



# IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

## News in Short

### Jane McCauley: New Newsletter Editor

I would like to introduce myself as your new newsletter editor. If you have comments, suggestions or changes you'd like to see, please email me at: [wcm211@comcast.net](mailto:wcm211@comcast.net)

And be patient with me...

### Dave Davison New State IRTA President

I plan to work with all IRTA members and our leadership team in the State Central Office to protect our pensions and subsidized health insurance. The decision of the Illinois State

Supreme Court that our pension benefits cannot be diminished is cause for celebration. However, we must remain ever vigilant regarding future attempts to diminish them in some way.



## President's Notes

### Another Year's Greeting

I wish to welcome you to another exciting year with Unit 90 and encourage you to become involved with our various programs and activities. Our first opportunity this year is to attend our Area Conference. Members from other local units gather in West Dundee to listen and discuss issues and benefits of IRTA membership. Unit 90 will provide all expenses for registration and lunch to attend as a member of our delegation. For more information, or to sign up contact me at [kaplanbob55@gmail.com](mailto:kaplanbob55@gmail.com). This April 20th, Unit 90 is going to the Paramount Theater to see West Side Story. Please contact Liz White to sign up for this matinee performance. We look forward to seeing you at all of our Unit 90 events! Of course, you are always invited to join us on the first Wednesday of every month (except no meeting in July and December) for our executive board meetings at the Arlington Heights Senior Center in Room 172 starting at 10 a.m. Thanks for being a member of Unit 90 and the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

## Big News

Recently the Unit 90 executive board changed our membership fee structure for dues. We made available lifetimes dues at the incredible low price of \$100.00. Unlike state license plates you will never again have to pay Unit 90 dues. Please join me as a new lifetime member of Unit 90!!!! You can join at any time.

# Northwest Suburban IRTA

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

## Unit 90 Membership Form

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If we have your email address we'll email your Newsletters and Membership Directory to you.

Retirement Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired from School District: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please notify us if you have a change of address etc.**



**Don't forget to also join  
the State IRTA**

<http://www.irtaonline.org/>

### Unit 90 Dues (January - December)

**Yearly Membership \$10**

**Five Years \$40**

If you're 90 or older, membership is free! Let us know  
your birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Membership \$100**

Please enclose a check made payable to:

**Northwest Suburban IRTA**

Mail check and membership form to:

**Roberta Reinhardt**

**964 Burgess Circle**

**Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-1205**

If you have any questions, email or call:

[burgesscir@earthlink.net](mailto:burgesscir@earthlink.net) -or- 847-634-0540

## Bob Lyons Reports



*By now you will have no doubt seen the Civic Federation's latest ideas to save the state money at the cost of Illinois teachers and other public employees. They have first proposed consolidating the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System with the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund. Their argument will be that it will save some amount of money, but there are better and more compelling realities that both are better off apart. Less than twenty years ago CTP was 100 percent funded, but the city then asked and received the state's permission to declare a pension holiday. There was the obvious result and, while their funded status is still ahead of ours, they are not only not well funded, but their fund is also much smaller than ours. Each board has their own investment policy and both would be opposed to consolidation just in terms of control of the fund. The Civic Federation's concept is just that, an*

*idea, and is far from being a bill. Given the obvious rivalry between the city and the rest of the state, this proposal is not happening.*

*Their second idea is one we have been expecting: "a constitutional amendment limiting pension protection." Since any attempt to limit benefits that have already been earned would be thrown out as unconstitutional, the Civic Federation proposes to limit protection only on those benefits teachers and public employees would earn in the future. That of course means it would not apply to anyone who has already retired, but it would imperil the amount of revenue that comes from active employees that the states uses to pay benefits to those of us retired. Since cutting benefits and what workers pay for them does not take away from what they already owe to current retirees, this idea actually offers little benefit to the state. Where the state gets their revenue in no way changes what they owe. It is difficult to see how this proposal will ever reach the stage where it would be a proposed constitutional amendment.*

*Keeping your membership up-to-date with both our local as well as the state IRTA is still an important thing to do, but do not lose any sleep out of concern for what the Civic Federation has proposed so far. Remember that our organization and its 36,000 members is the only group whose sole goal is to protect you and your pension and health insurance. The IRTA exists for that reason.*

Bob Lyons



## Carolyn White's Volunteer Report



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Jane Addams Elementary School in Palatine is looking for tutors to help students with homework assignments, prepare for tests as well as comprehend content. Tutors would work with 4th, 5th and 6th graders in math, science, English and reading. The homework club meets Mon. through Fri. in the library during the students' lunch and recess from 12:00 to 1:00. Tutors can pick which day(s) work best for them.

Jack London Middle School in Wheeling is looking for tutors for an after school program which meets Mon. and Wed. from 3:30 to 5:30. Tutors work one-to-one or with small groups of students in math and reading.

Both of these tutoring positions require a background check. For more information or to sign up for any of the above, go to [www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org](http://www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org), email [volunteer@volunteerinfo.net](mailto:volunteer@volunteerinfo.net) or phone 847-228-1320.



It's quite possibly one of the greatest love stories ever to be told in a musical. Set in the blue-collar neighborhood of New York's Upper West Side, racial tensions run high as residents try to grind out a daily living. A turf war is being fought as the Jets, a white gang, and the Sharks, a Puerto Rican gang, battle over boundaries. In the heart of the turmoil, former Jets member Tony meets Maria at a local dance. The chemistry is instantaneous, and for a few hours, there is no race, no hatred, no barriers, just two young people in love. But Maria is the sister of Sharks' leader Bernardo, and no one is going to make it easy for Tony and Maria to escape. From heart-wrenching ballads like "Somewhere" and steamy Latin beats in "America" to the soaring lyrics of "Tonight," West Side Story is a Leonard Bernstein & Stephen Sondheim musical masterpiece. The choreography is a fine balance of vicious intensity and romance that will take your breath away. It makes no difference if you've seen West Side Story before or if you've never seen it at all. Like all the shows before them, Paramount's creative team will take this production to a level that will make this THE West Side Story you never forget.

**IRTA - Unit 90 is offering a trip to the  
Paramount Theatre in Aurora, IL to see *West Side Story*  
on Wednesday April 20, 2016 for a 1:30 pm matinee performance  
for \$50 (Includes theater ticket and bus - Lunch on your own)**

All seats are on the main floor. One guest per member, unless space is available. Available lunch venues include numerous local eateries as well as restaurants in the Casino, which is located across the street from the Paramount Theater

**Departure from: Forest View Education Center at 10 am - return around 5 pm  
North Parking Lot A 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005**

Return this reservation form with your check (made out to NW Suburban IRTA Unit 90) to:  
Liz White, 5805 Prairie Ln, Palatine, IL 60067-7357  
**Questions? Please call Liz White: 847-397-1678**

\*\*\*\*\*

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$50.00 each for the **April 20, 2016** show and bus.

Enclose your check, made payable to: **Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**  
**Reservation Deadline March 31, 2016**



## Unit Honorees



### Bob Kaplan:

Our Unit 90 President, following Marti Swanson, is the new Area 2 Representative



### Len Kortekaas:

Our Unit 90 honoree at the 2015 IRTA State Convention being congratulated by the Unit President Bob Kaplan



## Merit Pay?

*Today in my 2nd grade class I had 1 student crying because her father is in jail and she is confused and scared, 2 students ask for food for their families for the weekend, 1 student sent to the office for a belt because their multi-generational hand-me down pants are too big, 1 student say they are moving because their landlord is raising the rent without warning, and this doesn't count the students that are put into my class because I am a former special education teacher that doesn't care if they are multiple grade levels behind.*

*Where's my merit pay for the food I buy to keep in my class for hungry students? Where's my merit pay for the clothes and chap stick I buy? Where's my merit pay for getting a student to read that hasn't read until the age of 8? Where's my merit pay for the blood, snot and tears I wipe on a daily basis?*

*I am a teacher. I chose to be a teacher. I LOVE being a teacher. But don't base my salary on how a 7 or 8 year old does one day on one biased test. No salary will ever be able to take the place of the love and care teachers provide for their students.*



*This essay comes from Sarah "Scheuch" Starforth, Overland KS*

---

## Upcoming Events

---

2016 Area 2 Conference (pdf)

March 14 , 2016

2016 Paramount Theater - West Side Story (pdf)

April 20 , 2016

2016 June Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)

June 14 , 2016

2016 Legislative Breakfast (Inverness Golf Club)

October 4 , 2016

2016 Holiday Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)

December 2 , 2016



More details at: <http://www.irta-unit90.org/events/>

---

## Did You Know...

---

....that due to the budget crisis in Illinois, the Secretary of State's Office is no longer reminding you to:

- 1.) purchase a new car license plate sticker ( check your license plate for the expiration month ),
- 2.) take your car in for required emissions testing?

To electronically renew your car license sticker and receive car license reminders in the future, register at the Secretary of State website at : [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) and click on "email My Renewal Notice". Motorists are also notified whether a vehicle emissions test is required before the registration is renewed."

According to the EPA website, normally, "Vehicles must pass an emissions test or otherwise comply with the Illinois Vehicle Emissions Law of 2005...before the vehicle's registration ( license plates ) can be renewed." But the Secretary of State is temporarily allowing license plate renewals for vehicle owners who have not yet passed the EPA emissions test.

Questions? Call the Illinois EPA at (847) 758 3400 or (800) 635 2380.

## Previous Event: Holiday Luncheon



### OFFICERS:

President: Robert Kaplan

Vice President: Liz White

Secretary: Linda Wallin

Treasurer: Sandy Ratter

### CHAIRS:

Membership: Roberta Reinhardt

Communications: Reinhard Taylor

Webmaster: Reinhard Taylor

Legislative: Robert Lyons and Jesse Macro

Foundation: Doris Haack

Program Coordinators: Rich Chierico, Liz White

Information Services: Reinhard Taylor

Member Benefits: Rich Chierico

Volunteer Services: Carolyn White

Newsletter Coordinator: Jane McCauley



**Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**  
**12 Country Oaks Ln.**  
**Barrington Hills, IL 60010-9620**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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