



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

President's Notes

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020!

I am Jane McCauley, your new president of Unit 90 IRTA. We are all grateful to our outgoing president, Bob Kaplan, for all he has done as president. With the help of this talented Board, I hope to be equally helpful to you in this position.



We continue to hold our Board meetings at the Arlington Heights Senior Center on Central Road at 10:00 AM, room 183a, on the first Wednesday of the month (with no meetings in July nor December). Please consider attending - any member can attend a Board meeting. We'd love to meet you and hear your opinions.

Though the deadline was March 2 for our outing to the Drury Lane production of "American in Paris", the Board has planned these other exciting activities for you for the year:

June Luncheon on June 3 at the Inverness Golf Club;

December 4 Holiday Luncheon at the beautifully decorated Inverness Golf Club;

A summer outing, being planned now - a "Roaring Twenties" Chicago tour conducted by the knowledgeable Dan O'Connell, with lunch at Harry Caray's (date will be in July);

Newly Retired Teachers Breakfast on (September 2 at the Senior Center;

And, as you may have noticed, this is an election year, so we will have a Legislative Breakfast on October 9 at the Inverness Golf Club for the candidates running for local elections.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, we hope to see you soon, and now for other information that we feel will be useful to you.....

Jane McCauley

From left to right:
Liz White (Vice-President)
Jane McCauley (President)
Linda Wallin (Secretary)
Sandy Ratter (Treasurer)

2020 Officers



Bob Lyons' Report



Vote YES for the Fair Tax Amendment in November!

In 2018, among those age 65 and older, voter turnout was 65 % for women and 68 % for men.

In contrast, 38 % of women 18-29 years old voted and 33 % of men

of the same age group voted.

I would certainly hope that among retired educators that percentage would be closer to 100 % this November.

Not only is it a presidential election, but we will have the opportunity to vote on what the proponents are calling the Fair Tax Amendment. This proposed constitutional amendment will change the current requirement that Illinois tax income at a single rate, allowing instead for higher rates for higher incomes and lower rates for people with low and moderate incomes.

This change will have no effect on the current provision that all forms of retirement money are exempt from Illinois income tax. Money earned from pensions, social security and individual retirement accounts will continue to be tax free. The legislators have no interest in taxing retired people.

Why do we need Fair Tax Reform? The old way of taxing income in Illinois is not only unfair, but more significantly it is inadequate.

The current tax system is unfair because taxes fall too heavily on the middle class and those struggling to get there. It is a regressive system where low-income households now pay almost double what the most affluent pay in taxes as a share of their income! I think we would all agree that is wrong.

The old way is also inadequate because it doesn't raise enough revenue. Many legislators are reluctant to raise the current income tax because they know it hurts the poor more than others, so not enough money is being

raised to cover the cost of state, county and local government. Property taxes, which we do pay, are forced up because the state is not doing enough.

We need to vote yes on the amendment and we need to convince our friends, family and neighbors to vote yes as well.

Let them know that if the Fair Tax amendment does not pass, Plan B will be an increase in the current flat tax from 4.95% to something higher. And they will all pay that.

The victory for a progressive income tax will lift the burden from the working and middle class: 97% of taxpayers will get a tax cut, or pay no more than they do now. Fair Tax reform will raise more than \$3 billion a year that can help to fund state and local government, schools and human services and responsibly pay the State's bills, and that includes what they owe to the pension systems.

The Fair Tax reform will require the upper three percent, the most wealthy (those who make at least a quarter million dollars a year) to pay more.

Bob Lyons

UNDER THE FAIR TAX

97%
of
ILLINOIS EARNERS

WILL RECEIVE

TAX RELIEF

A FAIR TAX WILL GENERATE MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS AND SERVICES AND ASK THE WEALTHIEST TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE.

CALCULATE YOUR TAX RATE AT WWW2.ILLINOIS.GOV/SITES/GOV/FAIRTAX.

Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals
#FairTaxNow

Previous Event: 2019 Holiday Luncheon



Upcoming Events

2020 An American in Paris (Drury Lane Theater)
Wednesday, March 18, 2020

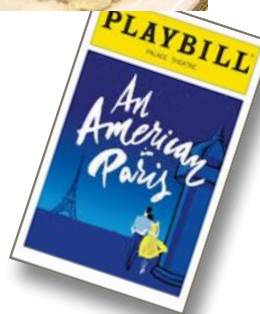
2020 June Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)
Wednesday, June 3, 2020

2020 Area 2 Leadership Conference. (Chandler's, Schaumburg)
Thursday, June 25, 2020

2020 Newly Retired Teacher Breakfast (Arl. Heights. Senior Center)
Wednesday, September 2, 2020

2020 Legislative Breakfast (Inverness Golf Club)
Friday, October 9, 2020

2020 Holiday Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)
Friday, December 4, 2020



2020

More details and photos at:

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



Jim Bachman - IRTA Executive Director

I am pleased to provide you a summary of IRTA's fiscal year 2019 activities. IRTA has now concluded its 64th year. As an association, made up of individual retired educators, we continue to fulfill our purpose to maintain and improve benefits to annuitants of the Teachers Retirement System.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The net position of IRTA on December 31, 2019 was \$3,065,488 (does not include IRTAPAC or Legal Defense fund). During FY2019, the net position of IRTA increased \$167,572. Dues from members were \$945,972, an increase of \$27,469 or 3% for FY19. Legal Defense Fund contributions in FY19 were \$5,297, a decrease of \$2,843. The balance was \$149,696 at the end of FY19.

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The end of year total membership was 38,435, an increase of 253 members. During FY2019, IRTA added 1,648 new members. 1,026 new members joined as dues deduct.

In FY19, 191 people joined as Associate Life members, a 74% increase over FY18.

In 2018, 1,766 retired educators joined the association.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

During FY19, the IRTA had one legislative initiative HB2700. HB2700 was sponsored by Representative Katie Stuart and Senator Anderson. The purpose of HB2700 is to correct an unfair statutory situation and ensure that the collection of underpayments and refunds of overpayment are treated equally.

HB2700 (PA 101 - 0483) requires that CMS refund overpayments of premiums up to seven years. IRTA supported the full funding of the pension payment which was passed in the appropriations bill.

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Customer  
Service  
Department



"No, I'm not angry at you, sir.  
I'm angry at the random act of fate  
that directed your call to my extension."

<https://2020census.gov>

## 2020 Census Job Opportunities Join the 2020 Census Team!

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to work on the 2020 Census.

### We invite anyone to apply, including:

- > Retirees.
- > College students.
- > People who do not have a job and are looking for temporary employment.
- > People already working who are looking for a second job.
- > People available to work flexible hours, which can include days, evenings, and/or weekends.

These positions provide an opportunity to earn extra income while helping the community. Pay rates vary depending on the applicant's location.

### How to Apply

Interested individuals can apply for a 2020 Census job by visiting [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) and completing an online application. The process takes about 30 minutes and will include assessment questions about the applicant's education, work history, and other experiences.

Those who would like to claim veterans' preference will need supporting documentation. For more information, call 1-855-JOB-2020 (1-855-562-2020) and select option 1 for technical assistance or option 3 to speak with someone at your area census office. select option 1 for technical assistance or option 3 to speak with someone at your area census office.

### What Job Opportunities are Available?

- > **Census takers** work in their local communities. Some field positions require employees to work during the day while interviewing the public, so employees must be available to work when people are usually at home, such as in the evening and on weekends.
- > **Census field supervisors** conduct fieldwork to support and conduct on-the-job training for census takers and/or to follow up in situations where census takers have confronted issues, such as not gaining entry to restricted areas.

Connect with us:  
[@uscensusbureau](https://twitter.com/uscensusbureau)

For more information:

**2020CENSUS.GOV**

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census  
2020**



## 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 **762 members** in Unit 90, but only **672** 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 **220 life members**.

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

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

Most of you got a check in February that reflected a 3% increase over your January check. A handful of years ago, that benefit could have been lost when the General Assembly passed and the governor signed pension reform legislation. IRTA fought in the courts and won insuring our constitutionally guaranteed pension benefits. Protecting our benefits is what IRTA does. Please consider taking one dollar each month (\$12/year) and join the IRTAPAC fund. IRTAPAC is part of an overall strategy to help insure that benefits such as your 3% annual adjustment continue into the future. Join the other IRTA members who have already pledged \$1/month as a smart investment protecting their benefits. Signing up is easy. Just go to:

<https://www.irtaonline.org/index.php/forms/irtapac-monthly-subscription-form>

and fill out the subscription-form (cancel anytime).

## Advantages of IRTA Membership

### Advocacy....Awareness....Socialization....Products and Services

1. Serves as a "watchdog" on the state legislature and monitors the progress (or lack) of those bills that directly affect retired teachers.
2. Represented in the General Assembly by the executive director and lobbyist.
3. Offers a wide range of member benefits from reduced insurance rates to travel savings, to medical and financial aid, to dental plans, to auto insurance, to computer discounts, plus many other benefits.
4. Makes available the services and vast resources of the IRTA office in Springfield for research, data, statistics, and information.
5. Keeps members topically informed through the IRTA's Action Bulletin.
6. Offers financial assistance through the IRTA Foundation.
7. Puts members in direct contact with other retired teachers through the 93 individual IRTA Units throughout the state.
8. Keeps members informed and up-to-date via its website: <http://www.irtaonline.org>
9. Allows for instantaneous messaging to your local legislators on issues that affect teachers through the use of VoterVOICE.

## Did you know...?

### There are two IRTA's: The state organization and the local units

You should be a member of  
**both** IRTA and Unit 90.

When I first retired I didn't realize that I had only joined the local. Others join the State and don't realize that the entire organization is made up of 93 individual units.

To correctly support our cause as retired educators, one should belong to **both** parts. One wouldn't exist without the other.

Our common goal is defending our well-deserved pensions and to stay informed and united against those who want to abridge our constitutional right to our pension.

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## Carolyn White: Volunteers Needed

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[General Resale Shop Volunteer and Merchandise Sorter](#) -Rolling Meadows Help in many ways to keep shop up and running on a daily basis. This includes assisting customers on the sales floor, and helping to sort donated items as they are received in the shop.

[Group Opportunity to Help at Community Closet](#) -Palatine - Volunteer opportunities for individuals, organizations or clubs are available on a one-time basis for 1-25 people or we can arrange a group to a dedicate one day each month. Tasks are sorting through donations, replenishing rooms with new donations, boxing up sorted clothes, straightening up rooms and more. It can be a great team building event while helping PATH and families that shop the closet.

[Intergenerational Child Care](#) -Northbrook Assist classroom teachers in childcare and learning center for children age 6 weeks to 6 years old. Help to hold the very young children or with the older children provide extra attention that the classroom teacher cannot provide in group care. Volunteers needed between 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. one day a week.

Hanul Family Alliance is looking for volunteers to help Korean immigrants practice their English skills. Volunteer tutors will be working either in one-on-one or small groups (no larger than six students to one tutor) to improve their English conversational ability. Korean language fluency is not required but is helpful. Location and times are flexible to match the tutor and adult students. Locations can be any one of Hanul's three offices (Chicago, Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove) or a local public library. Classes are held once a week for 1.5 hours. Teaching resources are provided for free. To volunteer for any of the above, contact HandsonSuburbanChicago at [volunteer@handsonsuburbanchicago.org](mailto:volunteer@handsonsuburbanchicago.org)

Or, volunteer as an Escorted Transportation Services/Northwest driver to take senior citizens to appointments. You are responsible for helping your passenger to the car and safely transporting them to and from their appointment. Our passengers must be able to get in and out of a car unassisted. Hours are flexible. Drivers go to an online site to volunteer for a particular time and location. **Requirements:** You must be at least 21 years old, hold a valid Illinois driver's license, have an acceptable driving record and carry an auto liability insurance card (copies of which will need to be shared with ETS/NW). We will run criminal and driving background checks, as well asking for two references. We carry additional liability insurance on all of our drivers. Information and applications are available at [etsnw.org](http://etsnw.org)

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is seeking retired educators who would like to work with a team to proctor digitally based assessments on tablets with fourth- and eighth-grade students in schools. You must be available for online and in-person training during the month of January 2021 and able to proctor between January 25 and March 12, 2021, when work is available. NAEP offers paid training, hourly wages paid weekly, and mileage reimbursement for local driving. This is a part-time, temporary position.

Visit <http://www.WorkNAEP.com> and provide your contact information. We will send you a link to our online application in July 2020.

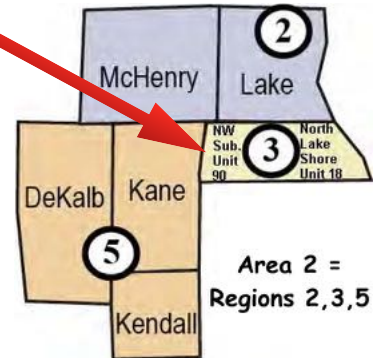
For more information about NAEP, please visit: <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>



"Leadership experience? I have  
13 people following me on Twitter!"



We're Area 2



Dear Members,

The 2020 application and current guidelines for the Illinois Retired Teachers Foundation Scholarship is now available. Applications and current guidelines are posted on the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) website at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) and located under the Foundation tab. Applications can also be obtained by contacting Administrative Assistant, Susan Goetz at the IRTA office.

This year, one \$1,500 scholarship is available **in each of the six IRTA Areas** of the state. Thanks to a very generous private donation, Areas 4 & 6 will offer a second scholarship of \$3,000 each. These scholarships are only available to incoming juniors or seniors in college enrolled in a certified teacher training program.

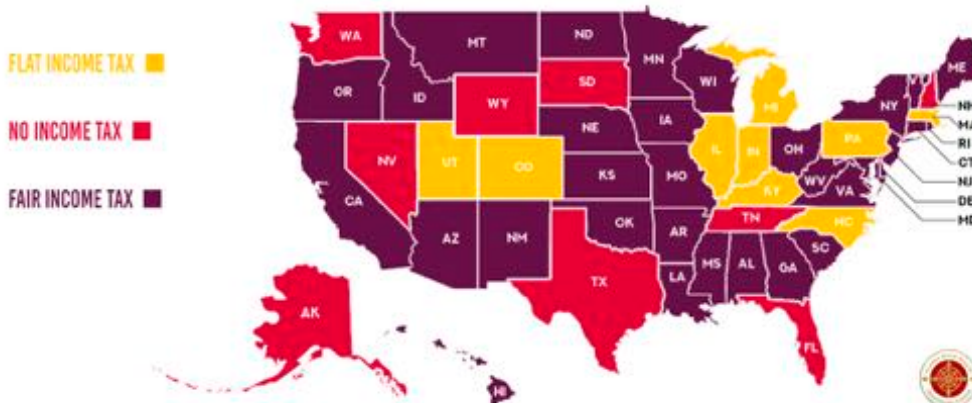
**The deadline to postmark applications is March 7, 2020.**

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Goetz at [susan@irtaonline.org](mailto:susan@irtaonline.org) or call 1.800.728.4782.

Sincerely,  
John Flaherty  
Foundation Chair

**Watch for the June Luncheon  
application in our May Newsletter**  
[www.irta-unit90.org/events/2020/2020juneluncheon.pdf](http://www.irta-unit90.org/events/2020/2020juneluncheon.pdf)

## ILLINOIS IS ONE OF ONLY 9 STATES WITHOUT A FAIR TAX



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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