



# IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

## President's Notes



### Upcoming Events

Summer is quickly coming to an end! The heat will soon leave us for the beautiful fall season and another great year for Unit 90 and IRTA. The General Assembly completed their spring session with a new budget and more new legislation than in the past few years. Our fine IRTA staff in Springfield worked hard to protect our pension benefits and also looked out for our retiree health insurance. There are still many questions regarding how the new legislation will impact the revenue challenges that lie ahead for the entire state.



At our next Executive Board meeting on August 7th, we will be completing our plans for attending the Biennial IRTA State Convention that will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois on October 14th and 15th. Unit 90 is entitled to up to 51 delegates at this statewide meeting of retired educators. We encourage all members who are interested in attending to contact Bob Kaplan by August 15th for details regarding joining the Unit 90 delegates and representing all of our members. The Delegate Assembly will be responsible for making critical decisions in a number of important areas. The first will be electing State officers and an Area Representative who will:

- Set policies for the IRTA's operations to ensure that the provisions of the Constitution are being followed.
- Provide adequate resources through membership retention and recruitment.
- Work closely with the Executive Director in managing the Association.
- Be actively involved in promoting and maintaining a positive communication link with Unit 90 and its members.

Please read the newsletter for other upcoming events and activities throughout the next year.

Hope to see you soon!

*Bob Kaplan*



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

## Upcoming Events

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

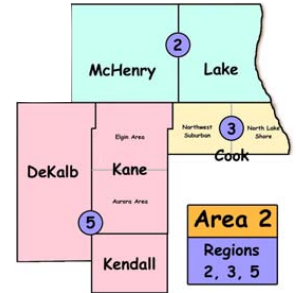
**2019 IRTA Convention** (Crowne Plaza Springfield, IL)  
Monday-Tuesday, October 14-15, 2019

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

## Previous Event: **2019 Area II Leadership Training**

The following is a recap of our recent Area 2 Leadership Training Conference at Chandler's in Schaumburg on June 3, 2019.

Bob Kaplan



### 1. Roger Hampton – IRTA President, *IRTA Past, Present, Future*

- **Past** – 64+ years to celebrate our rich history. “Times are a-changing” from 1964 society.” “If we stall, we’ll get lost with generational changes; must confront and disrupt the status quo.”
- **Present** – “Build upon the successes of the Past”
- **Future** - “Progressively plan
  - Our key values and ideas can be challenged.
  - Different mind-sets and opinions
  - Must deal with change and embrace the possibilities as change will inevitably happen.
  - Must be flexible with what comes next to be relevant in the future that will allow for adaptation and growth.”

### 2. Jim Bachman, IRTA Executive Director and Andrew Bodewes, IRTA Contract Lobbyist

- General Assembly went into overtime session – IRTA moved for HB 100 – TRIP payments
- Will FULLY fund pensions and TRIP
- Better shape now than a year ago. We actually have a budget.
- Constitutional Amendment – Graduated income taxes (mostly not going to affect us). This does not change tax rates; flat rate or graduated based on income.
- Nothing about taxing retirement income as Governor Pritzker is against this.

### 3. John Flaherty – VP, *IRTAPAC Update*

- Important to educate legislators on pensions and understand the background (of non-payment!)
- Local Candidate Fundraisers: Call Springfield and they will send a check to attend that event so that candidates realize how many retired educators actually vote.
- He explained how candidates are selected for endorsement.

### 4. Larry Pfeiffer and Doug Strand – *TRS Update*

- 276,000 members
- The current TRS assured rate of return is 7%.
- Investing is good, but won't be enough.
- Everyone needs to be more active as IRTA members; What if you had a 30% reduction?  
We cannot be comfortable and must defend our pensions and benefits.
- Help TRS help you – thanked Jim Bachman for his continued support and assistance.
- Doug Strand thanked IRTA for their support.

### 5. Larry Newman, AMBA District Manager and Dorothy Walton, District Manager

- AMBA's first priority is IRTA's membership growth.
- Give retired educators buying power.
- Wendy and Bob won the Amazon and Walgreens gift cards!

### Breakout Sessions

#### 6. Nathan Mihlich, Director of Membership and Marketing – *IRTA Website/Convention Website/Member Manager*

- Attendees can register and pay for the Convention directly on the IRTA website, but must pay via PayPal or Ray Reidel can fill in the form for all attendees and send in one check.
- Went through the various tabs on the new website that was paid for by AMBA.

## Previous Event: **2019 Area II Leadership Training (continued)**

- Live Chat (at bottom) - Stephanie in IRTA office (9:00 – 2:00) can answer specific questions within minutes; Association sign up; Dues deduct;
- Members Only :Political Action – can put in zip code and all Federal and Illinois House and Senate legislators can be contacted through email; Voter's Voice
- **Nathan can come and help set up transition for LCRTA electronic dues deduct.**

### 7. Jim Bachman – **How to Educate/Lobby Your Legislator**

- Jim and Andrew talked us through their really good handout on interacting with legislators: Build a personal relationship; capitalize on local connections; be positive and professional; use teaching skills (i.e. educate them); stick to relevant issues.

### 8. Roger Hampton - **Volunteerism/Recruiting New Leadership**

- An excellent presentation on volunteerism and recruiting new leadership by identifying your target group:
  - **Traditionalist** (1925-1945): Volunteer because they feel it is their civic duty and will stay with their job for many years. Possess intellectual capital; have strong work values and ethics; see themselves as vigorous, contributing members; offer mentoring opportunities; show them that you value their expertise and contributions.  
Communication: Personal, phone, written letters.
  - **Baby Boomers** (1946-1964): Want short term, specific assignments and opportunities to use their special skills and how they are part of the bigger picture. Love the “good life;” expect job performance feedback; help them explore their next set of options and demonstrate how our associations can continue to use their talents; redesign positions to accommodate traits.  
Communication: email, phone, or in person.
  - **Generation X** (1965-1979): Self-starters, technologically savvy and highly educated. They volunteer when they see a cause that impacts them directly. Goal oriented; thrive on independence; want to be challenged; want candid perspective and feedback; acknowledge their ability to work independently; discuss how their contribution can benefit them, other retirees, and the association.  
Communication: email, text, social media.

#### - **What Volunteers Want**

**GROWTH :** Personal and association growth, personal well-being

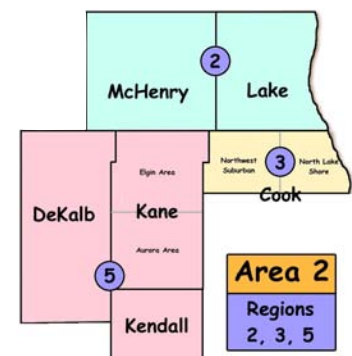
**INVIGORATED:** Sense of purpose, knowing how they can make a difference.

**VOICE:** Have input, how they are approached to give their time and managed

**EASY:** Tasks that are understandable, achievable

**RECOGNITION:** Being thanked, appreciated

**SOCIAL:** Opportunities to work with a partner or team, make new friends



- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

### 9. Bob Kaplan, Area II Representative – **Closing Remarks**

- Announced that **Wendy Wiegers** will be on the Convention ballot to be the new Area II Representative.
- Wendy Wiegers, Area II Foundation Representative announced the Area II College Scholarship winner – Karly Grapenthin from Palatine and the two Moler-Austin Scholarship winners from Kendall County – Brooke Jensen and Conner Christian.



## Did you know...

### Confused About the Acronyms?



Sometimes the smorgasbord of letters that is thrown at us is confusing. Hope this helps:

**IRTA=Illinois Retired Teachers Association** is the state organization to which you may belong. It is the only state organization that is totally committed to RETIRED teacher issues. IRTA monitors retirement issues in Springfield, provides information to members, lobbies the legislature, and takes legal action on behalf of its membership. All Illinois retirees should join.

**IEA=Illinois Education Association** is the “union” you may have belonged to as an active teacher, depending upon your school district. It also has a retiree branch, but its primary interest is active teachers.

**IFT=Illinois Federation of Teachers** is the union you may have belonged to as an active teacher, depending upon your school district. Again, it has a retiree branch but has as its primary interest active teachers.

**TRS=Teacher’s Retirement System** oversees the state’s (exclusive of Chicago) pension program. It is the 37th largest pension system in North America and is currently 40% funded. Its Board of Directors oversees and directs investments to the System. Members are encouraged to create a personal profile and make note of their TRS number.

**TRIP=Teachers’ Retirement Insurance Program** provides health insurance for TRS members who are under 65 or do not have Medicare.

**TRAIL=Total Retiree Advantage Illinois** provides health insurance through United Healthcare for retirees who are 65 and have Medicare.

**CMS=Central Management System (Illinois Department of Central Management)** manages TRIP and TRAIL



“I’ve crunched the numbers in your retirement account. It’s time to figure out who will be wearing the mask and who will be driving the getaway car.”



I CALLED THE INCONTINENCE HOTLINE...  
THEY ASKED, “CAN YOU HOLD PLEASE?”

“Is everything OK? You haven’t photographed your food yet.”



## 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 **757 members** in Unit 90, but only **670** 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 **198 life members**.

**The State IRTA membership is separate.**

**You should join both!**

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

## Bob Lyons' Report



It certainly should come as no surprise to you to be told that, The Powers that Be, the editorial boards of the Chicago Tribune, the Daily Herald, and Crain's Chicago Business, as well as the good people of the Commercial Club of Chicago and Civic Federation would be overjoyed if they could take away, or at least reduce, our pensions. The 120,000 TRS annuitants and the approximately equal numbers of retirees of the other four state pensions receive almost a quarter of this year's state budget. And that does not even count the 133.5 billion dollars the state owes the pension systems. So The Powers that Be think, "What to do?"

In 2013, then Governor Quinn and the Illinois legislature passed what they called "a rescue plan" to reduce the growth of our benefits, only to learn the Constitution of the State of Illinois means just what it says: *"Membership in any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."*

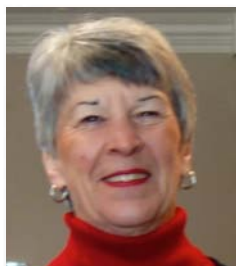
All seven members of the Illinois Supreme Court ruled in our favor, and as we told the legislators that they would decide. The Powers that Be are also now well aware of this, so what they will want to do is simple, amend the constitution, take the protection clause out of the constitution. Expect a media campaign aimed at bringing about a public outcry calling for reducing the costs of Illinois public pensions. The first stop will be take away the protection of our pensions. It will not be easy to do. In fact, I do not think that they can. First it would take three-fifths of both houses of the Illinois legislature to propose the amendment and I do not think the proponents can get 60% of Illinois legislators to make that vote. Many members of both the house and the senate are well aware that a strong argument can be made that the very act of taking the pension protection clause out of the constitution is in itself clearly unconstitutional. The US Constitution, Article one, section 10 denies the state the ability to pass any "ex post facto law or law impairing the obligation of a contract." No legislator is going to run the risk of losing his office, especially if he feels the vote will likely come to nothing anyway.

I can assure you that the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association would move quickly to challenge and would take any proposal that passed the legislature to remove the pension protection clause before the Illinois Supreme Court with some confidence that they will rule in our favor once again.

What we have we have earned. It is ours. The people that wrote the revised Illinois Constitution of 1970 very deliberately added the pension protection clause because they did not trust those that would come after them to keep the promises that had been made to us when we started teaching. And obviously they were right. Enjoy your pension and know that what we have is protected and that you are not alone.



## Carolyn White: Volunteers Needed



**CHiL** is a volunteer-based after-school program that provides homework help to at-risk middle school students. Volunteers generally work with small groups of students under the direction of program staff. Choose and commit to one day or more each week September through December.

**Holmes Middle School, Wheeling:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:15 pm

**Jack London Middle School, Wheeling:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:15 pm

**Cooper Middle School, Buffalo Grove:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm

Lunch Buddies is currently recruiting volunteers to provide low-income elementary school students with academic and social supports they need to succeed.

**Reading and Math tutoring at Jane Addams Elementary, Palatine:**

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

**Reading tutoring at Plainfield Elementary, Des Plaines:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:10-1:00 pm

**Mentoring at Euclid Elementary, Mt. Prospect:**

Flexible hours on school days

**Adult Literacy Tutor- NW Suburbs** Read to Learn Adult Literacy/ Volunteer Program: Volunteer tutors work one-to-one with adults to improve basic reading and writing skills. Classes meet for 2.5 hours per week for 10 weeks at various locations and times. All volunteers must attend a training session scheduled for August 23rd or 24th.

To volunteer for any of the above,

contact **HandsonSuburbanChicago** at [volunteer@handsonsuburbanchicago.org](mailto:volunteer@handsonsuburbanchicago.org) or call **847-228-1320**



## Previous Event: IRTA Foundation Scholarship

Our 2019 IRTA Foundation Area 2 Scholarship recipient is **Karly Grapenthin** of Palatine, IL.

Karly is a junior at Northern Illinois University. She is pursuing a Bachelors' degree in Special Education, as well as an endorsement for teaching English as a Second Language. She plans to minor in the Spanish language and become a certified bilingual teacher.



## Previous Event: Area 2 Leadership Conference (June 3, 2019)



## Previous Event: June Luncheon (June 5, 2019)



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# 2019

**More details and photos at:**

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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