates (Roger Hampton):** Roger informed the membership that four (4) copies of the Soundings would be mailed to members this year. Membership status is located on the front of the publication.

❖ **IRTA is increasing its communication methods:**



- A quarterly bulletin is mailed to its members.
- Monthly "Good Dog News" is available.
- Coffee with Jim Bachman is an open virtual discussion forum for members.

**Other IRTA Issues:**

- Possible change in TRIP/Trail Health Insurance (See PARTA Soundings)
- Progress on repealing the WEP and GPO (See PARTA Soundings)
- Major concerns: CMS deciding to change United Health Care to AETNA. (Contact the Governor's Office regarding this matter).

❖ **IRTA Endorsed Candidates:** President Wheeler will include a list of endorsed candidates in the October issue of *SOUNDINGS*.

❖ **Congratulations to Jeannie Blane for securing programs for PARTA for 2022-2023.**

❖ **Kudos to Cater Inn for its continual accommodation for PARTA. Members made suggestions to support Cater Inn outside the regular meeting dates.**



President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Shane moved to adjourn the meeting. Barb Turner seconded the motion.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY**

<b>REPORT</b>	October 2022		TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 58,341.21		Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
	Investment Balance	\$ 49,196.14	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00	
	Savings Balance	8,023.70	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	379.51	
	Checking Balance	562.94	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	78.92	

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



FYI: Due to inflation and rising cost of food, the 5-second rule has now been extended to 10 seconds!



# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2022 AT 10:15 AM

The PARTA Board Meeting convened at Lakeview Library on Monday, August 22, 2022, at 10:15 AM. Board members present were Dixie Wheeler, Dave Barnwell, Jeannie Blane, Roger Hampton, Abby Humbles, Patti Monks, Valda Shipp, Kathy Simpson, Deloris Turner, Jeff Vallosio, and Sally Weber. President Wheeler asked for committee reports.



**ALTRUISTIC:** The Altruistic Committee should send a list of deceased members to Jeff Vallosio by September.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Jeff Vallosio reported on the Investment Account managed by Trent Strong. The organization has recouped the lost funds. There is no need to remove money from the investments at this time.



**TREASURER REPORT:** The treasurer moved three hundred dollars (\$300) to the bulk mailing account. This amount wasn't added to last month's report but is in the current month. The printer printed 33 additional directories this year.

**LEGISLATION:** Jeff Vallosio serves on IRTA PAC as Region 10 committee member. He reported that IRTA had conducted a survey and sent it to groups of individuals seeking offices, including Representatives and Senators. Their willingness to return the survey would determine IRTA's endorsement.

An official committee makes recommendations to whom IRTA will endorse.

**MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT:** The membership and recruitment committees were separated.

The reasoning: the responsibilities are unrelated in their function.

John Rathburn has kept the membership database current for many years. He is retiring from that position. Roger Hampton volunteered to maintain the database, and Jeff Vallosio will collect membership dues.

**PROGRAMS:** Jeanne Blaine presented the programs for the year. PARTA programs are in the monthly Soundings.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Kathy Simpson requested that programs be sent to her before the printing of the Soundings so she can post them to CIProud.Com.

## REVISIONS OF POLICY

The Board members revised the following PARTA 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. Remove the word yearbook and replace it with the directory.
4. Revision of #14 - It should read: The directory shall be printed only in the odd-numbered year, as deemed necessary, with an addendum of changes provided.

**Establish a Yearly Timeline:** Sally Weber will provide a spreadsheet for officers and committee chairs to include a timeline with the job description.

**Future Agenda Item:** Establish a Nominating Committee for officers/committee chairs for 2023. Dixie Wheeler moved for adjournment. Sally Weber seconded the motion.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

## MARK TWAIN QUOTES

If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed.  
If you read the newspaper, you're mis-informed.

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

# SOUNDINGS

Below is a list of candidates IRTAPAC endorsed regarding ONLY IRTA ISSUES (pensions, health insurance, benefits). Hopefully, this list will include most of our PARTA members' districts.

For a complete list, go online to: <https://www.irtaonline.org/pac/irtapac-endorsements/>

## I R T A P A C

### DEWITT-LOGAN COUNTY

- Senate District 44 ----- Sally Turner
- Senate District 46 ----- Dave Koehler
- House District 87 ----- William Hauter
- House District 91 ----- Sharon Chung

### FULTON COUNTY

- Senate District 46 ----- Dave Koehler
- House District 91 ----- Sharon Chung

### MASON COUNTY

- Senate District 47 ----- No Endorsement
- House District 44 ----- Fred Crespo
- House District 87 ----- William Hauter
- House District 94 ----- Norine Hammon

### MCLEAN COUNTY

- Senate District 51 ----- Chapin Rose
- Senate District 44 ----- Sally Turner
- Senate District 53 ----- No Endorsement
- House District 105 ----- Dennis Tipword
- House District 102 ----- No Endorsement
- House District 88 ----- No Endorsement

### PEORIA COUNTY

- Senate District 46 ----- Dave Koehler
- Senate District 37 ----- No Endorsement
- Senate District 44 ----- Sally Turner
- House District 73 ----- No Endorsement
- House District 88 ----- No Endorsement
- House District 91 ----- Sharon Chung

### TAZEWELL COUNTY

- Senate District 44 ----- Sally Turner
- Senate District 37 ----- No Endorsement
- House District 87 ----- William Hauter
- House District 73 ----- No Endorsement

IRTA is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization. The Association advocates for the interests of Illinois retired public-school educators. The Association's members are retired educators, active educators who are near retirement, and those supportive of retired educators. They work to serve the interests of retired educators through advocacy, education, cooperation, and socialization.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE on or before November 8, 2022.**  
**Early voting begins on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

## 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, 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 pay 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. 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](mailto:genrebun@aol.com). When joining as an annual member in the fall, your membership includes all of 2023.

## JOHN RATHBUN, PARTA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

HUSBAND: *When I get mad at you, you never fight back.*

*How do you control your anger?*

WIFE: *I clean the toilet.*

HUSBAND: *How does that help?*

WIFE: *I use your toothbrush!*



My husband and I need to brush up on our flirting. The other night, after I crawled into bed next to him, he wrapped his large arms around me, drew a deep breath, and whispered, "Mmm, that Vicks smells good."



# SOUNDINGS

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

Baietto	Robert						Address undeliverable	
Bixby	James	815 W Ravinwoods RD	Peoria	IL	61615-1331	309.689.3027		
		jbixbyaonilx@comcast.net						
Brookhart	Gerry						Phone disconnected	
Bryant	Ken						Phone disconnected	
Caldwell	Sue	1332 N Forrest DR	Germantown Hills	IL	61615-1331	309.645.8904		
		jackandsuecaldwell@yahoo.com						
Cluskey	Ellen						No address	
Cornelius	Peggy Baird	4517 Triangle AVE APT 419	Austin	TX	78751-3523	Change Apt #		
Duran	Nancy	nancy.duran3171@gmail.com					Email correction	
Epstein	Marianne	5917 N Roxbury LN	Peoria	IL	61614-4121	309.692.9322		
		Mariann130@aol.com						
Guarglia	Carolyn					309.251.8877	New phone number	
Hanlon	Earlene						No phone	
Hopkins	Beverly	318 E Knoxville	Brimfield	IL	61517-9381	309.444.3609	New member	
Horsky	Jean	jeanhorsky@icloud.com					New email	
Howard	Mary	3718 Golf Creek	Peoria	IL	61615-4929	New address		
Maas	Peggy A	2501 W Stonehenge CT	Peoria	IL	61615-7481	309.635.6651		
Madigan	Denise	deemadigan@aol.com					New email	
Martin	Helen	6901 N Galena RD APT 224	Peoria	IL	61614-3162	Address change		
Miller	Lana	LCHS1963@gmail.com					New email address	
Risinger	Joyce	NEED ACCESS CODE TO CALL LISTED NUMBER				309.693.3187		
Robert	Sue	Address Unknown				309.693.5813		
Robinson	Julie	8108 W Pfeiffer RD	Mapleton	IL	61615-7481	309.251.7777		
		jclr63@yahoo.com						
Smith	Denise	224 Indian Circle	East Peoria	IL	61611-1556	New address		
Stoskopf	Luann	156 E Madison ST	Rushville	IL	62681-1614	309.256.4814	New address & phone	
Walther	Daniel	3602 N Kingston DR, APT 42	Peoria	IL	61604-7106	New Address		
Williams	Edward					828.572.1707	New phone number	
Wooley	Leta					309.360.0072	New phone number	

**PARTA members, PLEASE HELP keep the database current.**

One day Grandma jokingly said to me:  
 "I'm never lonely.  
 I have four men in my life.  
 I get up with Charlie Horse.  
 Then I spend the day with Arthur Itis.  
 I dine with Will Power.  
 And I go to bed with Ben Gay!"



Grandmothers are a delightful blend of laughter, caring deeds, wonderful stories, and lots of love."

A grandmother was giving directions to her grown grandson who was coming to visit with his new wife: "You come to the front door of the apartment. I am in apartment 301. There is a big panel at the front door. With your elbow, push button 301. I will buzz you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in and with your elbow, push 3. When you get out, I'm on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell." Her grandson replied, "Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?" Her response: "What...You're coming empty handed?"



# SOUNDINGS

## TOTAL RETIREE ADVANTAGE ILLINOIS MEDICARE PLAN (TRAIL)

### OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD: NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 2022 (NOTE CHANGE)

◆ This enrollment period is open for Medicare-eligible retirees, survivors, and their dependents.



◆ Retirees and survivors eligible for the TRAIL MAPD Program will receive a *Welcome Kit* in the mail from Aetna with more information about the Aetna MAPD PPO Plan. You will also receive new member ID cards from Aetna, which can be used for medical and prescription drug services.

◆ **NO ACTION IS REQUIRED UNLESS** the member needs to add/remove a dependent or wishes to opt out of the Aetna MAPD PPO Plan.

◆ **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OPT OUT** of the Aetna MAPD PPO Plan, visit [MyBenefits.illinois.gov](https://mybenefits.illinois.gov) or call the MyBenefits Service Center at 1.844.251.1777 during TRAIL open enrollment. **YOU MUST OPT OUT BY NOVEMBER 30, 2022** or you will be automatically enrolled in the Aetna Plan.

◆ Member elections go into effect January 1, 2023.

RE-ENROLLMENT IN TRIP/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

◆ TRAIL seminars will be in-person this year beginning November 1-18, 2022. Dates and locations are still being finalized and should be available in early October.

◆ There will be three virtual high-level webinars beginning October 25-27.

### QUESTIONS?

◆ Beginning October 1, 2022: Aetna at 1.855.223.4807 from 8 AM to 8 PM or by visiting [StateofIllinois.AetnaMedicare.com](https://StateofIllinois.AetnaMedicare.com) to learn about plan benefits, find providers, and look up prescription drugs.

◆ MyBenefits Service Center at 1.844.251.1777 from 8 AM – 6 PM or by visiting [mybenefits.illinois.gov](https://mybenefits.illinois.gov) to ask about eligibility, make changes to your coverage, or opt out of the Aetna MAPD PPO plan.

◆ Medicare at 1.800.633.4227 or by visiting [www.medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) to ask questions about Medicare Parts A and B.

## 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

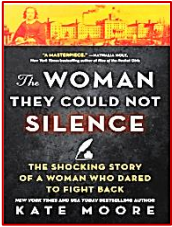
😊 My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.

😊 Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.

😊 Adam & Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.

# SOUNDINGS

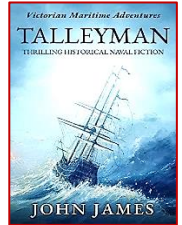
## PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



### ***THE WOMAN THEY COULD NOT SILENCE***

by Kate Moore

1860: As the clash between the states rolls slowly to a boil, Elizabeth Packard, housewife and mother of six, is facing her own battle. The enemy sits across the table and sleeps in the next room. Her husband of twenty-one years is plotting against her because he feels increasingly threatened—by Elizabeth's intellect, independence, and unwillingness to stifle her own thoughts. So Theophilus makes a plan to put his wife back in her place. One summer morning, he has her committed to an insane asylum.



### ***TALLEYMAN: THRILLING HISTORICAL NAVAL FICTION*** by John James

1848, Ireland: *Talleyman is caught up in a deadly uprising...* When Talleyman intercepts a shipment of weapons smuggled from America into Ireland under the guise of famine relief, and uncovers plans for a major insurrection, he is driven by his training and loyalty to his service to take sides. *But which side will he choose? And will he survive the uprising?* As tensions escalate, Talleyman knows that it is not just lives that are at stake, but the future of Ireland itself.

## SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

### DENTAL PLANS

#### PLATINUM

MEMBER: \$66.33  
DEDUCTIBLE: \$100.00  
ANNUAL MAXIMUM: \$1,500.00

#### Monthly Rates



#### Gold Plan

Member: \$38.71  
DEDUCTIBLE: \$50.00  
ANNUAL MAXIMUM: \$1,000.00

**Dental Rewards:** Ability to carry over some unused benefit to the next year.

Use your current dentist OR save up to 50% with a dentist in our network.

More details at: <https://www.myambabenefits.info/ilrta/dental>

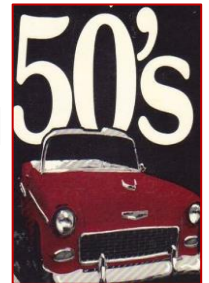
**For a full list of IRTA member-only benefits and discount codes:  
Log on to: [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) Click on: "Member Benefits"**



### EATING in the FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented.  
It was macaroni or spaghetti.  
Curry was a surname.  
A take-away was a mathematical problem.  
Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower.  
Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas.  
All chips were plain.  
Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.  
Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.  
Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.  
Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.  
None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.  
Cooking outside was called camping.  
Seaweed was not a recognized food.  
'Kebab' as not even a word, never mind a food.  
Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold.  
Prunes were medicinal.  
Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.  
Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughingstock.  
The one that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties were elbows, hats, and cell phones.



# SOUNDINGS

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIALS (NECROLOGY SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 - AUGUST 31, 2022)



**Emma Lou Beckwith (86)**  
07/12/1935 - 09/24/2021



**William "Bill" Brunner (95)**  
05/22/1926 - 02/19/2022



**Kathryn "Kathy" Churchill (71)**  
02/04/1951 - 04/14/2022



**Frances Farraher (86)**  
12/09/1935 - 06/28/2022



**Doris "Dodi" Ann Wilcoxon Larke (90)**  
07/23/1931 - 11/08/2021



**Patricia Gay Lindberg (76)**  
07/01/1945 - 11/01/2021



**Philip Mayer (85)**  
09/23/1936 - 03/26/2022



**James Ranney (83)**  
10/19/1938 - 08/31/2022



**Gail Snowden (70)**  
11/07/1950 - 10/25/2021



**Barbara Sullivan (85)**  
11/23/1936 - 05/21/2022



**Bonnie Swanson (85)**  
06/14/1945 - 04/17/2022



**Richard (Dick) Van Scyoc (98)**  
03/30/1924 - 08/05/2022



*If there is richness and righteousness in us, then we can make a difference in the lives of others, just as key individuals have influenced the lives of each of us for good and made us richer than we otherwise would have been. ~ Spencer W. Kimball*

*There is no power on earth that can neutralize the influence of a high, simple, and useful life. ~ Booker T. Washington*

*A teacher affects eternity; you can never tell where their influence stops. ~ Henry Adams*