



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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



President's Notes

We Have a Budget!



We still have politics all around us. The latest events following the Rauner special session has created even more tension between the parties. The unresolved "Turnaround Agenda" reforms prior to the budget vote remain the focus for legislative leaders. A more than two year stalemate hasn't been ended as I sit here almost two weeks following the Republican fifteen voting in support of the budget. The fallout has been swift in the Rauner administration leadership. It appears a move to the right extreme by the naming of Illinois Policy Institute leaders into the Governor's camp.

IRTA and Unit 90 will continue to advocate on your behalf to protect what the state has promised to us. The proposed Tier III and fixing Tier II still has many questions and procedures that need to be finalized. For the present, TRIP benefits and Tier I remains unchanged following the budget and implementation bills that were passed for retirees. We have no figures or facts as to how Tier III will impact the overall TRS finances.

The Summer Luncheon was well attended and Bob Lyons was honored for his long service as a TRS trustee. I really want to encourage our membership to join us at our social activities. Despite threatening weather, we also had a successful outing to Navy Pier for our sailing trip on the Tall Ship Windy. This was done after a tasty stop at famous Manny's Delicatessen. It sure would be nice to see more of our members join us on our Unit 90 trips. Any suggestions would be gratefully appreciated by your officers and Executive Board.

I'm finalizing our delegate list to represent Unit 90 at the IRTA Convention in Springfield. I will be contacting a small group of volunteers who have expressed interest in joining us at the 2017 IRTA Convention. It will be taking place October 30th and 31st at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield. Unit 90 takes care of meals and registration materials on Monday and Tuesday morning. It will require the delegate to take care of their own overnight accommodations. More information will be available following our August Executive Board meeting. It is a good way to understand what the state organization does for Unit 90 and to meet retired educators from around the state.

Thanks for being a member of Unit 90 and IRTA!

Bob

<http://www.irtaconvention.info>

2017 IRTA CONVENTION
October 30th and 31st
Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL



Northwest Suburban Retired Teachers
Unit 90 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association

Who: **NEWLY RETIRED TEACHERS!**

What: The local chapter of the Illinois Retired Teacher's Association, Unit 90 would like to invite you to come and enjoy not only a **FREE BUFFET BREAKFAST**, but also have the chance to learn more about the only professional organization which solely serves retired teachers.

When: **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 9:00 am**

Where: Arlington Heights Senior Center (corner of Central & Wilke Roads)
1801 Central Rd, Arlington Heights 60005 (847) 797-5341

Why: Because **IRTA** works on your behalf to make retirement work for you! Come to see and hear what we are working on.
Also meet and talk to former TRS Board member, BOB LYONS

RSVP: Please send your response by **September 1, 2017** to:
Liz White, 5805 Prairie Ln, Palatine, IL 60067

QUESTIONS? Call Liz at 847-397-1678

Be sure to visit our website at: www.irta-unit90.org
for additional information -or- call a former fellow district colleague.

Your Name: _____ District # _____

Email address: _____ I'd enjoy attending ☐

Phone number: _____ I'm interested but unavailable Sept 6 ☐

Carolyn White's Volunteer Report



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Tutors are needed for the **Read to Learn program**, a free adult literacy one-to-one tutoring program. The program runs for ten weeks and each class is 2 1/2 hours. Classes are held at 13 different sites and are offered in the morning, afternoon and evening. Tutor training for new tutors involves two 45-min. online training sessions, attendance at a 7 1/2 hour workshop from 8:30 - 4:00 on either Aug. 25 or 26, and ten 1/2 hour workshops that are held for 30 minutes at the class site prior to students arrival. Site supervisors provide materials appropriate to the level of the student. Register for training at the Read to Learn website (<http://ce.d214.org/readtolearn>) or call the Read to Learn office at 847-718-7724.

Pen Pal Program: Volunteers meet from 1:30 - 2:30 twice a month for a pen pal program to engage in handwritten communication with students in a single classroom. The volunteer will exchange ideas and information with an assigned student; the topics are based on the teacher's classroom curriculum. All correspondence is supervised by the classroom teacher and the Senior Corps RSVP project coordinator. Background checks are required.

Volunteer at **The General Store at The Lutheran Home**. Volunteers provide a warm and inviting atmosphere for residents, staff and visitors as they shop in the General Store. Duties include assisting residents with their shopping, ringing up the purchased items, operating an electronic cash register, displaying and restocking merchandise. Shifts are Mon - Fri. 8 - 11 am, 11 - 2 pm, 2 - 6 pm or Sat. and Sun. 11 - 3 am.

Hanover Township Senior Center - Stars and Stripes Café

Additional hands are needed to prepare high quality meals utilizing standard recipes while ensuring the use of fresh, quality ingredients. Responsibilities include ensuring that all food stocks are properly labeled, dated and appropriately stored. Must adhere to all sanitation procedures. Volunteers will also provide assistance with internal and external catering activities. Volunteers must have excellent customer service skills and enjoy working with people. Volunteers are needed Mon - Thu 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

For more information or to volunteer for any of the above, contact RSVP at rsvp@handsonsuburbanchicago.org

Upcoming Events

2017 Newly Retired Teachers' Breakfast - Arlington Senior Center
September 6, 2017

2017 TRS Fall Meetings - to be announced

2017 State IRTA Convention - Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL
October 30-31, 2017

2017 Holiday Luncheon - Inverness Golf Club
December 1, 2017



More details at:

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

Bob Lyons' Reports on School Funding in Illinois



Schools in Illinois receive the majority of their funds from local property taxes. Illinois is last in the nation for state aide for K-12 education. The quality of education for children (to the degree that quality is affected by money) is determined by zip code more than any other factor. There are districts in Illinois that can and do spend \$30,000 per pupil and others that are as low as \$8,000. The legislature tried to do something to improve the equity of distribution, but they included a payment to the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund as part of the package. Governor Rauner has attacked the new funding as a "bailout to Chicago" - a charge that will always work well in "downstate Illinois." Downstate is of course defined as all of Illinois outside of Chicago. Some of

you will be well aware that twenty years ago the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund was funded at 100%. Then the city obtained permission from the State to stop putting money into the fund. After losses (the dot.com bubble burst, a too-slow return to city funding, and the credit crunch in 2008), the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund is today just a little more than 52% funded.

Based on this past fiscal year TRS is now actually over 40% funded. This is going to be the big story in the weeks ahead.

Bob Lyons

A Message From IRTA President David Davison



This year, at Area Conferences as part of my presentation, I was asked to "bring people up to date" regarding our IRTA Foundation. It has been a fun and easy thing to do. The IRTA Foundation is a not-for-profit arm of the IRTA created in 1985 to aid former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and rising inflation. Since that time, in addition to assisting retired educators with living expenses, the Foundation now provides scholarships to aspiring teachers and grants for special projects to current classroom teachers.

These Foundation programs are funded entirely by donations. No "dues revenue" is used to finance the programs. The donations come from baskets that local units pass around at their regular meetings, from donations to memorials in honor of educators who have died, and from our annual Label Campaign. The present Label Campaign started April 1, 2017. Our members are extremely generous in their contributions to the Label Campaign. Last year, in 2016, a record \$239,870 was donated by our members. So far, this year, it looks as if we could be heading toward another record. All who contribute should be very proud. I want to express in the sincerest way possible, how much your donations are appreciated.

In 2016, the IRTA Foundation provided financial assistance to between 10 and 15 retired educators, either monthly or as a one-time payment, and gave six \$1,500 scholarships and \$15,000 for 25 grants to active classroom teachers for special projects. An Ombudsmen Program funded for some counties in the middle of the state for several years is no longer being funded. This allows the Active Teacher Grant Program to be expanded. This year, current educators can apply for grants of up to \$750. Total grant money available this year for the program is \$36,500. Teachers from every public school attendance center in the state can now apply yearly for the grants.

I will close by reminding everyone that **IRTA is closely watching activities over at the capital and looking for anything that could diminish our pension benefits. Our Government Affairs Team in the IRTA Office, our Officers, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors are all committed to protecting our pension benefits, including the state subsidies to the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP).**

Bobby Reinhardt's Membership Report



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 **805 members** in Unit 90, but only 706 of those are members of the State IRTA.

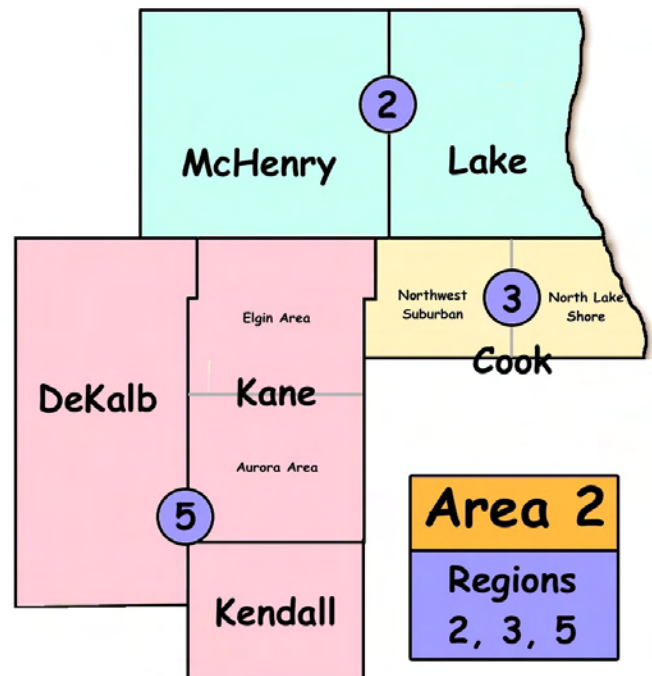
We now also have a Unit 90 life membership available for \$100 or for free if you're 90 or older.

We currently have **120 life members**.

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

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

If you haven't yet, don't forget to renew your State and Unit memberships for 2017.



Unit 90 Honoree at the IRTA 2017 State Convention

Rich Chierico is our Unit Honoree at this year's IRTA State Convention in Springfield, IL on Oct. 30-31, 2017. Congratulations!

Bob Lyons' Reports on Illinois Politics



Know Who Your Friends Are

I have both taught politics and practiced politics. And in both cases I advocated a healthy sense of enlightened self-interest. Voting for or against someone based on their position on issues that are important to you is simply common sense. As retired teachers the health and well-being of our pension fund is and should be of crucial importance to us. Without the recent increase in both the Illinois state income and corporate taxes, it would have been impossible for Illinois to pay its full contribution to TRS and the other state pension funds for FY 2018. Three votes were necessary: the vote for the budget to authorize the spending, the vote for the tax increases themselves, and then the final vote to over-ride Governor Rauner's veto.

Three Democrats in our area: State Senator Christina Castro, State Senator Laura Murphy, and State Representative Fred Crespo were there when we needed them and all voted yes on all three roll calls. Democrat State Representative Michelle Mussman voted yes on the budget to spend the money, but then voted no against both the tax increases and the over-ride of Governor Rauner's veto. You can ask her why, but I would say that Mussman voted to protect her seat in the Illinois legislature. It seems that continuing her career was more important to her than providing the funds necessary to carry out the programs she had voted to implement. Speaker Madigan allowed her to vote no in order to ensure her district remained Democrat and protect his power as Speaker.

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Previous Event: *June Luncheon at Inverness Golf Club*



Bob Lyons' Reports on Illinois Politics (Continued from Page 6)

Governor Rauner, of course, opposed the budget and the tax increases and made it clear that any member of the Republican Party that went against him on these measures would feel the full wrath of the millions of dollars in his campaign fund. Republican State Representatives David McSweeney and Tom Morrison needed no encouragement to vote no as they both were strongly opposed to any kind of increase in taxes, or the increase in spending for any program. Fellow Republican State Representative David Harris on the other hand saw the State of Illinois on the edge of an abyss and that a failure to raise needed revenue would be an unmitigated disaster. He voted in favor of the budget, the tax bill and the override, saying that he was not elected "to preside over the financial destruction of this state."

I am fully aware that there are other issues that may be more important to you, but are they really more significant than your pension? State Senators Castro and Murphy, as well as State Representatives Crespo and Harris were there for us when we needed them. As a Republican, Representative Harris voted for what he knew was right and against the stand and interest of his party. He was willing to risk his political future to vote for us and for the fiscal health of our state. I would hope that you thank him and the others that voted for your interests and support them in the next election.

Bob Lyons

Previous Event: Tall Ship Windy Fireworks Cruise



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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