

PARTA SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2018

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LUNCHEON MEETING

February 5, 2018
11:30 A.M.
Barracks Cater Inn
Luncheon: \$12.00

Greeters

-  M
-  S

Invocation

-  Frances Farraher

Pledge

-  Frances Farraher

Luncheon

Chicken Breast
w/Tuscan Cream Sauce
Vegetable - Roll
Assorted Salads
Dessert

Program

PERSONAL SAFETY

Presenter:

Aimee L. Shinall

Victim Service Coordinator
Peoria County
Sheriff's Office

Meeting

Chairperson:

Abby Humbles,
PARTA President

*PARTA meetings begin
after lunch, around 12:20.*

Meetings are free.



ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year PARTA Members. After a break for the holidays, we are excited to see everyone for the February meeting.



As always, please let us know if you need any special assistance or dietary restrictions. We want our PARTA Members to feel welcome and are happy to help if we can. We hope to see you at the February meeting to learn about Personal Safety.

Thank you, Abby Humbles, PARTA President

UPCOMING PARTA MEETINGS / PROGRAMS

MARCH 5

Peoria Humane Society



PEORIA
HUMANE
SOCIETY

Kitty Yanko, Education Coordinator

APRIL 2

MEMBER BENEFITS

Larry Newman

District Manager, AMBA

Roger Hampton, President, IRTA



**MAY 7, JUNE 4, SEPTEMBER 10, OCTOBER 1
NOVEMBER 5, DECEMBER 3**

NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

*Details and updated information about each of our meetings
are online at: pa-rta.weebly.com/
(Sally Weber, Webmaster)*

AT EVERY MEETING

Book Exchange Table:

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

Used Battery
Recycling
Collection

There are 9 issues of Soundings published each year. The February and September issues are mailed. The other issues are available at the monthly meetings. All issues are on the PARTA webpage.

People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing! That's why we recommend it daily. – Zig Ziglar



SOUNDINGS

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked today's greeters, Frances Farraher and Ann Christophel, the cashiers, and the callers. She also thanked Patty Monks for helping with the callers and passing around cards for Nancy Wing. Jean Thieman gave the invocation and led the pledge. Attendance today was 86. Abby welcomed any new people to the meeting. She reminded everyone to take a bag of popcorn as a gift from PARTA.

After the luncheon, Ann introduced our program, Peoria Area Accordion Club, led by the president, Judy Ernst. They played a variety of songs, ending with Christmas songs.

Abby called the business meeting to order.

- The minutes were approved as printed in the *Soundings*.
- Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. The report was filed for audit.
- Abby asked for a show of hands of those



interested in having paper shredding available at a meeting.

- The book table was explained. Books, magazines, greeting cards, or calendars may be brought to the exchange table. Members may take anything that appeals to them. This will be a monthly table.
- Members are needed for the membership committee.
- Substitute callers are needed.
- If you have a membership question, call John Rathbun. The \$15 annual dues begin in January.
- Ann Winget said the February program is "Personal Safety", presented by Aimee L. Shinall, the Victim Service Coordinator of the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.
- Frances Farraher reported that PARTA lost no members last month. The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully Submitted **Kathy Simpson, Secretary**

CHANGE OF INFORMATION *PRINTED IN DECEMBER 2017 SOUNDINGS*

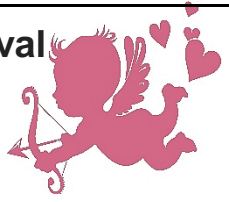
~~Increasing membership: If you bring a prospective member, you both get \$2 off your meal.~~

After discussion with the treasurer and reservation coordinator, this item has been tabled until the next PARTA board meeting.



TREASURER	Investment Balance	\$41,339.69	REPORT
	Savings Balance	6,945.06	
	Checking Balance	2,426.17	
	Working Cash (cash boxes)	100.00	
	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	244.64	
	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	61.52	
	Grand Total	\$51,117.08	
Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer			

VALENTINE'S DAY The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.



SOUNDINGS

PARTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

don't forget to pay
your
ANNUAL DUES

For many of our members, January represents the beginning of a new membership year. Dues for Annual Members and Associate Members is \$15.00. Dues may

be paid at a regular PARTA meeting or sent to: →

Checks should be made out to PARTA.

If you joined last fall, your first year's membership extends thru 2018. 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 you may know who wishes to join PARTA, a membership form may be obtained from <https://pa-rta.weebly.com>. Or you may contact John Rathbun at genrebun@aol.com.

John Rathbun, Membership
308 James Pkwy
Washington, IL 61571

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (IRTA) MEMBERSHIP

WHY JOIN IRTA?

- Legislative representation and advocacy for improved retirement benefits (health insurance, pension funding, etc.)
- Legislative Updates
- Member Benefits, etc.

**Former retirees worked for the
benefits you have today.
It is now Your Time!**

TYPES OF IRTA MEMBERSHIPS:

- Dues Deduct Members - have \$2.50 deducted each month from your pension
Sign Up for Dues Deduct Membership Online with E-Signature!
<https://form.jotform.com/73465255545159>
- Life Members – one-time fee of \$400

Available to those not drawing a pension from TRS:

- Associate Annual Members - pay \$25 each year
- Associate Life Members – one-time fee of \$125



NOTE FROM NANCY WING: PARTA Members,

Thank you for the calls, cards, visits, and prayers of the past three months. They are much appreciated and have helped me to keep fighting everything I have endured. Thank you also to all who stepped up and saw that my PARTA responsibilities were fulfilled when I was suddenly unavailable. After three hospital and three nursing home stays, I may be home by the time you are reading this. I will still face months of therapy and recovery, but my goal is to attend a PARTA meeting before the summer break arrives. Hope to see you then!

Q: Are you a scratch player? **A:** I sure am! Every time I hit the ball I scratch my head and wonder where it went.



SOUNDINGS

NEW SESSION WILL BRING NEW EFFORTS AT PENSION REFORM

Illinois lawmakers are gearing up to start another spring session that will include more attempts to address an issue that has remained stubbornly elusive so far. What can the state do to rein in the cost of public employee pensions and try to address the \$129 billion debt faced by the five state-funded pension systems? A number of ideas are floating around the General Assembly, from an idea to issue billions of dollars in bonds to pay off the existing debt at a lower interest rate, to an idea that would give some employees a cash incentive to accept smaller future increases in their retirement benefits after they retire.

As always, lawmakers will have to consider any changes with an eye to what the courts will find acceptable, given the pension protection clause in the state Constitution.

ELECTION There's also
2018 the fact this is an election year when the Executive Mansion, along with dozens of legislative races, is at stake. "Can you get anything done in an election year?" said Representative Robert Martwick, chairman of the House Personnel and Pensions Committee. "Maybe that's the problem."

The other problem is that the state Supreme Court has ruled that the state cannot diminish benefits for people once they've joined one of the pension systems. "I think the (Supreme Court) decision is crystal clear," Martwick said. That means Illinois can't follow the lead of Ohio, for instance, where that state's largest public pension system recommended cutting benefits to cope with its own huge pension debt. The system recommended cutting the automatic 3% increases in pension benefits awarded to retirees each year.

LARGEST BOND SALE IN HISTORY BEING EXPLORED BY ILLINOIS

An idea that will at least get some discussion in Springfield is a massive bond issue that would be applied to the state's pension debt. The idea is the money could be borrowed at a lower interest rate than the state is essentially paying on its \$129 billion pension debt. The idea is being pushed by the State Universities Annuitants Association.

A fact sheet from the association says that \$107 billion in bonds would be sold and repaid over 27 years. It contends the state would save \$103 billion by 2045 over the payment plan currently in effect. Martwick acknowledged "this would be the largest bond sale in the history of the world" and said additional hearings would have to be scheduled with bond experts to see if such a sale is feasible. But he also said, the idea is worth exploring.



"I think the ideas and concepts make sense," he said. "We are going to pay our pensions one way or another. The only question is how does the rising pension obligation affect our ability to fund all of the other things we care about."

Continued on page 5: "Pension Debt"

LIFE MORAL ON POSSESSIONS: Spending wisely and appropriately is a good sign if you do it for a good purpose. Otherwise, a possession is worth no more than the use we make of it.



SOUNDINGS

2018 IRTA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



The IRTA Foundation awards six \$1,500 scholarships in each of the IRTA Areas of the State to incoming juniors or seniors in college that are pursuing a degree in education. Thanks to a very generous private donation from one of our members, Areas 4 and 6 will each award a second scholarship of \$2,500. Applications are available on the IRTA website www.irtaonline.org under the Foundation tab, or by contacting Susan Goetz at the IRTA Office 1-800-728-4782 or email susan@irtaonline.org.

APPLICATION DEADLINE – MARCH 7, 2018

KICKING THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD

Continued from page 4: "Pension Debt"

Another option is to restructure the existing pension debt and take more time to pay it off. The plan would ease pressure on the annual payments the state has to make to the pension plans. The idea has been promoted by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability among others. CTBA executive director Ralph Martire said the plan would set a slightly lower target for the pension funds to be considered adequately funded, although still meeting acceptable standards. The problem is the date for reaching those targets is extended.

"You do have pressure created by editorial boards and others who say if you don't follow the current (payment plan) and you get funded to a lesser amount, aren't you kicking the can down the road," Martire said. "No politician wants to be accused of kicking the can down the road. That attack has a lot of political value and it really makes elected officials nervous."



AMAZON If you make purchases from Amazon, a percentage of all purchases can go to the IRTA Foundation. Foundation money is used to assist retired educators, grants for current teachers, and scholarships for future teachers. Use the following link and start helping the foundation today:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1183315>

Same Class? While waiting for my first appointment in the reception room of a new dentist, I noticed his certificate hanging on the wall; it gave his full name. Thinking hard, I remembered that a tall, handsome boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 42 years ago. Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, grey-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate. After he had examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended the local high school. 'Yes,' he replied. 'When did you graduate?' I asked. He answered, 'In 1971. Why?' 'You were in my class!' I exclaimed. He looked at me closely, and then the thoughtless idiot asked, 'What did you teach?'



SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

FLOWER DISCOUNTS

Save up to 15% on discounts from 1.800.Flowers when ordering by phone at 1.800.356.9377, or online at www.1-800-Flowers.com.

Discount code can be found online.

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

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



Over 100 members of IRTA had an awesome experience cruising the Caribbean with other Illinois teachers on the MSC Seaside, January 6 – 13, 2018.

You won't want to miss the next IRTA trip.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteering has been proven to provide many benefits to both mental and physical health.

- Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-worth and life satisfaction.
- Volunteering helps combat depression.
- Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy.

PARTA and IRTA has many opportunities for volunteers.

Please let us know what your interests are.



COLONOSCOPY HUMOR: A physician claims these are actual comments that his patients made while he was performing colonoscopies.

- Can you hear me NOW?
- Hey!! Now I know how a Muppet feels!
- Hey, Doc, let me know if you find my dignity.
- Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?"
- Take it easy, Doc, you're boldly going where no man has gone before.
- You put your left hand in, you take your left hand out. You do the Hokey Pokey.
- Could you write me a note for my wife, saying that my head is not, in fact, up there?"



SOUNDINGS

IRTA PRESS RELEASE

Peorian Roger Hampton was elected president of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) for the 2018 - 2019 term of office at their biennial convention in Springfield. He is a retired teacher from Peoria Heights Community Unit School District #325.



IRTA is an association of 36,000 retired educators that works to “preserve the constitutionally protected benefits of retirees,” he said in a news release announcing his election. Hampton has been a member of IRTA for the last fourteen years and is also an active member of the local chapter, Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association (PARTA). Roger served on the IRTA Executive Board of Directors as vice-president and area representative and is the co-owner and president of The H Team Inc., a consulting firm, and serves as president of a local homeowner’s association. He is a singer in the Peoria Area Civic Chorale, sings in the Grace Presbyterian Church choir, and volunteers with a variety of civic and faith-based organization.



There have been two members of the Peoria Area Retired Teachers Association who have served as president of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

The first was Louis R. McDonald. He was president from 1980 -1981. McDonald was the first principal of Woodruff High School in Peoria, Illinois, serving until 1969.

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR DIRECTORY

Kosier	Jeanette	251-1642	New phone
Ranney	Jim	jimsan63@comcast.net	New email

DATABASE MAINTAINED BY JOHN RATHBUN

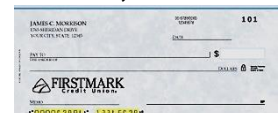
Lost in His Own Back Yard?

One day a police car pulled up to Grandma’s home and Grandpa got out. The constable explained that this elderly gentleman had said he was lost in the Victoria park. 'Why, Ivor, 'said Grandma, 'You've been going there for over 30 years! How on earth could you say you had got lost?' Leaning close to Granny so the police officer couldn't hear, he whispered, 'Wasn't exactly lost. I was just too tired to walk home.'



Valuable Lesson!

Victoria, a middle-aged mother, decided that she wasn't going to remind her kids any longer of their need to write thank-you notes when they received presents. The result of this was that Grandpa never received any thank-you letters for the very generous checks he'd written to the children. However, the following year, things were different. 'All the kids came over personally to thank me,' declared Grandpa in a triumphant manner. 'That's good,' commented his friend, 'why do you think they decided to change their behavior?' 'Well, that's easy,' declared Grandpa, 'this year I didn't sign the checks.'



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 2017 - 2018

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

**SERVING
RETIRED TEACHERS
FOR OVER 66 YEARS**

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