

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2019

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES!
FREE LUNCH
YOU ARE OUR GUESTS!

September 9
Barracks Cater Inn
11:30 A.M.
Luncheon – \$12.00

RESERVATION REQUIRED

If you do not receive a call from a PARTA "caller", please call:

→ Nancy Wing
(309) 472-2536

or

→ Abby Humbles
(309) 472-0455

GREETER

 Sally Weber

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

 Dixie Wheeler

LUNCHEON

Italian Spaghetti
w/meatballs
& Marinara sauce
Vegetable
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts

BUSINESS MEETING

Abby Humbles,
CHAIRPERSON



Roger Hampton
SOUNDINGS EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings PARTA Members!

We look forward to the start of our monthly luncheons and meetings at Barracks Cater Inn!

As always, please let your caller know if you have any meal restrictions or need help with transportation. We are here to serve if needed. I hope to see you soon.

Fondly, Abby Humbles

NEED HELP?

PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 9

LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA - PROBLEMS & CONCERNS -

DR. RAY BERTINO
Retired Interventional Radiologist
Illinois Society for Addiction Medicine Board



OCTOBER 7



FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY
Members of the **BARTONVILLE VFW**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Remembering and Honoring PARTA members deceased from September 1, 2018 through September 1, 2019. Names will be available prior to this meeting and relatives are welcome to attend.



NOVEMBER 4

TBA



SURPRISE!

DECEMBER 2



MAGIC
presented by
ALLAN ADCOCK

PLUS a
HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG
with **DENISE ADAMS**



Additional information and updates available online at
pa-rta.weebly.com

Sally Weber, Webmaster

SOUNDINGS

GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 3, 2019

President Abby Humbles opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking greeters Sherry Perez and Toni Redlingshafer. Like Bonomo led the Pledge and the Invocation. There were 76 attendees. White card winners were Carla Stokowski and Toni Redlingshafer. Abby introduced her guest Joshua Pomeroy, whom she had as a student at Norwood School. Josh is a graduate of West Point and currently the CEO of a nonprofit organization. New retiree Teresa Biddison was introduced and welcomed. Abby also mentioned that PARTA member Mike Olson lost 2 brothers in 2 days and to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

After the luncheon Abby conducted the business meeting.



- Jeff Vallosio passed out Treasurer's report on the tables.
- Minutes were approved for May 6th meeting as in *Soundings*.
- Abby mentioned June 4 is the Leadership Training Session in Springfield.

• Be sure to take a book today; new book table will begin in September. After the business meeting Abby introduced Ann Winget whose committee is working on programs for next fall. September's program will center on marijuana issues, medical and recreational. December's program will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peoria Symphony's puppet guild.

Ann then introduced the day's guests, Melissa and Tim Pletkovich. PARTA members enjoyed a rousing game of Jeopardy based on Tim's book, "Nun's, Nazis, & Notre Dame." The winning group selected a charity of their choice, and PARTA will make a donation. Tim also sold and autographed his book "Civil War Fathers." Abby wished everyone a great summer!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 19, 2019

Present: Dave Barnwell, Dixie Wheeler, Valda Shipp, Jeff Vallosio, LeeAnn Meinhold, Sally Weber, Frances Farraher, Kathy Simpson, and Abby Humbles

Abby Humbles called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The minutes were approved.

New Business:

- The dates for future board meetings are scheduled at Lakeview Library at 10:15 A.M. on the following dates: October 28, January 27, April 27, and August 24.
- A replacement is needed for Susan Bartlow, who schedules the greeters for each month.
- PARTA will donate \$100 to IRTAPAC instead of a basket for the Silent Auction at the convention.
- Jeff Vallosio gave the Treasurer's Report and said an investment committee meeting needed to be set. Dave Barnwell said that as of June 10 the return on our investment was 14.72%. Jeff presented a beginning plan for the proposed PARTA Teacher Grant trial program. We will need a chair of a grant committee to oversee plans and implementation. The program is tabled for now. It will be announced at the

September meeting that volunteers are needed, with the hope of the committee functioning by November.

- Valda Shipp reported enough money was collected for three scholarships.
- Abby reported that John Rathbun sent emails to the new retirees.
- The battery collection and book table are ongoing. There was discussion about recognizing members' birthdays after age 85.
- Sally Weber is working on getting phone numbers for John of newly retired teachers.



Committee Reports:

- Jeff will not be at the October meeting.
 - Altruistic – Frances Farraher reported four members' deaths in June and July.
 - Program – LeeAnn Meinhold reminded everyone that getting programs is a difficult job. A program committee has been helpful and needs to be continued.
 - Legislative – Dixie Wheeler talked to Ryan Spain, and he was very positive and gracious. He showed a lot of support for retired teachers.
- The meeting was adjourned.


Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Simpson, Secretary



*I don't recommend getting older
'cause I don't think it is good for your health!*

SOUNDINGS

AUGUST 2019 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 53,420.47 Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer				
Investment Balance	\$ 45,602.69	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00	
Savings Balance	\$ 6,981.22	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	\$ 258.58	
Checking Balance	\$ 442.83	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	\$ 35.15	

PARTA DUES - 358 Members

- Annual: \$15.00 ➤ Life: \$120.00 ♦ *Best Deal* ♦

PARTA is Unit # 32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA)

If you have PARTA or IRTA membership questions, please contact
John Rathbun, PARTA's Membership Chair at: Genrebun@aol.com

IRTA DUES - 38,348 Members

- Dues Deduct: \$30.00 per year (\$2.50 deducted each month from your pension check.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

PARTA We have 3 scholarship recipients for the upcoming school year at Illinois Central College (ICC).

Congratulations to the following ICC students and future teachers:

ELISE HOBBS
Washington, IL

MARESCA PICELLI
Princeville, IL

CHLOE STAHL
Princeville, IL

"The money from this scholarship will greatly decrease the amount of stress involved with paying for college, and I am extremely grateful." Chloe Stahl

Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Think deeply ~ Speak gently ~ Love much ~ Laugh a lot ~ Work hard ~ Give freely ~ And be Kind

IRTAF FOUNDATION (IRTAF) Ten scholarships are awarded each year to college juniors or seniors enrolled in an accredited teacher education program.

CONNER CHRISTIAN
Newark, IL

KATHERINE DRONE
McLeansboro, IL

CARLY FORD
Grant Park, IL

MADISON FROST
Bloomington, IL

KATHERINE GALLAHER
Belleville, IL

KARLY GRAPENTHIN
Palatine, IL



BROOKE JENSEN
Yorkville, IL

SARAH SCHOOLMAN
East Peoria, IL

CODY SUDETH
Steward, IL


ALLYSON TAYLOR
Sims, IL

I grew up with six brothers. That's how I learned to dance!
WAITING FOR THE BATHROOM!!! ~ Bob Hope

SOUNDINGS

PARTA MEETINGS are on the first Monday of each month with the following exceptions:
 There are **NO MEETINGS** in January, July, or August. | The meeting in September is on the 2nd Monday, due to Labor Day on the 1st Monday.

LUNCHEON *Reservation Made = Reservation to be Paid*
If you pay by check, make check payable to "Cater Inn".

 **Contact NANCY WING at (309) 472-2536 by FRIDAY MORNING prior to a meeting you were not called about your reservation(s). Alternate Contact: Abby Humbles at (309) 472-0455**

LUNCHES

Barracks Cater Inn staff will assist in carrying your plate to your table, or they will serve anyone unable to go through the buffet line. If you have a health or religious need that requires an alternate entrée at any meeting, please let your caller know so that Barracks can accommodate your request.

MEETINGS

You are welcome to attend just the PARTA meeting if you are unable to be at the luncheon. The meeting will usually start around 12:20, depending on attendance and occasional pre-lunch addenda items. Please check the PARTA website for information and updates.

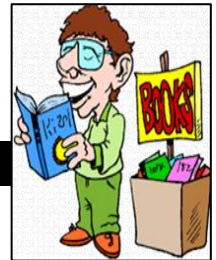


BATTERY COLLECTION CONTINUES

Please bring your used batteries to be recycled to any of our meetings.

BOOK EXCHANGE TABLE CONTINUES

Bring books, calendars, magazines, and other paper goods to share with our members.



NEW MINIMUM WAGE FOR ILLINOIS TEACHERS

The new minimum salary for teachers across the state is designed to help alleviate the ongoing shortage of teachers.

2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
\$32,576	\$34,576	\$37,076	\$40,000



THE 3 LITTLE PIGS - THE TRUE STORY

This is a true story ~ proving how fascinating the mind of a six-year-old is. They think so logically.

A teacher was reading the story *The Three Little Pigs* to her class. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home. She read: "...and so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'" The teacher paused then asked the class: "And what do you think the man said?" One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly ...
 "I think the man would have said - 'Well, I'll be damned! A talking pig!'"
 The teacher had to leave the room.



SOUNDINGS

REPORT FROM DOUGLAS STRAND, TRS ANNUITANT TRUSTEE



Hello IRTA members and friends,

This was my first official meeting of the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System Board of Trustees since being endorsed and elected by members of the IRTA and other retired educators. The meeting was held on August 2, 2019 at the Hyatt in Rosemont, IL near the O'Hare airport. I had attended two previous meetings as an observer last fall and this spring. There was an Audit Committee meeting followed by an Investment Committee meeting which took the better portion of the overall time. So far all is well, up to this date, we were informed by the advisors and staff. The main problem remains the under-funded portion by the state.

There is a new software program being developed by TRS and its newly hired Information Director and staff. Reporting by over 900 units we were told, should help them and the TRS staff better serve our members.

I am proud to help serve the needs of retired educators and look forward to many more meetings, both in Springfield and Chicago. I hope to see many of you at the IRTA Convention this October 14th and 15th in Springfield.

TRS FALL MEMBER MEETING

October 20, 2019 | 4:30 P.M. | Richwoods High School Auditorium

TRS is hosting statewide meetings from August to November that are designed to explain the retirement process and to provide you with information about disability, death and insurance benefits.

For a list of other locations throughout the state go to:

https://www.trsil.org/Fall_Member_Meetings



TRS INVESTS \$1.15 BILLION ON BEHALF OF ILLINOIS EDUCATORS

The Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) of Illinois reported \$1.15 billion in strategic allocations to various investment opportunities designed to enhance the retirement trust fund for the System's 417,292 members. TRS is the 37th largest pension system in the United States and assets of \$52.2 billion as of June 30, 2019.



You know why I feel older?

I went to buy sexy underwear and they automatically gift wrapped it!!! ~ Joan Rivers



Clothing manufacturers are less civilized these days! Why else would they suddenly start labelling a size 32 pair of pants a 42, or medium shirt as 'extra-large'? Do they think no one notices that these things no longer fit around the waist, hips, thighs, and neck?

SOUNDINGS

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS AFFECT TRS AND ITS MEMBERS

STATE FUNDING FOR TRS IN FY2020

Governor Pritzker and legislators agreed on a \$4.8 billion contribution to TRS as part of a \$40 billion state budget for FY2020, which begins on July 1, 2019. The \$4.8 billion contribution is an increase over the governor's original funding level for TRS of \$4.2 billion, which he proposed in January. Because of the state's ongoing financial problems, the governor wanted to redirect roughly \$600 million away from TRS to other priorities.



However, state tax receipts for April came in \$1.5 billion ahead of estimates, so Governor Pritzker changed his mind and decided to use that windfall to boost the TRS contribution back up to \$4.8 billion.

The \$4.8 billion funding level meets the state funding level required by state law for the year, but nonetheless falls \$3 billion short of "full funding" for the System as determined by TRS actuaries. Since 1939, state government has never once appropriated a "full funding" amount for TRS. This record of inadequate funding is the main reason TRS carries a \$75 billion unfunded liability.

RAISES FOR TRS MEMBERS CLOSE TO RETIREMENT



Last year, the legislature reduced the threshold on some TRS member raises that automatically triggers larger school district contributions to the System. The old law said districts owed more money if they approved pay raises in excess of 6% for teachers who were close to retirement. In 2018, the threshold was lowered to 3%.

But even before TRS had a chance to implement the new 3% mark for raises granted during the 2018-2019 school year, lawmakers reversed themselves and boosted the threshold back to 6%. The bill is now on Governor Pritzker's desk awaiting his action.

The underlying law with its 6% threshold was enacted in 2005 to curb a practice commonly called "pension spiking." The law requires school districts to pay the lifetime actuarial cost of the portion of a member's pension that is created by a raise that exceeds the threshold; but only if the raise would factor into the member's initial pension calculation.

TRS MEMBER "BUYOUT" PROGRAMS

The time period for the two "buyout" programs available to TRS members – one for retiring Tier 1 members and one for all inactive members – will be extended to the end of the fiscal year 2024. Originally, the programs were set to automatically expire at the end of fiscal year 2021.

RETURN-TO-WORK LIMITS IN "SUBJECT SHORTAGE AREAS"

To help alleviate the classroom teacher shortage problem in Illinois, a law that allows retired TRS members to teach for a full school year in districts declared to be "Subject Shortage Areas" has been extended until 2021. The bill awaits Gov. Pritzker's action. Under the law, which was set to expire this year, retired teachers who go back to these designated districts are not subject to "return-to-work" restrictions imposed on other retirees.

What is the difference between baseball and law? In baseball, if you're caught stealing, you're out.

SOUNDINGS

DIRECTORY CHANGES - Please make changes in your PARTA Directory

Abel	Ginger	2198 William T Circle		Lancaster	OH	43130-1087	New address
		grammagk@hotmail.com					
Bode	Abby	1201 W Northmoor RD #347		Peoria	IL	61614-3468	New address
		abbeybode32@comcast.net					
Gilles	Jacqueline (Jackie)	P.O. Box 344	Dunlap	IL	61525-0000	243-5336	New member
Hartmann	Verna M.	6901 N Galena Rd, Apt 126		Peoria	IL	61614-3165	New address
Howell	Vicki	10594 E. Gold Dust Cir.		Scottsdale	AZ	85258-0000	480-590-7023
		jdvhowell@yahoo.com					
White	Sandra	416 Flag ST		Metamora	IL	61548-8368	367-4163
New address & phone							

George Burdette, 92

February 22, 1927 – June 5, 2019

Loretta Horst, 95

February 15, 1924 – June 15, 2019

Charles "Richard" Barnett, 82

July 27, 1936 – June 18, 2019

Phyllis Taylor, 88

December 1, 1930 - July 10, 2019



PARTA members, **PLEASE HELP** keep the database current.
Let John Rathbun, Membership Chair, **know** of **ANY CHANGES** to your status.

SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT

myAMBAdiscounts.com



myAMBAdiscounts allows you access to thousands of discounts from local and national merchants! Explore your savings on everything from dining, cars, clothing, entertainment, travel, and many other valuable discounts that save you money!

IRTA Members: please call the IRTA office (1.800.728.4782) for the access code!

Make the most of your IRTA membership!

Thousands of savings in hundreds of categories!



AWESOME FALL ACTIVITIES

throughout the Tri-County Area

Participate in various activities listed at:

explorepeoria.com/pages/EventsCalendar

If only opening a Vitamin Water could be classified as working out.

If it weren't for the fact that the TV set and the refrigerator are so far apart, some of us wouldn't get any exercise at all.

Peoria Area
Retired Teachers' Association
308 James Parkway
Washington, IL 61571-1041

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 378
Peoria, IL

Address Service Requested



PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association

SERVING RETIRED TEACHERS FOR OVER 68 YEARS

PARTA OFFICERS 2019 - 2020

- Abby Humbles, *President*
- Dixie Wheeler, *1st Vice President*
- Ann Winget, *2nd Vice President*
- Kathy Simpson, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

PA-RTA.WEBBLY.COM/

Check for Updates!

Sally Weber, *Webmaster*