



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

President's Notes

Upcoming Events



Finally spring has arrived and Unit 90 is excited for the events that are coming up quickly. Members of Unit 90 are encouraged to consider attending the IRTA Area 2 (see page 5) Leadership Conference. The annual conference has a new home this year at nearby Chandler's Banquet & Events Center at the Schaumburg

Golf Course. Please contact Bob Kaplan at kaplanbob55@gmail.com no later than May 15th to make your reservation. This is a combination informational and training opportunity to qualify you to better understand IRTA and its operations and goals. The event will include retirees from units in Area 2 and promises to be a great event. This is a chance to get more involved and meet many leaders from the state and area while becoming more aware of what the organization does to protect your pension and other earned benefits.

Two days later Unit 90 will be hosting our always popular summer luncheon. This is an opportunity to reconnect with other retirees over a great lunch and hear the latest news from Springfield and locally in Unit 90. Details are included in this newsletter. Please contact Liz White with any questions regarding the luncheon.

We are always looking for new ideas and activities that Unit 90 members would like to participate in for future trips. Please communicate with any member of our executive board.

We wish all of you a fantastic summer! Please consider attending our summer luncheon on June 5th! Enjoy the sunshine!

Bob Kaplan

IRTA is the organization that works exclusively for retired teachers, currently representing 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.



IRTA:
OUR LIGHT, OUR HOUSE, OUR SHIELD
Biennial Convention
OCTOBER 14-15, 2019
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Bob Lyons Says: *Well Worth Reading*



Pensions are a promise? They're more than that.

by Fred Klonsky

Mayor-elect of Chicago Lori Lightfoot went down to Springfield this week to meet with legislators and the Governor. More than a few Chicago legislators expressed their appreciation since Mayor Rahm rarely ventured the three hours south, sending "his people" instead.

The not-yet-mayor (some folks seem to forget that she won't be sworn in until late May) spoke to both the House and Senate. She made a good statement on pensions. Lightfoot opposes any change in the Illinois constitution's pension protection clause.

I grew up in a union household and I also watched men in my town who had spent their whole lives working in steel mills lose their pensions. Let me be clear about my first principles regarding pensions. Pensions are a promise. We cannot turn our backs on those promises. I'm committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders and through the collective bargaining process to make sure we can meet our commitments.

That's great. I have to say, however, that I am leery of the slogan, "pensions are a promise." I don't blame the Mayor-elect for putting it that way. Our teacher unions put it the same way. But it reminds me of when the kids were little and I would ask if they had cleaned their room or took out the garbage. "Not yet. We'll do it. We promise," the kids would say. And, of course, the chores wouldn't get done. Promises, promises.

Or some lazy afternoons I will watch The People's Court on TV. It's a guilty pleasure. The plaintiff will say that the defendant owes them some money. The defendant will say they don't. The plaintiff will say they had a promise. The defendant will say they didn't. The plaintiff will say it was a verbal agreement. The defendant will deny it. And then it happens. "Do you have it in writing?" the judge will ask the plaintiff. "Anything? Even some texts?" The plaintiff will say no and the judge will dismiss the case. Boom, boom, boom.

So much for promises.

Watching The People's Court teaches an important lesson: Get it in writing. And public employee pensions have it in writing. We have a contract and we have a constitutional guarantee that says our pensions may not be diminished or impaired. You can look it up. And more than The People's Court, we have the Illinois Supreme Court agreeing with us. So, I appreciate the Mayor-elect's statement that pensions are a promise. A moral obligation, in fact. However, our pensions are more than a promise. They are a legal obligation. We have it in writing.

Upcoming Events

2019 Area 2 Leadership Conference (Chandler's)
Monday, June 3, 2019

2019 June Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)
Wednesday, June 5, 2019

2019 Newly Retired Teacher Breakfast (Arl. Heights. Senior Center)
Wednesday, September 4, 2019

2019 IRTA Convention Luncheon (Crowne Plaza Springfield, IL)
Monday-Tuesday, October 14-15, 2019

2019 Holiday Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club) Friday, December 6, 2019

More details and photos at:

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



2019 IRTA Foundation \$10,000 Raffle

Drawing October 15, 2019 – Get your tickets now!!

What Would You
Buy
With an Extra



\$10,000?

[Click here for Raffle Form](#)

The [Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation](#) is raffling one incredible prize during the 2019 Biennial Convention in Springfield, Illinois on October 14-15, 2019: **\$10,000!**

Tickets may be purchased online or at the convention. The drawing will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on October 15, 2019. The winner does not need to be present to win.

Raffle tickets are \$20 for one, or three for \$50.

The IRTA Foundation, a 501c3 not-for-profit Illinois organization, assists retired educators with living expenses, provides scholarships to aspiring teachers, works to protect the rights of the elderly, and provides grants to current educators.

How IRTA FOUNDATION Funds Are Used:

- Again, this year, IRTAF will distribute \$36,500 to public school educators throughout the state so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects.

All proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2019.

- This fall, IRTAF will again distribute \$24,000 to incoming juniors or seniors in college who are pursuing a degree in education.
- Most importantly, IRTAF will continue distributing money for approved requests to retired educators living in times of acute financial stress.

The IRTA Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit Illinois organization.

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 90



2019 JUNE LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 (\$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:

Social Hour 11:00

(cash bar)

Luncheon 12:00

Program 1:00

Beef Short Ribs:

Slowly braised short ribs in a rich demi-glace,
served with Chef's choice of starch and fresh vegetable

-or-

Cobb Salad:

Mixed greens, roasted chicken, bacon, avocado, tomatoes, egg,
blue cheese, tossed with vinaigrette dressing

-or-

Chicken Parmesan:

Pan-fried breaded 6oz chicken, topped with marinara and
mozzarella cheese over a bed of pasta

Each entrée served with: Chilled Vichyssoise soup, hot rolls
and butter, and coffee or hot tea

Dessert: Chocolate ice cream sundae



Program:

Bob Lyons

former elected
TRS Board member



Reservation Deadline for members & their guests: Wed, May 28, 2019

RSVP to Liz White, 1225 Luther Ln. #121, Arlington Heights, IL 60004-8132

Member guests are welcome! Questions? Please call Liz White at (847) 309-5805

✂-----✂-----✂

Name: _____ Beef _____ Cobb _____ Chicken _____
Short Ribs Salad Parmesan

Email Address: _____

Guest Name: _____ Beef _____ Cobb _____ Chicken _____
Short Ribs Salad Parmesan

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.

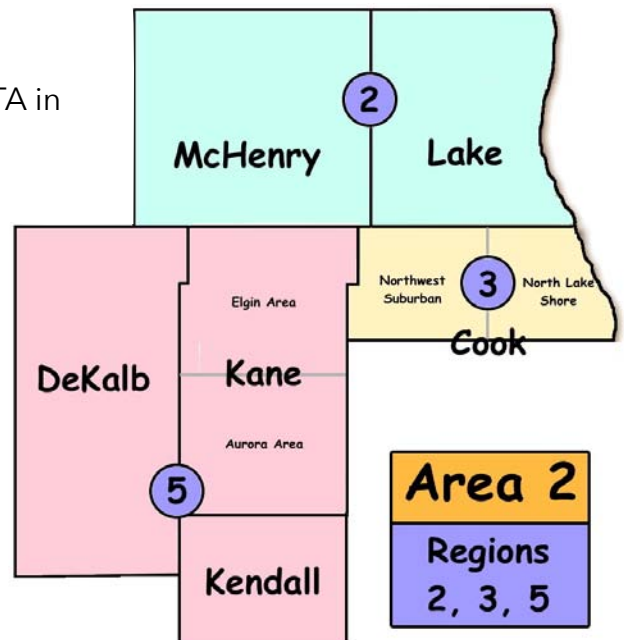
We are in Area 2, Region 3.

Currently we have **740 members** in Unit 90, but only **661** 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 **196 life members**.

Did you know...

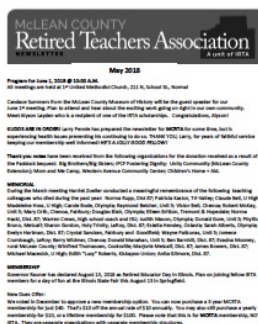
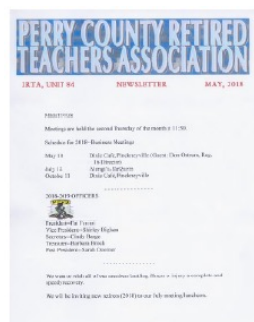
Unit 90 (Northwest Suburban) is one of the 93 Units of IRTA in the State of Illinois. We are in Area 2, Region 3.



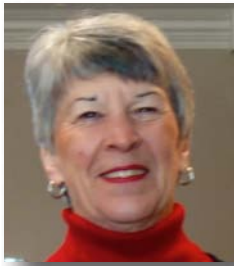
The State IRTA membership is separate. You should join both!
Membership forms can be found at: <http://www.irta-unit90.org>

Did you know...

You can see a sample of other Unit newsletters at <https://irta-newsletters.weebly.com>



Carolyn White: Volunteers Needed



Hearthstone Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights is looking for volunteers to help residents with gardening, Bible study, accompanying residents on nature walks or other outings, or assisting with parties.

The Schaumburg Farmers' Market is held from June to October in the parking lot of Trickster Art Gallery. While you are shopping for your produce, stop in at the Gallery to see what items are exhibited and learn a little of the mission. Each time I request suggestions for volunteer positions needing to be filled, a request from Trickster is included. If a prospective volunteer were to see the Gallery, there might be more interest in filling the position. The volunteer is needed to assist in the gift shop, providing information on the artists' bios and their work. Training will be provided on the above as well as use of the cash register. The Museum is open Tues. through Sat. from 10:00 to 3:00.

Volunteer drivers are needed by **FISH of Park Ridge** to take folks to doctor and medical appointments in Maine Township (Park Ridge, Des Plaines and parts of Niles and Morton Grove).

To volunteer for any of the above opportunities please go to www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org.

Volunteer drivers are also needed by **Escorted Transportation Service, Northwest** to transport seniors to medical and dental appointments in an area bounded by Lake Cook Rd., Greenwood Ave., Biesterfield Rd., and Barrington Rd. You can register to volunteer at the ETS website: www.etsnw.org.

Clearbrook Jelly Belly Days Fri., May 10 and Sat., May 11 help make a difference for children and adults with disabilities. Volunteers sign up to collect donations at a storefront or an intersection throughout the area. When I checked the website before writing this, there were still numerous sites with openings but I think many people may wait to see a weather forecast before committing. If you have a couple of hours on either of those dates, you can sign up at www.clearbrook.org/jellybellydays/.

Liz White: Get Up-To-Date



If you're an Illinois resident, now's the time to get a **REAL ID** if you plan to fly anywhere in the U.S. on or after Oct. 1, 2020. That's the day TSA will stop accepting your standard driver's license or ID card as identification to board domestic flights, military base entry, or entry to secure federal facilities, according to the Illinois Secretary of State website. Instead, you'll need your REAL ID to do those things.



REAL ID
Gold Star
Designation

A **REAL ID** doesn't look much different from a standard state ID. However, in order to receive one, you have to go to your local Secretary of State's office and prove your identity, your state residency, your lawful presence in the country and your Social Security status. Doing this gets you special star icon on your license, which means its REAL ID compliant.

I would like to also include another reminder. If people are going to the Schaumburg Secretary of State facility, they should consider **not** going on Mondays. They are the only facility within 20 miles open on Mondays. They are open Monday-Friday. All of the other facilities within a twenty mile radius are open Tuesday-Saturday! The crowds on Monday are impressive. (I was there!) However, there is a SENIOR LINE to check in, which is somewhat helpful.

2019 IRTA Convention

The IRTA Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield on October 14th and 15th, 2019. If you are interested in nominating IRTA Officers or Area Reps. (2, 4, and 6), suggesting proposed constitutional amendments, or submitting resolutions, please visit the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org. You will want to log into the Members-Only section and click on the Biennial Convention link. You will find the proper convention forms there; forms must be submitted by June 1, 2019. You can also call IRTA at 1.800.728.4782 for the forms. Additional information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Also, the IRTA Foundation is raffling one incredible prize* during the 2019 Convention: \$10,000! Tickets may be purchased online or at the convention. Visit www.irtaonline.org, and click on Convention 2019 under the Association tab! **Raffle tickets are \$20 for one or three for \$50.** The drawing will be held at the Crowne on October 15, 2019.

**The winner does not need to be present to win.*

IRTA Member Benefits

You can find information on all of IRTA's member benefits by visiting www.irtaonline.org.

org, logging into the Members-Only section, and clicking on the Membership Benefits tab. **Some of IRTA's other benefits include Liberty Mutual, Globus Vacations, Lifeline Screening, and Hear in America.**

You can also contact the IRTA Office at 1.800.728.4782 for additional information.

** IRTA benefit codes must be mentioned to receive discounts.*



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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