Greetings and Happy Holidays to you and yours. Wishing you a blessed season and a happy new year! We hope to see you for a festive December program.

Abby Humbles, PARTA President

**PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS**

**DECEMBER 3, 2018**

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020**

Lee Ann Meinhold

- **Topic:** STORYTELLING
- **Presenter:** Chris Mangold
- **Game:** CHRISTMAS TRIVIA
- **Organizer:** Pat Hampton
- **SING-A-LONG** lead by Denise Adams

**NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2019**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

**Topic**
Native American Story Telling

**Presenter**
Danira Parra, Pastor
Dayspring Native American United Methodist Church

**MARCH 4, 2019**

**Topic**
Driverless Vehicles

**Presenter**
Presenter: Sam Kherat, Ph.D
Professor of Robotics at Bradley University

Please refer to PARTA’s webpages for updates regarding meetings in 2019.

Sally Weber, Webmaster

Soundings Editor
Roger Hampton
President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone. Ninety-five people were present. She thanked today’s greeters, Deloris Turner and Rhonda Kokos, as well as the callers and the cashiers. Patricia Hartman gave the Invocation and Pledge. Abby welcomed two new attendees and welcomed back Nancy Wing and Frances Farraher. After the luncheon, Abby introduced Pat Hampton, who introduced our speaker, Sarah Stevens. Sarah gave a delightful and informative presentation on beekeeping, accompanied by an interesting display. Abby opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were approved as in the Soundings.
- Copies of the Treasurer’s reports were on the tables. A summary is in the Soundings. The report was filed for audit. Jeff Vallosio said to see him if you have any questions.
- Abby announced the PARTA board meeting on November 12, at 10:15 at Lakeview Library. A finance meeting will be directly after the board meeting in East Peoria.
- Roger Hampton reported that the open season for TRAIL insurance is November 15. If you opted out of TRIP you can now opt back in. You sign up online through IRTA.
- Valda Shipp reported that Rhonda Kokos and Deloris Turner attended the scholarship dinner with her at ICC. The recipients of the PARTA Scholarships were very appreciative.
- Frances Farraher reported that PARTA lost one member in October.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 2018 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: $49,506.38</th>
<th>Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment Balance</strong></td>
<td>$ 40534.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Working Cash (cash boxes)</strong></td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Savings Balance</strong></td>
<td>$ 6,961.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post Office Bulk Mail Fund</strong></td>
<td>$ 359.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Checking Balance</strong></td>
<td>$ 1,505.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post Office Returned Mail Fund</strong></td>
<td>$ 45.62</td>
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</tbody>
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**PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Redlinshafer Toni</th>
<th>604 Harbor Pointe DR</th>
<th>East Peoria IL 61611-5805 698-4656 New member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:tredlingshafer@att.net">tredlingshafer@att.net</a></td>
<td>309-690-5905 (cell)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiest Susan</td>
<td>313 Pine Ridge DR</td>
<td>Washington IL 61571-2005 645-2540 New member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:swiest49@yahoo.com">swiest49@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Susan O’Donnell | Deceased: October 3, 2018 (73) |

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

**Notes from Nancy Wing, Attendance/Reservations Chair**

HELP! Callers Needed for 2019
If you have about half an hour available to call members for reservations before meetings, please call Nancy Wing at 472.2536 (cell).

Thank you to Mary Lou Boettger, Bobbie Shults, Parry Monks, and all the others who stepped up and fulfilled my responsibilities during the past 14 months. Your help is appreciated more than you ever know.

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching out and helping others.
Abby Humbles called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
The dates of the next board meetings are February 1, April 29, and August 19, all at 10:15 A.M.

OLD BUSINESS:
- Roger said he’ll continue doing the newsletter, but he cannot do the new directory. He will check on the cost of having it done. We’ll put out another request for directory help, and if no one can, we’ll print a page of changes to last until the next directory.

NEW BUSINESS:
- December is installation of new officers. Abby will ask Lee Ann Meinhold, Chair of the nominating committee, to see if she would install the officers.
- Dave Barnwell suggested that the board think about donating up to $1,000 a year to various organizations. Roger suggested something like Donors Choose, where individual teachers request money for their classrooms. If we donate locally it would be good publicity for PARTA as well as help education. Abby will appoint a research committee to report back to the board. Dave said he would help with the committee.

COMMITTEES:
- Sally Weber said the membership subcommittee would visit schools. Beth Crider will send out a letter to the superintendents to let them know that they are coming.
- Eric Johnson said the audit committee would audit the books after the December 3 meeting.
- Dixie Wheeler reported that in her role as legislation chair she has visited other meetings in McLean, Fulton, Dewitt, Logan, and Tazewell Counties. All were welcoming.
- Peggy Shane has someone for the Invocation and Pledge for the December meeting, but none for 2019 yet.
- Valda Shipp, scholarship chair, said it was nice to have other PARTA members attend the scholarship banquet.
- Ann Winget asked if members would be in favor of a bench saying “PARTA” out in the community. Abby said she would have Ann investigate costs and other details.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Simpson, Secretary

2019 PARTA DIRECTORY – VOLUNTEER NEEDED
PARTA is needing someone to be in charge of publishing the 2019 Directory. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to assume this responsibility, please contact Abby Humbles at 309.472.0456 or Roger Hampton at 309.360.6190. A new directory will not be published in 2019 unless someone volunteers.

Peoria Public Library North “Music in the McKenzie”
Free Event: Sunday, December 16 – 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.
Lojo Russo, from the Quad Cities playing sweet folk & percussive roots.
"She’s a one-woman show that shows you only need one woman".

Information about Lojo Russo online: http://www.lojorusso.com/

Police Officer Bryant found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists. One day, the officer was amazed when everyone was under the speed limit, so Bryant investigated and found the problem. Ten-year-old Dennis was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign which said "Radar Trap Ahead." A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy’s accomplice, another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "Tips" and a bucket at his feet, full of change.
After Illinois lawmakers patted themselves on the back and told taxpayers the budget, they passed this year was balanced, a bond issuance tells potential buyers that the state budget is $1.2 billion in the red.

The governor's office said the two series of bonds, one a $656.5 million issuance that matures in 2033, and a second for $263.7 million that matures in 2032, is not borrowing, it’s swapping interest rates that are variable with fixed interest rates. That rate is not yet known.

Illinois’ credit rating, which is the worst in the country at one notch above junk status, could affect that interest rate, possibly costing taxpayers more. The state would start paying $44.4 million in 2020, then around $100 million in 2021, and even more the following year, with varying principal amounts to be paid back until maturity, the document shows.

Illinois changed from a divided government to Democratic Trifecta status. Democrats emerged from the midterm election with a state government trifecta — where one political party holds the governorship, a majority in the state senate, and a majority in the state house in a state’s government.

Democrats maintained their supermajority in the Illinois State Senate in the 2018 elections, winning 40 seats to Republicans’ 19. As of 2018, a party needed to control 36 seats in the Senate to have a three-fifths supermajority.

Democrats won supermajority in the Illinois House of Representatives in the 2018 elections, winning 72 seats to Republicans’ 46. As of 2018, a party needed to control 71 seats in the House to have a three-fifths supermajority.

Illinois is one of thirty-seven states where legislators who are elected in November do not assume office until the following year. For Illinois legislators, that date is the second Wednesday in January. The upcoming legislative session will run from January 9 - May 31, 2019.

There are many new legislators (and still many of the multiple-term legislators) who must be educated regarding the legality of reducing or impairing our pension and health care benefits. Our IRTA state office staff is already meeting with many of them, but each voter must be a part of this process. We are the ones who vote them in or out of office. We have a “voice” and our vote counts!

**December Daily Holidays and Events:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Eat a Red Apple Day</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chanukah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>National Fritters Day</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ice Cream Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advent begins</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Roast Chestnuts Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Santa’s List Day</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bill of Rights Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bathtub Party Day</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>National Chocolate Covered Anything Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Day</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>National Maple Syrup Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor Day</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>National Roast Suckling Pig Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>National Brownie Day</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Oatmeal Muffin Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>International Children’s Day</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Go Caroling Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Human Rights Day</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Winter Solstice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>National Noodle Ring Day</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>National Date Nut Bread Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chanukah</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Roots Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ice Cream Day</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>National Chocolate Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Roast Chestnuts Day</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bill of Rights Day</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>National Chocolate Covered Anything Day</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>National Fruitcake Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>National Maple Syrup Day</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Card Playing Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>National Roast Suckling Pig Day</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pepper Pot Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Oatmeal Muffin Day</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Bacon Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Go Caroling Day</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Winter Solstice</td>
<td></td>
<td>Source: <a href="http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/december.htm">www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/december.htm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My Father, who barely graduated from secondary school, always considered education a valuable tool. When my sister wrote home from college to say her roommate was quitting school because she felt college was a rat race, my father wrote back: "Tell your roommate that life is the rat race. College can teach you which rat to bet on."
IRTAF Foundation (IRTAF) 2018 Report

Almost a quarter of a million dollars has been given in IRTAF Excellence in Education Grants for Active Teachers since the program’s inception, sixteen years ago. This year there were 76 teachers from throughout the state who received money to fund noteworthy classroom projects.

For detailed information on the 2018 winners, go to: https://irtaonline.org/index.php/foundation/Grants/grant-winners-2018

PARTA Members Read and Recommend

Educated: a memoir

Daughter of survivalists, educates herself enough to leave home for university.

by Tara Westover

Past Tense

Jack Reacher explores the New England town where his father was born.

by Lee Child

PARTA Members: Please email the name and author of a book that you have enjoyed. Help keep this informational thread alive in future issues of Soundings. Send book name and author to: roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

Pillsbury Doughboy Obituary

It is with the saddest heart that I must pass on the following news: Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies and Captain Crunch. The grave site was piled high with flours. Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he still, as a crusty old man, was considered a roll model for millions.

Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough; two children John Dough and Jane Dough; plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

Source: http://funnybizblog.com/funny-stuff/pillsbury-doughboy-obituary

Always find a reason to laugh. It may not add years to your life, but it will add life to your years.
PARTA’s ICC Scholarship Winners

Savanna Klobnak
and her parents

Victoria Lodge

Pictures were taken at the ICC Scholarship Banquet.

Valda Shipp, PARTA Scholarship Chair, Deloris Turner (pictured in above photos), and Rhonda Kokos attended the banquet to meet and talk with our scholarship recipients.

Governor Elect Pritzker’s Campaign Promises

J. B. Pritzker promised over 11 billion dollars in new spending while on the campaign trail. Now he will need to find and promote a funding source for those ideas and plans. How this all will play out will get interesting quickly considering Illinois’ multi-billion-dollar deficit this year, even though Illinois citizens were told the state passed a balanced budget. Add that to the billions of dollars that the state owes in back bills and Illinois either needs to begin printing its’ own money or raise taxes. The unfortunate result could be that we will continue to see continued deficit spending.

Report: Illinois is 2018’s Least Fiscally Stable State

Illinois is the most financially unstable state in the nation, according to new ranking by U.S. News and World Report. The ranking of 2018’s most fiscally unstable states was conducted by McKinsey & Company, the global management and consulting firm. The report considered credit rating and state public pension liability to rank states on long-term stability. For short term, the report measured each state’s cash solvency and budget balance. Illinois was 50th overall. The state’s pension debt – commonly estimated at $130 billion but measured as high as $250 billion last summer by Moody’s – was a factor. That debt load was cited by Moody’s and other creditors as a cause of the state’s near junk rating.

Rankings by short-term stability used the amount of liquid funds in a state’s budget and how balanced the state’s budget is. Illinois’ current budget that passed last July, despite Governor Bruce Rauner’s veto, is $1.5 billion in the red, even with a $5 billion income tax hike, according to the Civic Federation.

www.ilnews.org/news/state_politics/report-illinois-is-s-least-fiscally-stable-state/article_2ae91cdc-23e5-11e8-aa11-0b64dc049cac.html
Spotlight on IRTA Member Benefits

FLEXIBLE CHOICE CANCER, HEART ATTACK & STROKE POLICY

This IRTA endorsed program will pay a lump sum benefit from $5,000 to $100,000 to use any way you like, upon a diagnosis of Cancer, or if you have a heart attack, heart surgery or stroke. The money comes in a lump sum payment, and is PAID DIRECTLY TO YOU, regardless of any other insurance you may have. This money can be used to help pay deductibles, rehabilitation, experimental treatments or any unexpected expenses. The program also includes a recurrence benefit which will pay upon multiple incidents. Contact AMBA at 1.800.258.7041 for additional information.

IRT A D A Y A T T H E B A L L P A R K - - B U S C H S T A D I U M

June 2, 2019 - 1:15 pm (Game could possibly be moved to the evening)
$130 All Inclusive: Food, Beer, Pop, great view of the game
• Food service begins when Busch Stadium gates open (2 hours before scheduled game time) and will be available until 1½ hours after scheduled game time.
• Bar service begins when Busch Stadium gates open. Alcoholic drinks are available until end of 7th inning. In the case of extra innings, non-alcoholic drinks available to end of game.
• Only 30 tickets available and must be ordered by mid-December. Order your ticket(s) online at www.irtaonline.org or call the IRTA office at 1.800.728.4782.
• Once issued, your tickets will be mailed to your address or you can pick them up at the IRTA office.

WAYS TO BE A LITTLE MORE GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

• Visit those who are lonely.
• Encourage paying it forward.
• Seek out individuals to help.
• Encourage your children & grandchildren to give.
• Turn every occasion into a giving opportunity.

Take ACTION! Don’t let excuses thwart you from helping another. When in doubt, if it will help another and you feel safe doing so, JUST DO IT!

• What kind of music do elves listen to? Wrap.
• What says ‘Oh Oh Oh’? Santa walking backwards!
• Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A Mince Spy!
• Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? Rude-alph!
• Why didn’t the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had no-body to go with.
• What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia!
• What do you get if you combine Santa and a duck? A Christmas Quacker!
• Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!