



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

President's Notes



We just completed our annual Area Conference at Pinecrest Golf Club in Huntley. The Area Conference brings all of the local units in Area 2 together to listen to many different speakers in the leadership of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. This year Northwest Suburban Unit 90 was well represented with 16 of our members battling the snow and cold to attend the conference.



Highlights were the opening video that showed various clips of past events and meetings of the state organization. Our newly elected leadership team of Roger Hampton and John Flaherty both spoke of their new vision and political funding of our organization. Executive Director Jim Bachman gave an excellent report on all the legislation that is expected in the current spring session. The event also featured current TRS trustee, Dan Winter from Decatur, who gave us an update on the current financial picture for our pensions and pending issues surrounding the State and annuitants regarding our financial security. Our link to the IRTA Foundation, Wendy Wieggers, presented the latest on our Foundation providing for both retirees in need and the upcoming scholarships for teachers. Applications are due by June 1st and are available on our website. She also gave a recap of our latest college students who won IRTA Scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year. Nathan Mihelich, the creator of the opening video, returned later in the program and spoke on our latest marketing and current membership efforts. Member benefits guru, Larry Newman, presented the latest in new benefits for our IRTA members and their families. Following a delicious lunch, the meeting concluded with members meeting in small groups to discuss ways to improve next year's meeting and deliver new events and increase membership in all the local units.



Our summer luncheon is quickly coming up on June 6 at the Inverness Golf Club. This is always a fun event and an opportunity to see all of our Unit 90 members! This year we are honored to recognize IRTA Scholarship Award winner Brittany Moran. Brittany is the first Unit 90/Area 2 winner during my tenure as president. She graduated from Fremd High School and is attending Ball State University. We also will be honoring retiring Illinois Representative David Harris. He has twice served a large section of our membership in the General Assembly. Finally, we are inviting our Membership & Marketing director Nathan Mihelich to speak on some of his thoughts on attracting new members and other IRTA latest attempts at reaching all our members. Let's have a reunion of all our members to kick off a great summer!!! See you on June 6th!!!! **The sign-up form is on Page 4 and on our website.**

Previous Event: Area 2 Conference in Huntley, IL



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Previous Event: *Cabaret* at the Paramount Theatre



Upcoming Events

2018 Chicago Tragedies Tour

Monday, May 7, 2018

2018 June Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

2018 Newly Retired Teacher Breakfast (Arl. Hgts. Senior Center)

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

2018 Legislative Breakfast (Inverness Golf Club)

Friday, October 5, 2018

2018 Holiday Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)

December, 2018 (TBA)

June Luncheon

June 6, 2018

Sign-up sheet included in newsletter

More details at:

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

2018

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 90



2018 JUNE LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 6, 2018 (\$26 each)

Inverness Golf Club

102 N. Roselle Road, Palatine, Illinois 60067 (NW corner of Roselle & Palatine Roads)

(847) 358-2340

Valet Parking Available (\$3 suggested gratuity)

Dress Code: Shirts with collars, no jeans or cargo pants



Menu -- Choice of one:

Grilled Shrimp Caesar Salad:

Romaine lettuce tossed with grated parmesan cheese, Caesar dressing, homemade croutons, topped with grilled colossal shrimp

-or-

Cobb Salad:

Fresh greens, red onions, tomatoes, bacon, egg, green onions, blue cheese, turkey, topped with avocado; balsamic vinaigrette dressing

-or-

Chicken Marsala:

With mushrooms, served over linguine champignon, and asparagus bundle

Each entrée served with: Fresh vegetable soup, hot rolls and butter, and coffee or hot tea

Dessert: Chocolate Explosion with vanilla ice cream

Social Hour 11:00

(cash bar)

Luncheon 12:00

Program 1:00

Program:

Honoring Representative
David Harris and honoring
our Area 2 scholarship
winner Brittany Moran

Reservation Deadline for members & their guests: Wednesday, May 30, 2018

RSVP to Liz White, 1841 Mirmar Rd, Munster, IN 46321-2716

Questions? Please call Liz White at (847) 309-5805

✂-----✂

Name: _____ Shrimp _____ Cobb _____ Chicken _____
Caesar Salad Salad Marsala

Email Address: _____

Guest Name: _____ Shrimp _____ Cobb _____ Chicken _____
Caesar Salad Salad Marsala

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (\$26.00 each) Member Phone: _____

Make checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90

Bobby Reinhardt's Membership Report



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

We are in Area 2, Region 3.

Currently we have **723 members** in Unit 90, but only 638 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 **164 life members**.

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

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

101 Unit 90 members have not yet renewed for 2018!

We also have a gift membership available that can be given to a friend or someone who just hasn't gotten around to joining.

Northwest Suburban IRTA

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

Unit 90 Membership Gift Form

From: _____

I prefer to remain anonymous ____ You can say it's from me ____

For: Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Initial: _____

Name of Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

If we have the email address we'll email the Newsletters and Membership Directory.

Retirement Year: _____ Retired from School District: _____



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 or 847-634-0540

Its Hard to pedal a cycle, so we shift to a bike...then we shift to more comfort, we buy a car...because of that we develop a tummy & join the Gym.

In the Gym they again give you a cycle ...this is called a "Life Cycle"



Why did Mozart kill his chickens?
Answer: Because they always ran around going "Bach! Bach! Bach!"

Dear Math,
I am sick and tired of finding your "X".
Just accept the fact that she is gone.
MOVE ON, DUDE.

The form is on our website at:

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

Carolyn White's Volunteer Report



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Clearbrook has two events coming up shortly for which large numbers of volunteers are needed. The annual Clearbrook Jelly Belly Days will be Fri., May 11 and Sat. May 12. Volunteers solicit contributions at intersections and storefronts in the area in two-hour time blocks. Register online at www.clearbrook.org/jellybellydays.

If you're able to help, you need to sign up immediately.

Clearbrook's FunFest is hosted for their clients and will be on Friday, June 15 from 8:30 - 2:30 on the grounds at Clearbrook's Commons/Krause facility, 3201 W. Campbell St., Rolling Meadows. Volunteers are needed to tend to games, be a client buddy, do face-painting, help with clean-up and break-down. To volunteer or for more information, contact Kathy Scheuing by Fri., May 18. Phone: 847-385-5016; Email: kscheuing@clearbrook.org



Volunteer Driver

Description of Service



Service Goal:

To assist seniors of our communities by providing individual, escorted transportation to their crucial medical and dental appointments. You CHOOSE your assignments and how often you'd like to drive. With our web-enabled RideScheduler software, you can go online and choose the rides that fit your lifestyle and schedule. We have drivers who are snowbirds and drivers who take the summer off. We will work with you and your personal schedule!

Service Responsibilities:

As an ETS/NW volunteer driver, you are responsible for helping your passenger to the car and safely transporting them to their appointment. The volunteer driver remains with the senior throughout the process, unless other arrangements have been made. Our passengers must be able to get in and out of a car unassisted and our average passenger is 85 years old.

Requirements:

You must be at least 21 years old, hold a valid Illinois driver's license, have an acceptable driving record and carry auto liability insurance (copies of which will need to be shared with ETS/NW). We will run criminal and driving background checks, as well as ask for two references. We carry additional liability insurance on all of our drivers.

Benefits for You:

You will be a contributing member of YOUR community, providing a much-needed service to our frail elderly. As a volunteer, you are able to set your own schedule, and will know what ride you'll be doing a week or more in advance. You will be recognized at several annual volunteer events and you'll be provided with orientation, training, and a badge and business cards. Our volunteers have been with us for an average of six years, so they clearly like what they do! Volunteers have the direction and support of the entire organization behind them – after all, our volunteers are the ♥ of our program!

Call today to begin making a difference in your community!

1801 W Central Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005 * 847.222.9227 * www.etsnw.org

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Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation

Assisting Retired Educators

The IRTA Foundation is the charitable component of IRTA and was founded in 1985.

The IRTA Foundation provides: Financial Aid to Retired Teachers

The Foundation provides monthly financial assistance to retired educators who are living in times of acute financial stress. In addition, emergency assistance is also given on an as-needed basis.

If you or anyone you know is having difficulties meeting financial obligations, please submit a financial assistance form to IRTAF, 828 S. Second St., 4th Floor, Springfield, IL 62704, for consideration.

Download the financial assistance form by [clicking here](#) - or - you can request the form by calling 1-800-728-4782.



The purpose of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is "To provide any annuitant of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois financial and/or other assistance needed to retain each and every right they are entitled to by maintaining their independence and standard of living." Established as a charitable organization in 1985, assisting people in need was the guiding principle of the Foundation and continues today.

In subsequent years the Foundation has added other programs to reach "past, present and future" educators. These programs include scholarships and active teacher grants

Where does the money come from:

Our funds come from two basic sources. First of all, our 93 Units across the state collect money from their members to support the Foundation. In addition, most of our units honor their deceased members with memorial donations to the Foundation. Last year we received \$50,295 from our local units. Each year we conduct a direct-mail fundraiser. It is often referred to as the "Label" fundraiser. Last year we raised \$227,029 from this fund-raiser. The mailing included individualized mailing labels, a personalized note-pad and 2 bookmarks. The cost of the product, the postage and the 3 mailings was \$65,186. This means our net income was \$161,843. In other words, the Foundation programs have access to 71% of monies donated.

Your donations are used for the following programs:

Retired Teachers Assistance

We are currently assisting 10 retired teachers with monthly stipends that total \$3,925.00 a month. This is an annual total of \$47,100. Our average monthly assistance check is \$392.00. The checks range in amount from \$200.00 to \$650.00.

These grants are based on need. Recipients are required to fill out an application listing their monthly income from all sources and their monthly expenses. They are also required to send in their most recent tax return. A committee, made up of the Foundation Chair, the Foundation Treasurer, the IRTA Executive Director and our Comptroller, reviews these applications and make a determination as to whether the Foundation can assist them. Most of the people we assist have retired many years ago and receive very small pensions. Many are single women or disabled individuals.

The Foundation will also assist people with one-time needs. These needs could be anything from medical expenses to paying back taxes so that a recipient doesn't lose their house. We currently pay real estate taxes each year for 2 retirees so that they are able to stay in their homes.

Scholarships (for aspiring teachers)

We provide six (6) \$1,500 scholarships to juniors or seniors in college who are majoring in Education. Applications are made available on-line and are mailed to all the community/junior colleges in Illinois as well as the public universities in Illinois. When we determine applicants have met all of our requirements, our Foundation Area Representatives make a decision on the winner from each Area. We also receive a gift from one of our members that allow for 2 of these scholarships to be increased each year.

Active Teacher Grants

Beginning in 2017 the Foundation will provide \$36,500 worth of small grants to Pre-School through High School teachers for projects that they would like to do in their classrooms or for supplies that their school districts can't afford to provide. Beginning this year (2017) these grants will be available to the entire state every year and will not be rotated by area as in previous years.

IRTA is the organization that works exclusively for retired teachers It currently represents over 37,000 members

- ★ For 32 years, the IRTA Foundation has been providing assistance to educators of the past, the present, and is committed to the future. This assistance is due to the generosity of our membership.
- ★ For over 60 years IRTA has upheld the stated purpose of the Association “to maintain and improve benefits to annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System; to promote education and the professional, social, and economic status of all members; and to work in cooperation with other organizations to obtain these goals.”
- ★ There’s no better example of fulfilling the IRTA purpose than the the Illinois Supreme Court victory in the “Heaton” decision that upheld our position that pension benefits are guaranteed and insurance is part of these benefits. We also must recognize the concerns of our active colleagues and will remain supportive of their actions to preserve collective bargaining rights and other rights and benefits.

Major Legislative Accomplishments that the IRTA actively supported

- 1956** A provision allowed retired teachers to substitute-teach without their loss of pension.
- 1957-58** Pensions were increased so that those annuitants with pensions of \$87 per month would now receive \$125 per month. This increase applied to several hundred annuitants with 50 years of experience.
- 1978** The post-retirement annual increase for annuitants with service after July 1, 1969, became 3% (simple).
- 1981** Health insurance and prescription drug insurance plan is instituted.
- 1982** Survivor’s benefit increased to 50% of deceased spouse’s current pension and death benefit set to \$3,000.
- 1984** Active teachers are allowed to count one year of accumulated sick leave toward retirement service.
- 1985** A provision allowed for an elected annuitant on the TRS Board of Trustees.
- 1989** Governor signed into law SB 95, which compounds the 3% annual increase (based on current pensions) for annuitants and survivors and instructs the State to increase contributions to the 5 State-funded pension systems in order to amortize unfunded liabilities, with interest, over a 40-year period.
- 1991** The Legislature approved, and the Governor signed, legislation providing for a 75% subsidy of the health insurance plan, with funding to continue for the teachers’ pension fund.
- 1991** A teacher may purchase up to 2 years retirement credit for military service.
- 1992** The Early Retirement Incentive (5 + 5 Plan) was passed.
- 1993** IRTA seeks health insurance plan for retired educators comparable with health plans for other State-funded retirement systems.



- 1995** IRTA spearheaded legislation (Public Act 88-593) which guaranteed that the pensions would be 90% funded by 2045.
- 1999** IRTA helped negotiate a gubernatorial executive order improving health insurance benefits. Effective July 1, 2000, deductibles for both Teachers Retirement Insurance Plan (TRIP) and Teachers Choice Health Plan (TCHP) were drastically reduced. In addition, TCHP's general out-of-pocket maximum was lowered and co-ordination of Medicare's benefits were improved.
- 2001** Public Act 92-505 was signed into law preventing an 80% health insurance premium increase for retirees.
- 2001** HB 4347 allowed for a second elected annuitant on the TRS Board of Trustees.
- 2004** Representatives of the IRTA worked with the Governor to finalize an extension of the Teacher's Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) with no sunset date.
- 2005** IRTA succeeded in passing legislation (PA94-0691) which prevents the Governor from transferring funds from the Teachers Health Insurance Security Fund to the General Revenue Fund in order to help defray the State's operating costs.
- 2009** IRTA efforts prevented a 25% health insurance (TRIP) premium increase for out-of-state retirees.
- 2010** IRTA VoterVoice efforts (over 3000 e-mails were sent) prevented the General Assembly from passing legislation that would have allowed the State of Illinois to issue IOU's to TRS for the 2011 pension payment.

(Thanks to Rich Chierico for compiling this list)



AS A RETIRED EDUCATOR, WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY FELLOW RETIRED EDUCATORS?

1. Join the **Local Northwest Suburban IRTA - Unit 90**.
You can do so for \$10 / year, or \$40 / 5 years, or \$100 for life.
<http://www.irta-unit90.org>
2. Join the **State IRTA** through automatic monthly deduction for only \$30 / year, or pay \$175 / 5 years, or \$400 for life. www.irtaonline.org
3. Donate to our **IRTA Political Action Committee** and protect the status of retired educators by donating just \$1 / month through automatic monthly pension deduction. www.irtaonline.org
4. Donate to the **IRTA Foundation**, which currently does the following: www.irtaonline.org
 - (a) Assists annuitants on a monthly basis
 - (b) Awards teacher education scholarships
 - (c) Provides "Excellence in Education" grants to public school educators

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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