



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

News in Short

Dave Davison
State IRTA President



As I attend Area Conferences and Local Unit Meetings, I am often cautioned by members that IRTA cannot let its guard down when it comes to protecting our retirement benefits. In my presentations, I assure members that protecting our pension benefits is the number one goal of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. That is the number one reason, of many good ones, for people to join or to continue their membership in IRTA.

We go about this in a number of different ways. The effort is headed by our Executive Director, Jim Bachman. Jim has the help of Mary Shaw, our Director of Government Affairs, and Andrew Bodewes, a lobbyist we have contracted with on a part-time basis. These three have many years of experience working with members of the State Legislature. Jim has an especially strong background with over 30 years spent working with Illinois State Government. We are fortunate to have such capable people representing IRTA over at the Capitol. They are the nucleus of what I have been referring to as a "Legislative Team" we now have in place.



President's Notes

IRTAPAC PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

TRS hosts statewide meetings from September to November that are designed to explain the retirement process and to provide you with information about disability, death and insurance benefits. The meetings have been prepared for Tier I members. Tier I members first contributed to TRS before Jan. 1, 2011 or have pre-existing creditable service with a reciprocal pension system prior to Jan. 1, 2011. Please pass the word to those considering retirement in the future.

The meetings are being conducted in cooperation with regional offices of education and selected school districts. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. See below for meeting dates & locations. Area meetings are at Arlington Heights (Forest View Ed. Ctr. Rooms D100 & 101) on September 22, Barrington High School (Guidance Resource Center) on September 29th and Schaumburg High School (Room 200) on October 12th.

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.

Bob Lyons Reports



In 2009 in the aftermath of both an Illinois Governor being impeached and forced from office and a former TRS appointed trustee indicted for "pay to play" corruption, the new Governor, Pat Quinn, appointed new public trustees to the TRS Board. Two of the best trustees were Sonia Walwyn, a lawyer, and Mike Busby, a retired business consultant with years of experience in the pension business. Both Walwyn and Busby made a significant contribution to the pension board and were reappointed by Governor Quinn in 2012. In 2014 Trustee Busby was picked by the TRS Board to be the chair of the investment committee. You should know there is

no salary for serving on the TRS Board. The active and retired teachers on the board have an obvious self-interest for being there, but for the appointed members of the board it is public service in the finest sense of the term. Walwyn's and Busby's current terms on the board were up as of Friday, July 15. I know that I and others contacted the office of Governor Rauner to ask that they both be reappointed for another four-year term. TRS Director Richard Ingram repeatedly tried to convey the message that continuity of service is important on a pension board and that Busby and Walwyn deserved to continue to serve. Unfortunately neither was reappointed. Governor Rauner in his first year and a half has replaced two Quinn appointees and filled one of the two empty seats on the board. Now there are three empty seats. Rauner's office has said they hope to fill those seats by our August board meeting.

You should recall that a 13-member Board of Trustees governs TRS. Trustees include the State Superintendent of Education, who serves as president, six trustees appointed by the governor, four trustees elected by contributing active members, and two trustees elected by annuitants. The current State Superintendent Tony Smith became a member of the board in May of 2015. Cinda Klickna of Springfield, an elected member of the board since February 2003, serves as vice-president of the TRS Board and has the most years of service on the board. The other elected members are Mark Bailey of Palos Park (July 2013); Andrew Hirshman of Oak Park (July 2015); Rainy Kaplan of Schaumburg (July 2013); myself from Hoffman Estates (July 2005); Dan Winter of Decatur, the second annuitant (July 2015). The three appointed members of the board are Sandy Stuart of Lake Forest, appointed by Rauner in June 2015; Ann Deters of Effingham and Randy Winter of Highland Park (both in February, 2016). To repeat, our thirteen-member board by law is suppose to have a majority of appointed members, but with three appointed seats currently empty, that leaves the six elected members in the majority. I can tell you that at least since 2005 the board has been unified in trying to work together for the benefit of the active and retired annuitants and for the people of Illinois. That a member of the board was elected or appointed has made no difference in the cooperative effort to achieve the goals and objectives of the board. The three members of the board so far appointed by Governor Rauner all have a background in business and finance and have shown an excellent attitude in the assumption of their responsibilities. I can only hope that that continues and Governor Rauner fulfills his responsibility in completing our board.

15th Annual *Day at the Races*



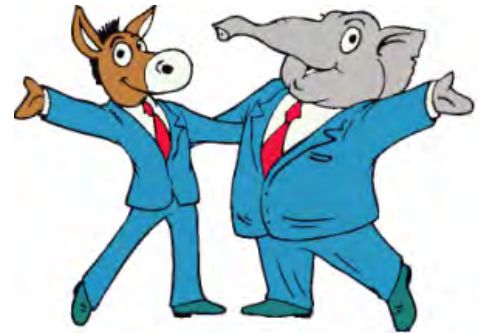
Due to lack of interest and the ever-increasing cost for the meal and drinks, we're not hosting a formal outing to the racetrack this year. However, we would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in joining a group on **Thursday, September 15, 2016** for lunch and watching the races.

Please call **Rich Chierico at 847-358-7816** if you're interested in going. Several members already have expressed an interest.

Legislative Breakfast 2016

Make your plans now to attend the Legislative Breakfast on **Tuesday October 4, 2016**, at the Inverness Golf Club.

A number of incumbents and candidates have been invited to the breakfast. Take this opportunity to sit down and talk with the legislators/candidates face-to-face at the Meet and Greet session. For more information, see the enclosed flyer. Note: Valet parking is available.



Carolyn White's Volunteer Report



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Hosts are needed to help with 1 day blood drives held in association with area schools and businesses. You will be greeting donors, serving refreshments and educating the donors on the importance and impact of their donation. Orientation and training are provided. Flexible dates, times and locations.

Thrift shops in Des Plaines, Niles, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, and Schaumburg are in need of volunteers to accept, sort, clean, price and display donated merchandise. Positions such as cashiering, floral arrangement, window dressing and store design are also available. Shifts are generally 3 - 4 hours and usually involve standing and some lifting.

Many schools will be looking for tutors to help with reading, math and/or homework. Tutors are needed for programs for elementary, middle and high school students; they may be during the school day or after school. Some tutors work directly with the classroom teacher but in other cases tutors work with a supervisor who directs an after school program. Time commitment varies from one to two hours and you should be available one day per week. Applications to tutor are available on an on-going basis and training/orientation will be provided. If you are looking to help in a particular school district and there isn't any information available through RSVP, you might check with the administration offices of that district. Some of the area districts prefer to find their own volunteers.

If interested, please contact Linda McLaughlin, linda.mclaughlin@volunteerinfo.net, visit the volunteer website, www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org or phone 847-228-1320.

Humor, anyone?



Unit 90 Members and their Guests are invited to attend
A Breakfast with Your Legislators and Candidates

Inverness Golf Club

102 N. Roselle Road, Palatine, IL 60067 847-358-2340
Valet parking available

Tuesday October 4, 2016
9:30 am

Sponsored by
The Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90

Invited Guests include:

State Senator Candidate Christina Castro	22 nd District
State Senator Candidate Tracy Smodilla	22 nd District
State Senator Laura Murphy	28 th District
State Senator Candidate Mel Thillens	28 th District
State Representative Fred Crespo	44 th District
State Representative candidate Katy Dolan Baumer	44 th District
State Representative David McSweeney	52 nd District
State Representative David Harris	53 rd District
State Representative Tom Morrison	54 th District
State Representative Michelle Mussman	56 th District
State Representative Candidate Jillian Rose Bernes	56 th District

Visit www.irta-unit90.org to find your legislative districts

Fill out the attached registration form and return it with your check for **\$20.00**
by Tuesday September 27 to:

Liz White, 5805 Prairie Ln, Palatine, IL 60067 Questions? Call Liz at 847-397-1678

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Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of guest (s) _____ Amount of check: _____

Make the check payable to: Northwest Suburban IRTA – Unit 90

Upcoming Events

2016 TRS Fall Meetings - (TBA)
September-October , 2016

2016 Newly Retired Teachers Breakfast
(Arlington Heights Senior Center)
Wednesday, September 7 , 2016

2016 Legislative Breakfast (Inverness Golf Club)
Tuesday, October 4 , 2016

2016 Holiday Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)
Friday, December 2 , 2016

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



Did You Know...

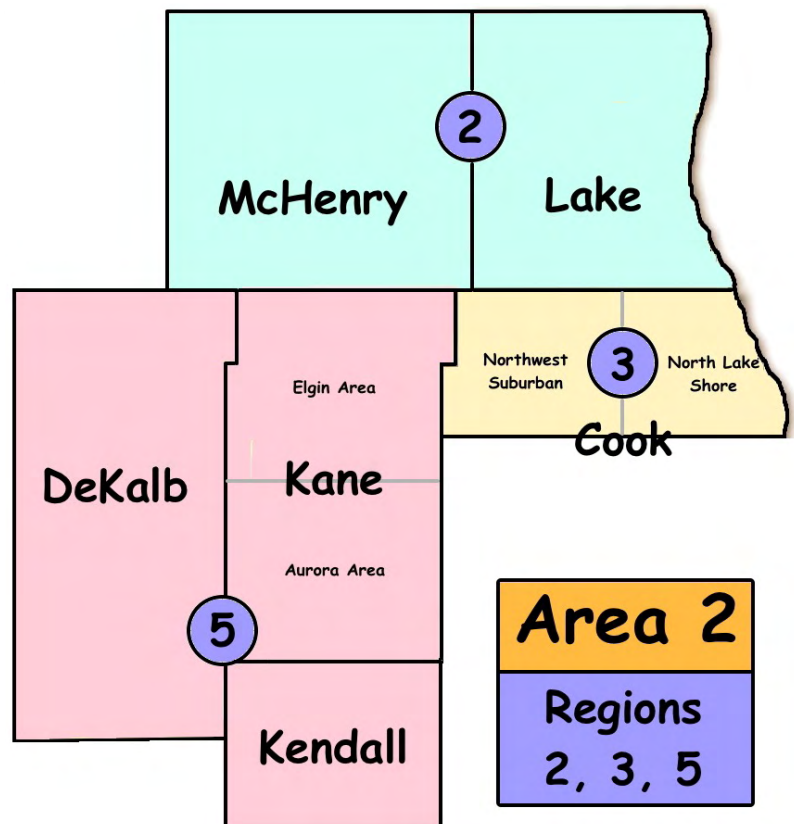
Unit 90 (Northwest Suburban)
is one of the 93 Units of IRTA in
the State of Illinois.

We are in Area 2, Region 3.

Currently we have
892 members in Unit 90 and
only 748 of those are members of
the State IRTA.

The State IRTA membership is
separate. You should join both!

Membership forms can be found
at: <http://www.irta-unit90.org>



Previous Event: *June Luncheon*



Prep Your Home Before You Pack Your Bags

A message from Liberty Mutual Insurance

Vacations were invented to help you leave your worries behind. Here are a few tips designed to help ensure that your trip isn't interrupted with problems from the home front.

Tell the Good Guys You're Going Away...

Ask a neighbor to watch your house, or have a friend drive by to keep an eye on things - it will be well worth the added peace of mind. You can even bribe them with treats or a souvenir from your trip. The U.S. State Department also recommends that you have a friend or neighbor hold onto your spare key and, if possible, ask them to park their car in your driveway to make it look like someone is home. Be sure to notify the Post Office and have your mail delivery stopped, suspend your newspaper deliveries, and for longer trips, notify the police department.

...Not the Bad Guys

While it's hard to resist sharing selfies taken on the beach, be careful about what you post to social media. AARP.org cautions against broadcasting that your home is empty. Make sure your settings allow only family and friends to view your feed. An un-mowed lawn can also be a tip-off, so be sure to hire someone to keep it trimmed while you're away.

Put Lights on Timers

A house that is dark all evening is a sure sign that nobody's home. Same thing with a house where the lights are on all night. A timer will not only create the illusion that someone is flipping the switch, it will help you use energy efficiently. If you normally keep your curtains open, don't close them while you are away.

Lock Up More Than Your Home

If you have a safe, throw in important documents, computers and valuables. If you need to hide money, don't put it in your sock drawer...thieves know most people hide cash in their dresser. Place it out of sight in a very high or very low place, outside of the bedroom. Just don't make your hiding place so good that you can't find it later or you forget where it is.

Install an Alarm

They're a great deterrent. Plus, they can also help you save money on your insurance. Be sure to ask your insurance agent about Liberty Mutual's Protective Device Discount.

Don't Let a Burst Pipe Burst Your Bubble on Vacation

If you live in a cold climate, be sure to keep your heat at a temperature warm enough to ensure that your pipes don't freeze. That will also ensure a warmer welcome when you return from your trip.



SOURCES:

<http://www.state.gov/m/ds/rls/rpt/19773.htm>

<http://travel.aarp.org/articles-tips/articles/info-2015/home-safety-travel-tips-photo.html#slide5>

Previous Event: *Tall Ship Windy Sail*



A comfortable bus ride, a great meal at Manny's, a small tour of the Loop, a convenient drop-off at Navy Pier, a wonderful cruise with a pirate on the Windy, a gorgeous sunset and a punctual ride home. Thanks, Liz, for organizing this great outing. Where are we going next?

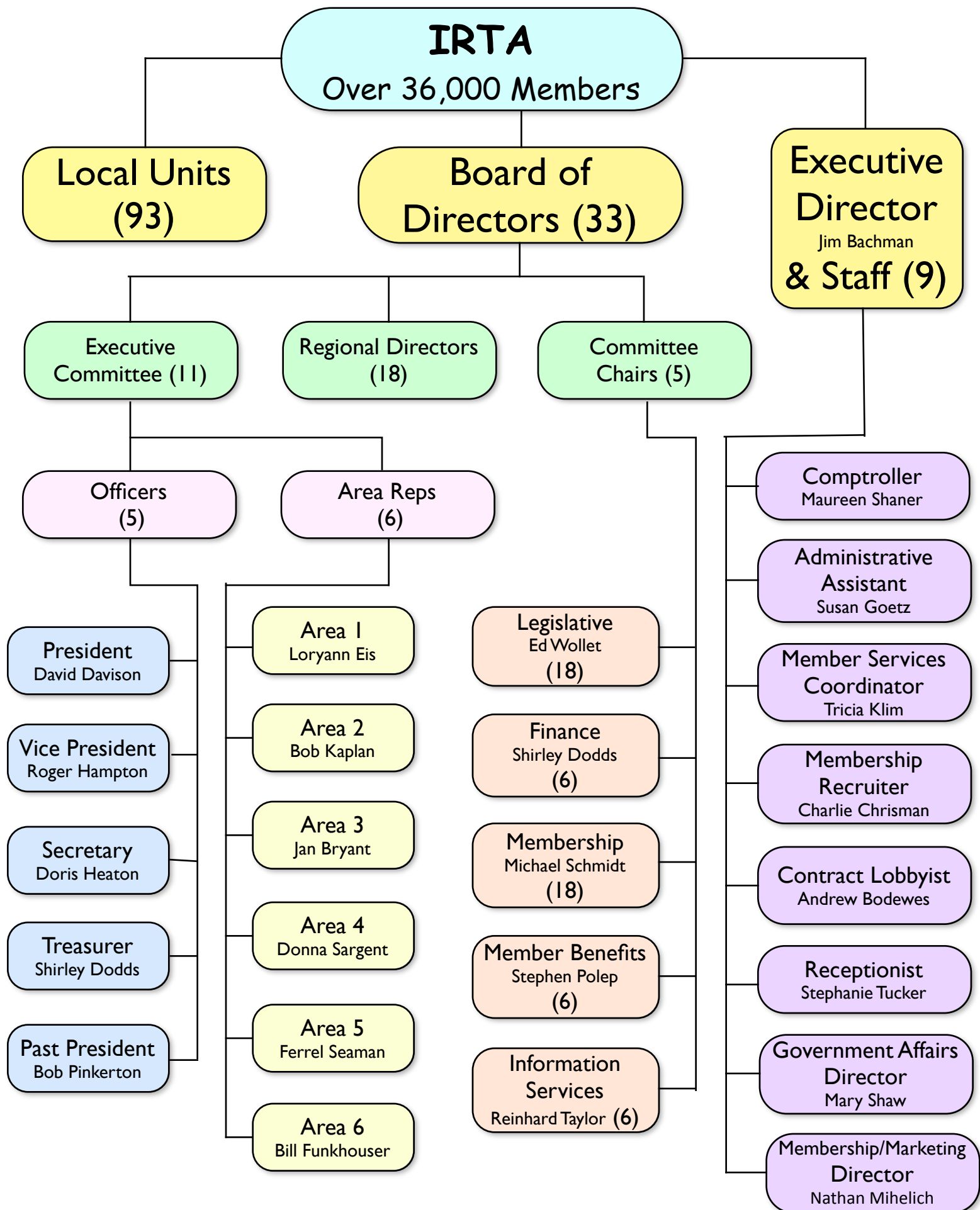


OFFICERS

President: Robert Kaplan
Vice President: Liz White
Secretary: Linda Wallin
Treasurer: Sandy Ratter

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Communications: Reinhard Taylor
Webmaster: Reinhard Taylor
Legislative: Robert Lyons and Jesse Macro
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Information Services: Reinhard Taylor
Member Benefits: Rich Chierico
Volunteer Services: Carolyn White
Newsletter Coordinator: Jane McCauley



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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