



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

<http://www.irta-unit90.org>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 7, 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 19 (M) – Area II Conference
April 26 (Th) – Tour with Bill Hinchliff
June 12 (T) – Summer Luncheon
September 20 (Th) – Day at the Races
October 2 (T) -- Legislative Breakfast
December 4 (T) – Holiday Luncheon

ANOTHER YEAR: GREETINGS

As president, I wish to welcome you to another exciting year with Unit 90 and to encourage you to become involved with our various programs and activities. The spring tour will be held in April and will be hosted by Bill Hinchliff. See the enclosed flyer for more information. We also have plans for two luncheons (Summer and Holiday), a Day at the Races in September and a Legislative Breakfast early October. Please join us in our activities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The new session at London and Cooper Middle Schools runs from April 4 - May 16. Tutors are needed from 3:30 - 5:30 on Mon. or Wed.

Senior Celebration is at Arlington International Racecourse on May 9 from 11:15 - 3:15. Volunteers are needed to help at several of the booths at this free event.

The Kenneth Young Center in Elk Grove Village is looking for individuals able to drive for Meals-on-Wheels, friendly visitors, shoppers, day program aides for adults with mental illness, handy-persons and resale shop workers.

For all of the above, contact RSVP at 847-228-1006 or at www.volunteerinfo.net

The Arlington Heights Senior Center is also looking for Meals-on-Wheels drivers as well as an audio-video person for monthly movies, cafe assistant, clerical/receptionist and office support staff. If interested, contact volunteer coordinator Sharon Swanson at the AH Senior Center - 847-253-5532 or sswanson@vah.com.

TRS REPORT by Bob Lyons, Elected Annuitant, TRS Board

You did know that the Cost of our Health Insurance is Not Protected by the Constitution

The other day driving past the apartment complex at Grand Canyon and Higgins Road in Hoffman Estates I saw that one of three flags they were flying was the Illinois State Flag. It was upside down. While no one has to tell us that the state is in distress, we unfortunately do have further evidence. Governor Quinn presented his state budget on February 22 and cut nearly \$87 million in funding for the retired teachers insurance program, which serves over 71,000 of us. Kelly Kraft, spokesperson for the Governor, defended the cut by saying it was due to the “state’s fiscal challenges created over decades of mismanagement.” An acceptable defense if you can claim that you just got there. She continued by saying that retired teachers, “will still be able to buy into the state system to receive health insurance by making up the contributions.”

If you have ever wondered what you have gained by your membership in the Illinois Teachers Retirement Association, this will be our opportunity to demonstrate what your dues have gained you. You can expect that the IEA and IFT will be working for you at the negotiating table, but protecting retired teachers’ health care will be one of a number of items on their agenda and by no means the most important. For the IRTA, it will be the reason that we are there. Regardless of the Civic Federation’s recent suggestion that the State should change our automatic COLAs, you will not see the legislature go after our benefits until they have tested in the courts the constitutional protections of retirement benefits for active teachers and other current public employees. Our struggles this spring will be centered on limiting as well as we can the growth of the health care premiums that retirees have to pay.

Having gone two out of the last three years without an increase in TRIP health care costs simply because the state did not want to match our higher contributions, the IRTA not only expected that retirees would need to pay more, but that it would be above the 5% limit called for under the existing contract. Of course we didn’t expect that Quinn would take the state out of the equation completely. In my opinion this is a bargaining position on the part of the Governor’s office and that our costs to them are secondary to what the state currently pays for health care for retired state employees, 90 percent of them – those that worked twenty years or more – pay none of the costs for their health care. The state is concerned with saving money from us, but they are more concerned with having retired state workers pay more because more money, just over \$750 million, is involved.

Currently the \$500 million cost of TRIP is divided up with retirees paying the most - 42%. Active teachers currently pay 19%, which is the amount then matched by the state, school districts pay in 14%, and the federal government, covering those teachers that work under federal grants, pays 6%.

You can count on the IFT and the IEA to be concerned about your health care costs, but they will also be concerned with what active teachers have to pay. You can be certain the IRTA’s sole concern will be to limit the increase that you will need to pay. Call, email, and visit your state legislator and tell them your story about the importance of your health insurance.

Allocating no state money for TRIP in the budget proposal does not in any way affect any member’s current health insurance – at least until June 30 of this year.

IRTA Unit 90

Income/Expense Statement for 2011

Balance Sheet for 2011

Income		Checking Account	
Membership Dues	\$5,633.00	Balance 1/1/2011	\$16,420.31
		Income	\$5,633.00
		Expenses	\$7,043.84
		Balance 12/31/2011	\$15,009.47
Total Income		CD'S	\$5,757.28
Expenses		Advocacy Funds	
Printing & Mailing	\$2,255.05	Balance 1/1/2011	\$153.00
State Convention	\$1,090.00	Donations	\$0.00
Bank Fees	\$30.10	Paid Out	\$0.00
Luncheons	\$533.85	Balance 12/31/2011	\$153.00
Foundations	\$275.00	IRTAPAC Funds	
Area 2 Conference	\$208.00	Balance 1/1/2011	\$513.00
Newbee Breakfast	\$289.74	Donations	\$340.00
Membership Expense	\$259.16	Paid Out	\$0.00
Day at the Races	\$164.38	Balance 12/31/2011	\$853.00
Bus Tours	\$1,568.96	Total All Accounts	
Website	\$369.60		\$21,772.75
Total Expenses	\$7,043.84		

Unit 90 WEBSITE: www.irta-unit90.org

If you have not done so yet, please check out the NEW Unit 90 website, which includes current information on the following topics: Executive Board members and meeting minutes, the latest IRTA Call to Action, GPO/WEP Issues, 2012 IRTA Foundation Scholarship information, TRS reports and pension concerns, legislative updates, and Unit 90 events with photos! Our thanks go to the Webmaster, Reinhard Taylor.

UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings of the Unit 90 Executive Board are open to ALL interested members. Please join us on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month (except July and December) at the Arlington Heights Senior Center at 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNICATION: E-MAIL UPDATES/NEWSLETTERS

If you are not currently receiving e-mail updates and want to receive them, please send your name and e-mail address to Bill McCauley at wcm211@comcast.net with the subject IRTA UPDATES.

In an effort to reduce duplicating and postage costs, we are asking you to sign up to receive your newsletter on our website instead of by regular mail for those who have e-mail and would like them delivered in this manner. Again please e-mail Bill McCauley with the subject IRTA NEWSLETTER.

Also if you want a current copy of Unit 90's directory emailed to you, email me, Len Kortekaas, at lmkortekaas@yahoo.com and I will forward one to you. (Email only please as no printed copies are available)

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2012

OFFICERS:

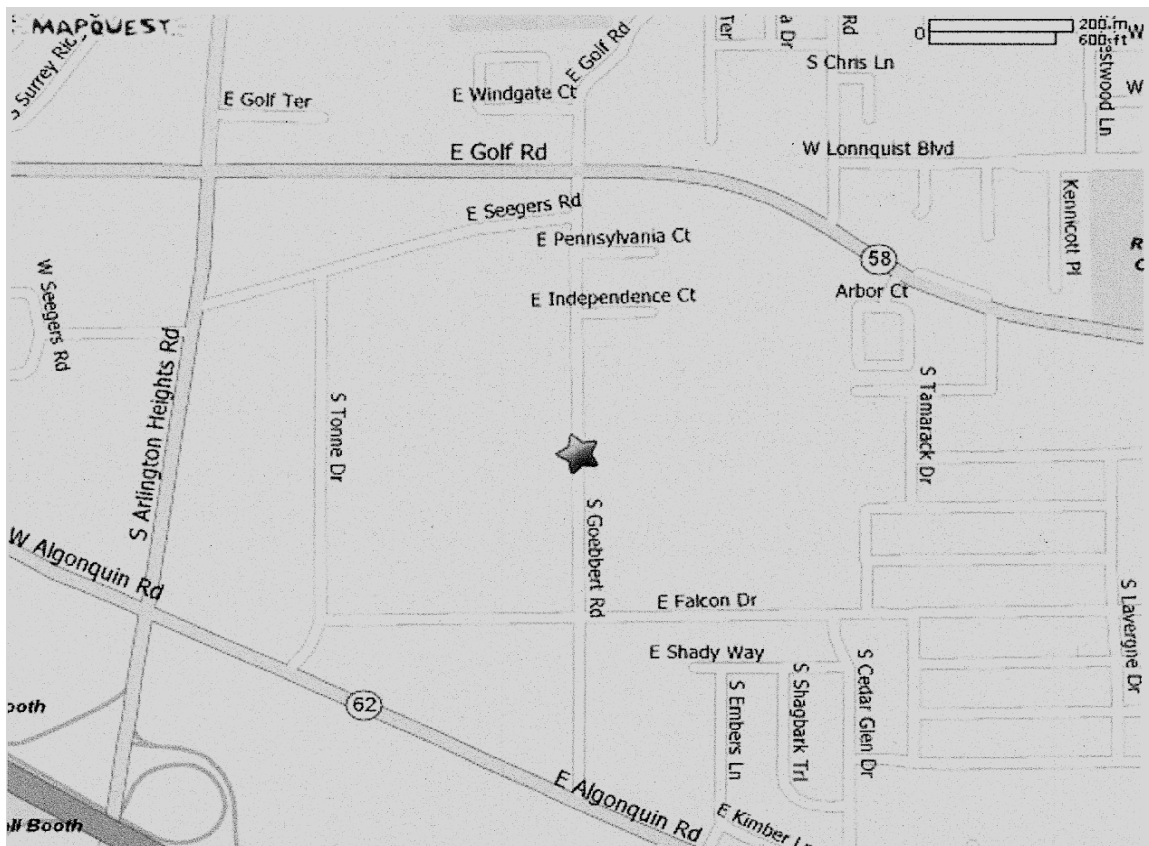
President:	Leonard Kortekaas : lmkortekaas@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Liz White
Secretary:	Richard O'Brien
Treasurer:	Robert Ferguson

CHAIRS:

Membership:	Roberta Reinhardt
Communications:	William McCauley
Webmaster:	Reinhard Taylor
Legislative:	Robert Lyons and Jesse Macro
Foundation:	Doris Haack
Program Coordinators:	Rich Chierico, Carolyn White
Information Services:	Richard Chierico
Member Benefits:	Denise Florczak
Volunteer Services:	Carolyn White
Ambassador:	Roger Steingraber

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21 Tall Grass Court
Streamwood, IL 60107-1277

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





IRTA Unit 90

Invites you to join us on our Spring Tour Thursday, April 26, 2012

Bill Hinchliff will direct a tour of four churches/synagogues to see an amazing variety of architectural and stained glass styles. Discover why Chicago is one of the best places in the U.S. to explore religious architecture and decorations. Bill has done countless stained glass tours since 1994 for the Art Institute of Chicago, picking a different group of interiors each year. As Bill has come to know some fifty buildings, the tour should prove incredible.

For further information, go to Unit 90's website: www.irta-unit90.org
Or call Liz White: (847) 397-1678

Bus Loading: 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 am; Bus Departure: 9:00 a.m.

Bus Returns: Approximately 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00 (including lunch at Manny's)

Participants limited to the first 54 who sign up.

Limit of one guest per member, unless space is available.

Departure from: Forest View Education Center

North Parking Lot A 2121 S. Goebert Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Return this reservation form with your check (made out to IRTA Unit 90) to:

Liz White, 5805 Prairie Lane; Palatine, Illinois 60067

Name (Print): _____ Phone or Cell: _____

Email address _____

Guest (Print): _____ Phone or Cell: _____

Email address _____

Please reserve _____ places at \$50.00 each.

Enclose your check, made payable to: **Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**

Reservation Deadline - Tuesday, April 17, 2012