

PARTA

SOUNDINGS

MAY 2021

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PARTA RESUMES LUNCHEON MEETINGS

MAY 3

Barracks Cater Inn

11:30 A M

Luncheon – \$12.00

GREETER

 **Ann Christophel**

PLEDGE & INVOCATION

 **Dixie Wheeler**

LUNCHEON

Fried Chicken
Potatoes
Vegetable
Salad
Dessert

PROGRAM



**PEORIA
CHARTER
COACH**

UPCOMING TRIPS

Check PARTA
website for updates:
pa-rta.weebly.com

**Sally Weber,
Webmaster**

MEETING

Dixie Wheeler
PARTA President, Chair



*Program begins
around 12:15 P.M.*

Roger Hampton
Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, PARTA members, Happily, the PARTA membership committee has sent the first 2021 retiree invitations to those lucky teachers who are finishing their educational career. We will be sharing that invitation with you in the June Soundings. This will give you the opportunity to use the information with those you know who have retired or are retiring. Membership is everyone's responsibility!

Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

YOU HAVE 2 CHOICES FOR HOW YOU ATTEND MEETINGS:

IN-PERSON

LUNCHEON PROTOCOL

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS



- ❖ Face Mask Required At All Times Except While Eating
- ❖ Seating: 6 Maximum Per Table
- ❖ Buffet-Style with Cater Inn Staff Serving

VIRTUAL

**ZOOM ACCESS WILL BEGIN
AT 12:00 NOON**

LOG ON to see who is attending the in-person meeting. THEN, chat with other members who are ZOOMING while waiting for the meeting to begin.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 3

UPCOMING MEETINGS/PROGRAMS

JUNE 7

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM
John Meisinger



NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 13 (2ND MONDAY)

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

OCTOBER 4

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL
NECROLOGY SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 - AUGUST 31, 2021**

SOUNDINGS

PARTA VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2021 AT 10:00 AM

The April PARTA Meeting was called to order by President Dixie Wheeler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-two (22) members were present. The program guest was Zelena Winters, Founder of Zee's Blessed Dress. Ms. Winters uses the art of sewing with challenging students to hone their creativity. The students use donated items such as purses, pillowcases, and jewelry to design clothes. Ms. Winters' goal is to extend the project globally by connecting with mission teams across the world. PARTA members are going to assist with the Zee's Blessed Dress Project by dropping off items at the next in-person meeting. Ann Winget will coordinate the drop-off.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• **TREASURER:** Jeff Vallosio reported that a summary of the treasurer's report was printed in the *Soundings*. Jeff will send the full report electronically if requested. He is asking for a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a hard copy to be mailed.

• **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Dave Barnwell recognized Eric Johnson and his team for overseeing the investment of PARTA. He mentioned they have done a great job in working with Legacy Investment by placing the organization in good financial shape. An audit of the books is pending, and a budget will have to be prepared for 2022.

• **FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP:** Valda Shipp reported that PARTA hopes to award three scholarships this year. She will start collecting funds by placing envelopes on the lunch tables during the May meeting.

John Rathbun mentioned that contributing through the ICC Foundation is a gift that keeps on giving. Even though one does not contribute each year, the money that is contributed keeps earning.

• **PARTA TEACHER GRANTS:** Deloris Turner reported that PARTA awards five (5) grants for \$200 each to

Peoria County teachers. The PARTA Teacher Grant Program is in its second year. Application notices for the grants will go out via the ROE in September. Applications are due back to the committee for screening in October. Checks are sent to the recipients in November.

• **MEMBERSHIP:** President Wheeler provided an update on the work of the newly formed Membership Committee. Introductory letters have been sent from PARTA and IRTA to the new retiring members. The list, with the names, was obtained from the IRTA FOIA request and emails were sent. Committee Members will send information to already retired teachers who are part of IRTA and inquire about their interest in joining PARTA. A second letter will be sent to retirees for this year. John Rathbun said we should continue to push membership. Dixie voiced that it is everybody's job to recruit members. Another observation was not having in-person meetings and their impact on gaining new members. Many observations were voiced regarding membership from volunteer opportunities to creating a friendly, welcoming environment.

• **GREETERS/INVOCATION:** Need Greeters for the meeting. Peggy Shane has not been able to secure someone for the Invocation due to not having in-person meetings. Dixie volunteered to do the Invocation for May.

• **PROGRAMS:** Jeannie is seeking names of deceased members for the Memorial Program in October.

• **PUBLICATIONS:** (Roger and Sally) Thanks to Roger Hampton and Sally Weber for the stellar job they are doing with the Soundings and the PARTA Website. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patti Monk moved to adjourn, and Peggy Shane seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DELORIS TURNER, SECRETARY

I asked Siri, "Surely the weather is not going to be this miserable again tomorrow?" She replied, "Yes it will be and don't call me Shirley."

SOUNDINGS

**PARTA IN-PERSON LUNCHEON MEETINGS RESUME
MAY 3, 2021 AT 11:30 A.M. AT BARRACK'S CATER INN**

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE IN-PERSON MEETING,
YOU CAN STILL ATTEND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM.**

Zoom access will begin at 12:00 Noon | Meetings usually begin ~12:15 P.M.
<https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 847 3934 4964 | Passcode: 344638
EASIEST WAY TO CONNECT: A Direct Access Link will be sent via email
to PARTA members prior to the meeting.

VOICE OPTION:

Dial: 1 312 626 6799

Enter Meeting ID: 847 3934 4964

Passcode: 344638

If you have any questions or problems accessing this meeting, please contact
Roger Hampton: 309.360.6190 | roger.hampton11138@gmail.com

Members will receive a call
asking if they will be attending
the in-person meeting. If you
decide not to attend, you may
watch the meeting via zoom.

If you do not receive a call from a caller, please
contact Patti Monks @ 309.697.3385. She makes
the reservations for each meeting. If she does
not answer, please leave a message
on her answering machine.



Help!

PARTA CALLERS NEEDED!

Patti Monks is in charge of the callers. She is in desperate need of 4 monthly callers and 3-4 substitute callers who would be willing to spend 30-45 minutes on the phone a month calling different members requesting their presence at the meetings. Each caller will be given a list of people to call. She will be in contact with the callers each month. The substitute callers would be called upon to call a list in the case a monthly caller cannot make the calls.

Patti said,
"I cannot stress the fact enough that the callers are the backbone to our monthly meetings. Without the fantastic callers contacting the membership we would not have the wonderful luncheon meetings."

Please help Patti by either being a monthly caller or substitute caller. Call Patti at 309-697-3385 and let her know you are interested in helping out our wonderful organization. If she does not answer, please leave a message on her landline and she will get back to you. She would appreciate your help so she will not have to make all the calls herself.

It is very important that if you make a reservation for the luncheon that you show up. I try to the best of my ability to get an accurate count each month. When people just show up without a reservation it very well might be that Barrick's is not able to feed the extra people. You will be sent a bill if you are a No Show and you have made a reservation with a caller. I want to thank all of the awesome ladies who have said they will help me out by being a caller. I still need more volunteers. Thank you all for your support. It means a lot.

Patti Monks, PARTA Callers Chairperson



All those years of getting horrible elementary school pictures was just society's way of preparing you for your driver's license photo.

SOUNDINGS

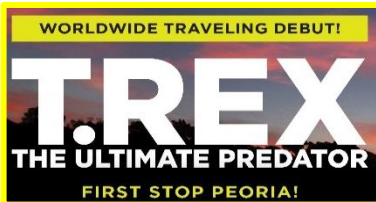
MAY TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY

Investment Balance: \$ 49,943.19	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund: \$ 398.01
Savings Balance: 9,016.09	Post Office Returned Mail Fund: 97.71
Checking Balance: 2,703.76	Working Cash (cash boxes): 100.00



GRAND TOTAL: \$ 62,258.76
Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer

PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM LANDS MAJOR DINOSAUR EXHIBIT



INTERNATIONAL DEBUT! FIRST STOP PEORIA! MAY 29 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6

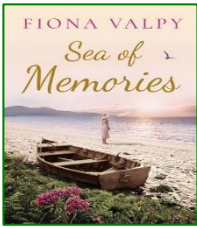
A jaw-dropping new exhibition about the world's most iconic dinosaur! "T. rex: The Ultimate Predator"

introduces you to the entire tyrannosaur superfamily and reveals the amazing story of the most iconic dinosaur in the world through stunning life-sized models, fossils and casts, and a shadow theater recreating an epic battle. This exhibition, based on the latest T. rex research, is on the road for first time directly from the founder and leading researcher of T. rex, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), NYC.

More information online at: <https://peoriariverfrontmuseum.org/>

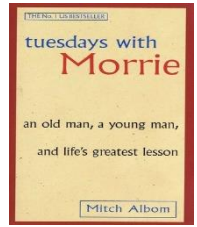
WARNING: You may never think of T. rex the same way again!

PARTA MEMBERS READ AND RECOMMEND



Sea of Memories by Fiona Valpy

Darcy Gallagher has always believed in the pull of fate, the magic of legend...and the importance of money. She longs to find a rich man who will sweep her away — into a world filled with glamour and adventure, and the exotic life that is her destiny... A wealthy businessman with Irish blood, Trevor Magee has come to Ardmore to build a theater—and to uncover the secrets hidden in his family's past. He thought he had given up on love long ago, but Darcy Gallagher tempts him like no woman ever has. She's gorgeous and intelligent, and she knows what she wants—and he's more than willing to give it to her. But as their mutual attraction flares into passion, they look into their hearts—and find out what happens when you truly believe.



Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, and gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying of ALS. Mitch visited Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final 'class': lessons in how to live.

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow. ~ Helen Keller

SOUNDINGS

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PARTA/IRTA MEMBERS

What: Area 4 IRTA IV Conference
When: Thursday, June 27 @ 9:30 AM
Where: Virtual (*New Platform*)

- Meet Members of your IRTA Team
- Learn What's New in the IRTA
- Agenda Details in June *Soundings*

PLEASE CONSIDER AND ATTEND THIS FREE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

TRIVIA QUESTION What company “crawled” onto the New York Stock Exchange in 1929 with just three products: a Combine, a Grader and a Tractor (Answer on Page 7)

THE HELP YOU DO FOR OTHERS, ALWAYS GETS BACK TO YOU!

A man was driving his car when he saw an older lady stranded on the side of the road. He saw that she needed help. So, he stopped his Pontiac near her Mercedes and got out. He smiled while he was approaching her, still she was worried as nobody had stopped for hours. Moreover, he did not look safe, as his appearance was so poor and shabby. He could see how frightened she was, so he tried to calm her. “I’m here to help you, don’t worry. My name is Bryan Anderson.”



The tire was flat, so he had to crawl under the car. While changing the tire, he got dirty, and his hands were hurt. When the job was done, she asked how much she owed him for his help. Bryan smiled. He said, “If you really want to pay me back, the next time you see someone who needs help, give that person the needed assistance and think of me.”



That same evening the lady stopped by a small cafe. That place looked dingy. Then she saw a waitress nearly eight months pregnant, wiping her wet forehead with a towel. The waitress had a sweet friendly smile, although she had been on her feet the whole day. The lady wondered how someone who had so little, could be so kind and giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

The lady had finished her meal and paid with a hundred-dollar bill. The waitress went to get change and when she came back, the lady was gone. She left a note on the napkin that said, “You don’t owe me anything. Somebody once helped me just like now I’m helping you. If you really want to pay me back, do not let this chain of love end with you.” The waitress found four more one-hundred-dollar bills under the napkin.

That night the waitress went home early. She was thinking about the lady and the money she left. She was wondering how the lady could know how much she and her husband needed it, especially now when the baby would arrive soon. She knew that her husband worried about that, so she was glad to tell him the good news. Then she kissed him and whispered, “Now everything will be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson.”



Not muting your microphone in Zoom is the new “Reply All”.

ZOOM HUMOR

Zoom meetings are basically seances with the living...

“Brian, are you there? Make a sound if you can hear us. Is anyone with you? Can you hear us?”

I was waiting on a Zoom call to start, but the client was having technical issues.

The client texted and said, “please bare with me.” I thought it was an odd request, but he's the client. Eventually we got the video to work, but now I'm fired.

SOUNDINGS



PARTA's ICC SCHOLARSHIPS

It is time to start collecting money for additional ICC scholarships. I believe, that *now more than ever*, we need to encourage and support those in the teaching profession. I will bring collection envelopes to our May meeting at Barrack's Cater Inn.



Make check payable to *ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION* and write on the check memo line: *Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association.*

VALDA SHIPP, SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Fink	Susan	401 Elgin AVE	Washington	IL	61571-1120	685-2808	New address & phone	
Harvey	Sandy	harveysandy1025@gmail.com					New email	

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

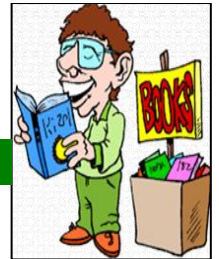


BATTERY COLLECTION CONTINUES

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.



WHAT NEWSPAPERS ARE REPORTING: CAPITOLFAX.COM/2021/03/12/

The FY 2022 Proposed General Fund Budget makes one fact abundantly clear: spending on services is not driving the state's fiscal problems. After acknowledging bolder plans for the upcoming fiscal year, Governor Pritzker ultimately proposed spending \$27.748 billion on public services, which is roughly the same in nominal dollars as FY 2021. After adjusting for inflation, however, the total amount of spending on services proposed for FY 2022 would be \$434 million less in real terms than in FY 2021.

Which means the often repeated contention that Illinois's fiscal problems are caused by profligate spending on services is simply not supported by the data. Indeed, quite the contrary is true. As Governor Pritzker noted during his budget address: "Illinois state government already spends less money per person than the majority of states in the nation."

Big picture, Illinois' ongoing disinvestment in General Fund services is harming communities across the state for one simple reason: over 95 percent of all such spending goes to the four, core areas of Education (including Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education), Healthcare, Human Services, and Public Safety. So, what drove Illinois to embark on its long-term course of disinvesting in core, General Fund services? A structural deficit caused by flawed tax policy that generates inadequate revenue growth over-time; and the unaffordable back-loaded schedule for repaying the debt the state owes to its five public pension systems.

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

PASSPORT TRAVEL SERVICES, POWERED BY HOTEL PLANNER



OFFER DETAILS: *As IRTA members, you are entitled to save up to 65% when you book your lodging with Passport Travel Services - all major brands, plus air, car rental, and group travel.*

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

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

CYBERCRIMINALS STOLE \$1.8 BILLION FROM UNSUSPECTING OLDER AMERICANS IN 2020

Cybercrime complaints soared to a record high last year, when total losses surpassed \$4.2 billion and losses to those 50 and older exceeded \$1.8 billion, according to FBI data for 2020.

The nearly 792,000 in overall reports from all ages was a 69% jump from 2019. The increase was blamed on crooks who exploited the COVID-19 pandemic for financial gain. In 2020, while the American public was focused on protecting our families from a global pandemic and helping others in need, cybercriminals took advantage of the opportunity to profit from our dependence on technology to go on an internet crime spree.



FRAUD ALERT



TO PREVENT SUCH CRIMES, THE FBI OFFERS THESE KEY TIPS

Use extreme caution in online communication. Verify the sender of an email. Criminals sometimes will change just one letter in an email address to make it look like one you know. Be very wary of attachments or links. Hover your mouse over a link before clicking, to see where it's sending you.

Question anyone offering you something that seems too good to be true. This guidance also pertains to purported medical advice and so-called secret investment opportunities.

Rely on trusted sources for information. For medical information, turn to your own doctor, your health department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For consumer protection information, turn to the Federal Trade Commission; for tax information, try the Internal Revenue Service.

Source: <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/>

TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS (TRS) | December 31, 2020 Statistics
The System is the 40th largest pension system in the United States and serves 427,000 members with assets of \$57.2 billion.

TRIVIA ANSWER (Question on Page 5) CATERPILLAR

PEORIA AREA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
308 JAMES PARKWAY
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-1041

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PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Unit #32 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



PARTA OFFICERS 2021 - 2022

- Dixie Wheeler, *President*
- Roger Hampton, *1st Vice President*
- Jeannie Blane, *2nd Vice President*
- Deloris Turner, *Secretary*
- Jeff Vallosio, *Treasurer*

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR 70 YEARS**

online @
PA-RTA.WEEBLY.COM/
Sally Weber, *Webmaster*